Prodigies 3211

Chapter 3211 You Call That Powerful?

The tall figure stood suspended in the air, upright and imposing, his bearing calm and otherworldly. For a split second, Lone Man had nearly unleashed his desperate strike. Though he managed to forcibly pull it back, the sudden restraint caused his old face to flush red with strain.

“You little brat...you came without even a word...cough...” Before he could finish, Lone Man coughed up a mouthful of blood, but his face shone with unmistakable excitement. Lin Xun had come! How could he not be delighted?

However, the next moment, the smile on his face froze, and his heart sank. “You fool! You already know the situation but you still came charging in! Get out of here! Even if I have to risk my life, I’ll hold them back. Hurry and go!”

His voice carried both urgency and deep concern. Lin Xun couldn’t help but smile. He gently patted Lone Man on the shoulder. “You don’t need to worry about me anymore...just watch.”

Lone Man stared at him blankly. From afar, Chongxu’s surprised voice rang out. “Well, well...look who it is. You actually showed up!”

Bajue, Feiya, and Xiao Yunzi were equally startled and delighted. Moments earlier they had sensed danger and instinctively withdrawn, but the sight of Lin Xun immediately stirred excitement within them.

“It seems you’ve been waiting for me for quite some time,” Lin Xun said, sweeping his gaze over them. His eyes were cold and indifferent.

“Of course.” Chongxu pointed at Lone Man and chuckled. “Do you know why we targeted this old fellow? To force you to show yourself. Even if you hid yourself away and refused to come out, once we captured him, we could use him as a hostage to threaten you.”

Lone Man’s expression darkened as he snapped, “Despicable!”

However, no one paid him the slightest attention. All eyes were fixed firmly on Lin Xun.

Feiya suddenly spoke. “Lin Xun, when did you arrive in the Xuanhuang Zone?”

Lin Xun glanced at him. “Counting today...exactly half a month.”

Feiya gave a soft hum, appearing noticeably more relaxed. “So, you’ve already begun comprehending the power of the Xuanhuang Origin?|

Everyone’s gaze sharpened as they stared at Lin Xun. Lone Man opened his mouth to speak, but Lin Xun raised a hand to stop him. His eyes slowly swept across the group.

“Why don’t you try it yourselves and see?” His tone remained calm and unhurried. That composure caused Chongxu and the others to frown slightly, uncertain whether Lin Xun was merely bluffing or truly confident.

“How laughable!” Chongxu sneered coldly. “Even if you had arrived six months earlier, the Xuanhuang power you could comprehend would never amount to anything significant!”

As his words fell, a thunderous boom erupted from within his body. An invisible world surged forth, vast and boundless. Endless Xuanhuang qi churned violently within it, evolving into a magnificent power that bore both civilization and the great dao. That immense world descended upon Lin Xun, seeking to suppress him.

Chongxu and the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles had cultivated in this place for countless years. The Xuanhuang power they had refined had already reached an extremely formidable level.

In comparison, Chongxu simply didn’t believe that Lin Xun, who had only just arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone, could possibly have comprehended or mastered much of the profound mysteries of the Xuanhuang Origin.

Boom!

A vast world descended from above, suppressing everything in its path. Its terrifying might caused the mountains and rivers to crumble and the void to fracture.

“Let me handle this!” Lone Man stepped forward at once. Lin Xun reached out and grabbed him, holding him back. At the same time, he casually flicked his left hand. That Xuanghuang world conjured by Chongxu instantly collapsed before him, as fragile as paper. In the blink of an eye, it completely dissipated, vanishing without a trace.

Lone Man stood dumbstruck, staring blankly ahead. Just moments ago he had been struggling to break free from Lin Xun’s grip, but now he was so stunned that he forgot to resist altogether. Across from them, Chongxu and the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles’ expressions shifted slightly.

“After cultivating in this world for so long...this is all the skill you’ve gained?” Lin Xun chuckled softly, his brows faintly furrowing with disdain.

“Hmph.” Chongxu’s face darkened as he drew in a deep breath. A thunderous boom erupted from his tall frame. Countless rays of dao light burst forth, rapidly condensing into a Xuanghuang world whose power far surpassed the one he had manifested before.

A clear and resonant sword cry rang out. The dao sword strapped to Chongxu’s back shot into the air. In that instant, it seemed as if the entire Xuanhuang Zone merged into the blade, causing it to erupt with an aura of boundless terror.

“Slash!” With a furious shout, Chongxu brought the sword crashing down.nFrom afar, the dao sword seemed to tower endlessly into the heavens. Within it lay a magnificent world, carrying the aura of civilization and the great dao. This sword strike was almost as if an entire epoch itself had taken form!

Despite that, Lin Xun didn’t even spare it a glance. He abruptly struck out with a palm. Bang!

The descending dao sword seemed to crash into an ancient divine mountain. It shuddered violently as the world, civilization, and great dao contained within it burst apart like fragile illusions, collapsing into dust. In the end, the sword let out a mournful cry before being forcibly blasted away by the power of that palm strike.

Pu! Chongxu staggered several steps, coughing up a mouthful of blood. His face twisted in horror. A single palm strike had shattered his full-force sword attack! The sight caused everyone present to stiffen, their expressions changing dramatically.

“How is that possible?!” Feiya exclaimed in disbelief. “He only just arrived here, how could he already wield such immense Xuanhuang power?”

He could tell that Lin Xun’s palm strike, though seemingly casual and effortless, was brimming with Xuanhuang power. Within it lay an invisible world that carried the full might of Lin Xun’s great dao.

Even so, he had never imagined that such a strike could cut through Chongxu’s sword attack with unstoppable force. After all, Chongxu had roamed the Xuanhuang Zone for over ten thousand years. The Xuanhuang power he had refined was unimaginably vast.

By comparison, Lin Xun had only just arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone, yet he was already capable of such a feat. How could anyone not be shocked and astonished? At that moment, even Lone Man was stunned. He looked Lin Xun up and down as though seeing him for the first time.

“Who else wants to give it a try?” Lin Xun asked calmly. He stood completely at ease, his demeanor relaxed and composed. The reason he wasn’t in a hurry to strike was simple: He wanted to see just how far he had progressed in comprehending and mastering the Xuanhuang Dao.

“Arrogant!” Xiao Yunzi snorted coldly as he brandished the silver spear in his hand.

Boom!

The battle spear streaked across the sky, conjuring the image of an epochal world, dazzling and resplendent, as if an entire epoch was crashing down upon the battlefield. Faintly, the echoes of countless great daos resounded, amplifying the awe-inspiring force of the attack.

Unlike Chongxu, Xiao Yunzi was at the peak of his power. The moment he made his move, the sheer might he unleashed was terrifying beyond imagination.

At that moment, Lin Xun finally revealed a serious expression. This strike finally made him feel a trace of pressure. Of course, it was only a little pressure.

Clang!

Lin Xun extended his arm and made a grabbing motion. The Limitless Abyss Dao Sword shot forth like a streak of divine light. In an instant, all of his Xuanhuang dao power condensed into the blade, slashing horizontally across the void.

Boom!

Overwhelming sword intent erupted, flooding the heavens and earth. That boundless power was infinite, stretching beyond comprehension, carrying within it countless great daos and innumerable civilizations. If Xiao Yunzi's attack contained the force of a single epoch, then Lin Xun's sword strike contained the power of multiple epochs!

Boom!

The collision rocked heaven and earth. An endless, blinding rain of light cascaded down and the silver spear was cleaved clean in two, before being blasted away by the sheer force of the strike.

Even Xiao Yunzi's body was cleaved, but fortunately he reacted swiftly. His primordial spirit escaped just in time, narrowly avoiding total annihilation.

The astonishing turn of events sent chills down the spines of all who witnessed it, and their souls seemed to leap from their bodies. Even Xiao Yunzi could do nothing against it. A single sword strike left him grievously wounded, his survival hanging by a thread.

Lin Xun frowned slightly. "I couldn't finish him with a single strike...my Xuanhuang power is still insufficient..."

Lone Man froze, utterly dumbfounded. You...you call that insufficient?!

“Retreat!”

In that instant, Chongxu and the others realized how dire their situation was. Panic surged through them, and they turned to flee. At first, when Lin Xun had appeared unexpectedly, they were filled with surprise and excitement, believing they had seized the perfect opportunity to suppress him and capture him with ease.

After all, they had cultivated within this world for countless years, honing their Xuanhuang power to astonishing levels. Now, terror gripped them. Their minds went blank, consumed by a single thought: Run! Run as far as you can!

“If you’re leaving...then at least let me see you off.” As Lin Xun spoke, his figure suddenly began to glow.

Boom!

A world formed from pure Xuanhuang power burst into existence, instantly blanketing the endless mountains and rivers. Within it surged the might of civilizations and great daos, sealing the surrounding void on all sides.

For Chongxu and the others, everything suddenly went dark before their eyes. Before they could react, their bodies were forcibly suppressed and dragged into the Xuanhuang world Lin Xun had manifested. Compared to that vast and boundless world, they were as insignificant as ants, utterly powerless to struggle.

Only at this moment did they truly realize how terrifying the Xuanhuang power Lin Xun commanded was. It far surpassed their own. Unfortunately, by the time they understood, it was already far too late. The next moment, searing pain tore through their minds, and they lost all consciousness.

Boom!

At the same time, Lin Xun withdrew his cultivation and said with a hint of disappointment, “I thought these old fellows would be formidable, but it turns out...they’re nothing special.”

Beside him, Lone Man's expression stiffened, a mix of shock and speechless disbelief. If he had known this boy had become so powerful, would he and Elder Seer have worried so much? Would they have fought so desperately?

"Senior, how are your injuries?" Lin Xun asked with concern.

Lone Man finally snapped out of his tangled thoughts and shook his head. "My injuries are nothing serious. I'm just puzzled...did you really arrive here only half a month ago?"

"Of course," Lin Xun replied.

"Then how can you already command such a powerful Xuanhuang Dao?" Lone Man couldn't help asking.

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow. "You call that powerful?"

After all, he knew perfectly well that he had only refined about half of the Xuanhuang power within his great dao. He was still far from truly refining it to perfection.

Seeing the puzzled look on Lin Xun's face, Lone Man's lips twitched. This kid clearly has no idea how terrifying his strength already is...

"By the way, Elder Seer is in this world too, isn't he?" Lin Xun asked. "Where is he now?"

At the mention of Elder Seer, Lone Man's expression changed at once. "Quick! Let's go find that old fellow. I'm worried he may have already run into trouble!"

Chapter 3212 Hostage Exchange

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lone Man led Lin Xun onward, racing through the void with all his remaining strength. He had already been gravely wounded and his power was greatly depleted, but he paid no attention to it. At this moment, nothing mattered more than finding Elder Seer. Fortunately, Lin Xun was with him. Otherwise, he likely wouldn't even have had the strength left to flee.

Along the way, Lin Xun also learned that in recent years, Lone Man and Elder Seer had been the Xuanhuang Zone. This was not because they wished to stay, but because the Xuanhuang qi they had refined had never been able to resonate with the heaven and earth of this world. The same was true for the nine Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Alpha Origin's Nine Departments.

Throughout history, only an extremely small number of cultivators had managed to break through the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits. One could count them on one's fingers.

Meanwhile, Lone Man also learned about Lin Xun's experiences after entering the All-Wonder Dominion. In particular, when he heard that Lin Xun had already reached the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage while still in the Dao Derivation Zone, Lone Man finally began to understand. It made sense why Lin Xun, despite having arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone for merely half a month, had already mastered the Xuanhuang Dao to such a powerful degree.

Ultimately, the reason was simple: Lin Xun had already surpassed the level of Immeasurable Dao Lord and became a true Immeasurable Sovereign!

What did it mean to be an Immeasurable Sovereign? It meant reaching the ultimate perfection of the Immeasurable Stage and standing at the very end of the Eternal Path! Within the entire All-Wonder Dominion, only five figures were known to have ever reached such a state: the golden cicada, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, Chen Linkong, Black Crow, and Ape Ancestor.

An Immeasurable Dao Lord stood just one step away from that ultimate perfection. The nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the Alpha Origin's Nine Departments and the founders of the four great ancestral dao courts all stood at this level, and such figures were also exceedingly rare.

However, compared to an Immeasurable Sovereign, it was ultimately still one level lower. Now, Lin Xun had become an Immeasurable Sovereign. In other words, on the path of cultivation, he had already surpassed the founders of the four ancestral dao courts and the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the Alpha Origin's Nine Departments!

When Lone Man realized this, he was deeply shaken. As far as he knew, Lin Xun had been cultivating for barely more than a thousand years. At that moment, everything finally made sense. No wonder Lin Xun had utterly overpowered Chongxu and the others earlier. After all, he was now an Immeasurable Sovereign!

The realization filled Lone Man with renewed confidence. With Lin Xun here, who in this Xuanhuang Zone could possibly rival him?

“I just hope nothing has happened to Elder Seer...” Lone Man muttered.

