

## Prodigies 331

### Chapter 331 Raising an Army

In the study on the second floor of Mind Cleansing Hall.

Lin Xun fell into deep contemplation about the huge change in his identity.

As Xiaoke looked at the handsome teenager, her face scrunched up in worry. She couldn't help but turn to look at Spirit Vulture.

However, she saw Spirit Vulture shake his head, as though he was saying that if Lin Xun wanted to wear the crown, he had to bear its weight. He had to adapt to his new identity.

In the past, Lin Xun had been alone and had no responsibilities or burdens, but now that he wanted to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak, he had to make changes!

After a long moment of silence, Lin Xun drew a deep breath and his dark eyes resumed their usual calmness. "Thank you for your reminder."

Spirit Vulture smiled slightly.

But Xiaoke was taken aback. She seemed to vaguely feel that Lin Xun had changed, but she couldn't identify in what ways he had changed.

"At present, I have two things I need to do," said Lin Xun after a thought.

"The first is to recruit troops and raise a large army, and I don't mean to recruit servants and attendants but to recruit true talents."

"The second is that I need specific information about the four branches of the Lin Family. I need it to assess their attitude towards my return."

After he finished speaking, he shifted his gaze to Spirit Vulture.

Spirit Vulture thought for a moment, and then there was a twinkle of wisdom in his clear eyes. He said calmly, "The second matter is relatively easy. You can have Xiaoke handle it."

Xiaoke nodded. "It's just gathering intelligence. Leave it to me."

Spirit Vulture continued, "As for recruiting troops...that is more complicated. There are many kinds of talents. I wonder which kind of talent you are seeking?"

Lin Xun said unhesitatingly. "It doesn't matter if they are powerful or not as long as they are loyal and trustworthy."

Spirit Vulture nodded. "Okay, but before that, you still need to have one thing."

Lin Xun looked confused. "What?"

"Money."

Lin Xun slapped his forehead. He had forgotten that Mind Cleansing Peak was completely empty. How could they recruit troops and raise an army without any money?

“Leave it to me.” Lin Xun got to his feet.

He planned to make a trip to Stone Cauldron Alms in the Forbidden City.

“A lot of money is needed to recruit trustworthy people. You will need at least fifty thousand gold coins for that. Then, once they join the Mind Cleansing Peak, you will need to pay for their food and salary,” Spirit Vulture reminded him.

“Wait and see. I won’t let you down.” Lin Xun smiled.

“Then I look forward to it.” Spirit Vulture gave a slight smile. He was very curious as to how Lin Xun would acquire such a huge amount of money.

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After Lin Xun left the study, he walked down the mountainous path toward the bottom of the peak. But Lin Zhong suddenly uttered hesitantly, “Young Master, there’s a matter that I don’t know whether I should tell you.”

“Uncle Zhong, what’s the matter?”

Lin Xun halted and turned to look at Lin Zhong.

“If I’m not mistaken, Spirit Vulture might have a special identity,” whispered Lin Zhong.

“In what way?”

Lin Zhong hesitated for a long moment before he let out a deep sigh. “Young Master, I am not certain but I sense that he has been afflicted with a poison called the Demon Tribulation Poison.”

“Demon Tribulation Poison?” Lin Xun frowned.

“Yes, it is a mysterious, forbidden poison, but it is rumored to be circulating in the Darkness Kingdom. If a cultivator below the Life Death Stage is afflicted with it, their body would suffer a demonic tribulation. If they are lucky, only their cultivation base would be imprisoned and they are no longer able to cultivate in their life. But in the most severe cases, their mind and body would be incinerated and they would perish.”

Lin Zhong explained in a whisper, “Based on my observation, Spirit Vulture must have been afflicted by that poison.”

Lin Xun’s expression changed. He had never thought that Lin Zhong could identify the secret that Xiaoke had been avoiding.

“Is there a way to counter the poison?” asked Lin Xun.

Lin Zhong shook his head. “In the entire empire, no one had found a sage doctor able to get rid of the poison from a person’s body because the poison is too domineering. It is a forbidden substance even in the Darkness Kingdom. Spirit Vulture has to have a very special identity to have been afflicted with such a poison.”

Lin Xun couldn't calm his emotions when he heard that. He suddenly asked, "Uncle Zhong, why do you know so much about the poison?"

Lin Zhong vaguely explained, "I just heard about it."

Lin Xun took a deep look at Lin Zhong but didn't question him further.

Just when he was about to leave Mind Cleansing Peak, he suddenly turned around and asked, "Uncle Zhong, are you the White Cassanova Shen Jinglun who appeared sixty years ago?"

Caught off guard, Lin Zhong's body went stiff.

Lin Xun smiled and waved his hand. "Okay, you don't need to answer. When there's a chance in the future, you can tell me then."

Lin Zhong watched Lin Xun leave with a complex expression. In the end, he sighed, closed the passage that led to the outside world, turned his thin body around, and left.

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The Stone Cauldron Alms in the Forbidden City was very easy to find as it was right in the center of the city.

The city center was the most prosperous area in the Forbidden City. Only businesses and stores with a solid foundation could establish a foothold there.

For example, Penglai Restaurant was the most popular drinking and gathering place in the empire, and Taiyi Battlefield was the oldest arena in the empire.

In addition, the Precious Laughter House, an expensive establishment that countless cultivators craved to visit, was also located there.

