Prodigies 3221

Chapter 3221 Past Karma, Unpredictable Fate

Beneath the heavens Lin Xun, Chen Linkong, Yuan Chu, and Xu Yin sped across the vast expanse. Along the way, Lin Xun learned that all these years, Yuan Chu and Xu Yin had remained hidden within the Hongling Domain, along with Chen Linkong.

His master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, and the golden cicada, had been residing within the Hidden Domain.

As for their enemies, Alpha Origin and Black Crow dwelled within the Taihun Domain, while Ape Ancestor and the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords occupied the Black Profound Domain.

Regardless of which secret domain they inhabited, all shared one defining trait: each allowed them to absorb and refine the primal chaos origin power of the Realm of All Mysteries. Most of the other secret domains within the Realm of All Mysteries lay in a state of desolation and depletion.

From what Chen Linkong explained, the Realm of All Mysteries was vast beyond measure, with countless secret domains scattered throughout. However, domains such as the Hongling Domain, Hidden Domain, Taihun Domain, and Heiling Domain could be regarded as top cultivation grounds among all secret realms.

Most importantly, cultivating within these four domains allowed one the opportunity to sense the aura of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders!

The Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was where the Realm of Myriad Wonders lay. It was also regarded as the Forbidden Zone of Life, a place rumored to contain a path that transcends even the eternal path itself.

In addition, it likely housed the Dao of Life! For countless years, supreme beings like Alpha Origin and Chen Xi had sought to perceive and deduce the mysteries of that forbidden land.

As they spoke, Lin Xun and the others arrived at the entrance of the Hidden Domain. The gateway resembled a vortex tunnel formed from converging primal chaos, mysterious and awe-inspiring.

“By controlling the primal chaos origin of this world, one can remain aware of any disturbance while cultivating. Should anything happen, it can be detected in advance, allowing for preparation without fear of enemy ambush. That’s how we’ve managed all these years.”

Chen Linkong explained with a faint smile, “In other words, under normal circumstances, no one leaves their domain lightly. The moment you do, you expose yourself to danger. Just like today.”

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun.

Buzz—As they spoke, the vortex churned violently. Then, a voice rang from within, “Lin Xun, come in.”

The voice was warm and familiar. It was the Lord of Fangchun Mountain!

“Understood.” Suppressing the surge of emotion in his heart, Lin Xun cupped his fist toward Chen Linkong and the others. “I will visit the Hongling Domain another day.”

Chen Linkong smiled and nodded. “Go on.”

Lin Xun turned, stepped into the vortex, and vanished without a trace.

Chen Linkong and the others continued onward.

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Taihun Domain.

Primal chaos permeated the air. As Ape Ancestor led Pei Tu and the others, along with Tian Wu and Shi, into this world, a subtle unease stirred within them, and their expressions grew solemn. Countless years had passed, but this was their first time setting foot in the domain Alpha Origin resided.

Across the vast expanse of heaven and earth, mountains and rivers rose and fell, all shrouded in drifting primal chaos, rendering everything dim and indistinct. Before long, a bare, black ancient tree came into view, standing in solitude upon the earth.

Perched on one of its branches was a crow, its feathers black as ink and its scarlet eyes clear and gleaming. It was Black Crow, the number one dao servant of Alpha Origin.

“Greetings, Miss.” Pei Tu and the others all bowed in unison.

“Returning in defeat...do you feel no shame?” Black Crow said coldly.

Pei Tu and the others froze, their expressions stiffening as a heavy pressure settled over their hearts.

“It has nothing to do with them, why direct your anger at them? Little Crow, these old companions have fought beside me for many years. They may be called my comrades. You should show them more courtesy.”

From deep beneath the earth came Alpha Origin’s calm, unhurried voice. That sound seemed to carry a strange, almost magical power. The moment it sounded, the tension in Pei Tu and the others’s hearts dissipated, leaving them calm and at ease. Even their bodies seemed to relax.

A complicated surge of emotion rose within them. They could not help but think back to long ago when they followed Alpha Origin in conquering the heavens, walking the path of the great dao with boundless confidence and unrestrained pride.

However, ever since entering the All-Wonder Dominion they had rarely seen him. As their cultivation deepened, so too did their awe and reverence for him. Until, at times, it even turned into a sense of distance.

Now, as Alpha Origin’s words rang out, those long-buried memories stirred once more.

“Everyone, in this world, you may act as freely as you wish. So long as I am here, those opponents will pose no threat to you.” Alpha Origin’s voice echoed once more from the depths of the earth.

“Master, it was our incompetence. We failed to destroy Lin Xun when he entered the Realm of All Spirits.” Pei Tu stepped forward and bowed deeply, his voice filled with shame. The others lowered their heads as well.

Alpha Origin spoke calmly, “It’s not your fault. There is no need to dwell on it. When this game comes to an end, I will seek an opportunity for each of you to ascend to the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage. As for whether you can seize it, that will depend on your own abilities.”

Pei Tu and the others trembled. For a moment, they could scarcely believe what they had heard. No one had expected that Alpha Origin would actually promise to grant them such a tremendous opportunity!

“Master...”

Even figures like Pei Tu, ancient beings who had followed Alpha Origin for countless years, felt their emotions surge like a tidal wave. Their eyes reddened, on the verge of tears. It had been far too long since they had felt such ‘concern’ from him.

Alpha Origin let out a faint sigh, “In the future, do not call me ‘Master.’ Do you still not understand? The greatest obstacle to you attaining the pinnacle lies in your awe of me and your dependence on me. If you cannot sever this attachment, how can you ever reach that realm?”

Pei Tu and the others shuddered again.

“Ape Ancestor, take them to find a place for them to cultivate,” Alpha Origin commanded.

Ape Ancestor nodded and departed, leading Pei Tu and the others away, their hearts still churning with turmoil.

Only after their figures vanished from sight did Black Crow finally speak, unable to hold back her confusion. “Master, why do I feel that you have suddenly changed?”

Alpha Origin fell silent for a moment, then murmured softly, “Perhaps...it is because I have been alone for too long. On the path of the great dao, the farther one travels, the fewer companions remain. Those I can truly speak with...there are only a few left. The reason I treat them well now is simply so that, one day, they’ll have something to remember me by. If, in the future, we never meet again, they won’t feel I abandoned them.”

His voice gradually softened, tinged with an indescribable melancholy.

“Master...I will always remain by your side.” Black Crow couldn’t help but add softly, “And Ape Ancestor...he will as well.”

Alpha Origin chuckled softly. “Enough of this. Now that Lin Xun, the variable, has arrived, the game has truly begun. I find myself far more pleased than before. Especially since he has already taken that step...that is a most delightful surprise...”

A surprise? And a delightful one?

Black Crow stood there, slightly dazed, unable to make sense of it. After a moment, she couldn’t help but ask, “Could it be...that the stronger he is, the more valuable he becomes?”

“A variable like him...how could his value ever be measured?” Alpha Origin spoke leisurely. “Do you know why, even when I was suppressed here by that swordsman’s cultivation, I never once harbored any resentment?”

He paused briefly, then continued, “Because he made me realize something. Though the dao we pursue may differ, and though we stand irreconcilably opposed...so long as I have worthy enemies in this life, I will never be truly alone.”

A moment later, he laughed, his voice ringing clear. “What is rarer still is that the appearance of a worthy enemy proves that my path of the great dao has yet to become invincible in the world. Is that not a good thing? To seek the great dao should be so.”

Black Crow fell silent. She had never understood how having enemies could be considered a good thing, nor how the existence of enemies could bring such joy.

“Master, do you consider Lin Xun a worthy opponent already?” she asked.

Alpha Origin fell silent for a moment before answering, “It is rare for me to be in such high spirits, so I may as well tell you this...Compared to Chen Xi and the swordsman, Lin Xun is still somewhat lacking. What I find most difficult to fathom about him lies in the word ‘variable.’ And it is precisely for this reason that I regard him as a worthy enemy.”

He paused again, his tone turning more contemplative. “The Boat of Eternity that once emerged from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was originally meant to be mine. Yet in the end, it merely brushed past me. Even so, with the help of it, I stepped through the Eternity Door, comprehended the Spirit Empowerment Origin, and in a single stroke, touched upon the mysteries of life.”

His voice took on a faintly strange note, almost amused. “What’s interesting is that, after countless years, that very same Boat of Eternity ultimately ended up in Lin Xun’s hands. This is far beyond something that can be dismissed as mere coincidence.

“The Eternal Night Divine Emperor was born in the Spirit Empowerment World. She once fled with the Boat of Eternity, and after her reincarnation, it came into the possession of Luo Tongtian. However, although Luo Tongtian comprehended the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent, he never truly brought the Eternity Boat under his control.

“And after the Eternal Night Divine Emperor's reincarnation, she became Xia Zhi. When she appeared at Lin Xun’s side, it coincided with the moment Lin Xun opened the Omega Secret-Realm through the power of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer bloodline.

“At that time...Xia Zhi sought out Lin Xun because of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer. But that alone would never have been enough for him to keep hold of the Boat of Eternity. Only later, when I came to know about the Dao of Nirvana, did I finally realize the truth: Lin Xun was able to keep that treasure because of Nirvana.

“To put it simply, the Boat of Eternity comes from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, and its ultimate fate is bound to Nirvana. Likewise, Xia Zhi is the reincarnation of the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, and her origins also trace back to that same forbidden land. Thus, the transformation she has undergone is likewise connected to Lin Xun’s Nirvana power.”

If Lin Xun was present, he would surely be astonished. Because long ago, he had indeed placed Xia Zhi within the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, allowing her to bathe in the power of Nirvana. This meant that the cultivation she possessed today was also influenced by the Dao of Nirvana! Furthermore, all of this...had already been seen through by the Alpha Origin Master.

After laying out the full chain of cause and effect, Alpha Origin paused in thought before speaking. “In terms of karma, it was my hundred-thousand-year search that ultimately drew forth the Boat of Eternity from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.

“And because of that treasure, there came the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, and the wondrous karmic bond between Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. This is what truly fascinates me.”

Hearing this, Black Crow felt an inexplicable chill rise within her. “Master, do you mean that it is the Boat of Eternity that has woven a thread of karma between you and Lin Xun?”

Chapter 3222 On the Realm of All Mysteries, the Key of Nirvana

Alpha Origin pondered for a moment before speaking, “This is not karma. In the end...it all traces back to the secret of Nirvana that Lin Xun possesses.”

The secret of Nirvana...

Black Crow nodded inwardly. Was that not precisely why they regarded Lin Xun as a variable? Because of that unfathomable power?

Alpha Origin let out a faint sigh. “I must admit...Lin Xun has an exceptional master. I do not know how he was able to deduce the profound mysteries of the Nirvana of Transcendence. In this regard, even I must admire Bodhi.”

“But he is still no match for you, Master,” Black Crow added.

Alpha Origin shook his head slightly. “You are mistaken. If his disciple has the possibility of defeating me, does that not imply that the master himself stands even higher?”

He paused, then sighed again. “More importantly, he did not seek to claim the power of Nirvana himself. Instead, he left such a great fortune to his disciple, Lin Xun. Such resolve...is truly remarkable.”

“Lin Xun has no chance of defeating you, Master. That will never happen.” Black Crow remained unconvinced.

Alpha Origin chuckled softly, “When I instructed Ape Ancestor to act, I already said that there are no absolutes in this world. Only by understanding this can one avoid being blinded by ignorance and arrogance.”

“Master’s words are most wise.”

At that moment, Ape Ancestor returned from the distance.

“Fellow Daoist, your cultivation has now been revealed. There is no need to conceal it any longer.” Alpha Origin’s voice echoed from deep beneath the earth.

Fellow Daoist?

Black Crow trembled inwardly and turned toward Ape Ancestor in astonishment.

Yet his expression remained utterly calm, unmoved, just as it had always been. “Master, I am no longer who I once was. Whether I conceal it or not...no longer matters to me.”

Black Crow could no longer hold back. “Ape Ancestor...who were you before?”