Two hours later, Lone Man halted amidst a landscape of shattered mountains and ruined rivers, his expression darkening. This was the place where he and Elder Seer had once resided. A few days ago, Elder Seer had fought a fierce battle here against Dizang, Du Tianyuan, and Xing Yunzhou. Now, there was no trace of him!

“Judging from the battle marks...they seem to have gone in that direction.”

Lin Xun observed the devastated surroundings for a moment before turning his gaze toward the distant horizon. Lone Man drew a deep breath, forcefully suppressing the unease rising in his heart, and was about to continue the search with Lin Xun.

Suddenly, ripples spread through the distant void. Moments later, three figures stepped out of thin air: Dizang, Du Tianyuan, and Xing Yunzhou. Beside them stood two more figures.

One was a dark-haired man dressed in black with a long blade strapped across his back. The other was a beautiful woman in coarse hemp robes, her gray hair flowing down to her waist. The man was Dan Tu, and the woman was Liu Yao. Both were Heavenly Mandate Apostles.

“Well, well. I didn’t expect you to bring Lin Xun here, Lone Man.”

When Dizang and the others saw Lin Xun standing beside Lone Man, they were taken aback at first. Then their eyes lit up like hunters spotting long-awaited prey.

“Why aren’t Chongxu and the others here?” Someone suddenly frowned, a bad premonition rising in his heart. Those words immediately caused all the Heavenly Mandate Apostles present to furrow their brows.

“Where is Elder Seer? What have you done to him?” Lone Man demanded, his face turning livid.

“He’s not dead. We’ve just imprisoned him,” Dizang replied indifferently. He stood there in a long blue robe, calm and leisurely.

“Release Elder Seer and I will return Chongxu to you.” Lin Xun suddenly spoke.

With a casual gesture, he reached out and pulled a figure forward. It was Chongxu, completely suppressed. The expressions of Dizang and the others darkened instantly. Originally, they had captured Elder Seer to threaten Lin Xun, but now that Lin Xun had also captured Chongxu, their positions were suddenly equal.

“Where are the others?” Dizang asked after taking a deep breath.

“That’s none of your concern,” Lin Xun replied indifferently. “Just answer this...are you releasing him or not?”

Dizang and the others exchanged glances, clearly discussing something through voice transmission. After a long moment, a trace of sorrow appeared between Dizang’s brows. He let out a long sigh, “Brother Chongxu, forgive me. In order to capture Lin Xun, we have no other choice.”

With those words, Chongxu had effectively been abandoned! Fortunately, Chongxu had already fallen unconscious. If he had witnessed this scene, who knew what he would have felt?

“Lin Xun,” Dizang said coldly, “the old seer’s life is in our hands. The choice is yours. If you want him to live, surrender obediently. If not...we can kill him right now!”

He didn’t spare Chongxu another glance.

“You should at least let me see whether Elder Seer is alive,” Lin Xun said calmly.

“Very well.” With a wave of his hand, Dizang pulled out another figure.

It was Elder Seer. His body was battered and bloodstained, and his aura faint. He hung limply in the air, unconscious and barely breathing. Lone Man's eyes widened in horror, turning bloodshot. He was closest to Elder Seer, and the sight of his miserable state felt like a knife stabbing into his chest.

"Now," Dizang said coldly, "it's your turn to choose."

"I will trade the four of them for Elder Seer," Lin Xun said. "If you refuse, you may kill him, but I can guarantee that every one of you will suffer a fate worse than death."

With a flick of his sleeve, three more figures appeared beside Chongxu: Feiya, Xiao Yunzi, and Bajue. All of them were suppressed. At the sight of this, the expressions of Dizang and the others changed drastically.

They had originally believed that Chongxu was the only one captured by Lin Xun, after discussing it, they decided to abandon him in order to gain an opportunity to threaten Lin Xun. However, who would have thought that Lin Xun had already suppressed all four of their companions?!

For a moment, they could hardly believe what they were seeing. How could a young man who had only just arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone possibly accomplish such a thing? Even Lone Man himself couldn't possibly have accomplished such a feat.

Lin Xun's voice rang out again, "My patience is limited. I'll give you three breaths to decide."

The atmosphere instantly became suffocating. Dizang and the others' expressions shifted constantly, their eyes blazing as if they could devour someone alive. Just as the three breaths were nearly up, Dizang finally gritted his teeth. "We can agree to the exchange...but on one condition."

Lin Xun cut him off coldly, "Either we trade, or we fight. Don't even think about adding conditions!"

His attitude was completely domineering! Beside him, Lone Man clenched his teeth. He knew that, under the current circumstances, Lin Xun's approach was the wisest. No matter what, they could not allow themselves to be controlled by the other side! Even if it meant sacrificing Elder Seer.

Dizang and the others' expressions grew increasingly grim. Lin Xun's strength had far exceeded their expectations.

"Fine...we'll exchange!" Dizang's voice seemed squeezed out from between clenched teeth.

"You and I will leave the hostages here," Lin Xun said without hesitation. "Then we both withdraw and let them return to their own sides."

As he spoke, he casually tossed Chongxu and the other three onto the ground, removing the restraining force binding their bodies. One by one, they stirred and slowly began to regain consciousness.

Seeing this, Dizang also threw Elder Seer to the ground.

Only after confirming that Elder Seer had regained consciousness did Lin Xun speak again. "Now we step back and let them return to their respective camps on their own."

"Retreat!" With a livid expression, Dizang waved his hand and ordered everyone to withdraw. Immediately, Lin Xun and Lone Man also stepped back.

At this moment, Chongxu and the others, along with Elder Seer, understood the situation before them. Although their emotions were surging, they knew that at such a critical moment they could not afford the slightest mistake. Otherwise, none of them would survive.

Without hesitation, they began to move. Elder Seer headed toward Lin Xun, while Chongxu and the others moved toward Dizang. Meanwhile, Lin Xun and Dizang faced each other from afar, their gazes locked as they waited for the decisive moment.

Elder Seer gradually drew closer to Lin Xun, while Chongxu and the others reached Dizang's side. Nothing unexpected happened. Almost at the same moment, Lin Xun brought Elder Seer to his side, while Dizang and the others pulled Chongxu and the rest back to theirs.

With neither side holding hostages any longer, the suffocating tension that had gripped the battlefield instantly shattered.

“Lin Xun, you all deserve to die!” Dizang roared, his aura erupting wildly skyward as fury blazed within him like fire. The others around him also stopped holding back. Their auras surged skyward as they made no attempt to conceal their killing intent.

However, just as they were about to make their move, Chongxu suddenly shouted in panic, “Run! Run! That Lin Xun isn’t someone we can fight!”

Dizang and the others froze in shock, caught completely off guard. None of them could have imagined that the one stopping them from attacking would be Chongxu himself.

“Go! Hurry!” Feiya, Xiao Yunzi, and Bajue also shouted urgently, their faces filled with anxiety.

A chill ran through Dizang and the others as they realized something was wrong. If only Chongxu had said this, they might not have thought much of it. However, with all four of them desperately trying to stop the fight, something was clearly wrong.

“Don’t tell me it was Lin Xun who suppressed you all earlier?”

Dizang’s expression changed drastically. They had suspected it before, but they simply couldn’t bring themselves to believe it. Now, everything seemed to confirm that their suspicions were true!

Chongxu and the others nodded repeatedly. At that moment, Lin Xun’s cold voice rang out from afar, “In the Xuanhuang Zone, even if you try to flee, where could you possibly run to?”

Even as his voice still echoed, he had already stepped through the air and arrived before them.

Boom!

At that instant, Lin Xun's cultivation erupted completely. He commanded the power of Xuanhuang to transform into an invisible world that instantly enveloped the boundless mountains and rivers.

Within that Xuanhuang world, countless civilizations flourished and innumerable great daos surged forth, vast and boundless. It was as though the worlds of countless epochs had gathered together and descended upon this land.

The sight sent chills down everyone's spines, and Dizang and the others turned pale with shock. What terrifying Xuanhuang power! Only now did they finally understand why Chongxu and the others had been so desperate to stop them from attacking.

At this moment of extreme peril, Dizang and the others seemed to be pushed to their absolute limits. As if fighting for their lives, they frantically unleashed the full force of their cultivation, each one erupting with a terrifying, boundless Xuanhuang world.

Of course, they had no intention of confronting Lin Xun head-on. They only wanted to escape.

Chapter 3213 Ape Ancestor's Move

A chilling scene unfolded. In the void, one after another, Xuanhuang worlds appeared, each vast and radiant, each carrying within it a civilization and countless great daos, all teeming with myriad beings and spirits...

It was as if countless epochs had been condensed together! This was the Xuanhuang Dao. By condensing Xuanhuang qi, one could drive their great dao to transform and manifest a supreme power capable of bearing entire civilizations and great daos. To command such power was no different from becoming the sovereign of an epoch.

At this moment, as the five Heavenly Mandate Apostles, including Dizang, fought with all their might, the five Xuanhuang worlds they unleashed became terrifying beyond measure. In their view, this strike was enough to carve open a path for escape.

Yes, just escape!

Just then...Boom!

With a deafening roar, one of the Xuanhuang worlds suddenly collapsed. It was as though a vast epochal world had withered and died in that instant. The civilization and great daos it contained likewise shattered and disintegrated.

Pu!

Xing Yunzhou coughed up blood as if struck by lightning, his body trembling as he suffered severe injuries. This was his Xuanhuang world, the manifestation of his cultivation. Unfortunately, it had been completely shattered and destroyed on the spot, leaving his cultivation grievously damaged.

“How is that possible?!” Xing Yunzhou looked up in horror, only to see Dizang’s, Du Tianyuan’s, Dantu’s, and Liu Yao’s Xuanhuang worlds had also suffered devastating blows at the same moment.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A thunderous rumble resounded. One after another, the Xuanhuang worlds shattered like fragile bubbles, exploding into magnificent showers of light that swept across the land like a raging torrent. None could withstand Lin Xun’s Xuanhuang world. Each was crushed and destroyed in a single blow.

The sight was like countless epochs being smashed apart by a colossal hammer. Xing Yunzhou stood frozen in place, completely dumbfounded. Looking at Dizang, Du Tianyuan, and the others, he saw them staggering as they coughed up blood. Their bodies trembled, their breathing disordered, and their auras were weak and unstable.

Their expressions were twisted with shock and disbelief. Cries of alarm escaped them one after another, their minds shaken to the core. Alone, Lin Xun had destroyed the Xuanhuang worlds of all five of them in a single strike!

It was simply too terrifying. Their expectations had been completely overturned. Even Elder Seer was dumbstruck, drawing in a sharp breath as he could scarcely believe his own eyes.

“Isn’t it thrilling?” Lone Man chuckled at the sight of Elder Seer’s dazed expression, recalling how he himself had reacted in the same foolish, astonished way when Lin Xun suppressed Chongxu and the others.

“I told you we should’ve retreated...why did you delay...”

Chongxu and Bajue had only just escaped death, but when they saw this scene, despair once again seized their hearts. They looked utterly miserable, as though their hearts had turned to ashes.

Boom!

The smoke and clouds that had blanketed the sky gradually began to dissipate. Beneath the vast heavens, only Lin Xun remained. Standing alone, he looked down at the severely injured Heavenly Mandate Apostles and asked calmly, “Would you like to try again?”

Dizang and the others struggled to lift their heads. Their faces were pale, their eyes filled with bewilderment and terror. Who could have imagined that Lin Xun, who had only just arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone, would have mastered the Xuanhuang Dao to such a terrifying degree?

Even now, though they had suffered a crushing defeat, their hearts were still filled with indescribable confusion. How could this be?

Seeing that no one answered him, Lin Xun seemed somewhat disappointed. “Very well. Then allow me to send you on your way.”

Boom!

A flood of divine lights suddenly surged forth, transforming into a vast Xuanhuang world that blotted out the sky. Dizang and the others were utterly powerless to resist. Like tiny ants before a collapsing heaven, they could only watch helplessly as they were swallowed whole. Thus, all nine Heavenly Mandate Apostles assigned to this zone perished!

In the distance, Lone Man and Elder Seer stood frozen in place, staring blankly. They had fought against those Heavenly Mandate Apostles for countless years, almost always fleeing in disgrace and facing mortal danger time and again. Naturally, they knew better than anyone how terrifying those Heavenly Mandate Apostles were.

However, this formidable group had now been wiped out singlehandedly by Lin Xun in the blink of an eye. Lone Man and Elder Seer both felt as though they were in a dream. Just then, Lin Xun's voice rang out, "Elders, you should tend to your injuries. Otherwise, they may leave hidden complications."

The two of them looked up to see Lin Xun walking toward them through the air. Dressed in a moon-white robe, he looked as handsome and refined as he had in his youth. Now, in the eyes of Lone Man and Elder Seer, this young man had already become an existence they could only look up to.

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The Realm of All Mysteries.

Pei Tu, Qing Yangzi, Kuhe, and the other Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords all sat in silence. The atmosphere in the main hall was suffocating.

"It hasn't even been five years since Lin Xun set foot in the All-Wonder Dominion, has it?" After a long silence, Pei Tu finally spoke, his voice low and heavy. "And yet he has already broken through eight heavenly gates and obtained the Chaos Dao Fruit eight times. If nothing unexpected happens, he will soon leave the Xuanhuang Zone to challenge the Dao Slaying Path..."