There was also Stone Cauldron Alms, which had the reputation of gathering all the rare treasures of the four seas and the world!

At noon, a carriage steered along the street and stopped in front of the entrance to Stone Cauldron Alms.

As Lin Xun got off the carriage, the magnificent and grand building immediately caught his attention. His pupils shrank uncontrollably.

The building spanned several acres and stood hundreds of feet tall. Its surface glistened like polished crystals and exuded an illusory and mysterious glow under the sunlight.

From above, the entire Stone Cauldron Alms resembled a crystal place relocated from the bottom of the sea.

Beautiful!

Luxurious!

Majestic!

Dreamy!

The building was the headquarters of Stone Cauldron Alms and was the strongest chamber of commerce in the empire.

When Lin Xun arrived, the entrance to Stone Cauldron Alms was already extremely busy and lively. There was an endless stream of wealthy and respectable cultivators in luxurious robes entering and exiting the building.

Lin Xun had seen a lot of things in the past two years as he traveled the empire, but he still couldn't help but marvel as he stood in front of the headquarters of Stone Cauldron Alms.

This is Stone Cauldron Alms. I wonder when Golden Jade Hall would be able to have such a remarkable achievement.

Lin Xun stepped inside.

The inside of Stone Cauldron Alms was like its own world. It was incredibly spacious, like a beautiful palace. There was an array of magnificent medicinal herbs, pills, rare treasures, and aeth tools on display everywhere. Thousands of cultivators hovered back and forth between the displays, and it didn't seem crowded at all.

Although Lin Xun was dressed in ordinary clothes, he exuded a calm but extraordinary demeanor. His appearance wasn't particularly outstanding, he still wasn't neglected and disrespected.

A beautiful attendant quickly came over to serve Lin Xun.

"I want to see Shi Yu," Lin Xun clearly stated his intention.

"Huh? Who?"

"The third young master of your Stone Cauldron Alms," Lin Xun explained.

The beautiful servant frowned imperceptibly and said in a neither humble nor haughty manner, "Apologies, Young Master, your request is a bit difficult. There are hundreds of customers who want to pay respect to the Third Young Master every day. If you don't have a referral, I'm afraid..."

Before she finished, Lin Xun brought out a token and handed it to the servant.

The beautiful servant glanced at it and her pupils immediately shrank. She exclaimed, "This seems to be...the First Young Master's personal token?"

Lin Xun said, "Yes, but I want to see your Third Young Master Shi Yu and not the First Young Master Shi Xuan."

The beautiful servant's gaze towards Lin Xun dramatically changed. It became filled with enthusiasm and respect. "Young Master, please wait a moment. This is a very important matter so I need to ask for instructions first."

Lin Xun nodded.

The beautiful servant hurried off and she soon returned with a middle-aged man who looked like a manager.

"I am Lu Chuan. I pay my respects to you, Young Master. May I ask for your name?" the middle-aged man asked with a smile as he bowed respectfully.

"Lin Xun."

"Young Master Lin Xun, please come this way."

Lu Chuan personally led the way for Lin Xun.

Soon, he brought Lin Xun to the door of a quaint and elegant room.

Lu Chuan explained, "Young Master Lin, you might not know but our Third Young Master is currently handling some affairs. I will personally go and report to him about your arrival. Can I ask you to wait in the private room for a moment?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Sorry to trouble you."

Lu Chuan hurried off while Lin Xun pushed open the door and walked into the private room.

He was surprised to see many figures already waiting inside, all of whom were cultivators.

The cultivators all simultaneously turned to the door, but they couldn't help but retract their gazes when they saw that Lin Xun was just a teenager in ordinary clothes.

"Another person has come to visit Third Young Master."

"Ahh, I've been coming here every day for an entire month. I've always only waited here and never been summoned by the Third Young Master. I don't know what to do if this continues."

"You've only been waiting for one month. I've been coming here for the past six months, but Third Young Master still hasn't graced me with his presence!"

"There's no point complaining. Who is Third Young Master? He is one of the three sons of Fortune God Shi. Fortune God Shi favors him greatly and he is a young noble figure. How could anyone see him?"

The cultivators broke into discussions: some sighed, some complained, and some sneered.

Only then did Lin Xun realize that the cultivators in the room came with the same purpose as him.

He couldn't help but frown as the situation wasn't what he expected. It seems that it's not that easy to see Shi Yu.

Never mind. Since I'm here already. I'll just wait a while. If it doesn't work out, I'll try another business. Lin Xun thought to himself and sat down somewhere.

His purpose was to dispose of the stolen goods! He planned to sell all the spoils he gathered in his previous battles in preparation for recruiting troops and raising an army.

The Prodigies War - Chapter 332 A Battle of Words

As time passed, Lin Xun grew more and more impatient.

Someone next to him suddenly said with a smile, "Little guy, if you don't have the patience then it's best that you don't wait anymore. Do you think Third Young Master will see just anyone?"

Lin Xun turned around and saw a middle-aged, mustached man smiling at him.

"Oh, why do you say that?" Lin Xun calmly asked.

"Haha, from your question alone I know you're too young. Why don't you take a look around at the kind of people here?" the mustached man spoke like he was very proud of his age and experience.

He implied that everyone in the room had a more important identity and status than Lin Xun, and they were all waiting patiently.

Lin Xun just smiled and didn't bother talking to him.