Her emotions churned violently. Thinking back, Ape Ancestor had followed Alpha Origin far earlier than she had, but he had always presented himself as nothing more than an old servant. Through countless years, he carried out Alpha Origin’s commands without question, never once revealing anything out of the ordinary.

Thus, all this time, whether it was her or the others among the Alpha Origin's Nine Departments, although they respected Ape Ancestor, they had always regarded him as nothing more than a loyal attendant at Alpha Origin's side.

Now, Black Crow suddenly realized that Ape Ancestor's identity..was anything but simple! This secret had been hidden far too deeply.

It was only natural for Black Crow to feel this way. After all, aside from Alpha Origin, Ape Ancestor was the one she trusted most. How could she possibly accept that he had hidden another self for countless years? If he had not revealed a cultivation far beyond the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage before the All Mysteries Dao Platform today, he might well have continued concealing it forever.

"Miss, who I once was...is already dead," Ape Ancestor said calmly.

An indescribable surge of anger rose within Black Crow's heart. She had been deceived for countless years and found it hard to accept that.

"Little Crow, you will understand soon enough. Do not blame Ape Ancestor. This was my instruction," Alpha Origin's voice echoed once more.

In an instant, the anger in Black Crow's heart dissolved into bitterness and helplessness. She said nothing more.

"Master, do you think Chen Xi has already seen through my identity?" Ape Ancestor asked suddenly.

Alpha Origin replied calmly, "In his eyes, you have long since fallen into eternal reincarnation, never to appear again. He would not suspect it is you. But now that you have revealed part of your strength, it will inevitably arouse his vigilance."

"That is of no concern," Ape Ancestor said, his expression calm and unperturbed.

"Just wait. The game has already begun. I would like to see how many surprises Lin Xun, who has also taken that step beyond the Immeasurable Path, can bring from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders."

From deep underground, Alpha Origin's voice gradually faded away. Ape Ancestor stood in silence for a moment, then turned and left. Black Crow watched his retreating figure disappear, her gaze filled with complicated emotions.

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Hongling Domain.

Chen Linkong returned alone to the thatched hut where his grandfather, Chen Xi, resided. Sitting upon a rock, he said quietly, "Grandfather...this time, I owe Young Friend Lin my life."

There was a trace of self-mockery in his voice. Thinking back to the days in the Fortune Dominion, his cultivation had far surpassed Lin Xun's. However, today, if not for Lin Xun, he would have nearly been captured and slain by Ape Ancestor. This time, Lin Xun had truly saved his life.

From within the thatched hut came Chen Xi's clear, unhurried voice, "Back in the Fortune Dominion, did you not help him carve out a path of blood? Such debts are not meant to be measured like this. If you see him as a friend, then there is no need to speak of who owes whom."

He paused briefly before continuing, "Besides, Ape Ancestor's target this time was never you. His purpose was to cooperate with Alpha Origin and prevent me from aiding Lin Xun. After all, only by hiding his strength could he strike unexpectedly."

Chen Linkong nodded, then asked with a frown, "Grandfather...when did Ape Ancestor take that step? For all these years, we have remained in the Realm of All Mysteries, how is it that we never sensed the slightest disturbance?"

Inside the hut, Chen Xi fell silent for a moment before replying, "Perhaps, he had already taken that step before entering the Realm of All Mysteries. This is indeed a variable that even I failed to perceive. It seems both Alpha Origin and Ape Ancestor have hidden themselves far more deeply than expected."

Chen Linkong pondered for a moment, then suddenly smiled. "Fortunately, no matter how deeply they hid their strength, they could never have imagined that Young Friend Lin had also taken that step. At

most, this opening round can only be called a draw and not the inevitable defeat Alpha Origin so confidently proclaimed."

"You are oversimplifying matters." Chen Xi's calm voice sounded from within the hut. "Ape Ancestor is certainly not Alpha Origin's only hidden piece. In other words, he must still have other methods in reserve. But it doesn't matter. When the game reaches its end...the truth will reveal itself under our hands."

Chen Linkong frowned slightly. "Grandfather, there is something I have never understood. Why does Alpha Origin not act now? Or rather, why must we continue waiting like this?"

From within the thatched hut, Chen Xi replied, "Alpha Origin wishes to see what kind of change a variable like Young Friend Lin will bring when he perceives the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. And this will determine whether he chooses to act with his full strength."

After a brief pause, he continued, "And I, too, wish to see whether Lin Xun can truly break this deadlock."

He paused again before adding, "From this point onward, remain here and cultivate. Do not venture out again. Devote yourself to the dao...that is the proper path."

Chen Linkong nodded.

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Hidden Domain.

The peaks rose and fell like waves, and the mountains and rivers unfolded like painted scrolls. Primal chaos shrouded heaven and earth, dense and ancient. Standing within it was like returning to the moment when chaos first parted.

The moment Lin Xun entered, his gaze fell at once on the Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada, standing side by side.

Bodhi was dressed in simple cloth robes, his figure lean and refined, his entire bearing faint and ethereal. The golden cicada was just as Lin Xun remembered, clad in hemp garments, barefoot, youthful in appearance, and with clear, limpid eyes and a warm, gentle smile upon his lips.

This was the first time Lin Xun had seen his master's true form since embarking on the path of cultivation. A surge of emotion rose uncontrollably within him. He stepped forward and bowed deeply. "Disciple Lin Xun pays his respects to Master and to Senior Golden Cicada."

Bodhi smiled. "Come with me."

A short while later, they sat down on the edge of a high mountain cliff. Clouds billowed and shimmered, suffused with a rich and mysterious aura of primal chaos origin.

Bodhi sat cross-legged. With a casual motion, he drew in a stream of primal chaos qi, then used water from the mountain's sacred spring to gather a pinch of primal chaos bamboo leaves before placing them into the tea stove.

Before long, the tea began to simmer and a delicate fragrance spread through the air. Bodhi poured a cup for the golden cicada and Lin Xun each, then asked softly, "How are your senior brothers and sisters?"

Lin Xun then recounted his experiences in the Sea of Fate one by one.

When Bodhi learned that Lin Xun had brought his eldest senior brother back from death through the power of Nirvana, a look of quiet satisfaction appeared on his face. "At that time, I sensed a subtle sign and guessed that your eldest senior brother had altered his fate and been reborn. Now that I hear it from you, the mysteries of Nirvana are indeed wondrous beyond words."

The golden cicada looked at Lin Xun with keen interest. "Young Friend, to what extent have you grasped the mysteries of Nirvana?"

Lin Xun considered for a moment before replying, “I have tempered it to the level of primal chaos. But upon closer examination...the deeper truths of Nirvana have long surpassed the bounds of the eternal path.”

After all, even the mysteries of Spirit Empowerment had been integrated into it. This had caused Lin Xun’s dao to undergo subtle and wondrous transformations, guiding it beyond the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Stage and toward a higher dao path.

“May I take a look?” the golden cicada asked, unable to conceal his curiosity.

“Of course.” Lin Xun smiled, flicking his finger lightly.

At once, a wisp of Nirvana emerged, obscure and unfathomable, and its profundity impossible to put into words.

The golden cicada observed it for a moment, then fell silent.

“Fellow Daoist, what have you perceived?” Bodhi asked with a faint smile.

The golden cicada pondered for a moment, then said slowly, “This kind of power has already surpassed the bounds of the eternal path. It touches upon an incomprehensible principle of ‘change,’ life and death, decay and flourishing, destruction and rebirth, origin and end. It seems to contain countless profound truths within it, but upon closer examination, it is like primal chaos itself...formless, empty and beyond description. Truly...it is perplexing.”

“Like primal chaos...like nothingness.” A glimmer of appreciation flickered in Bodhi’s eyes. “To deduce so much from a mere wisp of Nirvana...could it be that you too have touched the threshold of the Dao of Life?”

The golden cicada was taken aback, then laughed at himself. “If that were so, it would indeed be a blessing.”

Lin Xun glanced at the golden cicada and said, “With Senior’s insight, why worry about being unable to take that step one day? Perhaps all that is needed is a single opportunity to break through that final barrier.”

The golden cicada burst into hearty laughter. “You master and disciple...are you trying to flatter me to death?” He waved his hand lightly. “Enough of that. Young Friend Lin has only just arrived in the Realm of All Mysteries, there must still be many questions on your mind. As for me, I am equally curious about your cultivation. Let us take this chance to have a proper talk.”

As they sipped tea, the three spoke at length about the Realm of All Mysteries. Through their conversation, Lin Xun’s understanding of this vast world deepened considerably.

It was then that Lin Xun finally understood that, just as he had long speculated, whether it was the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Chen Xi, Chen Linkong, or even Alpha Origin and his enemies, all of them had been waiting for him, the variable.

The reason was simple: everyone believed that he, the one who possessed the secret of Nirvana, would most likely have the chance to uncover a true path of survival leading to the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.

In other words, in everyone’s eyes, the power of Nirvana was like a key capable of unlocking the gates of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders that had been closed for endless ages!

Chapter 3223 Bodhi and the Little Monkey

The Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was the most taboo and treacherous place in the All-Wonder Dominion. Throughout the ages, no one had ever dared to intrude into it, including Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, and that swordsman.

Like Alpha Origin, even his one hundred thousand years of trial and error had only been conducted remotely from the Realm of All Mysteries with a Will Dharma Form. His true form had refused to take a step beyond.

In other words, in this Realm of All Mysteries, experts of their caliber were able to perceive the existence of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, but they could also sense the great calamity within it with equal clarity. Entry meant death!

As such, they had been biding their time in the Realm of All Mysteries for eons, researching and deducing the profound mysteries in the energy of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders that they sensed through the air without ever going there.

Now, however, the arrival of Lin Xun, who possessed the Nirvana principle, let everyone in the Realm of All Mysteries know that their opportunity had come. Upon learning all that, Lin Xun fell silent for a while before he asked Bodhi for clarification on the Nirvana principle.

If the Nirvana principle was so divine and magical, why would it have appeared in the Ancient Nebula Underworld? How did this supreme dao concern entering the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders? These were the questions that had been on his mind.

After some contemplation, Bodhi responded, “I started self-cultivation through my spirituality, built the Fangchun Mountain Lineage around it, and created laws also based on it. However, what no one else knows is how I first got on this path.”

The golden cicada next to him was visibly surprised. “Could it be that you had a secret mentor?”

Bodhi shook his head. “Not quite. I would consider it a fortuitous meeting.”

Speaking of this, his eyes flooded with nostalgia. “Before becoming a cultivator, I was someone who longed for cultivation but could never obtain it. I went to various institutes, only to be rejected at the door every time due to my lack of intelligence and poor aptitude...

“I naturally refused to give up. I traveled to many places, trying to find a lineage that would take me in and teach me their arts, but even when approaching my declining years like a candle flickering at the end of its life, I still had never gotten what I wanted...”

Lin Xun was stunned. He had never imagined that his master had undergone such ups and downs before embarking on the path of cultivation.

Bodhi continued, “I walked until I couldn't walk anymore. Old and decrepit on top of being drained by all those years of running around, I eventually collapsed at a verdant land with mountains and water. I

could feel that death was imminent, but I didn't care about that. The only thing I couldn't accept was never being able to step into the threshold of cultivation at the end of it all."

Here, he revealed a faint smile. "It was at that kind of time that the fortuitous meeting happened to me. A little monkey that had just developed spiritual intelligence appeared with a book in its arms and humbly asked me to tell it what was written in the book.

"I took a look. The book was tattered. There were only a dozen pages left, and the content was a mess. Fortunately, I recognized all those words, and so I read them out to the little monkey.

"After listening to me, the little monkey appeared extremely delighted, which surprised me as the content was too mutilated to make sense. I asked the little monkey why he was so happy. The little monkey said that it was because he got to learn those words. Such a simple answer, for some reason, shook me to my core.

"I then told the monkey that before I died, I could teach him to read and write. He was overjoyed. From that day on, he would come to me bearing fresh spring water and mountain fruits, while I taught him to recognize words. To my shock, several years passed without me dying. Instead, all my injuries and illnesses healed.