His words carried an indescribable complexity of emotions. At first, none of them had paid Lin Xun any attention. In their eyes, he was nothing more than prey, something to be slaughtered at will.

Later, as Lin Xun repeatedly broke through those sky zones, they grew furious, astonished, and wary. They had suffered setback after setback because of him. Now, every one of them felt a deep chill in their hearts.

Completely shaken by the power Lin Xun had displayed, even if they were unwilling to accept it, they had no choice but to admit the truth: Lin Xun was already no weaker than them, Immeasurable Dao Lords, and might even surpass them.

"The Dao Slaying Path severs the dao of the past, present, and future. Whether this perilous path, where survival hangs by a thread, can stop Lin Xun...who can say?" Qing Yangzi sighed.

They no longer possessed the pride and confidence they once had. Whenever Lin Xun was mentioned, their brows furrowed deeply and their hearts grew heavy. Such a thing had never happened before.

“There’s no point discussing this anymore. We can no longer interfere with or halt Lin Xun’s progress. All we can do now is wait here passively...there’s nothing else we can do.” Kuhe’s voice carried an indescribable heaviness. “What’s even more cruel is that if he manages to pass the Dao Slaying Path and reach this Realm of All Mysteries, even if we join forces, I’m afraid we still won’t be his match...”

A wave of pessimism spread among the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords. Their expressions were so gloomy it seemed as though water could drip from them.

“This...is the variable Master has been waiting for? I think I finally understand why Miss and Master never made their stance clear from the very beginning. They...likely already foresaw that the Realm of All Spirits would pose no real difficulty for Lin Xun.”

Tian Shu murmured, “The fault lies with us for failing to understand. We believed that by mobilizing all our forces to obstruct and attack Lin Xun, we were acting on behalf of Master and Miss. In the end, however, we suffered heavy casualties. How...ironic. How utterly ridiculous.”

The expressions on everyone’s faces were grim, and countless thoughts surged through their minds. Why had Master and Miss remained silent ever since Lin Xun appeared? Had they already foreseen that Lin Xun’s momentum was unstoppable?

Or perhaps they had chosen to stand aside and observe, to see whether Lin Xun, this unforeseen variable, could truly reach the Realm of All Mysteries.

After a long silence, Pei Tu finally spoke in a deep voice, “Master’s mind is as unfathomable as the sea, far beyond our ability to comprehend. We should simply do what is expected of us...that will be enough.”

At that moment, outside the main hall, a towering figure appeared out of thin air. It was Ape Ancestor. His gravelly voice soon echoed through the air. “Come with me.”

Pei Tu and the other nine rose to their feet at once, exchanging puzzled glances. Pei Tu cupped his fists and asked respectfully, “May I ask, Lord Ape Ancestor, where we are headed?”

“To the All Mysteries Dao Platform...to see whether Lin Xun can break through the Dao Slaying Path and reach the Realm of All Mysteries.” With those words, Ape Ancestor turned and shot off into the distance.

Pei Tu and the others were startled at first, but their expressions soon shifted to excitement. Even Lord Ape Ancestor can no longer sit still. Is he finally going to make a move?

With that thought, they immediately followed close behind him.

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“Ape Ancestor has taken action.”

Within the Hidden Domain, the golden cicada sensed the disturbance and revealed a hint of surprise. “Moving now seems somewhat hasty.”

“Ape Ancestor began following Alpha Origin long ago, serving at his side as both a dao attendant and friend. His dao path fuses the powers of purity and turbidity, yin and yang, and the two polarities, evolving into the divine essence of the ultimate perfect Taiji.” The Lord of Fangchun Mountain spoke softly. “What is even more remarkable is that his entire cultivation was achieved through his own arduous practice. Alpha Origin himself offered him very little guidance.

“Fellow Daoist, you should know that across the countless epochs since ancient times, innumerable mighty figures have cultivated the Taiji Dao. But among them all, the only one who has reached this ultimate state of perfection on this dao path is Ape Ancestor.”

The golden cicada smiled faintly. “The Taiji Dao harmonizes firmness and softness, and embraces yin while holding yang. In both movement and stillness it seeks perfect completeness. Do you believe that Ape Ancestor’s action this time was long prepared rather than done in haste?”

“Naturally.” The Lord of Fangchun Mountain replied calmly. “Or rather, the moment Ape Ancestor moves, variables will arise. And those variables may well be exactly what Alpha Origin wishes to see.”

The golden cicada was slightly startled. “So, Fellow Daoist, you have no intention of making a move?”

After pondering for a moment, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain answered simply, “Let nature take its course.”

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“Grandfather, Ape Ancestor has made his move. Has that old fellow finally run out of patience?”

Within the Hongling Domain, Chen Linkong’s eyes shone with excitement.

“If even you can sense his actions, how could he not know the variables his move would bring?” From within the thatched hut came a clear, steady voice, “Don’t be anxious. Ape Ancestor is being watched by everyone. Whether he acted intentionally to strike first, or is merely laying out a diversion, is of little importance. As long as Alpha Origin remains unmoved, this game has not truly begun.”

Chen Linkong raised an eyebrow. “Grandfather, your attention is fixed entirely on Alpha Origin, but I’m worried about Young Friend Lin’s situation. Perhaps...I should make a trip to the All Mysteries Dao Platform?”

Silence lingered for a moment before the voice from within the hut spoke again. “It would be fine for you to go and take a look.”

Chen Linkong was instantly overjoyed and turned to leave at once. He had long since grown restless and eager to move.

“Such a temperament may not match that of the golden cicada or Bodhi, but...it matters little. Each has their own dao, their own path, and their own disposition. Whether one pursues goals with determination or is calm as a mountain....each is ultimately unique.”

Inside the thatched hut, the graceful figure sank into quiet contemplation.

“As for Lin Xun, although he has yet to challenge the Dao Slaying Path, his current cultivation has already surpassed that of his own master. In this regard, Bodhi truly deserves to be called a man of great ambition and vision. Though he paid an enormous price, having such a successor is enough to fill him with pride and deep satisfaction...”

Chapter 3214 Alpha Origin’s Grand Show

In a universe steeped in primal chaos, perched upon a lone, frost-laden branch, Black Crow hesitated for a long while before finally asking, “Master...was it you who ordered Ape Ancestor to act at this moment?”

From deep beneath the earth, the voice of Alpha Origin Master echoed faintly, “Little crow, how many variables do you think Ape Ancestor’s move will set in motion?”

Black Crow pondered before replying, “Given the current state of the Realm of All Mysteries, any movement could trigger far-reaching consequences. If Ape Ancestor makes his move, it will surely draw the attention of Chen Xi, the golden cicada, Bodhi, Chen Linkong, and the others. I simply do not know...whether they will be able to restrain themselves from acting. If they cannot, Ape Ancestor will be in grave danger.”

“Wrong.”

Alpha Origin Master’s voice was calm. “Only by making this move can the entire game be overturned. As for Ape Ancestor...he will be fine. This was all part of my plan from the beginning. If our opponents remain still, Lin Xun will inevitably be surrounded and besieged by Ape Ancestor and his forces the moment he arrives in the Realm of All Mysteries. If they choose to act, that would be even better.”

As if struck by sudden realization, Black Crow’s eyes lit up. “Master, could it be that you already possess the power to break free?”

“That depends,” Alpha Origin Master replied, his tone laced with quiet mystery, “on whether this variable, Lin Xun, will be worth me breaking free when he arrives. If he is not...then all these years of painstaking effort will have been for nothing.”

Black Crow's heart trembled. "Does this mean, Master, that you had already made arrangements long ago?"

Instead of answering directly, Alpha Origin Master asked, "Tell me, in your view, within this Realm of All Mysteries, who holds the advantage? Us, or our opponents?"

"At present...the two sides appear evenly matched." Black Crow said in a low voice.

Within the Realm of All Mysteries, the only one who could truly threaten Alpha Origin Master was Chen Xi. As for Bodhi, the golden cicada, and Chen Linkong, they were only slightly inferior. After all, all four stood at the level of the Immeasurable Sovereign.

On their side, however, only she and Ape Ancestor had reached that realm. In this regard, they were at a slight disadvantage. However, in Black Crow's eyes, Master alone was enough to stand against them all. Even though he remained confined, his mere existence was a deterrent that none dared ignore.

Otherwise, why had Chen Xi, Bodhi and the others refrained from acting all these years? Because they feared him.

As for the tier of Immeasurable Dao Lords, they held the advantage. They had nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, along with the founders of the Shaman Sect and the Zen Sect. Their opponents, by contrast, had only the founders of the Origin Sect and the Spirit Sect.

Of course, in Black Crow's view, a contest in the Realm of All Mysteries was far beyond the level of what figures like Immeasurable Dao Lords were qualified to take part in.

"Evenly matched?" Alpha Origin Master let out a faint laugh, his tone carrying an indescribable meaning. It was half self-mocking and half as if he found it faintly absurd.

Black Crow caught the deeper implication in that laughter and couldn't help but ask, "Master, could it be you are already certain of victory?"

Alpha Origin Master replied leisurely, “Certain of victory? That is hard to say. You believe the two sides are evenly matched, but Chen Xi, Bodhi, and the others think otherwise. They think that so long as Lin Xun, this variable, arrives, it will be enough to overturn the entire game and leave me utterly defeated.”

“Master, what is your view?” Black Crow asked.

“Know thyself and know thy enemy, and you will never be defeated,” Alpha Origin Master replied calmly. “At present, I already have a complete grasp of my opponents’ strengths and secrets. Among them, the only one who can truly threaten me...is Chen Xi alone.”

His tone was casual, as though stating an undeniable fact.

After a brief pause, he continued, “The only uncertainty lies with Lin Xun, this variable. But now that Ape Ancestor has already made his move, once Lin Xun truly arrives, the real show will begin.”

Black Crow felt the urge to ask what kind of show it would be. In the end, she restrained herself. She knew all too well that before the curtain rose, Alpha Origin Master would never reveal the secrets behind it.

“Chen Xi...Chen Xi...” Alpha Origin Master’s voice suddenly sank into a low murmur. “If you wish to stop this...I’m afraid you will not be given the chance.”

Black Crow’s heart trembled. A chilling realization surfaced in her mind. Even an existence as supreme as Chen Xi might find it difficult to shatter Master’s plan.

“Little crow, just wait,” Alpha Origin Master continued. “When Lin Xun, this variable, arrives, and this game comes to its end...I will take you and Ape Ancestor with me to the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.” His voice gradually faded into the vastness of heaven and earth, until all sound and presence vanished completely.

Within Black Crow, turmoil surged like a storm-tossed sea.

.....

Half a month later.

Within the Xuanhuang Zone, a clear stream murmured as it wound through a lush, emerald forest.

“The Dao Slaying Path severs the dao of the past, present, and future. It is unimaginably perilous,” Lone Man said, taking a sip of wine. “From ancient times until now, only a handful have ever managed to pass through it.”

He gave a slight shake of his head. “As for me, I’ve never ventured onto that path, so I have no idea what dangers one would truly face upon entering it.”

Elder Seer spoke up, “I’ve heard that once someone crosses the Dao Slaying Path, their cultivation transforms into true primal chaos.”

Lin Xun was momentarily taken aback, then nodded. “I see.”

At the dawn of chaos, Xuan and Huang first came into being. Xuanhuang could bear the weight of civilization and the great dao, giving rise to all things and all living beings beneath the heavens.

Cultivation, in essence, was a process of tracing back to the origin.

From the most rudimentary dao rhythms and dao intent, to the laws of longevity, the laws of the Saint Path, the laws of the Emperor Path, and the laws of immortality...all the way to comprehending the laws of eternity, each step in understanding and mastering the great dao was a process of moving from the surface toward the core, tracing everything back to its fundamental essence and origin.

After stepping into the Immeasurable Stage, the primal chaos laws one grasped were, ultimately, another step closer to the very essence of the great dao. For example, the Xuanhuang origin power one comprehended and wielded within the Xuanhuang Zone was, in essence, a means of driving the transformation of the dao one had mastered.

Beyond the Xuanhuang Dao lay true primal chaos. At that stage, one's entire dao would undergo a transformation into primal chaos, which was akin to touching upon the most primordial essence of the dao.

"Young friend," Lone Man said, "those old fellows in the Realm of All Mysteries are all waiting for your arrival. What...do you intend to do?"

Lin Xun pondered for a moment, then smiled faintly. "I will seek my own dao."

Lone Man and Elder Seer exchanged a glance, both inwardly moved. This was neither blind fearlessness nor careless indifference. It was an unwavering conviction.

"Then when do you plan to leave the Xuanhuang Zone?" Lone Man asked. He had no doubt that Lin Xun would be able to leave this world.

After a brief moment of thought, Lin Xun replied, "I'll wait a little longer."

Over the past half month, he had already refined his entire cultivation into the Xuanhuang Dao, reaching a state of complete perfection. He could leave at any time.

The only reason he had yet to depart was simply that he was waiting for Xia Zhi.