I'm just waiting to see Shi Yu, but that guy acted all superior and gave me advice!

Lin Xun's attitude seemed to irritate the mustached man as he coldly snorted, "Young man, don't be so arrogant. This world is very cruel. If you don't know how to conduct yourself, you will suffer sooner or later!"

The other cultivators in the room broke into laughter upon hearing that.

Perhaps they had been waiting for too long and were too bored, they all watched the middle-aged mustached man reprimand Lin Xun like they were watching a show.

"Hey, brother, you can't say that! Aren't all young people like this? They're all arrogant, haughty and think that they're better than everyone. They believe the world revolves around them. When reality breaks his head, he will understand how insignificant and pitiful he is," someone spoke in a peculiar voice, fanning the flames.

"Come on, you guys are not being very nice. Don't attack the little brother like that. Look at how pitiful he is. He just wanted to come here to meet Third Young Master and hope to be appreciated by him, and then become rich and rise in status."

"Pah! Become rich and rise in status? A guy like him who doesn't even have the patience to wait wants to become rich and rise in status? What a joke!"

The cultivators in the room spoke one after another, ruthlessly making fun of Lin Xun.

They thought that Lin Xun wasn't a fierce or powerful character based on his ordinary appearance and young age. Thus, they didn't hesitate to mock him.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly but a smiling expression came to his face. He swept a glance over everyone and remarked, "You guys are powerful, but don't you also have to wait here with me?"

His one sentence made many people's faces darken.

However, Lin Xun was still smiling. "What's wrong with me being young? You guys can try being young! You can only flaunt your age and vent your frustrations on other people to hide your own insecurities. To put it positively, it's a lack of self-respect. But to put it negatively, it's stooping low!"

Lin Xun had never lost a battle of words.

The faces of the cultivators simultaneously changed. They became red with anger. Lack of self-respect? Stooping low?

A teenager dared to insult them in their faces.

“How dare you?!” A cultivator slammed the table and pointed at Lin Xun. “Be careful, a loose tongue often leads to trouble!”

Lin Xun didn’t move an inch but he clicked his tongue and said, “What? Am I right? Do you want to attack me? I’m just stating the truth but it made you this angry. It seems like you’re really a failure. If I were you, I wouldn’t waste time talking nonsense and just kill yourself. At least you would save some cultivation resources for other people.”

Everyone inhaled sharply. That kid’s mouth stinks!

“You...” The cultivator who slammed the table was so infuriated that his face turned livid and his eyes almost popped out. He unsheathed his sword with a slash and pointed it in Lin Xun’s face.

Lin Xun said indifferently, “Idiot, this is Stone Cauldron Alms! Are you sure you want to fight here? It doesn’t matter if you want to die, but if your recklessness wounds other people...”

The expressions of the other cultivators changed again. Even if they were unwilling to admit it, they knew that Lin Xun was right.”

It was asking for death to fight at Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters!

A man in a green robe suddenly urged, “My friend, calm down, don’t lower yourself to the level of a teenager. He is uneducated, so do you want to act like him?”

The cultivator’s chest heaved up and down and he finally managed to suppress his rage and angrily withdrew his sword. He sat back down but his face was still overcast with a fierce frown.

He was thinking about how to deal with Lin Xun when he left Stone Cauldron Alms later.

Lin Xun no longer paid any attention to him and just shifted his gaze to the green-robed man. “Whose dog is this? Why did it come out and bark?”

The green-robed man raged, “I resolved the conflict out of kindness! How dare you call me a dog?!”

Lin Xun coldly snorted, “No, I’m talking to a dog.”

Veins popped on the man’s forehead. He sprang up and yelled, “I’m going to go all out today! I must kill you bastard!”

The other cultivators frantically tried to stop him. “Brother, calm down! Didn’t you just persuade another person to not lower himself to the level of the youngster? Why can’t you control yourself?”

The green-robed man stopped, but Lin Xun coldly sneered out loud, “Look, it’s a dog with no morals. He told people to have self-restraint but he couldn’t control himself. What a hypocrite. In my view, he’s worse than a dog.”

The green-robed man roared like he had gone crazy, "Let go of me! I'm going to kill him! I'm going to kill him!"

It was as though he couldn't relieve the anger and hatred in his heart if he didn't kill Lin Xun.

The other cultivators did everything they could to stop him. If they didn't do so, they could also be impacted if Stone Cauldron Alms learned about the incident.

What should we do? They finally realized that Lin Xun was a thorn and wasn't easy to bully, unlike other young people.

"Don't stop him. Let him fight," Lin Xun said with a smile, sitting there calmly. "I want to see whether the stupid dog with no morals and self-restraint can bite off a chunk of my flesh."

Pu!

The green-robed man was so infuriated that he coughed up blood. So obnoxious! I have never seen such a rude youngster with such a vicious tongue.

"Little brother, be quiet for a moment. It's not good to make enemies everywhere."

"Yes, you should let people off whenever possible."

The other cultivators felt a headache coming on.

"I apologize. I'm young, inexperienced, arrogant, haughty and think everyone is beneath me. I don't know how to conduct myself, so it doesn't matter to me if I make enemies."

After Lin Xun learned about his sudden change in identity and had to deal with a situation of internal problems and external troubles, he appeared to be perfectly fine on the surface but, in truth, he was under tremendous pressure.