"One day, the little monkey pointed to a sentence in the torn book and asked me what it meant. It was: 'By cleansing and broadening the mind, one will see into the mysteries of everything.' I explained it to the little monkey.

"The little monkey then pointed to the word 'mind' and asked how one should cleanse their mind. At that moment, I froze, not knowing how to answer. From that day on, I started wondering what the mind was.

"I went on to sit in one place to contemplate on it. Three years later, on a stormy night haunted by the cracking of thunder, I finally got it."

At this part, Bodhi seemed to enter a trance. "It was an epiphany. I suddenly penetrated through the thick fog and perceived the warp and woof of heaven and earth, the traces of dao in the mountains and rivers, and the vitality in every blade of grass... It was like opening a door to a whole new world, allowing me to finally understand what the so-called almighty dao is.

“I thus embarked on the path of cultivation, and I brought the little monkey with me. We crossed vast rivers and witnessed all kinds of daos. We discussed with Buddhas, Confucianists, and Taoists about their respective scriptures...

“Afterward, I took the little monkey with me to the Return Dominion, where I founded the lineage of Fangchun Mountain.”

Saying this, Bodhi looked at Lin Xun with a smile. “That little monkey is your Eldest Senior Brother.”

Lin Xun was hit by a strange emotion. So that was how Master and Eldest Senior Brother met. It's really a wonderful bond from a fortuitous meeting.

Even the golden cicada lamented, “Not to seek the dao from others, but to find it in one's own heart. We can never fathom what you experienced and achieved back then.”

Bodhi laughed. “Seek not from others? Hah. I lost count of how many sects I begged to take me in only to be repeatedly rejected. I thought it would end with regret, but a fortuitous meeting turned it around and built the very path that I sought.”

He paused a little and resumed, “After I founded Fangchun Mountain, I went to explore the origin place of the Return Dominion and observed the changes of the Five Principal Laws of the Return Dominion. But only after I ‘viewed’ them through my mind did I notice the existence of ‘Nirvana.’”

“The Nirvana of Transcendence?” The golden cicada's eyes gleamed.

“No, it's the seed of Nirvana dao.” The Lord of Fangchun Mountain said, “The Return Dominion is where all daos return to. During every epochal shift, all existing daos would pour in there and transform into origin power. This Nirvana dao was, at the time, only a seed in the Return Dominion’s origin.

“After many years of studying it, I could only deduce that the Nirvana dao would be born into this epoch. That's why I left behind that daoist verse about the birth of a sole lotus.”

Lin Xun asked, “But your teachings say that the Nirvana dao is related to the Eternal Supremacy Path. Why is that?”

Bodhi laughed. “If I described the Nirvana dao as too powerful in the daoist verse, the commotion would be huge enough to attract existences like Alpha Origin. How could you have been able to obtain it in that case?”

Lin Xun was dumbfounded for a good second. After finally understanding the little measure his master had left in place back then, he laughed out loud.

Meanwhile, the golden cicada asked, “Dao Brother, how did you know that the Nirvana dao would be born in the Ancient Nebula Underworld? I once roamed that place and didn't find anything special about it.”

Bodhi said, “If you have entered the origin place of the Return Dominion, you would find that the origin power of the Ancient Nebula Underworld was birthed by the Return Dominion. It was based on this knowledge that I made such a speculation. As a result, I had my second disciple guard that place and prevent others from grabbing the Nirvana dao when it appeared.”

The golden cicada was silent for a while, at the end of which he sighed. “To sum up, the Return Dominion is the root of this whole thing. You might not know it at the time, but building the Fangchun Mountain lineage there put you one step ahead of everyone in learning the mysteries of Nirvana.”

After a pause, he asked, “There’s still something, though, how did you know that our little friend would be the one to get this fortune?”

Bodhi chuckled. “Fellow Daoist, don’t be misled by what you already know. I never knew for sure that my own disciple would be the one. Speaking of which, it was fate that Lin Xun joined Fangchun Mountain, not something I arranged beforehand.”

The golden cicada pondered on it and couldn't help but sigh again. “Truly a work of predestination. Can't be forced, can't be arranged.”

At this moment, Lin Xun asked, “Master, if no one knew about the wonders of the Nirvana dao in the first place, why is it that all our enemies here in the Realm of All Mysteries seem certain that it's an unprecedented variable?”

The golden cicada beat Bodhi to it with a smile. “It's quite simple. After you stepped onto the Immortal path, the changes in you made you into a target of the Alpha Origin Master.

“Of course, the fact that you carry the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer innate talent played a part in that. As you should know already, the Boat of Eternity first flew out from this Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, and then fell into the hands of your great-grandfather. Since you inherited the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer while also possessing the Nirvana principle, it was hard not to be noticed.”

Lin Xun was reminded of everything that had played out inside the Eternity Door during his confrontation with Alpha Origin’s Will Dharma Form. Combining this with the newly gained information, he completely understood now.

It had all begun from the Boat of Eternity! This artifact was like the core of this event, spinning different karmic threads between Alpha Origin, the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, Xia Zhi, and himself! This was also the reason why the Alpha Origin Master had demanded that he hand over the Nirvana principle, Xia Zhi, and the Boat of Eternity all together.

The golden cicada said softly, “Little Friend, now that you're at the Realm of All Mysteries, you should have figured that the mastermind behind the epochal calamities is Alpha Origin, and that the Great Silence Unlife Calamity created alongside it originates from somewhere in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.

“According to our speculation, whether it's for the sake of seeking the dao or ending this lengthy feud, Alpha Origin will resort to everything possible to deal with you. He requires the Nirvana principle in you and also the Boat of Eternity for his purpose.”

Lin Xun looked as usual as he wasn't much surprised. He casually said, “I had already thought about all this before I came here. I'm not afraid to have a final battle with him.”

Bodhi said warmly, “Hurry not. Although the game has already begun, it's not yet time for a showdown. At the very least, both we and Alpha Origin would like to see how many mysteries that you, with the

Nirvana dao under your belt, can pry out from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, and what kind of unexpected changes you can bring about."

Chapter 3224 Chen Xi and Lin Xun

"Studying the energy of Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders?" Lin Xun was startled.

Bodhi said, "Yes. Regarded as the Forbidden Zone of Life, it is rumored to host a path higher than even the Eternal path. As you have already taken this step in addition to possessing the Nirvana principle, this will most likely prove to be a blessing for you. I'm not the only one who thinks so. Chen Xi and Alpha Origin do as well, and they all want to see what truths you can fathom from it."

Lin Xun scoffed. "Heh, isn't this Alpha Origin guy an interesting one? I was wondering why he hadn't taken further action after Ape Ancestor's failure at the All Mysteries Dao Platform. So he does have other preparations.

"If I were to trigger something new during my research of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders that could tempt even Alpha Origin, then it would be time to settle this game once and for all, I take it?"

"It should be so," Bodhi said warmly. "However, before you start, I suggest that you pay a visit to the Hongling Domain."

Lin Xun nodded as he understood why his master would suggest this. Chen Xi, as the only existence in this Realm of All Mysteries that could threaten Alpha Origin, must have studied the aura of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders on various occasions. It could not hurt for Lin Xun to go and consult someone so knowledgeable about the subject first.

"Sensible as that might be, Little Friend, I still think it's better that you come back here to fathom the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders," the golden cicada suddenly said.

Even Bodhi was taken aback. "Why is that the case, Fellow Daoist?"

The golden cicada was silent for a moment before he said, "Perhaps I am overthinking, but since someone like Alpha Origin has such an obsession with the Nirvana principle, it's not impossible that Chen Xi may have some idea as well."

After a pause, he added, “Even if he doesn't have any right now, when Lin Xun triggers phenomena that are important enough while studying the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders...”

The golden cicada didn’t finish, but the implication was plenty clear. Bodhi frowned and gazed deeply at the golden cicada for a while. Finally, he said, “It’s fair that you are concerned about this.”

The golden cicada smiled bitterly. “I hope you don't think I'm gauging the heart of a gentleman through a mean lens. To be honest, I have great admiration and respect for Fellow Daoist Chen Xi. An existence like him, who practices the dao of reincarnation and follows a most supreme path, is far from someone I can denigrate and be suspicious of, but...this matter is of great import while there are many ways it can go wrong. We aren't allowed to be careless here, even if just a little.”

Bodhi nodded and turned to look at Lin Xun. “What do you think?”

Lin Xun smiled. “Even though I don't personally know Senior Chen Xi, from what I know about Senior Chen Linkong, I don't think they will have impure intentions. However, Senior Golden Cicada raised a good point. We can't never be too careful at a time of life or death. After I get my advice from Senior Chen Xi, I will return to the Hidden Domain.”

The golden cicada laughed. “I certainly hope I'm just being overly cautious.”

Without any further delay, Lin Xun left the Hidden Domain. Only after he disappeared from sight did Bodhi turn back to the golden cicada. “Fellow Daoist, you have never been suspicious for no reason. Have you found out something?”

The golden cicada was stunned and could not help but smile wryly. “They are right when they say caring too much about something puts you out of sorts. Perhaps I was too concerned about our little friend, and that's why I said such abrupt words. Forgive me, Dao Brother.”

Bodhi nodded, “Indeed, too much concern can disrupt your state of mind, especially when every move from this disciple of mine affects the entire situation. I'll be honest with you, I also feel a little uneasy for some reason.”

Saying that, he let out a long sigh. “I entered the dao through my mind, but why can't I keep it calm at a time like this?”

The golden cicada gently said, “At times like these, not only you and I, but even Alpha Origin and Chen Xi also wait with occupied minds. It is impossible to be truly indifferent.”

After a long silence, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain said, “I have once deduced that this uneasy feeling could be a hint of an inauspicious omen, but it has been hiding too deeply to be identified. Now that I review every possibility, it’s probably Alpha Origin. He probably has a card up his sleeve that...is meant to be dealt at me.”

The golden cicada narrowed his eyes.

Immediately, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain shook his head. “But never mind that for now. If my life can be exchanged for victory in this game, it's worth it.”

The golden cicada whispered, “My dao brother, Lin Xun is the variable. As long as he is here, that hint of foreboding you have is by no means unresolvable.”

Bodhi nodded, no longer continuing the topic.

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Upon exiting the Hidden Domain, Lin Xun instantly sensed an obscure aura sweeping out from the Taihun Domain, which was now ‘looking’ at him from afar.

It unquestionably belonged to Alpha Origin!

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed slightly as he smiled. “What’s the matter, you want to do it here and now?”

Between heaven and earth, Alpha Origin's voice resounded, “No, I just want to give you information about the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.”

Lin Xun raised his brows. “You really do want me to fathom as many mysteries from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders as possible, don't you?”

“I knew you'd get me, my young friend.” Alpha Origin smiled. “The changes you'll bring also count as variables for me, right? Since it is not yet time for the final showdown, I present myself to you without ulterior motives, so you have nothing to worry about.”

As he said that, a green arc of light flew out from where he was and stopped a thousand feet away in front of Lin Xun, revealing itself to be a jade slip.

“In this slip are all the insights that I have gained from studying the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. It’s yours now. Peruse it or throw it away, you can do whatever you please.”

After that, his voice faded in the space, and disappearing with it was the aura that had come out from the Taihun Domain.

Lin Xun sank into contemplation. A thousand feet away, the jade slip was quietly suspended. As it seemed, Alpha Origin didn't care at all whether he would accept it or not.

“It’ll look like I’m scared if I don't take it, but if I do, I will owe you a small favor... If I take it but don't use it, it will look like I have apprehensions, but if I read it, the favor I owe gets bigger,” Lin Xun mumbled to himself.

Right at this moment, a bright laughter reverberated, “Hahahaha, you don't even want to owe me a favor, so you said that out loud for me to hear, right?”

This voice was clear like the echo of a morning bell.

Lin Xun laughed and clasped his fist. “Nothing gets past you, Senior.”

“Hurry, I've been waiting for you for a long time now. As for this slip, I'll accept it for you. This way, you're free from a dilemma and get to maintain a clean mental state.”