"Young friend, I still believe it would be best for Miss Xia Zhi to remain here," Elder Seer said, unable to hold back. "Setting aside the dangers of the Dao Slaying Path, just entering the Realm of All Mysteries will invite unforeseen dangers and calamities. In such circumstances, it would be far too dangerous for her to accompany you."

Lin Xun shook his head with a faint smile. "Perhaps I might have made that choice in the past, but not anymore. Besides, even if I tried to leave her behind, she would never agree."

Xia Zhi, who had remained silent all this time, finally spoke, her tone calm and resolute. "Long ago, Lin Xun promised me that we would advance and retreat together, live and die together."

Seeing this, Elder Seer fell silent and did not press the matter further.

Time flowed on, day after day. Xia Zhi remained in secluded cultivation, refining the Xuanhuang qi. Lin Xun sat in deep stillness, his aura silent and still. Within his mind-sea, myriad inconceivable great daos unfolded without end.

Fortune, Fate, the Five Principle Laws of the Return Dominion...all had long since merged into the profound essence of Nirvana. As they fused, the essence of Nirvana continued to evolve, giving rise to infinite and unfathomable mysteries.

As early as his time in the Spirit Empowerment World within the Eternity Door, Lin Xun had already understood that the reason he was regarded as a 'variable' lay precisely in this power of Nirvana. Nirvana was a mysterious force capable of reshaping life and driving its transformation!

To wield such power was like commanding the rebirth of a phoenix through fire or the breaking of a silkworm from its cocoon into a butterfly. What it brought about was nothing less than the transformation of life!

The Dao of Life was regarded as a path that transcended even the Eternal Path. It was the ultimate pursuit of supreme existences such as Chen Xi and Alpha Origin. Furthermore, because the power of Nirvana was bound to the transformation of life, it was naturally extraordinary and profound beyond measure.

With his current cultivation, Lin Xun had already realized that the essence of the Nirvana Path lay in the word 'transformation.' It could reshape great daos and bring life to a new state! Such a variable naturally carried the potential to shatter all that had come before and overturn the world's understanding!

Over the past few days, Lin Xun had been relentlessly deducing and comprehending the mysteries of Nirvana. He had even begun attempting to weave the secrets of the Spirit Empowerment Origin into it.

The Spirit Empowerment Origin could give rise to countless innate powers within the world, and these powers were intrinsically bound to life itself. In essence, they already touched upon the profound mysteries of the Dao of Life.

Long ago, Alpha Origin Master had entered the Spirit Empowerment World within the Eternity Door, where he comprehended and mastered this very power. Thus, Lin Xun deduced that Alpha Origin Master had already touched upon the threshold of the Dao of Life and that his cultivation was long destined to surpass the limits of the so-called pinnacle Immeasurable Stage.

By the same logic, Lin Xun himself, having grasped the mysteries of the Spirit Empowerment Origin, had likewise already stepped onto that same threshold. Moreover, the Nirvana he wielded could drive the transformation and even the rebirth of life. In essence, it was no different from mastering a great dao power tied to the Dao of Life!

In the past, his cultivation had held him back, preventing him from uncovering the true essence of Nirvana. Now, having stepped into the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage and touched upon the deeper mysteries of the Dao of Life, his understanding of Nirvana had achieved a profound breakthrough!

For instance, in recent days, when he sought to integrate the profundity of Spirit Empowerment into Nirvana, the Nirvana under his command effortlessly and completely absorbed it. In the course of that fusion, the power of Nirvana itself underwent a profound transformation. This in turn brought about subtle changes in Lin Xun's cultivation.

Those changes were difficult to put into words. It felt as though invisible shackles upon his soul had shattered, freeing him from the constraints of realms and the great dao. So long as the essence of Nirvana continued to grow stronger, his cultivation and even his life itself would continue to transform.

Of course, this was only Lin Xun's own perception. He still did not yet know what these subtle chances truly signified. After all, throughout the ages, the Immeasurable Stage had always been regarded as the ultimate limit of cultivation. Any subtle transformations that arose within it had never been defined and never named. There were not even records or legends of them.

In other words, all of it remained unknown. However, Lin Xun was certain of one thing: these subtle transformations were inextricably linked to the Dao of Life!

Chapter 3215 Sever Dao Tribulation

The ultimate perfection of the Immeasurable Stage was long regarded as the final destination of the Eternal Path, the very limit of all known cultivation in the universe. However, was there a path beyond the Eternal Path?

For countless cultivations within the Immeasurable Stage, this question remained unanswered. Of note, Lin Xun was certain that if there truly existed a path beyond the Eternal Path, it could only be the Dao of Life. For he himself had already touched its threshold.

Unlike others, his encounter with it had been effortless, unimpeded by even the slightest obstacle.

This stood in stark contrast to Alpha Origin Master, who had spent a hundred thousand years struggling within the Realm of All Mysteries, enduring failure after failure. Only after obtaining the Boat of Eternity from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders did he finally glimpse the existence of the Spirit Empowerment World and through the Spirit Empowerment Origin, touch upon the mysteries of the Dao of Life.

In contrast, Lin Xun had touched that same threshold long ago. All because he had grasped the profound power of Nirvana. For instance, when he brought his disciple Tang Jiang back to life, it was, in essence, a form of life's nirvana.

The same was true when he saved his Eldest Senior Brother. It was only that, limited by his cultivation at the time, he had been unable to perceive the connection between Nirvana and the Dao of Life.

Now, standing at the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage, having fused the profundities of Spirit Empowerment into Nirvana and sensing the subtle transformations within himself, Lin Xun finally realized that he had truly stepped onto a great dao that lay beyond the Eternal Path!

That swordsman reincarnated and cultivated anew within the cycle of rebirth in the All-Wonder Dominion. That too can be regarded as a manifestation of the Dao of Life...

And for Elder Chen Xi to stand alongside him and Alpha Origin, there is no doubt that he too has touched upon the Dao of Life.

Even the Eternal Night Divine Emperor's reincarnation can be seen as an embodiment of this path. After all, she was born from the power of the Spirit Empowerment Origin, and her very existence was intertwined with its mysteries...

As he meditated, countless thoughts flowed through Lin Xun's mind, and many of the mysteries in his heart gradually unraveled. His understanding of Nirvana, the great dao, and life itself was undergoing subtle transformation.

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A month later Xia Zhi emerged from her meditation. The aura surrounding her had undergone a breathtaking transformation.

"The peak Immeasurable Stage?" Lin Xun couldn't help but voice his astonishment.

Xia Zhi gave a slight nod. "It should be so."

Lin Xun let out a soft laugh. "Even the Eternal Night Divine Emperor in her prime would pale in comparison to you now."

"Wasn't that her purpose in reincarnating?" Xia Zhi replied calmly. "She severed her memories and past to bring about who I am today."

Lin Xun nodded before asking, "Then we can leave?"

"We should be able to." As Xia Zhi rose to her feet, the Xuanhuang Dao erupted from her body, expanding into a boundless, eternal world of darkness. Within that endless night, civilizations and great daos shimmered like countless stars, mysterious, vast and unfathomable. Even the deepest darkness could not obscure their brilliance.

Boom!

In that instant, heaven and earth resonated, and all things quaked. Lone Man and Elder Seer, who had been cultivating nearby, were both startled and quickly made their way over.

"You're leaving?" Lone Man asked.

“It’s about time,” Lin Xun replied with a smile, “I’ll come back another day, and we can share a drink.”

Lone Man rolled his eyes. “What, you think we won’t be able to make it out of this place? Just you wait, we’ll come find you soon enough!”

Elder Seer chuckled. “Indeed, indeed.”

Lin Xun was momentarily at a loss, then laughed and replied readily, “Whenever you two elders come to visit, I’ll be sure to welcome you properly. I’ll have a place prepared and be waiting for you.”

“I don’t want to share a bed with you.” Lone Man snapped. “Just have the drinks ready.”

Lin Xun fell speechless for a moment. Then he chuckled. Lone Man hasn’t changed at all.

Boom!

The heavens and earth trembled as a strange ripple spread throughout the entire Xuanhuang Zone. Amid it, a wondrous Chaos Dao Fruit surged forth, its radiant power enveloping Xia Zhi’s graceful figure.

“She has already drawn upon the Chaos Dao Fruit...” Lone Man and Elder Seer exchanged glances, astonishment written across their faces. It had been barely two months since Lin Xun and Xia Zhi arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone.

“I will walk the Dao Slaying Path alone,” Xia Zhi said, her voice calm yet resolute. “Once I reach the Realm of All Mysteries, I will wait for you on the All Mysterious Dao Platform.”

She turned to look at Lin Xun, her gaze calm and confident. Before he could even give her instructions, she had already answered on her own, easing his mind. Lin Xun nodded, a faint smile touching his lips. He had already told Xia Zhi that after passing through the Dao Slaying Path, she was to wait on the All Mysteries Dao Platform.

The platform was truly wondrous. First-time cultivators who entered it would be shielded by its formidable power, and no ambush nearby could ever come close. However, once one departed, there was no returning to the platform.

Naturally, Lin Xun had learned all this from Lone Man.

Lone Man himself possessed a secret technique that allowed him to appear briefly in the Hidden Domain of the Realm of All Mysterious, where he could meet with the Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada.

Unfortunately, this technique demanded immense effort and came at a tremendous cost. Thus, it could only be used once every thousand years. Bestowed by the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, it was known as Far Yet Close.

Lone Man had already used it once when Lin Xun first arrived in the All-Wonder Dominion, and through it, he had learned much about the All Mysteries Dao Platform.

Buzz—

Very quickly, the heavenly gate appeared, and Xia Zhi vanished into it.

“Elders, I must take my leave now,” Lin Xun said, bowing with a cupped fist toward Lone Man and Elder Seer.

“Go quickly, and don’t keep Miss Xia Zhi waiting,” Lone Man urged.

Elder Seer chuckled, a faint glint of anticipation in his eyes. “I look forward to seeing the resonance of heaven and earth when you depart.”

Lin Xun smiled and said nothing further. He drew a deep breath and stepped forward. An invisible doorway shimmered into being, and he stepped through. The instant his foot crossed the threshold, both he and the doorway vanished without a trace.

Lone Man and Elder Seer froze, exchanging stunned glances. He just...disappeared? And the resonance with heaven and earth? What about the Chaos Dao Fruit? Why had nothing happened at all?

After a long moment, Elder Seer's features softened, a quiet smile appearing."Extraordinary people do extraordinary things. This...this way of leaving is truly fitting for Lin Xun."

Lone Man let out a long, exasperated sigh. "From now on, it's better to see him less often. Otherwise...my dao heart will be riddled with holes."

Elder Seer's chest tightened, a faint pang of melancholy stirring.

By now, both had already guessed the truth: Lin Xun must have obtained the Chaos Dao Fruit long ago, granting him the right to leave the Xuanhuang Zone at will. Only in this way could one depart with such casual ease.

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On this day, Lin Xun, who had spent less than five years in the All-Wonder Dominion, stormed through the nine heavenly gates of the Realm of All Spirits and soared into the boundless expanse beyond!

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In an endless void, a path woven from primal chaos origin stretched across the darkness, reaching into unfathomable depths.

The Dao Slaying Path.

Across countless epochs, many had passed the nine heavenly gates of the Realm of All Spirits, but in the end, they perished upon this very path, unable to reach the Realm of All Mysteries.

This was the most forbidden, most perilous of roads. To step upon it was to sever the daos of the past, present, and future. Even for Immeasurable Dao Lords and Sovereigns, the chances of survival were slim.

Shua!

Lin Xun appeared out of thin air.

Is this the Dao Slaying Path?

He extended his spirit sense to probe it, but all he perceived was a vast, illusory expanse of primal chaos. Apart from that there was nothing else.

It seems I must step onto it to grasp its mysteries.

With that thought, Lin Xun strode forward through the air, his figure drifting down lightly onto the Dao Slaying Path.

In an instant, the world before his eyes shifted dramatically. It felt as though he was retracing his steps along the long river of life. Countless bizarre and wondrous scenes from the past flickered before him like fleeting glimpses. It was impossible to tell how much time had passed.

When his vision finally cleared, he saw that everything from his past had converged into a vast river, reflecting in the distant void.

The river of my past life?

Lin Xun's eyes contracted. The scene was strikingly similar to the river he had once seen in the Past Retracing Zone, both reflecting every fragment of his past experiences.

No!

However, almost immediately, Lin Xun sensed that something was amiss. Within the river before him, every scene and every fragment of his past was veiled in a dark, inscrutable aura of tribulation.

In the end, all of it was swallowed whole by a raging torrent of tribulation.

“I understand now...this is the tribulation river of the past! The so-called Sever Dao Tribulation...” Realization dawned on Lin Xun.

At that very moment—Boom

A bolt of primal chaos lightning burst forth from the river, roaring straight toward him. It was impossible to evade it. This lightning had long transcended the bounds of time and space. No matter where one stood, it would strike without fail.

Lin Xun made no attempt to dodge. When this lightning struck, it carried little physical force, yet within Lin Xun’s mind, it felt like a peerless blade stabbing viciously through him. His vision went black.