How could Lin Xun stand a group of cultivators patronizing him and ridiculing him for his age?

Anyone who knew Lin Xun would know that he didn't like to suffer a loss!

Therefore, Lin Xun didn't hold back in the battle of words and vented the tremendous pressure in his heart.

Naturally, his vicious verbal counterattack to the disdainful, older cultivators were like a slap to their faces. His words were too provoking.

All the cultivators snapped. That kid doesn't know what's good for him! He's too arrogant!

They no longer stopped the green-robed man and all fixed murderous gazes at Lin Xun, as if they had decided to let him have a taste of their strengths.

"Oh, why did you guys suddenly change your attitude? What's the difference between you guys and the grass that bends with the wind?" Lin Xun didn't hold back at all.

"I'm going to kill you kid!"



The green-robed man made a move. With a flash, he sped towards Lin Xun and brought his sword down in a forward slash.

Bang!

The door of the private room was suddenly kicked open and a handsome young man in white strode in.

This is bad!

The green-robed man's pupils shrank. He let out a strange cry as he frantically tried to stop his sword.

The sword froze inches away from Lin Xun's head.

Third Young Master!

Why...why did he come now?

All the cultivators couldn't help but gasp when they recognized the handsome young man. Their eyes went wide, a chill ran down their spines, and their anger had long faded from their hearts.

Lin Xun was still sitting in the same spot and seemed to have not budged an inch from the beginning to the end. His expression remained unchanged, like he wasn't the least worried that the sword inches away from his head would strike down at him.

However, when he saw Shi Yu dressed in a spotless white robe stride in confidently and leisurely, he couldn't help but roll his eyes and grumble, "Was it fun to eavesdrop?"

The cultivators trembled inwardly. Does that kid have a death wish? Does he dare to make fun of even the Third Young Master?

However, Shi Yu just shrugged his shoulders and laughed. "I just wanted to see if you have changed after two years. Who would have thought that your personality hasn't changed, but your tongue has become more vicious?"

The cultivators felt like lightning had struck them. The kid with the vicious tongue is acquainted with Third Young Master!

And it seems like the two are very close...

When they remembered that they had looked down on Lin Xun, patronized him, and mocked him for not having patience, they couldn't help but feel uneasy like they had shot themselves in the foot.

If they were friends with Shi Yu, they also wouldn't wait patiently.

What a huge misunderstanding!

The cultivators wanted to cry but no tears came forth. They could only blame themselves for judging people by their appearance and for thinking that the friend of Third Young Master Shi Yu was someone easy to bully.

Most bizarrely, the green-robed man was still rooted to the spot and held the sword in a slashing motion in the air like he had become a statue.

“Brother, it’s hard to maintain that stance. I understand your feelings, but I still have to tell you to not be a dog with no morals in the future, or you could be slaughtered before you know it,” Lin Xun sighed.

The green-robed man nodded his head frantically like he was admitting his mistake.

Lin Xun didn’t care about the squabble anymore and kindly reminded him, “Withdraw your sword now, you look embarrassing...”

The Prodigies War - Chapter 333 Treasure Appraisers

In a lavish palace hall.

Shi Yu sat down on a rug made from purple cloud lynx fur and said in surprise, “I didn’t think you would come to find me given your personality. so I’m a little flattered.”

“I don’t see you feeling flattered.”

Sitting opposite, Lin Xun studied Shi Yu. It’s only been two years since we last saw each other, but he’s already at the Heaven Dipper Stage and his aura is much calmer and more restrained.

As he had suspected, his friends’ cultivations were also rapidly improving just like his.

Lin Xun still remembered that Shi Yu had formed a first-grade aeth power reservoir, Tidal Galaxy, when he broke through in the Dipper Transformation Lake.

At that moment, thousands of silver waves emerged in the sky and surged turbulently. It was a spectacular and magnificent scene.

It was understandable that Shi Yu could advance to the Heaven Dipper Stage within two years.

Two beautiful women with skin brighter than snow knelt on the ground beside the table. One was serving tea with her slender and fair hands, and the other was preparing fruits and snacks with a bright smile.

The tea was top-grade tea from the imperial palace: Flowing Light Dancing Gold.

Light blue leaves were being brewed in bubbling spring water. The tea leaves flowed like light and danced around in the water like gold flakes. It wasn’t only pleasing to the eye, but it also produced a refreshing and fragrant aroma. It was mellow and not too strong.

The cup of tea alone was very precious and couldn’t be bought with money!

It was made from top-grade tea leaves used by the imperial family and couldn’t be bought on the market.

The plate of fruit and snacks consisted of falling star fruit harvested from the bitterly cold north and blazing spirit peach picked from the bottom of a volcano. There were all sorts of delicacies, all of which Lin Xun had never seen or heard of.

It was obvious that Shi Yu, the third son of Stone Cauldron Alms Fortune God, lived a luxurious cultivation life. Ordinary wealthy descendants wouldn’t be able to afford the tea and snacks he enjoyed.

Of course, he also brought them out to serve Lin Xun. He wouldn’t have done so if it was someone else.

“Since I left Blood Kill Camp, I’ve been thinking about how much stronger you and that fool Ning Meng would become when we meet again.” Shi Yu took a sip of tea and breathed a sigh of relief. “I’m much more relieved now. At least you’re still the same as you were in Blood Kill Camp—one level below me in terms of cultivation. As for that fool Ning Meng, he can never catch up to me.”