As the laughter echoed, the distant jade slip vanished, taken away by an invisible force. This voice naturally belonged to Chen Xi. Lin Xun once again cupped his fist before he shot toward the Hongling Domain in the distance. Soon, he entered the vortex tunnel leading into it.

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Somewhere deep underground in the Taihun Domain, Alpha Origin was also all smiles as he tugged at the sword seals binding his shell. Listening to the clatter of the chains, he murmured, “It's a pity that you aren't here, Fellow Daoist, or the whole thing today would have been even more interesting...”

.....

When Lin Xun entered Hongling Domain, Chen Linkong was already waiting there.

“You’re finally here, Young Friend Lin. My grandfather has been waiting for you for a long time.” Chen Linkong greeted him with a smile and began leading the way.

Lin Xun couldn't help but look forward to this meeting.

During his comprehension of the Fortune Starry Firmament’s mysteries in Fortune Divine City, he had gotten the honor to witness the elegance of Chen Xi: Clad in green and carrying an ancient sword on his back, that figure treaded the river of time with unrivaled style!

Not long ago, in the Mortal Transformation Zone, Lin Xun had seen three dao manifestations in the void above the sky, and one of them was left by Chen Xi. The sheer majesty emanating from that alone was enough to leave him awestruck.

In fact, his entire rune heritage was inextricably linked to Chen Xi. After all, Master Lu had studied under Divine Derivation Mountain, which Chen Xi was the most powerful disciple of!

Now that Lin Xun was finally about to meet such a legendary senior in the flesh, how could he not be excited?

“Ever since my grandfather defeated the Taishang Lord, he has grown a little detached and idle. I have no idea what level his cultivation has reached today,” said Chen Linkong with a smile as they were on the way, his expression brimming with pride and reverence.

“Taishang Lord?” Lin Xun was caught off guard by the unfamiliar name.

“Yes, the founder of the Taishang Sect known for their dao of sentiment devoidness. Someone who enters the path of cultivation through this concept is the definition of terror. My grandfather had to employ every trick in his arsenal to seal that person within the cycle of reincarnation, condemning them to eternal suffering with no escape... Ah, we're here.” Chen Linkong stopped talking at this point.

Atop a mountain not far away, a tall and slender figure stood before a thatched cottage. Clad in green with his hands clasped behind his back, he resembled a pine tree rooted on a cliffside. He was looking in their direction.

It was none other than Chen Xi, a peerless legend whose name resounded through countless epochs!

“Go resume your cultivation. Without my permission, you will not set one foot outside your place,” said Chen Xi casually, but it made Chen Linkong stiffen. He obediently left.

“Greetings, Young Friend Lin Xun. I am Chen Xi.” From afar, Chen Xi smilingly clasped his fist toward Lin Xun. His eyes were clear as the sea, profound yet serene. His gentle tone carried a power that calmed the heart.

Lin Xun returned the gesture. “It’s an honor to meet you, Senior.”

Chen Xi was ever smiling. “The formalities of seniority are redundant between us. Let us treat each other as equal companions on the path of cultivation. Please, come here and have a chat with me.”

Lin Xun nodded and strode over. Before the thatched cottage stood a table and two bamboo chairs. Once he was seated, Chen Xi asked, “Wine or tea?”

“To meet with you brings me great joy, Senior, so of course it will be wine,” Lin Xun also replied with a smile.

Chen Xi did not mind that Lin Xun still addressed him as ‘senior.’ It was merely a title, quibbling about it would be making a big deal out of nothing. Taking his seat, he flipped his palm, and a wine pot with two cups appeared on the table.

“My wife, Qing Xiuyi, personally brewed this wine. All my years in the Realm of All Mysteries, I've always been reluctant to touch it. It’s your arrival, my young friend, that allows me to finally decide to indulge, hahaha!” Chen Xi chuckled as he opened the pot and poured a full cup each for both of them.

Instantly, a soul-soakingly refreshing aroma filled the air.

“Come, let's have a drink first.” Chen Xi raised his cup.

Lin Xun smiled and raised his own.

As the two cups clinked, it felt like a meeting on the path of almighty dao. No words were needed as all was understood.

Chapter 3225 Chaos Era

In front of the hut...

Sitting across Chen Xi as they talked over wine, Lin Xun felt very relaxed.

When the pot was finished, Chen Xi put down his cup and sighed in satisfaction. “The last time I had wine was with that swordsman, and it was pretty much a contest. He drained all thirty-nine pots of my treasured wine and somehow that still wasn't enough for him. He clamored for more, but how could I let him have his way? I said I'd treat him again and make sure he'd have his fill next time after he returned from his reincarnation. Since then, many epochs have passed.”

There was melancholy in his eyes as he narrated.

“How about you treat me to a satisfactory drink now?” Lin Xun proposed with a smile.

“Why not? But that will have to wait until this big game is over.” Chen Xi smiled as well and continued, “You have no idea. If that swordsman wasn't about to go into reincarnation to start over, I would never have invited him to have so much fine wine.”

Stunned, Lin Xun then said, “Senior, truth be told, I also have some understanding of the dao of reincarnation, but so far I have not been able to grasp its core mystery. Even till this day, I still do not dare say with certainty that reincarnation really exists.”

Chen Xi flashed him an odd look. “Has no one ever told you that I have mastered the complete knowledge of reincarnation? When that swordsman entered reincarnation, it was me who sent him on his way.”

Lin Xun smiled wryly. “I never knew.”

Chen Xi asked, “What about the River Map, you should know it at least?”

Lin Xun nodded. “I have seen what this treasure is capable of when I was in Fortune Divine City.”

Chen Xi smiled. “The complete dao of reincarnation comes from this River Map. Back in my time, those who possessed the River Map were regarded as Destined Ones. It was only later that I deduced the power of reincarnation came from the River Map.

“Moreover, it wasn't after I arrived at this All-Wonder Dominion that I was finally able to deduce further: the River Map came from somewhere in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.”

Lin Xun was astonished. “That’s the same as the Boat of Eternity.”

Chen Xi nodded. “Exactly. Reincarnation involves the secret of life cycle and rebirth, so it should also be counted as a dao of life.”

The new knowledge hit Lin Xun in an enlightening way. Meanwhile, Chen Xi took out a jade slip, the same one that Alpha Origin had just left.

“Young Friend, I am clear about the purpose of your visit. I will pass to you everything I have gained while perceiving the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders over the years shortly.” Chen Xi fiddled with the jade slip. “But before that, how about we take a look at Alpha Origin’s insights and realizations?”

Lin Xun laughed. “I am curious as well.”

Chen Xi got straight to business, sending a strand of his spirit sense into the jade slip. After a while, he finished reading with a strange expression, entering a long silence before he finally said, “You take a look as well.”

He handed the jade slip over to Lin Xun, who followed and sent a strand of his spirit sense into it. Immediately, a variety of understanding flooded in. These epiphanies all came from Alpha Origin who had gained them from studying the aura of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders during these countless moons.

The content included unimaginable images, but almost all of them were shrouded in chaos and thus appeared blurry and illusory. Like when one tried to see the scenery through a thick fog, it was hard to make sense of. Some of the insights in the slips had actually been derived from these images.

A long time later, Lin Xun retracted his spirit sense with a shaken heart. According to the slip, after what Alpha Origin had fathomed and inferred, he had conceived the notion that the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders held three meanings.

Firstly, it was the origin that birthed the dao of life—a complete dao of life.

Secondly, it was the core of the All-Wonder Dominion, similar to how the river of time was to the Fortune Dominion, how the Five Mountains of the Return Dominion was to the Return Dominion, and how the Sea of Fate was to the Kunlun Dominion.

Thirdly, it was one of the complete ‘chaos’ origins!

The first one was easy to understand. Lin Xun had made a similar deduction before.

The second point was as well when one looked at the interrelationship between the four great dao dominions. The Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, as the root of the All-Wonder Dominion, was in the same category as the river of time, the Five Mountains of the Return Dominion, and the Sea of Fate.

Only the third point was something Lin Xun had never even thought of. A complete chaos origin! In the eyes of Alpha Origin, the so-called 'chaos' contained infinite epochs, encompassed the endless daos, gave rise to countless worlds, and produced endless life.

The Ancient Nebula Road, the Great Thousand Worlds, the Eternal True Realm... All of these planes belonged to the Spirit Martial Epoch and could be viewed as an entire epochal civilization.

Before the Spirit Martial Epoch, there were many more epochs. Various epochal civilizations carried various cultivation civilizations and all kinds of heavenly daos. However, at the end of it all, these epochal civilizations were all contained within a single chaos!

This kind of chaos was not the so-called primal chaos origin at play in the birth of a world, nor was it a primal chaos origin law. Instead, it was like the womb of a mother, carrying and supporting the entirety of epochal changes, civilizations, the almighty dao, and life!

Such chaos could be considered a 'Chaos Era.' A Chaos Era encompassed all epochal civilizations, daos, life, changes and evolutions, as well as their perpetual affairs. Whether it was the Immortal Dao Epoch, the Demonic Epoch, the Buddhist Epoch, or the Shamanic Epoch, all of them were a part of one Chaos Era.

In a Chaos Era, there were four great origins: Life, Fate, Fortune, and Ultima. That was to say, the origins of the four great dao dominions of All-Wonder, Kunlun, Fortune, and Return were the four great origins that made up this entire Chaos Era.

Among them, the origin of Life was the core of the Chaos Era, and it was also a supreme path that most cultivators could never hope to touch! The three great origins of Fortune, Fate, and Ultima, on the other hand, manifested into the change of epochs, the rotation of fortune, and the fate of all things...

The four great origins interlinked, and each one was indispensable, just like how the four great dao dominions formed a cyclical sequence with their energy, repeating in a set order that maintained the operation of the entire Chaos Era.

All above were the profound mysteries that Alpha Origin had fathomed from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders during these eons. They answered many questions Lin Xun had been wondering, such as the existence and connection of the four great dao dominions.

At the same time, though, they gave him just as many shocks, for a good number of those 'truths' had been unheard of!

"How do you feel?" asked a smiling Chen Xi when he saw Lin Xun had calmed down a little and returned from his thoughts.

"Alpha Origin is very impressive, no doubt about it." Lin Xun weighed his words. "Even as his opponent, I have to say that he has extraordinary talents for self-cultivation and seeking the dao."

Chen Xi nodded. "Alpha Origin is indeed formidable and an extremely terrifying opponent. A long time ago, he even planned to leave this place to refine the Return Dominion, the Kunlun Dominion, and the Fortune Dominion. His idea was that if he could first fuse the other three great dao dominions into his own dao, he would grow strong enough to refine the All-Wonder Dominion as well."

Lin Xun gasped, "He is that crazy?"

"To him, that's just another means to seek the dao, except it would lead to the demise of all cultivators of all epochs as well as countless beings," Chen Xi calmly commented. "In other words, if he carries out such a thing, then excluding him, all living beings in existence will suffer."

Lin Xun suddenly had a question, "About the Alpha Origin Principle that encases the Fortune Dominion, don't tell me that Alpha Origin set it up for the purpose of refining the origin of Fortune?"

"Well guessed." Chen Xi laughed. "When I realized what he was doing, I went there and created Fortune Divine City. I put the Fortune origin in there and layered the River Map on top for extra protection. Only after I did all that was the power of Alpha Origin blocked outside the Fortune Dominion."

Lin Xun finally understood why the Fortune Dominion had been trapped under the shroud of the Alpha Origin Principle. Alpha Origin was actually so madly ambitious that he had even aimed to refine the three great dao dominions into his own. Who would have thought?

“This fellow seems to disregard everything in order to seek the dao,” Lin Xun lamented.

Chen Xi agreed, “If not, then the swordsman wouldn't have turned his entire cultivation base into a sword seal and imprisoned Alpha Origin in the Taihun Domain before he entered reincarnation. He said he feared Alpha Origin would leave the All-Wonder Dominion to wreak havoc on the universe.”