In the next instant, he felt as though he had become a newborn, lying swaddled in cloth. Before him appeared the handsome yet chilling face of Yun Qingbai. In his hand, he held a razor-sharp bone knife, slick with fresh blood. Lin Xun’s chest had already been split open, blood spilling everywhere.

Have I returned to the moment of my birth?

Once Lin Xun realized this, the panic in his heart quickly faded. This scene...he knew it all too well. It was the bloody tragedy that had unfolded within the Lin Clan long ago. Back then, Yun Qingbai and Baqi had infiltrated the clan to seize the Origin Aeth Artery from his body.

All of this is real, and not an illusion. It simply happened in the past, just as I saw in the river of time within the Past Retracing Zone...

And what I’m sensing now is the power of that primal chaos lightning tribulation...No, wait! A tremor ran through his heart. Could it be...this tribulation is trying to erase me from my past life?!

He had once entered the Past Retracing Zone and knew that within the river of past lives, cultivators could alter the course of their own destinies. However, what he was facing now was the very opposite. A Sever Dao Tribulation descended upon his past life, seeking to erase his very existence at its root.

Chapter 3216 Past and Present: The True and False Lin Xun

What was most terrifying was that everything unfolding before him was real! If calamity struck, the Lin Xun of the past would die without a doubt, and the him of the present would perish along with it.

At that thought...

Yun Qingbai suddenly tightened his grip on the bone blade and drove it viciously toward Lin Xun's throat. At this moment, Lin Xun was nothing more than a newborn wrapped in swaddling cloth. He was frail and helpless. How could he possibly resist?

However, at the very brink of life and death, a flash of clarity pierced his mind. That infant was merely a reflection of his past self. The reason he could witness all of this was because he had been struck by the Sever Dao Tribulation. Therefore, the key to breaking this calamity lay not in the past, but in the present him.

In the blink of an eye, the blade descended, ruthless and unrelenting, about to claim the infant's life. However, at that critical instant, a massive hand appeared out of nowhere and seized Yun Qingbai's wrist.

The bone blade halted, just an inch from the baby's throat. The owner of that hand was none other than Quasi-Emperor Baqi! Only...at this moment, Baqi was under the control of Lin Xun's present self.

Bang!

With a single sweep of his hand, Baqi sent Yun Qingbai flying. In the next instant, everything before Lin Xun shattered like a fragile illusion, dissolving into nothingness. Before he could even gather his thoughts, the world shifted once more, and he found himself standing within a dim mine prison, his form reverting to that of his younger self.

He stood within a crude, sparsely furnished room. There was nothing more than a table, a bed, and a few scattered aeth materials used for rune cultivation. A dim oil lamp flickered, casting mottled shadows across the walls. It was a scene he knew all too well.

His expression suddenly changed. If the power of the Sever Dao Tribulation were to manifest through Mister Lu, then with my present strength, I would have no way of altering the fate of death!

The thought had barely taken shape when Lin Xun kicked the door open and burst out, his slender figure shooting into the distance. Before long, the entrance to a mining tunnel came into view.

Back then, Mister Lu had thrown him into this mine tunnel, allowing him to escape the prison. The reason was that beneath this tunnel lay a teleportation array personally set up by Mister Lu himself. Without the slightest hesitation, Lin Xun leapt inside.

Boom!

Almost at the very instant Lin Xun's figure vanished, a terrifying aura surged in from afar.

It was Lu Boya. He charged straight into the mine tunnel without hesitation.

However, he was a step too late. With a deafening roar, the teleportation array deep within the tunnel flared to life, and Lin Xun vanished without a trace. He had escaped this calamity.

In the next moment, the scene before Lin Xun collapsed and dissipated. When his vision cleared, he found himself standing in a room within a courtyard in Feiyun Village. Drawing on his previous experiences, Lin Xun immediately concluded that this time, the Sever Dao Tribulation would most likely involve Xia Zhi!

Of course, Xia Zhi, at that time, possessed strength far beyond anything he could contend with. Lin Xun drew in a deep breath and made his decision almost instantly. Stepping forward, he shut the door and locked it tight. Then, with practiced precision, he retrieved an old wooden box, took out a seal-script brush and a worn notebook, bit his fingertip, and let a drop of fresh blood seep onto the pages.

Bang!

The locked door shattered as Xia Zhi burst in. Her white bone spear gleamed with chilling sharpness as it thrust straight toward Lin Xun. The speed was so terrifying it made one's heart seize.

Despite that, the strike missed. The seal-script brush and the notebook fused as one, transforming into the Omega Secret-Realm, and drew in the young Lin Xun. This calamity too dissipated.

At that moment, Lin Xun understood. The Sever Dao Tribulation was severing his past self. It could manifest through anyone in his past, his family, friends and even enemies!

Standing upon the Dao Slaying Path, there were only two ways to resist it. One was to confront it head-on, relying on the strength of his past self. The other was to wield the power of his present self, manipulating people and events from the past to break the calamity.

Just as when facing Yun Qingbai, he had drawn upon his present self to use Baqi to intercept the attack. It was worth noting that only those who existed within the scene could be utilized. However, no matter which method he chose, he had to act swiftly and decisively, finding a path to survival within the desperate situation created by the Sever Dao Tribulation.

For example, in the mine prison, the only way to escape Lu Boya's lethal pursuit was to flee through the teleportation array hidden within the prison. Otherwise, with Lu Boya's cultivation at the time, killing him would have been as easy as turning his hand.

In addition, in the courtyard residence of Feiyun Village, with Xia Zhi waiting outside, the only path to survival had lain within the Omega Secret-Realm.

It could be said that had Lin Xun hesitated even for a single instant in any of those three calamities, his past self would have been completely erased by the Sever Dao Calamity.

Having realized this, he grew ever more composed. Standing upon the Dao Slaying Path, he began to replay every moment of his past, carefully analyzing each encounter, deducing the potential killing tribulations hidden within them, and searching for a path of survival.

Soon, another killing tribulation descended. The Ziyao Empire. The night he first set foot upon the Lin Clan's Mind Cleansing Peak, the night he met Uncle Zhong.

The moment he grasped his situation, Lin Xun turned and fled without hesitation. Behind him, Uncle Zhong gave chase. Along the way, Lin Xun was gravely wounded, brushing against death time and again. At last, he finally drew near his destination: the stargazing platform!

Boom!

From afar, Elder Seer appeared and, with a single strike, slew Uncle Zhong. Naturally, Elder Seer was under the control of Lin Xun's present self, destroying the Sever Dao Tribulation that had taken Uncle Zhong's form.

Thereafter, the Sever Dao Tribulation continued to descend one after another throughout Lin Xun's past life. Each time it pushed him to the very edge of death.

For instance, during his first journey toward Return Dominion in his youth, the Sever Dao Tribulation took the form of Gao Yang, an elder of Zhao Jingxuan's sect. Lin Xun only managed to escape his pursuit by luring forth the great wraith army from the Spirit Burial Sea.

For example, in the Star Chess Sea of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the tribulation even transformed into Xi! One must know that even back then, Xi possessed terrifying power that far exceeded the limits of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Fortunately, Lin Xun managed to take refuge within the Omega Secret-Realm, narrowly evading that devastating tribulation. Scenes like these unfolded again and again, each more perilous than the last, each steeped in boundless terror.

Gradually, Lin Xun adapted. The present him had already deduced every point in his past where a killing tribulation might arise and found a path to survival for each one. As a result, his past self was now able to navigate these deadly crises with ease and resolve them with calm precision.

In the time that followed, the Sever Dao Tribulation appeared in the Ancient Nebula Road, Ancient Nebula Underworld, the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the Eternal True Realm, the Fortune Dominion, and the Kunlun Dominion.

With each trial, Lin Xun grew more adept. At last, when his past self arrived in the All-Wonder Dominion, the murderous calamity came to a complete end. His consciousness fully returned.

Still standing upon the Dao Slaying Path, Lin Xun felt a strange and wondrous strange sensation arise within him. After enduring countless tribulations, it was as though every thread of karma and attachment binding his past had been severed.

“So this is what it means to sever the dao of the past. What is cut away is the karma of all that has been. In this way, even if an enemy tries to trace back into the past and strike at my former self, they will no longer find any opportunity to act...”

At that moment, understanding dawned on Lin Xun. This was what it meant to sever the past! What was severed was not his past itself, but the karma bound to it. From this moment onward, no matter who it was, none could shake or destroy the course of his past life.

At the same time, Lin Xun sensed the great dao power within him undergoing a profound transformation. A hazy, unfathomable aura of primal chaos quietly began to take shape. Though it was still incomplete, far from fully condensing into a true Primal Chaos Dao, it was enough to send a surge of exhilaration through him.

Just as Elder Seer had said, upon the Dao Slaying Path, one’s cultivation could undergo a transformation into primal chaos.

Boom!

A dull thunder rolled through the distant void. Lin Xun’s eyes snapped open. From the depths of emptiness, a tall figure stepped forth, clad in moon-white robes, long black hair cascading down his back. His appearance, bearing, and even his cultivation were all identical to his!

It was as if the reflection in a mirror had come to life. Lin Xun's heart trembled at the sight. This was no illusion. It was his true self! He could even sense the pulse of life emanating from it!

Could this be the Sever Dao Tribulation of the present life?

He frowned slightly.

Not far away, the other Lin Xun stood suspended in the void, a faint smile curling at his lips. "If I kill you, I become you. If you kill me, you become me."

The words were deeply unsettling, bizarre and tinged with a faint sense of contradiction.

However, at that moment, Lin Xun's expression stilled. "There cannot be two identical existences in this world. I am destined not to be you, and you are destined not to be me."

Looking at the 'Lin Xun' before him, a deep sense of discomfort rose within him, along with an instinctive rejection. It was as though his very existence had been violated and intruded upon in an unprecedented way. The feeling unsettled him to the core.

"No, we share the same cultivation, the same appearance, even the same temperament. I am you in this present life, and you are me." The other Lin Xun spoke calmly, "If my existence unsettles you, it only means you are rejecting yourself."

"I am not rejecting myself," Lin Xun replied coldly, "but you...a thing born of the Sever Dao Tribulation!"

As his words fell, he stepped forward and threw a punch. In the distance, the other 'Lin Xun' did not dodge. He stood motionless, allowing the blow to strike. His body instantly shattered into fragments.

At the same instant, Lin Xun coughed up a mouthful of blood. His body trembled, as though the force of that punch had turned back upon him.

A look of undisguised shock filled his eyes. Could it be...that he truly is me? Otherwise...that strike had clearly landed on him, so why was I the one injured? But if that was true...then who am I?

In the distant void, the shattered figure reformed once more. “Still don’t understand? You are me. I am you. Strike me, and you strike yourself. Continue like this and you will only destroy yourself.”

It was no exaggeration to say that even someone like Xia Zhi, who had accompanied Lin Xun for years, would be unable to tell which one was real. At that moment, Lin Xun drew a deep breath and suddenly laughed.

He pointed to his chest. “Unfortunately, you were born of the Sever Dao Tribulation. Even if you possess the breath of life, you can never possess a true self.”

Chapter 3217 The Mind Tribulation at Work

True Self!

The ‘Lin Xun’ opposite him let out a faint laugh. “You’re mistaken. You and I are one and the same. There is no difference between our cultivation, our temperament, and even our state of mind. But arguing is meaningless...in the end, only one of us can live.”

As his words fell, he casually lifted a hand and flicked a finger.

Boom!

Endless sword intent surged forth, condensing into a single strand of sword qi. Within it flowed the profundities of Nirvana.

Lin Xun’s heart trembled. The power, the aura, and the overwhelming momentum carried within that sword qi were all unbearably familiar to him. It was born of the same source as his own cultivation.

In other words, aside from him, no one in this world should have been capable of unleashing such a strike. Despite that, it had been wielded by the ‘Lin Xun’ standing before him. How could he not be shaken?

“Go!” A quiet command rang out. The voice, the gaze, and even that composed indifference felt like facing his own reflection.

Before Lin Xun could even think, the sword qi was already upon him. However, the moment he tried to resist, his expression shifted. His cultivation slipped out from his control, leaving him powerless. He was forced to watch as the sword qi descended.

Pu!

The strike landed. Blood sprayed. His body trembled violently as the sword qi tore through him, nearly cleaving him in two. His injuries were grievous! What shocked him even more was that a strike that should have been his own had wounded him instead.

“There is no need to struggle,” the other Lin Xun said calmly. “Once I kill you, I become you. Our cultivation, our state of mind, temperament, cultivation, wisdom, and dao are all the same. Your death fulfils me...as it fulfils yourself.”

As he spoke, he raised his hand once more. Another sword descended. Bang!

Lin Xun was unable to withstand it yet again. His dao body was utterly ruined like porcelain riddled with cracks and on the verge of shattering completely. Anyone else, faced with such a bizarre and terrifying scene, would have long since broken down.

Lin Xun did not. Instead, he forced himself to remain calm, replaying everything he had experienced.

“If I strike again, your body will be destroyed beyond repair,” the other Lin Xun said, frowning slightly. “Are you still unwilling to give up?”