Lin Xun said with a smile, “It doesn’t matter how high your cultivation is. More importantly, do you think you can win in a battle?”

Shi Yu laughed. “To tell you the truth, I’ve been honing my combat arts for the past two years. If you think you can use your combat power to suppress me as you did in Blood Kill Camp, then you are underestimating me.”

Lin Xun frowned. “Oh, do you want to try?”

Shi Yu exclaimed, “Now?”

Lin Xun replied, “Yes.”

Shi Yu stared straight at Lin Xun for a good while and then shook his head. “No, we can’t fight the moment we meet again. I’m not a fool like Ning Meng. Come, let’s have some tea first. Let’s not spoil the mood.”

Lin Xun couldn’t help smiling. This is Shi Yu. He is intelligent and sharp and is very low profile when it comes to his strength.

His fighting style is the same. He won’t attack recklessly but once he does it would be a fatal blow.

“Tell me, why do you have my brother’s personal token?” Shi Yu was very curious.

Lin Xun explained how he met Shi Xuan.

Understanding dawned on Shi Yu’s face, but then, a strange light flashed through his eyes. “Although I don’t like my Eldest Brother, I have to admit that he’s always right about people.”

Lin Xun smiled. “Your eldest brother is indeed an amazing person.”

Shi Yu waved his hand. “Let’s not talk about him. Since we have finally met up again, we should drink to our heart’s content. Qingxue and Lianyue, prepare some dishes and remember to bring my treasured Dragon Blood Brew!

“Yes.”

The two beautiful girls smiled and hurried off

Lin Xun shook his head, saying, “I came for a reason. I don’t think we can drink today.”

Shi Yu said in puzzlement, “It’s urgent?”

Lin Xun nodded.

“Then, let’s deal with it first.” Shi Yu came to a decision immediately.

He understood Lin Xun very well and knew that he would never refuse his invitation under normal circumstances. He had to have encountered some difficulty to refuse.

"I want to sell a batch of supplies to you."

Lin Xun bluntly stated his purpose, "This batch of supplies is somewhat special. It's a batch of spoils I gathered. If I sell it to other people, I'm worried they wouldn't dare to accept it. I also don't want to take advantage of other people."

Shi Yu's interest seemed to be piqued. "What kind of supplies are they? What's the quantity?"

Lin Xun glanced around, got up, took out the Xumi Ring, and gently flicked his sleeve.

Following a rumble, all sorts of aeth tools, equipment, and crossbows appeared in a mountain-like pile. The quantity was huge and took up almost half of the palace hall.

The items emitted a divine light, making the pile look like a real treasure mountain.

Shi Yu inhaled sharply, quickly got up, and stepped forward to take a closer look. He exclaimed, "Lin Xun, did you rob an army?"

Lin Xun replied casually, "Something like that."

The two thousand odd elite cultivators sent by the Chi Family were indeed no different from an army of cultivators.

He had seized the items from those cultivators. There were thousands of aeth tools, armor, equipment, and around seven hundred crossbows.

They were all in perfect condition. Lin Xun had thrown away the damaged ones or had used them in battles.

Shi Yu suddenly discovered that the batch of spoils was fishy. He narrowed his eyes and whispered, "The Chi Family?"

Lin Xun nodded.

Shi Yu glanced at Lin Xun strangely. "You are so daring. You even robbed the Chi Family!"

He was utterly shocked. The spoils were all high-quality goods and were marked with the unique symbol of the Chi Family, so they couldn't be bought on the market.

Based on Lin Xun's huge batch of loot, it was easy to imagine how many cultivators of the Chi Family he had killed!

"What? Can you accept it or not?"

Shi Yu said discontentedly, "Ridiculous! There is no supply in this world that Stone Cauldron Alms can't take. But do you think this loot is more important than your life?"

He assumed a serious expression and looked Lin Xun directly in the eye. "Are you sure you know that you have become enemies with the Chi Family because of this?"

Of course, Shi Yu had misunderstood.

Lin Xun thought for a while and briefly recounted what happened after he left Haze City. He even revealed his background and his current situation and didn't hide anything from Shi Yu.

Shi Yu fell silent, his expression changing between surprise, indignation, confusion and full of an unidentifiable emotion.

It was understandable. Lin Xun had revealed something so shocking that he needed some time to completely digest it.

Shi Yu only recovered from the shock after a good while. His first sentence once he recovered was, "F\*ck it. I knew you were not an ordinary person!"

Lin Xun said helplessly, "Would you believe it if I told you I would rather be an ordinary person?"

Shi Yu patted Lin Xun on the shoulder. "I never thought your life would be worse than mine. No wonder I got along so well with you in Blood Kill Camp."

Lin Xun snapped, "Your life is bad? Stop joking around. I'm going to leave if you talk nonsense again."

Shi Yu hurriedly explained, "I just wanted to ease your mind. I'm worried that you're under too much pressure."

He thought for a moment and then said, "Wait a moment. I'll find some old guys to help you estimate the value of this batch of spoils."

He hurried off.

Before long, he returned with several old men who were all dressed differently.

"These are the great treasure appraisers of Stone Cauldron Alms. I believe they can give you a satisfactory payment," Shi Yu introduced them to Lin Xun with a smile.