After a pause, he said, “But there's no denying that Alpha Origin is a praiseworthy opponent. His dao knowledge, as well as his unshakable heart to seek it for all eternity, has been shown in his actions. Even I have to deeply admire him for that.”

Lin Xun nodded, then said, “Senior, what do you think of Alpha Origin's realizations and deductions of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders?”

Chen Xi went silent for a while before he replied, “He did not tamper with the content he gave you because I have also fathomed these mysteries on my own. In regard to this subject, I've actually developed a sense of appreciation toward him.”

He then sighed deeply. “Unfortunately, our similar cognition about the great dao does not change the fact that our paths are different and that what we seek conflict. As they say, when people’s daos and morals don't align, they can never be friends.”

Lin Xun said, “The one who knows you best is often your enemy, and this applies well to the relationship between us and Alpha Origin. In the end, this game can only have one winner.”

Chen Xi said, “It’s still early for that yet. While we have this opportunity, I’d like to share my insights as well.”

Lin Xun smiled. “You have my undivided attention.”

Chen Xi began, “Alpha Origin believes that the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders houses the dao of life, which he regards as the core origin of a Chaos Era, but in my opinion, this dao of life should be called the dao of the great primordial chaos path.”

“The great primordial chaos path?” Lin Xun mused.

“Yes, the great primordial chaos is the core of a Chaos Era and the origin of life. To use an analogy, if a Chaos Era is an egg, then the power of great primordial chaos is the yolk, in which all the daos of life are nurtured to birth...”

Chen Xi proceeded to state the mysteries he had explored during these countless years.

Chapter 3226 Countdown to the Moment of Victory and Defeat

Lin Xun listened attentively, occasionally asking questions. Chen Xi patiently answered them one by one. The latter also had some mysteries that he had touched but was unable to penetrate, and he also brought them up to discuss with Lin Xun. This allowed both of them to gain from each other.

Several days had flown by like this. Through the discussion, Chen Xi had an understanding of Lin Xun's current dao knowledge and skills, the quality of which made him sigh in awe. At the end of it, he couldn't help but look forward to what Lin Xun would gain when he studied the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.

“Senior, I intend to return to the Hidden Domain right away and begin to sense the mysteries in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.”

Today, Lin Xun made a decision which stunned Chen Xi briefly. The latter then agreed with a smile and handed a sword-shaped jade slip to him. “In this are some of the insights left by that swordsman. They don’t deviate much from what we have been discussing in the last few days, but ponder it still on your own, and maybe you will get something new.”

Lin Xun accepted it with both hands and cupped his fist in thanks.

Wasting no time, Chen Xi personally led Lin Xun out. Watching as the latter disappeared at the exit of Hongling Domain, he raised his brows and fell into thought.

“Grandfather, why did Lin Xun leave?” Chen Linkong hurriedly came over.

Chen Xi glanced at him. “Didn't I tell you not to leave your place?”

Chen Linkong became sheepish. “I saw Lin Xun was leaving and I thought I should say goodbye.”

“Let’s go back.” Chen Xi walked back to his residence.

“Grandfather, you still haven't answered my question.” Chen Linkong caught up to him. “Doesn't Lin Xun know it's safest to sense the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders’ energy from the Hongling Domain? At least with you here, he'll have someone strong to defuse unexpected situations that might arise.”

“He probably has other ideas,” Chen Xi casually said.

“Other ideas?” Chen Linkong was not stupid. After brief thinking, his brows slightly furrowed. “Is he being wary of us?”

“Wary?” Chen Xi laughed, “Not to that degree, and you should not overthink it. By the way, what do you think of Bodhi as a person?”

Chen Linkong pondered for a while before he answered, “His wisdom and vigor are rare to find anywhere, and even his attainments in the path of cultivation are superior to mine. If he hadn't left his dao manifestation in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws during his time in the Mortal Transformation Zone, his achievements would be far greater today.”

At the mention of this matter, Chen Linkong couldn't help but lament. When Bodhi had been in the Mortal Transformation Zone, he had had the opportunity to place his dao manifestation above its Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

Should he have done that, what he would have obtained at the ninefold gates of the Realm of All Spirits would not be a Chaos Dao Fruit, but a primal chaos origin! This, coupled with his intelligence and

capability, would have allowed him to transcend from the peak Immeasurable Realm after he arrived at the Realm of All Mysteries.

However, Bodhi had decided otherwise that year! It was only now that Chen Linkong realized that Bodhi had left his dao manifestation in the first sky zone's Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws for Lin Xun's sake.

One day as a teacher meant forever as a father. Bodhi had once said that since Lin Xun had joined Fangchun Mountain, he had never received any guidance or teaching from him. Perhaps he felt bad because of this and left his dao manifestation there to give Lin Xun an unconventional lesson?

However, had Lin Xun ever noticed this? Had he ever realized what kind of effort and price Bodhi had paid for him? Just as Chen Linkong was drifting in thoughts, Chen Xi's voice rang in his ears, "What about the golden cicada, what do you think of this character?"

"The golden cicada?" A stunned Chen Linkong took a moment to reply, "He is simply outstanding. For all the time I have known him, I have never seen him use his full power. It always looks as though he can solve every problem with ease. From time to time, it makes me wonder how powerful his dao truly is."

Saying that, he smiled, "Bodhi once said that the golden cicada's dao is above Heaven. In my opinion, his dao is unfathomable."

"For a golden cicada who wanders through epochs to receive these kinds of high praises from both you and Bodhi, he probably is one of great abilities." Chen Xi nodded. "It's a pity that he's been lying low in the Hidden Domain since he got to the Realm of All Mysteries, so I haven't gotten a chance to meet him."

Chen Linkong shook his head. "No, I have, several times, invited him to be our guest at Hongling Domain but he politely declined every time, so there's that."

"Who on the path of dao doesn't have some strange quirks? So be it, let's stop talking about him," Chen Xi said and glanced at Chen Linkong. "Why are you still following me? Go back to cultivating!"

"Erk..." Chen Linkong said, "Grandfather, Lin Xun is about to study the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Now that this game is approaching the most crucial juncture, how can I sit still and cultivate?"

Chen Xi shook his head but did not say anything more. He turned and walked into his hut. To this, Chen Linkong laughed aloud in what seemed to be relief.

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As Lin Xun was on his way back to the Hidden Domain, Alpha Origin's voice suddenly came out from the Taihun Domain, “Fellow Daoist, between Chen Xi and I, who do you think is better in terms of our understanding of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders?”

“Is having to win in everything that important to you?” Lin Xun mocked.

“No, I was curious what kind of evaluation I would get from you.” Alpha Origin chortled. “But I suddenly don't anymore. Since you regard Chen Xi as a friend, it's only natural that you think he is better than me.”

“Since you already know, why even ask in the first place?” Lin Xun raised a brow.

“I just like you so much that I couldn't help myself, hahaha.” Alpha Origin’s laughter echoed in the vast expanse for a long time before it faded.

Lin Xun shook his head and entered the Hidden Domain.

“How was the harvest?” Bodhi and the golden cicada immediately welcomed him back.

“Bountiful.” Lin Xun said, “Master, I'm planning to go into seclusion and study the aura of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. It will take a while.”

“Good.” Bodhi nodded.

“While you do so, Little Friend, don't rush it and just follow your heart,” the golden cicada advised in a warm voice.

Lin Xun nodded.

From this day onwards, Lin Xun entered a meditation session in the Hidden Domain.

He sat alone by the cliff, reviewing all the bits and pieces of his cultivation life since he had been a teenager and combing through what he had gained on the great path.

The battles, the trials and tribulations, and the ups and downs of life he had experienced all played out in his mind. He captured the underlying mechanisms in them, deduced the cause and effect, and summarized the results. He was combing through his past to deeper comprehend and solidify his path.

One month later, Lin Xun did another combing process. This time, though, he used the cultivation realms as the key outline. Based on it, he analyzed and summarized his state of mind, primordial spirit, dao body, and will.

Each summarization gave him a different feeling and understanding of the path he sought from the first time.

Time passed, day after day. On the cliff side, Lin Xun sat motionless like a stone, his aura completely silent, as if he had disappeared from the world.

Until one day, he suddenly opened his eyes, and then, that seemingly lifeless figure gained a touch of something indescribable. Even the chaos qi that permeated this dimly lit world gained a bright layer of vitality.

A mysterious power surged through the entire Hidden Domain and converged towards Lin Xun, cheering and jumping around him. The mountains, rivers, and everything resonated with his breathing, creating a strange rhythm.

Lin Xun’s entirety, however, felt utterly hollow. There was no energy, no power to be sensed, and not even a trace of might existed. At this moment, he was like a mass of chaos, inexplicable and indescribable.

This arcane phenomenon first startled Bodhi and the golden cicada who were in the Hidden Domain. They exchanged a glance before looking at the distant Lin Xun.

“Great chaos, completely empty...” the golden cicada murmured, his face aglow with an indescribable look. “Our little friend’s dao is utterly impenetrable...”

“How fortunate I am to have such a disciple.” Bodhi's heart was filled with joy.

“Master, Senior Golden Cicada.” On the cliff, Lin Xun got up and gazed at them with a smile. “I will officially begin perceiving the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders now. As I have made preparations, you don't have to worry about me if a life or death battle occurs.”

Bodhi smilingly nodded. “Very good.”

The golden cicada clasped his fist.

With that, Lin Xun looked up at the heavenly dome. His shell was hollow, but his spirit rose up like a tornado. It penetrated the sky, left the Hidden Domain, pierced through all the chaos qi of the Realm of All Mysteries, and flew the way to the endless depths...

Somewhere deep underground of the Taihun Domain, a violent clash of chains resounded.

Alpha Origin let out an expectant laugh. “It's finally time. I'd like to see what kind of change will hit the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders due to the arrival of this variable...”

The black crow on the bare branch also felt a flutter of emotions, mumbling, “Finally time to decide the winner. I've been waiting for this far too long...”

Not far away, Ape Ancestor, who was sitting cross-legged, slightly raised his head and looked into the horizon. His face was indifferent, but in the depths of his eyes, a flame was dancing excitedly. He removed the dual swords on his back and put his hands together.

Clang!

The dao swords, one black and one white, actually merged, transforming into a sword that had the color of chaos.

“Chen Xi, do you know? I, too, have been waiting for this day for a long time...” murmured Ape Ancestor.

In the Hongling Domain, Chen Linkong abruptly looked up and said, “Grandfather, it's starting!”

From the hut, Chen Xi's clear voice rang out, “The time for the showdown is approaching indeed, but...it's barely begun. Let us watch on with patience.”

There was a hint of anticipation in his voice.

At this moment, even the respective founders of the four great ancestral courts Yuan Chu, Xu Yin, Tian Wu, and Shi, as well as the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of Alpha Origin Nine Departments all felt an inkling. They trembled at the realization that this game was reaching the point to decide a winner!

Chapter 3227 The Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders

Lin Xun's spirit sense moved like a comet through the endless void, flying past numerous chaos filled spaces. After an unknown period of time, he suddenly ‘saw’ a chaos realm so big it seemed boundless. Accompanying this realm was a sinister aura full of a taboo flavor.

An intense premonition arose in Lin Xun's mind: he would die the second he entered it! However, he was not scared by this but instead happy. He knew that Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, and that swordsman had also sensed this taboo aura long ago, the kind of aura so menacing that no one had ever dared to take a step beyond it.

It proved that the chaos realm he was ‘seeing’ at this moment was the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders! Without any concern or hesitation, Lin Xun's spirit sense swept straight towards the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders like a sharp bolt cutting through the fog.

Upon entering the chaos-shrouded land, he suddenly had an indescribable feeling. It was as if he had found the trajectory of the great dao and followed it into its nest. Every inch of the boundless chaos had marks of the dao. There was no need to even try to search for and grasp their existence; one just naturally perceived them.

At the same time, however, there also existed an unknown dangerous aura. It drifted around in this chaos world, full of taboo and destruction!

“Within that dangerous aura, there is an energy that is the origin of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity...” Lin Xun instantly honed in on a familiar sinister energy.