At that moment, Lin Xun slowly straightened his blood-soaked body. His expression was unexpectedly calm. “I understand now.”

He looked up, a cold smile touching his lips. “You don’t truly exist. What I’m facing is merely a tribulation of the mind.”

He paused. “Or rather, you are nothing more than a mental tribulation born from my own state of mind.”

Across from him, the other Lin Xun froze for a moment. Then, he suddenly laughed. “It is not yet certain who this mental tribulation belongs to.”

With a flick of his finger, another sword shot forth.

This time, Lin Xun closed his eyes. All distracting thoughts vanished, and his consciousness withdrew completely, returning to the depths of his own state of mind. The heart-mind, no more than an inch of space, was the seat of the spirit.

The state of mind was often the most mysterious and the most difficult to fathom.

Of course, to Lin Xun, such power was no stranger. Back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, through his clash with the dao manifestation left by his master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, he had tempered his mind to the level of ‘Mind Roaming Ten Thousand Fathoms, Mind Spanning Ten Thousand Ages.’

It could be said that, in terms of tempering the mind, among all his peers beneath the heavens, few could stand shoulder to shoulder with him. However, Lin Xun had not expected that upon this Dao Slaying Path, the Sever Dao Tribulation would take the form of a mind tribulation, striking him without the slightest warning!

Now, having fully grasped the situation, he naturally had a way to deal with it. The state of mind could also be regarded as a secret realm of the heart-mind.

Even cultivators themselves found it difficult to perceive the true state of their own mind. All they knew and felt, their joys and sorrows, their myriad attachments, ultimately originated from within their state of mind.

At this moment, when Lin Xun’s consciousness fully returned to his state of his mind, he saw the mind tribulation. This tribulation was formless by nature, but within his state of mind it had taken the shape of Lin Xun himself, resembling an inner thief or a heart demon, yet not quite the same as either.

Both inner thieves and heart demons were manifestations of obsession. However, this mind tribulation was born of the Sever Dao Tribulation itself!

“Found you...”

A surge of killing intent rose within Lin Xun’s mind. In an instant, the scene within his consciousness shifted, condensing into a single sword that slashed toward the mind tribulation. The mind became a blade, severing the mind tribulation!

Silently, the ‘Lin Xun’ formed from the mind tribulation shattered and vanished beneath the strike. However, in the next moment, it reformed, bursting into laughter. “I am born of your state of mind. Destroying me is no different from destroying yourself.”

Slash!

Within his state of mind, another sword condensed and slashed down without hesitation. The mind tribulation shattered once more, unable to resist in the slightest, crushed into nothingness. This was Lin Xun’s domain. Now that he had perceived the existence of the mind tribulation, he had no interest in wasting words. He simply took action.

Soon, the mind tribulation re-formed. Of course, the moment it took shape, it was annihilated by a single strike. In this way, the mind tribulation continually re-formed, only to be cut down again and again. It was an endless cycle of birth and destruction. It gave the impression of something immortal, indestructible, and impossible to erase.

However, Lin Xun could sense its aura was gradually weakening. The change was subtle, almost imperceptible without careful attention. Following that, from beginning to end, he never once stopped. His mind sword fell again and again.

At that moment, understanding dawned. The ‘Lin Xun’ he had faced earlier never truly existed. It was only because his state of mind had fallen under tribulation that his perception had been distorted, turning illusion into something that felt real.

The reason that punch ended up injuring himself was because his perception had faltered, causing the strike to turn back and land on himself. Likewise, the two sword strikes unleashed by the 'Lin Xun' illusion had also come from him. He had been slashing at himself with his own sword qi, so of course he could not evade them.

In the end, it was all the doing of this mind tribulation. What Lin Xun had not expected was that, even with his level of mastery over the state of mind, he had still fallen into its trap without realizing it. Only then did he truly understand just how terrifying the Sever Dao Tribulation was.

No wonder even Immeasurable Dao Lords and Sovereigns faced slim chances of survival on the Dao Slaying Path.

In truth, Lin Xun was unaware that the dangers he faced on the Dao Slaying Path far exceeded those encountered by others before him. The reason was simple: the stronger a cultivator's cultivation, the more terrifying the tribulations they would invite.

Just like the mind tribulation he was facing now. It was precisely because his state of mind had reached the level of Mind Roaming Ten Thousand Fathoms, Mind Spanning Ten Thousand Ages that the mind tribulation had become so bizarre and terrifying!

Time passed. Lin Xun's mind sword fell countless times. Only after who knew how many strikes did the mind tribulation gradually grow faint and blurred, its presence weakening. At last, with one final strike, the mind tribulation was completely erased and did not return.

Only then did Lin Xun let out a long breath. At that instant, he clearly felt that the moment he severed this mind tribulation, it was as though an invisible shackle within his state of mind had been cut away. A sense of indescribable ease and freedom washed over him.

Then, a flood of incredible insights arose within his mind. The Sever Dao Tribulation that targeted the past had severed the karmic ties of the past, whereas the Sever Dao Tribulation that targeted the present had severed the cause and effect of the present.

From this moment onward, every action he took and every word he spoke would no longer be traced, calculated or foreseen by others, nor would they be perceived by the myriad daos of the heavens! At the

same time, surges of primal chaos origin power welled up from the Dao Slaying Path beneath his feet, engulfing Lin Xun's shattered body.

Visible to the naked eye, his grievous wounds mended at an astonishing rate. Within just a few breaths, they were nearly healed. At the same time, he could clearly feel the great dao he cultivated undergoing a further transformation, drawing ever closer to a state of primal chaos!

"By severing the karmic ties of the past and the bonds of the present, I have endured countless deadly tribulations. But in return, I have gained two epochs, allowing my great dao to steadily draw closer to the realm of primal chaos..."

As Lin Xun sensed the changes within himself, a phrase surfaced in his mind: 'At the dawn of chaos, Xuan and Huang first came into being.'

Within the Xuanhuang Zone, his great dao had already transformed into the Xuanhuang Dao. Now, it was evolving even further toward the Primal Chaos Dao. From surface to core, he was beginning to touch the very essence of the great dao!

After a long period of time passed, the transformation within Lin Xun finally came to an end. The aura surrounding him had become ethereal and elusive. As he stood there casually, he seemed to exist beyond time and space itself, transcending karma!

"I wonder what kind of deadly dangers lie within the tribulation of the future..."

With that thought, Lin Xun stepped forward.nThe Dao Slaying Path, woven from primal chaos origin energy, stretched through the endless void, extending deep into the unknown as though it had no end.

As he walked, Lin Xun remained constantly vigilant. To his surprise, no danger arose along the way. Aside from drifting strands of ethereal mist, the path was eerily calm, and the mist itself posed no threat.

After traveling for an unknown length of time, a faint frown formed on Lin Xun's face. The Dao Slaying Path was meant to sever the daos of the past, present, and future. He had already overcome the tribulations of the past and present, but the tribulation of the future had still not appeared.

That was unusual. Could it be that those drifting mists were the Sever Dao Tribulation that targeted the future? Lin Xun came to a halt, his gaze settling once more on the swirling mist in the distant void.

When he faced the previous two Sever Dao Tribulations, the Dao Slaying Path had been surrounded by absolute nothingness. There was no trace of mist at all. In other words, this mist appeared later. Although the mist was everywhere along the path, it showed no hostility and posed no danger. That was precisely why Lin Xun had paid it no mind.

Now, with the tribulation of the future still nowhere to be seen, Lin Xun realized there must be something unusual about this mist! With that thought, he paused briefly. Then, his spirit sense surged forth, sweeping toward the distant mist.

Swoosh!

The previously still mist suddenly recoiled, retreating into the distance as though startled, almost as if feared being touched by Lin Xun's spirit sense.

"There's definitely something strange here!"

A chill ran through Lin Xun's heart. However, the next moment, a question surfaced in his mind: if this mist is the tribulation of the future, why does it seem so wary of me approaching?

Chapter 3218 Killing Intent Before the All Mysteries Dao Platform

Lin Xun decided to test his theory once more. On both sides of the Dao Slaying Path, the endless void was shrouded in drifting mist, gray and indistinct, like vast swathes of ashen clouds.

Hua—

Lin Xun extended his spirit sense toward the nearest patch. At once, the mist recoiled, scattering into the distance as though startled. A faint crease formed between his brows. "If this truly is the Sever Dao Tribulation that targets my future...why would it fear drawing near?"

He paused, then murmured, “Could it be that this tribulation has already sensed that there is no opening to strike along my future path?”

Lin Xun fell into deep contemplation. With his current cultivation, and his grasp of the Dao of Fate, he was able to deduce certain profound mysteries related to the future. However, every deduction led to the same word: change.

Like water, which never flowed in a fixed form, the future contained endless variables. There was almost no fixed destiny. Of course, this was a realization Lin Xun had obtained from divining his own future. When it came to other matters of cause and effect, such ‘change’ simply did not exist.

In Lin Xun’s view, the reason his future path was filled with such change lay in the very foundation of his dao, which was centered upon the profundities of Nirvana. After all, the essence of Nirvana was transformation. It could reshape life, alter the dao, and bring about countless changes in all things.

In other words, as Lin Xun deduced, his future had long been influenced by the profundities of Nirvana, taking on an unpredictable and ever-changing nature.

Now, upon the Dao Slaying Path, as he watched the mist retreat again and again, a faint understanding began to dawn on him.

The tribulation of the future was meant to sever one’s path to the future. However, if that path was woven with endless variables, then there was nothing for the tribulation to sever, no opening for it to strike.

At this realization, Lin Xun’s gaze shifted subtly. “If that’s the case...how am I supposed to pass this Dao Slaying Path?”

“Very well.” Lin Xun made his decision. “Since you won’t come to me, I’ll go find you.”

He drew in a deep breath. His figure suddenly blazed with light, transforming into a vast abyss that seemed capable of devouring the heavens. In an instant, it spun hundreds and thousands of times, like a colossal storm vortex sweeping across the firmament. A deep, thunderous rumble echoed through the void.

Around the Dao Slaying Path, the gray, hazy mist quivered in alarm. It tried to scatter and flee, but under the pull of the abyss, it was seized, devoured, and dragged back, helplessly surging toward Lin Xun.

Hua—

Layer upon layer, the mist collapsed into streams of ashen current, drawn into the whirling abyss and poured into him. In that instant, Lin Xun sensed the power of the Sever Dao Tribulation. However, that power had already been crushed outright by his own cultivation. As it flowed into his body, it turned into strands of obscure and mysterious primal chaos energy.

“As expected...” Lin Xun murmured. “This tribulation of the future dares not approach because it cannot harm me...”

As he pondered, the surrounding mist continued to be swept into the abyssal vortex, flowing into his body and transforming into strands of primal chaos origin. Lin Xun could clearly feel that the dao within him was undergoing a profound transformation, steadily drawing closer to a state of primal chaos, growing ever more powerful...

An unknown amount of time passed...Boom!

At last, when all the mist surrounding the Dao Slaying Path had been completely refined away, the great dao within Lin Xun underwent a complete transformation, turning entirely into the primal chaos dao. It was primal, indistinct, and beyond all description.

Even the power of Nirvana evolved along with it, now suffused with the most fundamental, primordial aura of chaos. In the past, Lin Xun had seen many manifestations of primal chaos powers, such as the primal chaos origin that gave birth to entire worlds, and the aura of the Primal Chaos Tree.

However, those were just minor offshoots of primal chaos. They were entirely different in nature from the primal chaos found on the path of the great dao. The simplest example could be seen in a cultivator’s mastery of the great dao, which progressed through stages such as Dao Ripple, Dao Intent, Longevity Laws, Saint Laws, Emperor Laws, Immortal Laws, and Eternal Laws.

This was a path of comprehension from the outer to the inner, from the surface to the core. Beyond the eternal laws lay the Xuanhuang Dao, and beyond that was primal chaos!

Why was it said that the more Chaos Dao Fruits one refined, the greater one's chance of attaining transcendence in the ultimate realm of the Immeasurable Stage? It was because when the great dao one wielded transformed to the level of primal chaos, it meant that one's understanding and pursuit of the dao had truly reached its origin, its essence, and its very beginning.

Those who could attain such a state were, at the very least, Immeasurable Dao Lords. In addition, the strongest among them possessed power comparable to that of an Immeasurable Sovereign.

However, Lin Xun was different. Back in the Dao Derivation Zone, he had already reached the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage. On the path of the great dao, he had now stepped into the level of primal chaos. Along his journey, he had even touched upon the profound truths of the Dao of Life!

All of this had already brought about subtle yet profound changes within his cultivation at the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage. It was as though he had taken a step beyond the very end of the Eternal Path.

"I see..." After a long silence, Lin Xun murmured to himself. "This is the origin of the All-Wonder Dominion. What it nurtures is the essence of eternity. What it gives rise to is the most fundamental truth of the great dao. By severing the karma of the past, present, and future, by transcending them, the path of the dao is freed from all constraints. This is primal chaos. And only from primal chaos can one seek a higher dao...

"Only in this way can one possess the foundation to create a dao that has never existed before in this world."