An old man in a gray robe ran his eyes across the heap of supplies and said in a dissatisfied tone, "Third Young Master, I can determine the value of those supplies from just one glance. You didn't just invite us all here to appraise those things right?"

Evidently, in his eyes, although the quantity of those supplies was astonishing, they weren't top treasures and not worth that much attention.

Shi Yu was taken aback at first and then he said with a smile, "Elder Qiu, please calm down first. I was just too worried about my friend's matter so please bear with any mistakes I made."

It was obvious that those old men enjoyed very high statuses within Stone Cauldron Alms and even Shi Yu had to treat them respectfully.

A chubby and short old man remarked, "Oh, he's a friend of Third Young Master? Then this time, do we also have to offer a friend price too?"

Shi Yu frowned slightly.

However, the gray-robed man called Elder Qiu waved his hand and said, "Fine, since he's a friend of Third Young Master, we should help."

The chubby and short old man immediately responded, "According to my calculation, the market price for these treasures is 74,200 gold coins and that's already very generous."

Another old man added, "But these treasures are from the Chi Family so they are no different from stolen goods. They will be very difficult to sell and will require special treatment. Based on that, we can at most offer 60,000 gold coins."

Another old man added, "Since it's from a friend of Third Young Master, even if our Stone Cauldron Alms don't profit from it, we can only give an offer of 64,000 gold coins."

All the old men turned to look at Shi Yu.

They were waiting for Shi Yu's final decision.

Shi Yu's face was overcast because the old men's business-like attitudes irritated him.

However, that was the rule of Stone Cauldron Alms. Not even the son of Fortune God Shi could ignore the rules.

Lin Xun hasn't had a chance to speak. He had been watching from the side and he could tell that the treasure appraisers respected Shi Yu but they weren't deferent towards him.

Respect and deference seemed similar but were actually two completely different attitudes!

In the end, Shi Yu sighed, "It's decided."

"Hold on!" Lin Xun suddenly spoke out.

Instantly, the treasure appraisers all scrunched their brows and looked displeased. We have already offered a very good price! Is that kid still not satisfied?

The Prodigies War - Chapter 334 Nine Twisting Heart Iron

Elder Qiu said in a deep voice, "What's the matter? Little friend, are you not satisfied with the price that Stone Cauldron Alms offered?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "No."

Before he could explain, Elder Qiu's face darkened. "Young man, I have to remind you that your batch of treasure comes from the Chi Family and is no different from stolen goods. If you weren't a friend of Third Young Master, you wouldn't even get half of the 64,000 gold coins we quoted. We already offered you a very good price."

His voice contained a hint of anger. He seemed to think that Lin Xun didn't know what was good for him.

Shi Yu couldn't help but frown as he fumed, "Elder Qiu, I didn't invite you here to lecture my friend!"

"Third Young Master, please calm down. I am just reminding him out of kindness and have no malice," Elder Qiu stated calmly.

“You...”

Shi Yu was about to say something when Lin Xun interrupted him with a smile, “Everyone, you have misunderstood. It’s not that I’m dissatisfied with the price but, in my opinion, friends and business can’t be put together. So, please take back the friendship price and just offer me the market price.”

The experienced treasure appraisers were all taken aback. They couldn’t believe what they had heard.

Even Shi Yu was stupefied. Anger rose to his heart. He thought that the old men’s attitude had annoyed Lin Xun and so he felt ashamed and embarrassed

My friend had come all the way to ask me for help but you guys made things difficult for him. If this matter were to spread out, how am I going to face people in the future?

“It’s sometimes good for young people to have tempers, but you are letting emotions affect your decisions. If you insist on the market price then won’t that make us look too heartless? How would Third Young Master think of us?”

Elder Qiu snorted coldly, thinking that Lin Xun was pretending to take a step back to deliberately gain sympathy from Shi Yu and make them feel uncomfortable. It was a sinister intention.

Shi Yu was already a little mad. He suddenly grabbed Lin Xun by his arm, took him into a quiet room on the side of the main hall and whispered, “Lin Xun, you don’t need to care about what those old men say. Although they have irritating personalities, they’re skilful masters. Out of everyone in the entire headquarters, they only listen to my father. Even I don’t dare to fight against them.”

In the end, he sobbed, “This is the truth. Although I am the son of Fortune God Shi and look very well-off, I often don’t have the freedom to act independently in Stone Cauldron Alms.

He sighed again, “I thought those guys would do me a favor and give you as many benefits as possible, but I never thought that it would become like this. Damn it, how am I going to lift my head high in front of you again?”

It seemed that Shi Yu, the third son of Fortune God Shi, wasn’t as carefree and leisurely as he seemed. He also had troubles and worries.

Lin Xun was a little speechless. After a moment, he said, “Compared to me, you are very lucky. At least you are the well-known Third Young Master while I, the successor to the Lin Family, am all alone.”

It was very miserable.

When they compared their so-called ‘happy’ situations, Shi Yu suddenly laughed unkindly, “When you say it like that, I do feel a lot happier. If you have anything unhappy in the future, just say it out loud and make everyone else happy...”

Lin Xun couldn’t help rolling his eyes. “Get lost!”

Shi Yu cackled for a while before he could stop. “When we go back out there, listen to me and accept the price. When I get a chance in the future, I will help you teach those old men a lesson!”

There was a chilling intent in his voice.

As the third son of Fortune God Shi, he would inherit Stone Cauldron Alms one day in the future. So whether or not he stood up for Lin Xun, he had to find opportunities to beat those disobedient to him!