As early as in the Great Thousand Worlds, he had fathomed the nature of ‘calamity’ from their collective primal chaos origin. The changes of everything under the heavens and the flow of time all contained the aura of calamity. It was precisely because of this existence that everything presented the opposition and balance of life and death, demise and birth.

Calamities themselves were neither good nor evil. Anything that had life had calamities to cross. One either resolved a calamity and gained a fortune or died trying.

The Great Silence Unlife Calamity was the same. Containing the word ‘life,’ it was a fated tribulation targeting Immeasurable cultivators. Born with every epochal shift, it was a universal pattern of the great dao like the Five Dao Decays.

Alpha Origin had only been able to borrow and interfere with the Great Silence Unlife Calamity because he had spent millennia in the Realm of All Mysteries studying the origin of calamity.

The Heavenly Mandate Apostles and Alpha Origin Bell that appeared alongside a Great Silence Unlife Calamity came from Alpha Origin only. Meanwhile, the calamity itself was related to the dao of life, meaning any Immeasurable experts that emerged in this Chaos Era would have to face it. It did not deliberately target specific individuals.

Those who overcame the calamity lived, and those who failed to do that died. This was one of the ways of life.

In his train of thought, Lin Xun's spirit sense rushed towards the energy of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. Gradually, that energy amidst the chaos grew stronger and clearer in his perception, causing his heart to palpitate.

The next moment, his spirit sense seemed to break into a raging world of calamity. It was a scene of pure horror, filled with obscure calamitous phenomena: dancing electric snakes, flickering lightning, and destructive turbulence sweeping through the void.

Lin Xun's mind was put under pressure, but at the same time he received waves of wonderful enlightenment. Imprinted with the various mysteries of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, this was indeed its place of origin!

Huh?

In his spirit sense, Lin Xun saw the shadow of a bell. This shadow, condensed entirely from the Great Silence Unlife Calamity's origin power, floated among this realm. There was no way to imagine its size as it filled every inch of space. However, when one looked closely, it was actually only nine inches tall.

“The Alpha Origin Bell!” Lin Xun was shaken. “Hold on, it's not it. This is just a shadow transformed by the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. The real Alpha Origin Bell is long gone.”

After some pondering, Lin Xun understood. Alpha Origin must have sensed this realm and perceived the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. In order to utilize it, he had placed the Alpha Origin Bell here for it to be tempered and infused by the Great Silence Unlife Calamity day and night.

In this way, a unique connection had been created between the Alpha Origin Bell and the origin power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. Thus, Alpha Origin could easily access the latter by simply using the former!

“When you understand something inside out, you'd realize it's nothing more than that.”

Lin Xun's spirit sense immediately left this realm and continued to fly towards the depths of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Along the way, he sensed many subtle but unimaginable auras, among which were forces that he was quite familiar with such as fortune, fate, karma, and spacetime...

When he detected the aura of the Spirit Empowerment World, his heart trembled. His spirit sense shot straight in its direction and, sure enough, he soon felt the origin of the Spirit Empowerment World in that chaos.

“It's exactly the same as what I saw inside the Eternity Door. Alpha Origin was right, the Spirit Empowerment World is in a corner of this Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders... But one's spirit sense can only perceive it, not intervene in any way...”

Lin Xun recalled his battle with Alpha Origin's Will Dharma Form in the Spirit Empowerment World and couldn't help but feel something strange in his heart. At that time, was the true Alpha Origin observing everything through his spirit sense like this?

After what felt like half a day, Lin Xun resumed probing into what was before him. Only, as time passed, he began to feel strained. This Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was too big, it was almost like it had no boundaries.

“With the power of my spirit, I should be able to hold on for a while longer...” Lin Xun had no intention of stopping this exploration session. His spirit sense continued to sweep forward. On the way, he reviewed the insights gained from Alpha Origin, Chen Xi, and that swordsman, which allowed him to smoothly comprehend some of the mysteries perceived.

“This... The power of reincarnation!”

Suddenly, Lin Xun's spirit sense captured a trace of a mysterious aura that was different from the rest, and he immediately followed it. At that moment, he seemingly ‘saw’ a complete cycle of reincarnation. Life and death alternated without end. There were the unbelievable sights of perdition, extradition, termination, and rebirth of souls.

“It's just as Senior Chen Xi said, reincarnation is also a dao of life. His Precious River Map must have been born in this reincarnation origin...”

When he had discussed the dao of reincarnation with Chen Xi the other day, the latter had not held anything back and instead shared his whole understanding of the dao of reincarnation with him.

This had given Lin Xun enhanced knowledge of the secret of reincarnation. Therefore, as he was now sensing the origin power of reincarnation, he underwent a kind of experience he could never have had otherwise.

Even after reading ten thousand books, one still remained limited to an extent until they finally traveled ten thousand miles. Consulting the topic with Chen Xi was a kind of harvest, and when Lin Xun intimately witnessed it in person, this harvest turned into comprehension that solidified as a part of his dao.

After this long stop, his spirit sense once again marched on. He forgot about the passage of time. In fact, in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, there was no time flow in the ordinary sense.

As his spirit sense kept capturing more and more arcane mysteries in its flight, he was occasionally amazed, at times mesmerized, sometimes creeped out, and other times reached an epiphany...

Later on, Lin Xun finally dared to confirm with certainty a conclusion that Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, and that swordsman had arrived at after exploring the mysteries here: This Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was the origin of the All-Wonder Dominion. It held the mysteries of the dao of life, and there was a marvelous link between it and the other three great dao dominions.

All of a sudden, a sense of exhaustion surged through Lin Xun. Only then did he realize that his spirit strength had been greatly depleted. Meanwhile, looking in front, this Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders still had no boundaries to be seen.

Right at this moment, the Boat of Eternity on him abruptly trembled. Then, it shot out of the Hidden Domain like a streak of light and zoomed through the heavy chaos of the Realm of All Mysteries, following the direction where Lin Xun's spirit sense was spreading...

“The Boat of Eternity!” The golden cicada was the first to notice it, and his pupils constricted. This was a variable that no one had thought of!

Bodhi said, “Perhaps, Lin Xun has sensed mysteries concerning the origin of the Boat of Eternity.”

They both had long known that the Boat of Eternity was a mysterious treasure that had flown out from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders a long time ago and ended up in the grasp of Alpha Origin. However, due to the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, it had strayed into the outside world and wound up in Lin Xun's hands.

“The Boat of Eternity...” Deep underground of the Taihun Domain, Alpha Origin murmured, “This is an expected variable, but still, what kind of effect will it have on Lin Xun's spiritual exploration of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders...?”

There was a faint, strange emotion in his voice. Originally, this treasure had belonged to him!

“My Lord, Lin Xun has only been at it for seven days, but the mysteries he’s perceived from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders are a little too many, aren't they...” Black Crow couldn't help but comment.

“With the insights he got from me, Chen Xi, and that swordsman, it would be abnormal if he had little harvest.” Alpha Origin said, “Besides, he carries the Nirvana principle and is himself an unpredictable variable. The more arcana he can fathom from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, the better. Just wait, what he will gain after the Boat of Eternity gets there is what’s most worth looking forward to!”

In the Hongling Domain, a curious Chen Linkong asked, “Grandfather, have you ever deduced the origin of this Boat of Eternity?”

Chen Xi said softly, “Like the River Map, it came from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders as a chaos object born from that land’s origin. Long ago, that swordsman and I put our heads together and surmised that those two were not the only chaos objects of such origin. Also, the Boat of Eternity should correctly be the Boat of Life, for it was born in the Forbidden Zone of Life.

“The other day, Young Friend Lin and I also talked about this treasure. According to him, this treasure opens an Eternity Door that leads directly into the Spirit Empowerment World. We both supposed that the Boat of Eternity was a key produced from the primal chaos origin of the Spirit Empowerment World, but considering what has happened today, the origin of this treasure is obviously not so simple...”

Chen Linkong was stunned. “So to speak, its appearance at this juncture is a variable?”

“Indeed so.” Chen Xi said, “Will what it'll bring to our young friend be a blessing or a curse, I wonder...”

Chapter 3228 An Ancient Tree

Upon seeing the Boat of Eternity sweeping over all of a sudden, Lin Xun was startled as well. Even he had never expected this. As the boat got closer tracing his spirit sense, he proceeded to feel as though his spirit sense was boarding and riding it, which eased the fatigue.

Next, the Boat of Eternity, carrying his spirit sense, began to fly deeper into the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders...

“Is it trying to take me somewhere?” Lin Xun's mind shook, finding this simply unbelievable.

He had only considered the Boat of Eternity as a key to unlock the Spirit Empowerment World. Who would have thought that this treasure would act in a completely new way out of the blue, seemingly wanting to take him to a certain place!

“Right, Xia Zhi is still inside the Boat of Eternity.” Lin Xun suddenly remembered this and probed his spirit sense into the Boat of Eternity, attempting to wake up Xia Zhi. However, his spirit sense got blocked by an obscure force. It was also then that he noticed something. The Boat of Eternity was glowing with a mysterious energy fluctuation similar to what came from a living being.

This was a kind of energy that he had never even seen before!

“My spirit sense must have picked up something in this Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders that caused the Boat of Eternity to act in turn...” Lin Xun calmed down.

At this moment, he was merely using his spirit sense to roam the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. A normally deadly threat was not to be feared in this case. The only thing he worried about was Xia Zhi who was physically inside the Boat of Eternity!

“I swear I won't let anything happen to you.” Lin Xun took a deep breath and poured his energy on his spirit sense.

Rustle~~

At this moment, the Boat of Eternity finally acted like a genuine boat, carrying his spirit sense as it shuttled through the heavy chaos aura towards the endless depths of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.

During this journey, Lin Xun's spirit sense was never more relaxed. With his soul energy no longer being consumed, he could focus entirely on the scenes and perceive their mysteries. Compared to the previous exploration, though, it felt like a superficial sightseeing trip. The Boat of Eternity was going too fast, appearing to suffer no obstruction along the way.

After an unknown amount of time, the boat trembled and came to a sudden halt. In Lin Xun's spirit sense, he saw a tree! This tree was rooted in chaos. It was clearly only nine feet tall, but what was reflected back to him was a tree infinitely high and immeasurably big to the point that he felt tiny.

Yet, no matter how he 'looked,' it was indeed only nine feet tall! What shocked him was that the four big branches of the tree showed the silhouettes of the Return, Fortune, Kunlun, and All-Wonder Dominions. They also radiated the origin aura of the four great dao dominions respectively.

Otherwise, these four branches were bare, having no leaves or fruits. Instead, their surfaces had ring markings. Lin Xun's spirit sense went over to the tree, and immediately his mind felt fit to explode. A massive stream of knowledge violently flooded his mind in the form of images, making him go briefly blank.

An unknown period of time later, Lin Xun saw a piece of void. There was nothing there until suddenly, a gray, misty chaos aura emerged, continuing to coalesce and grow. Eventually, it grew to fill that void to the brim.

Afterwards, the chaos aura tumbled as if it was nurturing something. This process lasted for countless years on end. One day, finally, a life force was born in the chaos, giving the piece of chaos a strange and mysterious pulse...

As time passed, more forces were produced one after another in that chaos aura, each distinctly different from the life force and different from each other. They were like the origin of chaos. They constantly converged, vibrated, collided, transformed, and evolved...

In the end, they formed the four great dao dominions!

When the four great dao dominions took shape, it was like the beginning of a universe. The prototype of an epochal world formed in the chaos, which kept twisting, stretching, and expanding. When it finally stabilized, countless worlds, countless lives, and countless daos emerged thereupon...

All of this strange happening outlined an epochal civilization, interpreting the grand changes of existence and its karma, spacetime, fate... All kinds of marvelous powers intertwined and collided, perfecting the rise and fall of an epochal civilization in cycles.

When an epochal world went from flourishing to declining, it merged into the Fortune Dominion like a leaf falling back to its root, and then, it was not long before the chaos aura birthed a new epochal world...

As the epochs went through the cycle, so did the endless lives and daos. The only thing that remained unchanged were the four great dao dominions. They were stationed in place in this chaos, throughout each and every epoch!