At that moment, he sensed the ultimate mysteries of eternity and grasped the profound essence of primal chaos. His understanding of the great dao was completely transformed. His cultivation now resembled primal chaos itself, the mother of all daos!

"He is Lin Xun?"

“He has finally arrived...”

A sudden voice startled Lin Xun awake. He opened his eyes, only to realize that he was no longer standing upon the Dao Slaying Path. Instead, he now stood atop a vast and mysterious platform spanning thousands of feet.

The platform was ancient and primordial, etched with patterns of primal chaos clouds. Wisps of hazy, gray chaos mist drifted through the air, while an aura belonging to the very origin of this world enveloped the entire platform.

Beyond the platform lay a world of primal chaos. The sky stretched vast and boundless, the earth deep and heavy. Faintly visible, countless secret realms were scattered between heaven and earth like stars, seemingly endless and extending into the infinite depths.

This was the Realm of All Mysteries.

The place where he now stood was the All Mysteries Dao Platform!

Lin Xun’s gaze sharpened as he looked ahead. Near the platform stood a group of figures, their presence imposing and formidable. At their head was a towering figure with a pair of black and white swords slung across his back, but his form was that of an ancient ape.

Ape Ancestor!

Lin Xun’s eyes narrowed. Back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, he had crossed blades with a dao manifestation of him. How could he fail to recognize him?

Lin Xun was no stranger to the nine figures standing beside Ape Ancestor. They were the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the Alpha Origin’s Nine Departments. He had already faced their dao manifestations back in the Mortal Transformation Zone.

In addition to them, two more figures stood beside Ape Ancestor: a gaunt old man clad in a beast-patterned robe, and a monk in simple robes, his expression serene and tranquil. They were none other than Tian Wu, founder of the Shaman Sect, and Shi, founder of the Zen Sect!

Even Lin Xun couldn't help but feel a flicker of surprise at the lineup awaiting him.

"Lin Xun." From the other side, Xia Zhi's clear, ethereal voice rang out. When Lin Xun turned and saw her standing there, a smile immediately appeared on his lips. She had crossed the Dao Slaying Path ahead of him. At once, his heart settled.

"Xia Zhi, don't leave just yet." Lin Xun sent a voice transmission. He knew that the moment he arrived in the Realm of All Mysteries, a long-awaited game had already begun.

As for Ape Ancestor, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, Tian Wu, and Shi standing before them, they were merely the opening act to the grand show.

"Hm." Xia Zhi nodded. She too understood what lay ahead would be a calamity of unimaginable danger. Despite that, she felt no fear. As long as Lin Xun stood beside her, nothing in this world could shake her resolve.

"My name is Yuan Jiu. The world calls me Ape Ancestor. Greetings, Fellow Daoist Lin." From afar, Ape Ancestor spoke. His voice was ancient and deep, his expression calm and unreadable, devoid of any emotional fluctuation.

"You're not here to welcome me, are you?" Lin Xun replied lightly. This was the All Mysteries Dao Platform. As long as he remained here, even if his enemies wished to strike, they would find no opening.

What puzzled him was that, at such a moment, why had his master and Senior Golden Cicada not appeared?

I see...Lin Xun thought inwardly. Those standing before me are merely pawns of Alpha Origin Master. They're not worth Master and the others taking action themselves.

At the same time, Ape Ancestor continued, “Fellow Daoist Lin must have gained much on your journey to this Realm of All Mysteries. You should already know that here, whether friend or foe, countless are waiting for your arrival.” He paused before continuing, “And we are no exception. We have been waiting here for only one matter.”

“What matter?” Lin Xun asked.

Ape Ancestor replied, “To invite you to come with us...or perhaps, Fellow Daoist Lin may choose to come with us of your own accord.”

Lin Xun’s brows knit faintly. “I understand the invitation...that’s nothing more than a test of strength, to see whose dao is superior. But what I don’t understand is why you would say I might go with you of my own accord.”

Ape Ancestor said, “In truth, even your master Bodhi, Chen Xi, Chen Linkong and the others are curious as to why I chose to act first and wait for you here. But now that matters have come to this point, there is no need to conceal it any longer.”

He looked directly at Lin Xun, his tone steady. “From the very beginning, this game was destined to end in your defeat!”

These words were not meant for Lin Xun alone, but also for the many powerful figures lurking in the shadows.

“Destined to end in my defeat?” Lin Xun fell silent for a moment, then burst into laughter. “What bold words. Those words...you’re not someone who has the confidence to make such a claim. But even if Alpha Origin himself said them, what gives him the confidence to be so certain?”

Ape Ancestor said, “Master has never been one to boast. Even his enemies within the Realm of All Mysteries would not question this.

“Since he has spoken so, there must be a reason behind it. Fellow Daoist Lin, do not dismiss this as empty intimidation. After all, once you lose, it will not only be defeat. You may lose countless lives as well. The price you pay will be far too great and far too heavy to bear.

“And that is surely not something you wish to see, Fellow Daoist Lin.”

His tone remained calm throughout, as though he was simply stating an undeniable truth. However, the meaning behind his words caused Lin Xun’s brows to slowly knit together.

Chapter 3219 Free of All Attachments, He Moves Forward

The Realm of All Mysteries.

Hidden Domain.

Bodhi’s brows were deeply furrowed. “Destined to end in defeat from the very beginning?”

The moment Lin Xun arrived at the All Mysteries Dao Platform, Bodhi had already sensed it. He even smiled and said to the golden cicada that the game had begun.

However, upon hearing Ape Ancestor’s words, even he could not help but feel a trace of surprise. Of course, those words did not truly come from Ape Ancestor. What they represented was Alpha Origin’s will.

How could Alpha Origin, still trapped under the sword seal, speak with such certainty, declaring that it would all end in defeat?

The golden cicada spoke gently, “This is easy enough to understand. From Alpha Origin’s perspective, long before Lin Xun arrived, you and I, along with Chen Xi and Chen Linkong, were already in a position destined for defeat.”

Bodhi fell silent for a moment before speaking, “In terms of cultivation, it is true that people like you and I fall somewhat short of Alpha Origin. But within the Realm of All Mysteries, there is Chen Xi, a supreme sovereign who governs reincarnation. He is more than capable of standing shoulder to shoulder with Alpha Origin on the path of the great dao. But from Alpha Origin’s words...it seems he believes even Chen Xi will lose.”

He couldn't quite make sense of it. A being like Alpha Origin would never resort to empty intimidation. After all, at his level, there was no need for threats of posturing. That left only one possibility...

Alpha Origin had long since laid out this entire scheme. Therefore, this game was enough to contend with Chen Xi and bring them all to utter defeat.

At that thought, a trace of solemn gravity surfaced in Bodhi's expression.

The golden cicada glanced at him and said, "Fellow Daoist, let us wait and see. The game has only just begun. Neither Alpha Origin nor Chen Xi has made a move yet."

Bodhi nodded slowly.

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"Destined to end in defeat..."

In the Hongling Domain, within a thatched hut, a figure pushed open the door and stepped out. His bearing was as refined as jade, an ancient sword resting at his side. It was none other than Chen Xi.

With his hands clasped behind his back, he gazed into the distant sky and spoke casually, "Alpha Origin, now that Lin Xun has arrived, there is no need for you to remain hidden any longer. The swordsman's seal may restrain you for a time, but not forever."

His voice was calm, almost indifferent. As it echoed across the heavens, deep beneath the earth, within a world of primal chaos, laughter rang out. "Fellow Daoist Chen...you can no longer hold back?"

"Hah." Chen Xi chuckled lightly. "If you think so, then I'd like to see how long you will continue to wait."

With that, he turned and returned to the thatched hut. Deep underground, within that primal chaos world, Alpha Origin let out a satisfied sigh. "With worthy enemies in this world, I shall never be lonely."

Not far away, Black Crow trembled upon a frost-laden branch. Just moments ago, when Chen Xi's voice resounded throughout this world, she had nearly collapsed in suffocating despair. It was a true suppression of the great dao, far beyond anything she had ever imagined!

"Little Crow, did you see? That's Chen Xi's majesty. A single word from him is enough to frighten the wits out of you." Alpha Origin laughed, his tone light and filled with genuine delight.

After a long while, Black Crow finally steadied herself and asked, "Master, will they truly end in defeat?"

"There are no absolutes in this world." Alpha Origin replied casually, "Just sit back and enjoy the show."

Black Crow fell silent.

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Before the All Mysteries Dao Platform.

"Although it doesn't feel like intimidation on the surface, in actuality, that's what you are doing.." Lin Xun, his brows still furrowed, suddenly let out a soft chuckle. "Then I truly wish to see how your master intends to make my defeat inevitable."

"You will," Ape Ancestor replied with a nod. His expression remained as calm as ever, not the least bit surprised by Lin Xun's reaction.

"I would like to see it as well." At that moment, a voice rang out from the distance. Then, as if stepping out of nothingness, Chen Linkong appeared. Behind him followed Yuan Chu, founder of the Origin Sect, and Xu Yin, founder of the Spirit Sect.

"Young Friend Lin, it's been a long time." As soon as he arrived, Chen Linkong greeted him with a wave, his bearing carefree and unrestrained.

Lin Xun returned the gesture with a cupped fist salute, greeting Chen Linkong, Yuan Chu, and Xu Yin in turn. Then, glancing toward Ape Ancestor and the others, he said, “Seniors, be careful of them.”

Chen Linkong nodded. “Don’t worry.”

“Chen Linkong, you shouldn’t have come.” Ape Ancestor’s gaze settled on him, his expression calm. “This will only lead to your death and the deaths of those behind you.”

Chen Linkong chuckled lightly. “Then I’d very much like to see it.”

With that, he gestured for Yuan Chu and Xu Yin to step back. In the next instant, a terrifying surge of primal chaos sword intent erupted from his tall, slender figure. He stood there like the sovereign of the sword dao, radiating boundless sharpness.

“Ape Ancestor, I’ve long wished to test my strength against yours. How about now?” His voice rang out, vast and resonant, like an endless sword chant echoing across heaven and earth.

Such bearing was rarely seen in this world.

Lin Xun’s eyes flickered as he took it all in. “The aura of the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage...and his great dao has reached the level of primal chaos...” He breathed a sigh of relief.

There was no doubt that Chen Linkong was qualified to stand against Ape Ancestor!

“You are not enough.” Ape Ancestor shook his head. There was no trace of disdain in his tone, yet that calm indifference was the greatest rejection of all.

Chen Linkong merely smiled. Without another word, he raised his hand. A strand of primal chaos flame condensed, transforming into a blazing dao sword. With a flick of his finger, the sword’s cry surged like a tidal roar, echoing across heaven and earth.

Invisible sword intent spread outward in ripples, ignoring the constraints of time and space as it swept toward Ape Ancestor and the others. Ape Ancestor remained utterly still, his expression unchanged. In that instant, the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, along with Tian Wu and Shi, were all shifted behind him. At the same time, he extended his hand, clenched it into a fist seal and struck the void.

Boom!

The invisible ripples of sword intent shattered, exploding apart layer after layer. Witnessing this, Lin Xun could not help but feel a surge of awe. Ape Ancestor was indeed an existence at the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage. Every movement of his appeared casual, but in truth embodied a state of perfect completeness. It was flawless and without the slightest gap, embracing yin and bearing yang, utterly without weakness.

Clang!

Chen Linkong stepped forward with his sword and thrust into the void. In an instant, primal chaos surged forth, transforming into a blazing rain of swords. It rolled like a celestial river, illuminating mountains and rivers, dazzling beyond measure.

This strike drew upon the very origin of the Primal Chaos Dao. Let alone ordinary Immeasurable beings, even Immeasurable Dao Lords would struggle to withstand it! Ape Ancestor's sleeves billowed. His towering, mountain-like figure was suddenly wreathed in surging primal chaos qi, as if forming a vast, boundless Taiji.

Then, he threw a punch. Sword intent and fist force collided. Two supreme powers of the dao crashed together, shaking heaven and earth as light itself rippled and twisted. Lin Xun noticed that the very fabric of the Realm of All Mysterious was extraordinarily stable, capable of withstanding such devastating forces.

Rumble!

Chen Linkong and Ape Ancestor clashed fiercely, like two sovereigns of eternity confronting one another. With every exchange, they drew upon the power of primal chaos, and the visions that arose were nothing short of terrifying.

With a single glance, Lin Xun reached a conclusion. In a battle of this level, even Immeasurable Dao Lords had no place. If they dared to intervene, death would be inevitable. For this was power that touched upon the very limits of the Eternal Path, transcending time and space, each strike embodying the pinnacle of one's dao.

"Why not take this chance to deal with them first?" Xia Zhi's voice sounded in his mind, her gaze fixed on the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, as well as Tian Wu and Shi in the distance.

Before entering the All Wonder Dominion, these figures were existences that Lin Xun could only look up to. Now, both he and Xia Zhi had long since surpassed them.

"There would be too many variables if I acted now," Lin Xun replied, lifting his gaze toward the vast expanse beyond. The power of the All Mysteries Dao Platform obstructed his perception, leaving his spirit sense restricted. However, he was certain of one thing. Whether it was Alpha Origin, Black Crow, his master, the golden cicada, or Chen Xi...all of them were watching.