This was the path that those with power had to take. If he didn't make the old men obey him, his so-called power would be nothing but a joke.

However, Lin Xun smiled slightly. "If you believe me, just listen to me this time."

They returned to the quaint room.

The group of old men was still there, growing impatient. They had only come out of respect for Shi Yu. Otherwise, how would people of their status waste time on a youngster?

They were at the headquarters of Stone Cauldron Alms!

Every day, an unknown number of rich and noble people lined up outside to see them!

"Elders, Shi Yu and I have discussed and decided to sell the batch of supplies at the market price," Lin Xun stated bluntly.

The old men cast a suspicious glance at Shi Yu.

Shi Yu thought for a moment and finally said through gritted teeth, "Just do as he said."

Elder Qiu suddenly said indifferently, "If that's the case, let's do it that way. But I still have something to say. Young man, we have already given face to you. Don't blame us if you regret it."

Lin Xun smiled. "Of course."

Lin Xun's indifferent reaction baffled the old men a little. They shook their heads and tried not to think about it anymore. Never mind, Third Young Master's friend can't affect our positions in Stone Cauldron Alms!

"Third Young Master, this matter is settled then," Elder Qiu said with a cupped fist salute.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun said with a smile, "Hold on Elders. I have some other treasures that need to be sold. Can I ask you to take a look at them and offer a fair market price?"

Shi Yu suddenly narrowed his eyes, knowing that Lin Xun had counterattacked!

He was very curious as to what treasures could make Lin Xun so confident that he could use them to teach the old men a lesson?

They were in the headquarters of Stone Cauldron Alms, which distributed the rarest treasures gathered from all across the world and the four seas!

As extremely experienced and senior treasure appraisers in the headquarters of Stone Cauldron Alms, what sort of treasures had they never seen before?

Therefore, if Lin Xun wanted to teach them a lesson, he would need to bring out treasures that would astonish them. Otherwise, they would disdain him for being a rural bumpkin.

"Hey, it seems that this little brother is unwilling to admit defeat."



“Do you want to test our treasure appraisal ability? Hahaha, I haven’t encountered such a situation in a long time.”

Those old men were surprised at first, but then they laughed disapprovingly.

Elder Qiu scrunched his brows and said, “Young man, I have important affairs to attend to so I don’t have time to waste. If you want someone to appraise your treasures, you will have to ask someone else.”

He thought Lin Xun was deliberately provoking them, and he had no time for such childish tricks.

He felt that it wouldn’t only waste their time, but also make their Third Young Master think they were bullying his friend again.

He turned around and left.

He was halfway out of the door when a gasp of surprise rang behind him.

“This treasure is...the Nine Twisted Heart Iron?”

“Impossible, the Nine Twisted Heart Iron only exists in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea thousands of miles away. It’s a mysterious underwater treasure and has never been seen in the empire for hundreds of years.”

“The appearance, aura, color, and waves of energy coming from it are very similar to the legendary Nine Twisted Heart Iron.”

“Let me look at it closer!”

Elder Qiu was startled. Nine Twisted Heart Iron? Absurd!

That kid is so young and he came to ask the Third Young Master for help, so how would he have such a legendary treasure on him?

However, he still couldn’t help but turn around. He noticed that the other treasure appraisers were wearing all sorts of expressions as they crowded around Lin Xun like they had discovered a rare treasure.

His gaze shifted down to Lin Xun’s hand and he saw an item that was twisted like a vine, thick as an arm, around one foot in length, and enveloped in a dark-blue, dreamy, divine light. Additionally, it exuded a mysterious aura as frantic as the seawater and as cold as snow.

Elder Qiu’s pupils shrank and his heart pounded. That...that is the legendary Nine Twisted Heart Iron?

It’s a remarkable treasure that hasn’t been seen in hundreds of years. It’s no different from being extinct! Its value is immeasurable!

As a treasure appraiser, he wanted to pounce toward the legendary treasure like a pervert who had just spotted the most beautiful woman.

However, he forcibly resisted the strong urge because he had previously claimed that he had important affairs to attend to and had no time to waste. If he turned around, wouldn’t that be a slap in his face?

“Hmph! Perhaps that might not be the Nine Twisted Heart Iron! It's still not too late to change my mind when the other treasure appraiser verifies it.”

Elder Qiu coldly snorted, but he still couldn't stop himself from staring at the item in Lin Xun's hand. He was conflicted and fighting his urge.

As Shi Yu watched their reactions, he couldn't help but marvel at Lin Xun's ability. He is a silent thunderbolt. He turned the situation around with just a few words!

However, Shi Yu was also a little astonished that Lin Xun possessed such a legendary, rare treasure. The Nine Twisted Heart Iron could be called an earthshaking rune material.

From what he knew, the Nine Twisted Heart Iron had an unbelievably mysterious effect when used as a rune material for forging aeth engines for large battleships!

Shi Yu vaguely remembered that his father Fortune God Shi had said that the most valuable item on the emperor's imperial battleship was the aeth engine constructed from a Nine Twisted Heart Iron and several other rune materials!

Rumor had it that the imperial battleship could tear apart the void, and soar above the sapphire sky, and even Cyclic Derivation cultivators couldn't shake it.

If the treasure in Lin Xun's hand is a complete Nine Twisted Heart Iron...