Boom!

Something shook in Lin Xun's mind, and the images burst like bubbles. Meanwhile, his spirit sense was still on the Boat of Eternity. In the distant chaos, that mysterious tree was quiet and motionless.

The images had vanished, but he felt with clarity the enlightenment that had settled in his brain. It was a realization related to the birth and formation of a 'Chaos Era'!

"This old tree was born in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. The origins of the four great dao dominions formed on its branches. From it, one can understand the life of this Chaos Era from its birth to its changes... As it seems, this tree is a witness to everything that happened in this Chaos Era."

At this conclusion, Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder, why would the Boat of Eternity bring his spirit sense here? He attempted once again to sense the aura that permeated the Boat of Eternity. This time, it yielded a shocking discovery. The aura of the treasure was of the same lineage as the aura of the ancient tree over there!

Don't tell me...it was that tree that gave birth to the Boat of Eternity?!

Lin Xun pondered hard, trying to understand the mystery behind this, but in the end, nothing came up. His brows furrowed. His spirit sense turned to the ancient tree in the distance, carefully surveying it.

Half a day later, an idea suddenly struck him. Maybe I can try the Nirvana principle on it?

After all, Nirvana was also related to the dao of life. Furthermore, he became an unprecedented variable because of it.

However, before Lin Xun could make an attempt to put this idea into action, something unexpected arose——Buzz!

The Boat of Eternity carrying his spirit suddenly shuddered, and Xia Zhi was moved out. After a jolt ran through her delicate body, she scanned her surroundings with confusion in her clear eyes, clearly having no clue where this was.

Seeing this, Lin Xun transmitted his voice with his spirit sense, “Don't panic, this is the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Stick to my spirit sense.”

Xia Zhi's eyes stopped moving as she processed his words, and she instantly quieted down.

At the same time, in both their spirit senses, the Boat of Eternity bloomed with radiance as if undergoing some magical metamorphosis. It kept shrinking and becoming compact, eventually transforming into a palm-sized leaf that was the color of chaos!

Shortly after that, however, the energy on the leaf began to wither and dry out. Like a small child drained of strength, it floated down that ancient tree like a falling leaf returning to its roots, and then, it vanished!

“This is...” Lin Xun was shaken. “Could it be because the Boat of Eternity exhausted its power carrying my spirit sense all the way here?

“Falling leaves return to their roots... Perhaps, the Boat of Eternity was originally a leaf on this tree, somehow swept out of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders back then and obtained by Alpha Origin...

“Now, after carrying my spirit sense to this tree, it was finally returned to its mother where it could wither and enter eternal rest...”

Lin Xun had a feeling that his speculation was the case. There must be a marvelous echo between the Boat of Eternity and this ancient tree. Because of this, the boat had been able to locate his spirit sense, followed him, and took him here to witness its final ‘resting place.’

Thinking of this, he suddenly made a connection. If the Boat of Eternity was a leaf from this ancient tree, wouldn't Senior Chen Xi’s River Map be the same? And if so, how many leaves has this tree produced in this Chaos Era?

Since the Boat of Eternity opened the door to the Spirit Empowerment World, is it possible that the other leaves are keys to other secret worlds in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders too?

The more he thought about it, the more he found this ancient tree extraordinary. It was born in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders and had witnessed the birth and formation of this Chaos Era. The origin of the four great dao dominions were imprinted on it, and its leaves were most likely to be occult treasures such as the Boat of Eternity and the River Map.

How could such a tree be an ordinary existence?

“Lin Xun, is it impossible for me to leave this place anymore without the Boat of Eternity?” Xia Zhi suddenly asked, pulling Lin Xun out of his contemplation.

Lin Xun was dumbstruck. At the moment, he was only here as a wisp of spirit, which he could retrieve with a problem so long as he didn't encounter any obstacles on the way back. However, Xia Zhi was different. Her entirety had gotten here with the Boat of Eternity, where it was the depths of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders!

Of note, this realm was riddled with the most treacherous dangers, enough to deter characters like Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, and himself from taking a step inside. Without the Boat of Eternity, how could Xia Zhi, at her current cultivation level, have a chance to leave alive?

“Do not fret, there has to be a solution.” Lin Xun inhaled deeply as he gazed at the ancient tree nearby. “This tree is bare right now, but I can try to make it metamorphose and produce a leaf with the power of Nirvana... Even if that doesn't work, there will definitely be another way. I will not let you be trapped here!”

His voice was permeated with resolution.

“Mhm.” Xia Zhi suddenly commented, “Speaking of which, the Eternal Night Divine Emperor was also born in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Since I’m her reincarnation, this is no different from me returning to my home...right?”

This idea was peculiar and novel and viewed the situation from a special angle, but Lin Xun was unable to refute it. After all, this was indeed the case...

“No matter what, just be careful.” Interrupted by Xia Zhi’s weird observation, Lin Xun calmed down quite a bit. At the same time, the power of the Nirvana principle was channeled into his spirit sense and began to approach the ancient tree in the distance.

Chapter 3229 The Origin of the Ancient Tree and Nirvana

The moment the Nirvana principle in Lin Xun's spirit sense touched that ancient tree, something incredible unfolded.

Buzz~

The whole tree trembled slightly, and the branches silently swayed. At the roots, rolling chaos origin energy spurted and gushed out. It was like a mysterious body was awakening from its long slumber.

Lin Xun only felt a tremor running through his mind, and he was sent into a trance the next instant. He seemed to have become a seed buried deep in the chaos, immersed in the nurturing of chaos energy day and night.

An unknown amount of time passed when——BOOM!

A deafening noise comparable to the start of the universe resounded, and Lin Xun could sense a strange and abundant life force appearing. It was the most primitive rhythm of life. As its beats grew stronger and surged, he felt an eruption of a metamorphosis and nirvana-like power.

Following that, the seed whose life he was experiencing sprouted roots and established itself in the chaos, becoming a totally different kind of life!

In the following years, this 'seedling' constantly drew on the power of chaos, constantly nourished by the origin aura of the great dao. It witnessed the formation of the four great dao dominions from scratch, witnessed epochal worlds evolve from infancy to completeness, witnessed the rise and fall of one epoch after another...

The seedling also grew, quietly transforming during these eons! Until later, it grew into an old tree with luxuriant branches and full foliage. The leaves were filled with chaos qi, ever-changing as each was imprinted with a unique kind of miraculous primal chaos origin power.

Whenever an epochal civilization crumbled, the leaves would wither and fall, returning to the chaos as the most primitive nourishment for the great dao. When a new civilization formed, the ancient tree would sprout new leaves. This cycle repeated endlessly.

However, one day, all of a sudden, a catastrophe emerged right within the chaos. The ancient tree was dealt a heavy blow before it could even react. Many of those leafy branches broke, countless leaves dried out and fell like rain...

When the catastrophe finally ended, the ancient tree was left with only bare branches and a trunk. Even its roots had been severely damaged. More frighteningly, the tree completely lost the power to recover and evolve, now taking steps towards its decline...

It was also at this scene that Lin Xun awoke with a jolt. His head felt like it was splitting, flooded by a raging swirl of countless emerging arcane and unfathomable auras.

It took a long time for all that to calm down. As his mind stabilized, Lin Xun looked at the ancient tree with uncontrollable emotions. He understood everything now. This tree was the manifestation of the dao of life that was born alongside this Chaos Era!

In fact, one could call it ‘All-Wonder Tree of Life.’ The roots were connected to the four great dao dominions, and whenever an epochal world emerged, the tree would sprout luxuriant leaves that represented different profound origins of the dao of life.

For instance, the Boat of Eternity, as one of its leaves, opened the Spirit Empowerment World and held the secret of innate talents belonging to the dao of life! It was the same case for the other leaves, such as the power of reincarnation mastered by Chen Xi.

At this realization, Lin Xun's shock could be imagined. The origin of life came from this tree, and the mysteries of the dao of life had been born because of it! Undoubtedly, this also verified the speculation of Alpha Origin, Chen Xi, and the swordsman. The dao of life did indeed exist in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders!

Why was it so difficult to study the dao of life, to the point that it had become a myth of a path that no one had been able to set foot on for all history? Now, Lin Xun knew why: because of a catastrophe in the far past of this Chaos Era, which had severely damaged the All-Wonder Tree of Life and shattered the dao of life!

This was tantamount to destroying this complete path, reducing it to fragments that could only be sensed in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders such as the Spirit Empowerment Origin or reincarnation. They were related to the dao of life but only as two branches of it.

Still, although the ancient tree had suffered heavy damage, it had not perished. As a result, life had continued to flourish throughout epochs in this Chaos Era. The only defect was that the broken dao of life had led to the Immeasurable Realm of the Eternal path to be regarded as the ultimate realm...

Up to this point, many doubts Lin Xun had been having were answered. Furthermore, he had gained important knowledge related to the birth of a Chaos Era from nothing and its evolution and derivation into all kinds of mysteries, and how the All-Wonder Tree of Life had gone from a seed to its current state...

All of these insights had firmly settled in his mind. He also realized that as long as he repaired this tree, he would be able to rebuild the fragmented dao of life...with the power of Nirvana! The reason was simple: Nirvana was a part of the tree's origin power, capable of prompting its progressive transformations.

It was only that the damage done by that catastrophe had stripped away the tree's power to recover and grow, turning it into this sorry state...

In short, the Nirvana principle had been one of the origin powers of the All-Wonder Tree of Life at first! Such was the origin of Nirvana. Understanding this, Lin Xun couldn't help but lament fate.

Ripped from the All-Wonder Tree of Life, Nirvana had turned into a seed in the Return Dominion's origin. Ultimately, it was born in the Ancient Nebula Underworld, growing into the Nirvana of Transcendence that had ended up being obtained by him. This actually further proved how divine the link between the four great dao dominions was.

However, despite the many mysteries that had been unraveled and solved, Lin Xun couldn't help but have new questions. For example, where did the catastrophe that had hit the All-Wonder Tree of Life come from?

He had no way to tell as the catastrophe had come too suddenly. The ancient tree had even been caught off guard and suffered heavy damage, so one could imagine how taboo the power of this catastrophe was. Lin Xun even suspected that it hadn't occurred internally, but instead...had come from outside this Chaos Era!

Of course, he had no way of knowing if there were other Chaos Eras outside of this one. The only thing he dared say for sure was that when he used the Nirvana principle to restore the All-Wonder Tree of Life one day, he would learn something about this catastrophe from the tree's 'memories.'

Moreover, repairing the All-Wonder Tree of Life was no different from repairing the fragmented dao of life. When he reached the end of this path, perhaps he would have the chance to see if there existed other Chaos Eras, and if there was a path higher than the dao of life...

After a long time, Lin Xun's spirit sense conveyed a thought, "Xia Zhi, we can leave this place soon."

“How?” Xia Zhi was curious.

“By relying on this ancient tree, naturally.” Lin Xun said, “But once we return to the Realm of All Mysteries, all our enemies like Alpha Origin, Black Crow, and Ape Ancestor will definitely come at us at full throttle. In other words, that will be the time to settle this game for good.”

Xia Zhi asked, “How certain are you of our odds?”

Lin Xun went silent for a moment and said, “There is no absolute certainty in this world. However, the current me no longer fears a direct confrontation with Alpha Origin. I just don't know what other cards he may still hide up his sleeve.”

Xia Zhi said, “What about you, do you have some secret trump card?”

Lin Xun smiled. “Of course.”

“Then what else is there to worry about?” When Xia Zhi said this, something dawned upon her. “You're still worried about my safety, aren't you?”

“Yeah.” Lin Xun said, “You had always been inside the Boat of Eternity before this, so our enemies didn't block your path. But now that the Boat of Eternity is gone, your return trip will very likely catch their attention and brute interception.”

After a pause, he reassured in a warm tone, “But you don't have to worry, I will leave the Hidden Realm immediately and be the first to welcome you back.”

Xia Zhi nodded. “When are we leaving?”