Furthermore, he, the variable, was undoubtedly the focus of their attention. Every move he made would be closely observed. The moment he stepped off the All Mysteries Dao Platform, unpredictable variables would inevitably follow.

"But if you remain still, how will you break the situation? Do you not have the confidence to face Alpha Origin?" Xia Zhi asked.

Lin Xun was taken aback for a moment, then he smiled. "You're right. Just standing here and watching won't reveal anything. If anything, it will only make those enemies think that I, Lin Xun, lack the confidence to act..."

From the very beginning, he had already guessed that since everyone in the Realm of All Mysteries was waiting for him, a scheme must have long been laid out. That was why he did not act rashly after arriving. Instead, he waited to see how many variables his arrival would stir and what methods Alpha Origin had prepared to deal with him.

Now, Xia Zhi's words made him suddenly realize that if he continued to wait, he would remain forever trapped in passivity! If he wished to break the situation, he had to first step into it!

Otherwise, how could he possibly uncover the enemy's hidden methods and trump cards? If his strength was great enough, why should he fear the countless variables and deadly calamities that might arise?

"I didn't expect it...Xia Zhi, you see things more clearly than I do," Lin Xun said with a quiet sigh.

Xia Zhi spoke softly, "It's because you care too much about your master and the others. That's why your heart is weighed down with so many concerns. I'm not like that. I only care about you."

Sometimes, the simplest thoughts were the ones that cut straight to the heart!

"My only concern now isn't the great dao or my enemies." Lin Xun turned to Xia Zhi.

"You're worried that once the battle begins, the variables that arise will pull me in and put me in danger, so you want me to stay out of it." Xia Zhi understood at once, as if reading his thoughts.

Lin Xun nodded. Xia Zhi did not refuse. "Very well."

She knew this was his way of protecting her, because in his heart, she mattered more than everything. That alone was enough. How could she refuse?

Lin Xun smiled. With a flick of his sleeve, he summoned the Boat of Eternity. Xia Zhi turned into a streak of light and entered it. After stowing the Boat of Eternity away, he felt his mind settle completely.

This Realm of All Mysteries might be filled with deadly calamities and countless unforeseen variables. Now, he had nothing left to worry about.

The next moment, he stepped forward, leaving the All Mysteries Dao Platform. The moment he moved, Pei Tu, Qing Yangzi and the other Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, along with Tian Wu and Shi, sensed it at once.

At the same time, Yuan Chu and Xu Yin, Chen Linkong and Ape Ancestor who were locked in fierce battle, as well as Bodhi, the golden cicada, Chen Xi, and Alpha Origin in their respective secret domains, all turned their attention to him.

Visible and invisible gazes converged upon Lin Xun!

Chapter 3220 Unseen Killing Intent, Thunder Strikes from Nowhere

“Fellow Daoist...he has moved.”

The golden cicada rose to his feet, his robes billowing as a wondrous light flashed within his eyes.

“You thought he would remain on the All Mysteries Dao Platform forever?” Bodhi laughed softly as he stood as well. “Movement brings change, and change opens the path forward. Whether it leads to victory or defeat, in the end, it must be settled by one’s own hands.”

“I did not expect Chen Xi would allow Chen Linkong to act,” the golden cicada said quietly.

Bodhi did not reply. His attention remained fixed on what was occurring before the All Mysteries Dao Platform.

The Hongling Domain.

The thatched hut stood silent and still. Chen Xi did not move, but he was also watching from afar.

“Master, he’s come out!” Black Crow’s voice trembled with an excitement she could scarcely suppress, as though the moment she had waited for countless years had finally arrived.

Deep beneath the earth, Alpha Origin’s voice echoed faintly, “Wait a little longer.”

Wait? Black Crow could not understand.

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Outside the All Mysteries Dao Platform.

Pei Tu and the other Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, along with Tian Wu and Shi, all grew solemn, their expressions tightening as they prepared for battle.

They had long speculated that Lin Xun had already reached the level of an Immeasurable Dao Lord back in the Xuanhuang Zone. However, after he had passed the Dao Slaying Path, no one knew how far his cultivation had advanced.

At almost the same moment, Yuan Chu and Xu Yin in the distance readied themselves as well. Just as Lin Xun stepped off the platform, he turned his head slightly and said, “Seniors...just watch.”

Before his words had fully fallen, his figure had already left the bounds of the All Mysteries Dao Platform. In that instant, no longer under the platform’s protection, his aura was fully revealed.

Pei Tu and the others began to frown. They could sense nothing. The aura around Lin Xun was like emptiness itself. It was as if he did not exist within this world. And yet, at the same time, it was as though he had become one with it. The world was him, and he was the world.

Realizing this, Pei Tu and the others felt a tremor in their hearts. Even they, Immeasurable Dao Lords, were unable to perceive his cultivation. Did that not mean that Lin Xun’s cultivation had already far surpassed their understanding?

Meanwhile, freed from the isolation of the All Mysteries Dao Platform, Lin Xun’s spirit sense and mind finally extended outward. Only now could he truly perceive the Realm of All Mysteries.

This divine realm was obscure like primal chaos, vast and boundless. Within this boundless expanse lay countless secret realms, scattered like stars. Among them, three in particular drew his attention.

From one of them, he sensed two familiar presences. In an instant, realization dawned. His master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, and the golden cicada were there. The former’s aura was vast and inscrutable, while the latter’s was calm as still water.

In another secret realm, an unfathomable aura lingered, with traces of profound reincarnation and divine power drifting through the void. That could only belong to Chen Xi.

In the third secret realm, primal chaos churned. A cold, biting aura surged forth, accompanied by another presence so obscure it was almost imperceptible. The moment Lin Xun captured that obscure aura, a sense of familiarity arose within him. There was no doubt. This was the aura of Alpha Origin. He had encountered it back in the Spirit Empowerment World.

As for that cold, piercing aura, it could only belong to Alpha Origin's number one dao servant, Black Crow.

Soon, Lin Xun withdrew his perception. He stood tall, his gaze sweeping over Pei Tu and the others waiting in the distance before shifting toward the far-off secret realms.

"Alpha Origin," he said calmly, "now that I have arrived...you don't intend to send these people to their deaths, do you?"

His voice was calm, but it echoed throughout the world. Although Pei Tu, Tian Wu, and Shi kept their expressions composed, a strange sense of absurdity welled up within them.

This Lin Xun...does he not take us seriously at all now?

In the distance, Yuan Chu and Xu Yin exchanged glances, their expressions turning subtly strange. They could see it clearly. Lin Xun indeed had no regard for them whatsoever. Or perhaps, to him, they were not even worth acknowledging.

Bodhi revealed a look of pride and relief. "So...he has already reached this level."

"Fellow Daoist, you didn't expect this?" the golden cicada asked.

“I thought he would be like me, standing at the ultimate pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage. To touch upon the Dao of Life, he would still need to seek within the Realm of All Mysteries. But now it seems...he has already walked ahead of me.”

A genuine smile spread across Bodhi’s face. “In the past, I told my successors that disciples need not be inferior to their masters. And now, Lin Xun has indeed surpassed me.”

The golden cicada fell silent for a moment, then smiled. “It is indeed unexpected. But at least he has not disappointed you, nor has he wasted all the effort you have poured into him.”

“Well done, Lin Xun!” From within the thatched hut in the Hongling Domain, a voice of surprised admiration rang out. The unexpected...was itself a variable.

“Interesting...but there’s no need to rush. The game has only just begun. Young Friend Lin, I’ll give you the chance to take a proper look at this Realm of All Mysteries.”

At that moment, Alpha Origin’s voice echoed throughout the world surrounding the All Mysteries Dao Platform. His tone was unhurried and casual. “Ape Ancestor, bring them back.”

“Understood.” Ape Ancestor, still locked in a fierce battle with Chen Linkong, nodded.

“Leaving already?” Chen Linkong sneered. “Did I agree to that?”

Ape Ancestor’s voice was calm and indifferent. “If I wish to leave, why would I need your consent?”

Boom!

The next moment, the aura around his towering, mountain-like body shifted abruptly. With a single punch, he sent Chen Linkong flying back dozens of feet.

Pu!

By the time he regained his footing, Chen Linkong's chest was heaving violently, and he could not help but cough up a mouthful of blood. This took everyone by surprise. A battle that had seemed evenly matched...was shattered in an instant by the terrifying power Ape Ancestor unleashed.

Even Lin Xun had not foreseen this.

Shua!

Ape Ancestor had already shifted through the void. With a sweep of his sleeve, he moved to take Pei Tu and the others away.

Lin Xun raised two fingers and thrust forward. A streak of sword qi tore through the void, slashing straight toward Ape Ancestor!

The moment Pei Tu and the others sensed the aura contained within that strike, their hearts trembled in horror. They found they could not even summon the will to resist. All that remained was a suffocating sense of helplessness and despair!

Furthermore, this sword was not aimed at them, but at Ape Ancestor. They did not dare imagine what would happen if it were. Only then did they finally understand why Lin Xun had dismissed them earlier. On the path of the great dao, he had long since left them, Immeasurable Dao Lords, far behind.

Facing Lin Xun's sword, Ape Ancestor's towering form suddenly shrank to the height of an ordinary man. However, his aura surged violently, far surpassing before. With a punch, he met the incoming sword qi head-on, forcibly halting it before both forces exploded together.

Boom!

A deafening explosion shook heaven and earth as divine radiance swept across the land. Taking advantage of that moment, Ape Ancestor vanished without a trace, taking Pei Tu and the others with him.

By the time Lin Xun moved to pursue, it was already too late. In truth, even he had not expected that Ape Ancestor could block that sword. That miscalculation had cost him the chance to give chase.

The entire exchange had unfolded in the blink of an eye. When it ended, Yuan Chu and Xu Yin were already drenched in cold sweat. The power Lin Xun revealed was already surprising. However, the strength Ape Ancestor displayed in that moment was even more astonishing.

“That old monster...he’s been hiding his strength all along.” In the distance, Chen Linkong wiped the blood from the corner of his lips, his expression growing grave. Recalling that clash, a chill ran through his heart.

If Ape Ancestor had used his full strength from the very beginning...would he have been able to hold on until now? The thought alone sent a chill down his spine.

“He has already stepped beyond the ultimate pinnacle and touched upon the mysteries of the Dao of Life.”

Only now did Lin Xun arrive at a firm conclusion. Ape Ancestor’s cultivation was not just at the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage, but like himself, he had already taken that step beyond it.

A chill rose in Lin Xun’s heart. Recalling Ape Ancestor’s earlier words...The game had been destined, from the very beginning, to end in their defeat. It was now clear that Ape Ancestor was one of Alpha Origin’s hidden trump cards!

“This time, it was you who saved me.” Chen Linkong walked over, looking Lin Xun up and down. “If you hadn’t taken that step, Alpha Origin would never have ordered Ape Ancestor to withdraw so decisively.”

He had not expected that Lin Xun, who had only just passed the Dao Slaying Path, would have already reached such a level.

“Elder, this is not a place to talk,” Lin Xun said with a smile.

Though the immediate danger had passed, the power Ape Ancestor had displayed left him deeply wary. No one knew what other methods Alpha Origin might still have in reserve.

“Would you like to meet my grandfather?” Chen Linkong asked.

Lin Xun thought for a moment, then shook his head slightly. “It would be better for me to pay my respects to my master first. After that, I will go and visit Elder Chen Xi.”

Chen Linkong nodded, then frowned slightly. “Still...doesn’t it feel like Ape Ancestor and the others withdrew a bit too abruptly? Even with those variables, the whole situation feels strangely anticlimactic.”

Lin Xun replied calmly, “If I were still at the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage, and if Ape Ancestor had not revealed his true strength, this situation would not have ended so easily.”

Chen Linkong fell into thought, then suddenly drew in a sharp breath. “You’re right. Even if my grandfather had acted, Ape Ancestor would have done everything in his power to hold him back. Even if he couldn’t win, he could at least stall for time. And in that moment, Alpha Origin would have made his move against you. At that point, even if your master Bodhi and the golden cicada joined forces, they likely wouldn’t have been able to stop him...”

This was not to belittle Bodhi or the golden cicada. It was simply a truth everyone in the Realm of All Mysteries understood. The only one capable of truly threatening Alpha Origin was Chen Xi.

If Chen Xi was restrained, then Alpha Origin would be invincible and unstoppable!

Therefore, it was precisely because Lin Xun’s cultivation had already stepped beyond the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage, far beyond what anyone had expected, that a variable had emerged in what should have been a killing trap.

The moment Alpha Origin realized this, he made a decisive decision and ordered Ape Ancestor to withdraw at once. The situation had resolved in an instant, but even a single misstep could have escalated into a catastrophic calamity.

Yuan Chu and Xu Yin listened to Chen Linkong's analysis on the side, their hearts pounding as their expressions shifted. Indeed, if not for the 'variable' in Lin Xun's cultivation, the killing intent hidden within that situation would have been more than enough to decide life and death.