Lin Xun said, “We’ll wait a little longer, and we'll make our enemies wait as well. We can always have our showdown after I've incorporated all the mysteries I fathomed along the way here into my dao.”

“Alright.” Xia Zhi agreed in her crisp voice.

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In the Hidden Domain.

Lin Xun stood with his arms folded on the cliffside, motionless like a statue. No one knew that in his mind, he was going all out exploring and comprehending all sorts of marvelous mysteries and profound truths.

Everything he had seen and perceived after his spirit sense had swept into the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders were all being studied and deduced at this moment. Once processed, they turned into a stream of knowledge and got integrated into his dao.

Day after day passed like that.

Bodhi and the golden cicada waited in calm, but even they didn't expect that Lin Xun’s comprehending session of that forbidden realm would last so long. Three months had already passed, and there was still no sign of it ending.

However, they had all the patience in the world. Something even told them that the longer it went, the more it implied that Lin Xun was having some unexpected and huge harvest!

In the Taihun Domain.

A sigh that belonged to Alpha Origin rang out from deep underground. “All these countless years, the longest I've gone on was three months before my spirit strength gave out. To think that Young Friend Lin has already made it this far in his first time. He truly surprises me.”

Not far away, Ape Ancestor commented with a cold and calm look, “This also shows that he, who possesses the power of Nirvana, must have gained quite a lot.”

“Indeed, indeed.” Alpha Origin laughed aloud. “Then wait we shall, there is no rush. The greater his harvest, the bigger our benefits. Of course, when he returns from his enlightening session, it will be time

for our final showdown. I'm looking forward to a dao debate with our young friend to see who's the better one between us!”

There was clear anticipation in his voice.

Meanwhile, in the Hongling Domain, Chen Xi and Chen Linkong were also discussing this matter. They anticipated that the new insights Lin Xun would acquire this time would certainly be extraordinary.

This, without a question, also confirmed their previous deduction. Lin Xun, who possessed the power of Nirvana, was indeed an unprecedented variable!

Chapter 3230 The Time Has Come to Settle It Once And For All

Half a year, one year, three years, five years, eight years...

No one had expected that Lin Xun's enlightenment would go on for so long, and there had been no sign of it ending till this day. Even though everyone had the patience to wait, the abnormality still raised many different reactions. Other than that, however, nothing unusual had happened. Everyone chose to wait on.

Upon the tenth year...

On that cliff side in the Hidden Domain, Lin Xun, who had been standing like a clay statue, suddenly said, “Master, Senior Golden Cicada, it's time.”

In the distance, Bodhi and the golden cicada were shaken, and then a strange light lit their expressions. Lin Xun had finally woken up after ten years of fathoming!

“What do you mean ‘it’s time’?” Bodhi asked with a smile as he tried to suppress his emotions.

“I’ve learned everything that needs to be learned. Let's not let Alpha Origin and his lot wait,” replied Lin Xun with a smile.

The golden cicada's eyes gleamed, “We’re going to settle it with him now?”

“Exactly.” Lin Xun nodded.

Bodhi, however, frowned slightly. “You seem very sure you can deal with Alpha Origin?”

Lin Xun smiled, appearing relaxed. “Can't say that I am, but there's no point in delaying it. Since we must have this showdown sooner or later, it might as well be now.”

“Could it be that you had another cultivation breakthrough when you were exploring the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders?” the golden cicada couldn't help but ask.

“Not that kind of breakthrough, but rather that I've gained a whole new perception of the dao of life and found out where the origin of this path lies. I also found a way to go there in person to further explore this path,” said Lin Xun softly.

The golden cicada was visibly taken aback. After a stunned moment, he clapped his hands with appreciation. “If my prediction is correct, Young Friend, then you were able to have this kind of harvest thanks to the power of Nirvana to an extent, right?”

Lin Xun smilingly nodded. “Your insight is ever keen, Senior. The Nirvana power is indeed tightly linked to the dao of life.”

After a pause, he added, “Let’s come back and discuss this in depth after our feud with Alpha Origin is resolved.”

The golden cicada gladly agreed, “Excellent.”

“Since you insist on settling this game today, there must be some reason we don't know?” Bodhi suddenly asked.

Lin Xun nodded after a brief silence.

Bodhi didn't pry. He immediately said, “When are we leaving?”

“Now,” Lin Xun said, already striding over through the air. “Master, Senior Golden Cicada, please stay out during my duel with Alpha Origin. This person may well have more cards up his sleeve and he has set one foot on the threshold of the dao of life. His depths are unfathomable, so please leave him to me.”

Bodhi's heart was filled with indescribable feelings. His disciple had grown to the point where he could take care of him, his master! Of course, wasn't this what he had always wanted, to see his disciple surpass him?

“Don't worry, we won't go try to make a fool of ourselves.” The golden cicada laughed.

The three of them immediately flew out of the Hidden Domain.

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Permeated with heavy chaos mist, the sky and earth of the Realm of All Mysteries contained countless secret domains. The moment Lin Xun, Bodhi, and the golden cicada exited the Hidden Domain, they were detected.

“My young friend, how come you are out today?”

Alpha Origin's voice came out from the deep underground like a thunderbolt. It reverberated through the Taihun Domain and rumbled across the Realm of All Mysteries, shaking the whole world.

“To have a final showdown with you. What do you think about this?” replied Lin Xun casually.

Alpha Origin went silent, and then suddenly, he laughed up at the sky. “I've also waited for this moment for too long now. Time to settle it, indeed!”

Rumble~ Clash~

Deep underground, the sound of chains colliding resounded. The next moment, a figure emerged and stepped into the air. His tall and slender frame was clad in a black robe, and his long black hair hung loosely down to his waist. He looked extremely imposing.

Dao chains tightly coiled around him, glinting with sword intent fluctuations that struck fear into hearts. The entire Taihun Domain trembled violently at his appearance. The chaos mist churned, and the continuous terrains crumbled and sank, reduced to drifting ashes.

Such might was too prevalent. It was as if a supreme overlord was making an entrance after eons of slumber, not at all bothering to conceal his aura.

On that big tree, a black crow flapped its wings and rose up, transforming into a black-dressed maiden. Her delicate face was absolutely cold and stunning with a pair of clear, scarlet eyes.

“My Lord!” Black Crow was so emotional that all the words she wanted to say ended up coming out as this short cry.

Clang!

Ape Ancestor, who was sitting cross-legged on the ground, got up. His lofty figure expanded until he was a dozen feet tall, and his aura kept climbing like an erupting volcano that had been suppressed for countless years!

In his bosom, the dao sword seemed close to flying into a murderous rage, its clangs shooting through the clouds. Ape Ancestor's expression was indifferent as usual, but in the deepest part of his eyes, a hatred was surging. This day has finally come!

The next instant, Alpha Origin, Black Crow, and Ape Ancestor vanished from the Taihun Domain.

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“Grandfather, the time to decide a winner has come!” In the Hongling Domain, Chen Linkong stretched his limbs, his eyes as bright as a sword. “After all that waiting, we can finally battle it out.”

Chen Xi's upright figure walked out from the hut, and he glanced at Chen Linkong. “So eager to die?”

“Come on now, Grandfather, you'll be there with me too, won't you?” Chen Linkong laughed gleefully.

Chen Xi nodded. “Sure. If you die, I will bring you back from reincarnation, but you will have to start your path over from scratch. Just keep this in mind when you do things.”

Having said that nonchalantly, he moved towards the exit of the Hongling Domain. Chen Linkong's lips twitched, but he didn't hesitate to follow with gusto.

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In the Realm of All Mysteries.

As Alpha Origin, Ape Ancestor, and Black Crow appeared, an intimidating, oppressive aura spread. Heavens and earth lurched into silence.

“Young Friend Lin.” Alpha Origin cupped his fist with a slight smile. The chains binding him were eye-piercing. At his sides, Ape Ancestor and Black Crow also looked over, their eyes frosty.

In the distance, Lin Xun raised his brows and returned the gesture. “You seem even more excited and happy than me about this, Fellow Daoist...”

“Just feeling fortunate to have an enemy like you on my path.” Alpha Origin chuckled, his gaze fixed on Lin Xun, directly ignoring Bodhi and the golden cicada.

“If by any chance you lose, it will be the end of both your life and your path,” commented Chen Xi who floated over with Chen Linkong in tow.

“You are correct, Fellow Daoist. Even though I can transform into thousands and leave myself a retreat route, I still shan't do so at this moment. After all, that would make me look like I have doubts about

myself.” Alpha Origin glanced at Chen Xi. “If one doubts oneself, how would one emerge victorious from this game, right?”

Chen Xi thought for a moment and agreed, “Well said. A dao battle of this level allows no room for even thinking of an escape route, because in doing so, you have already lost in terms of mentality.”

“So to speak, you have also cut off all possible retreat routes for yourself?” Alpha Origin asked with a smile.

“This is natural,” said Chen Xi as he paused in the void. He swept his gaze over all the people present, which stagnated briefly when it landed on Ape Ancestor. In the next moment, he lamented, “It really is you, old geezer.”

He seemed to have long seen through the true identity of Ape Ancestor.

“If you couldn't even at least recognize me, you wouldn't have deserved to be my lifelong arch-enemy.” Ape Ancestor looked utterly indifferent and ruthless. As his aura was not concealed one tiny bit, he looked no less powerful than Alpha Origin despite standing right next to the latter.

“Senior, you knew him before this?” Lin Xun asked in surprise.

At this moment, Alpha Origin and his two followers formed a camp facing Lin Xun’s group, while Chen Xi and Chen Linkong stood at another side a distance from them.

They looked to be three different groups, standing in a triangle, but everyone present knew that Chen Xi and Lin Xun were in the same camp.

“Certainly,” Chen Xi nonchalantly answered Lin Xun. “This fellow is the Taishang Lord. A long time ago, I sent him into the prison of the reincarnation cycle where he had to suffer endless torment while being unable to kill himself. To think that he managed to escape and become ‘Ape Ancestor.’ I hadn’t noticed this before he revealed his true strength.”

“He is the Taishang Lord?!” exclaimed a shocked Chen Linkong.

The younger him had heard his father, Chen An, and other elders talk about the Taishang Lord, so how could he not know that this individual was his grandfather's most powerful enemy?

Lin Xun's brows also shot up. He had briefly heard about the Taishang Lord from Chen Linkong and knew that this individual had entered the dao through the practice of 'sentiment devoidness,' making him a living terror.

However, he had never expected that Ape Ancestor, who served under Alpha Origin, was actually this Taishang Lord, the arch-enemy of Chen Xi!

"I see." Black Crow trembled with a complicated look in her eyes. This old servant had been following her master around long before she had, and only now did she learn who he actually was.

Meanwhile, Ape Ancestor was unperturbed and indifferent as ever. "Chen Xi, today, I shall put an end to everything between you and me!"

Chen Xi sneered. "I suppressed you once, and I can do it again countless times over. A display of verbal courage is pointless against the person who has already defeated you."

A glint of icy hatred flashed in the depths of Ape Ancestor's eyes, but he quickly regained his composure. "We shall see."

Alpha Origin chortled. "Rush not, everyone. Our game will soon reach a conclusion, I'll make sure of that. But first, I would like to have a word with Young Friend Lin."

He then looked directly at Lin Xun. "While we're all here, can you tell us about the profound mysteries you have realized in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders?"

This request would sound totally normal if they were friends, but coming from an enemy like Alpha Origin, it could not be more abrupt.

To the shock of some, Lin Xun smiled and agreed straightforwardly, “Why not? In the end, I could only fathom so much thanks to the help of everyone, including you. It's only right that I share everything with you.”

Chen Linkong and Black Crow couldn’t help but shoot a look at Lin Xun, obviously finding his response a little strange. However, whether it was Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, or Ape Ancestor, they all looked unfazed. None of them seemed to think that this was abnormal.

Bodhi caught everyone's subtle reactions and inwardly made a comment. Regarding mindsets, Chen Linkong and this black crow are still not there yet...

He then stole a glance at the golden cicada, only to see the latter remaining as usual, his bearing ever gentle and calm.