Shi Yu trembled. He was certain the treasure would be considered a top, earth-shaking treasure in the Stone Cauldron Alms headquarter!

But, where did Lin Xun obtain such a legendary treasure?

It only exists in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea

At that moment, apart from Elder Qiu, the other treasure appraisers' eyes blazed fanatically. They understood the value of the Nine Twisted Heart Iron better than most cultivators in the world!

The Prodigies War - Chapter 335 Magnificent Counterattack

It was understandable that the old men lost their composure. Even Heaven Ascension, Cyclic Derivation, and other top cultivators of the world would be envious after seeing such a treasure.

Lin Xun didn't mock the old men. But through their reaction, he realized that the value of the treasures he acquired from the ancient ruins in the Spirit Burial Sea was unimaginably astonishing!

For example, a single Nine Twisted Heart Iron could make the great treasure appraisers at Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters gape over it like country bumpkins. Lin Xun had never expected that.

In Lin Xun's view, the Nine Twisted Heart Iron was the most ordinary among the treasures he had obtained.

Of course, this was only when compared to the others.

After a moment, one of the old men exhaled a mouthful of turbid air and said with blazing eyes, “Unquestionably and undoubtedly, it is a Nine Twisted Heart Iron!”

The other treasure appraisers nodded enthusiastically like they had been snapped awake from a dream.

Shi Yu smiled, excitement swirling in his heart.

On the other hand, Elder Qiu's expression turned complicated. If that kid had taken out that item earlier, how could all of this have happened earlier?

"Little friend, are...are you sure you want to offer this treasure for sale?" someone asked, making everyone look towards Lin Xun. Their attitude had completely changed from before and they became filled with respect and curiosity.

Nine Twisted Heart Iron!

That piece of treasure alone was enough to make them have a whole new level of respect for Lin Xun. They were, however, very curious as to where a kid like Lin Xun got his hands on such a legendary treasure. It was too unbelievable.

"That's correct, but can I ask Elders to stay calm for a moment. The Nine Twisted Heart Iron is just one of the treasures I'm offering for sale."

With a flip of his hand, Lin Xun put it away and brought out a spirit flower with a plump, lush green stem and thirty-six leaves.

The leaves, thick and jade-green, were covered with veins as obscure as secret patterns. Each one glowed like azure clouds as they hung on the stem.

The spirit flower was the color of the pure sky and the petals seemed illusory as it sprayed out a fine mist that filled the air with an intense and cold fragrance.

Everyone seemed to fall into a trance-like state. They felt relaxed and elated like they had drunken from an immortal spring. It was an indescribably wonderful feeling as it felt like they were fluttering in the wind.

"What a miraculous spiritual nature! This is—?"

"It has thirty-six leaves, the veins are like secret patterns, and it is extremely pure! Could it be the legendary divine..."

"Pure Void Spirit Flower!"

"That's definitely the Pure Void Spirit Flower that has long been extinct in the empire and is known as the King of Medicine Plants!" The old men's voices trembled.

Their eyes widened with disbelief and excitement as they stared at the mysterious medicinal plant in Lin Xun's hand.

They had never seen such a flower in their lives and had long thought it was extinct from the world. Who would have thought that it would be suddenly presented before them?

They felt like they were dreaming!

"Pure Void Spirit Flower..." Shi Yu inhaled sharply.

It's an unimaginably rare treasure that would make even Cyclic Derivation cultivators in the world go crazy! In terms of value, it is in no way inferior to the Nine Twisted Heart Iron!

"That..."

Elder Qiu, who was fighting the strong urge in his heart, felt a bolt of lightning had struck him when he saw the Pure Void Spirit Flower. He couldn't stop himself from moving closer to take a better look.

His eyes blazed fanatically as he muttered, "Unbelievable, unbelievable. This Pure Void Spirit Flower is at least thousands of years old. Its appearance is almost perfect. It's a masterpiece of heaven..."

Lin Xun hadn't said much and just brought out two rare treasures, making the situation change dramatically. The scene was very interesting.

The great treasure appraisers had curbed their arrogance and prejudice. Under the charm of the treasures, they had become obsessed, excited, and astonished.

Shi Yu stared dumbfounded at the drastic change and couldn't help but marvel. Ever since he met Lin Xun in Blood Kill Camp, he had never seen anything that troubled Lin Xun.

Including now!

It took someone special to make the experienced treasure appraisers of Stone Cauldron Alms lose their composure!

Some people would say it was due to the two exquisite treasures, but those treasures had come from Lin Xun's hands!

Unconvinced?

Ask other cultivators to try to find two similar treasures!

"Elders, are you done observing?" Lin Xun finally spoke after a long period of silence and put away the Pure Void Spirit Flower.

Suddenly, the old men snapped awake from their trance-like state, all donning different expressions.

Elder Qiu cleared his throat with a cough and suddenly said, "I can confirm it is indeed a Pure Void Spirit Flower."

The other elders exchanged glances with one another. They felt a little uncomfortable when they faced Lin Xun again now that they had come to their senses.

Previously, they believed that Lin Xun was a youngster who came to Stone Cauldron Alms to take advantage of Shi Yu, so their attitudes towards him were rude and disrespectful.

However, after seeing the two treasures that Lin Xun took out, they realized that they were wrong!

Unfortunately, they couldn't bring themselves to apologize to a junior. The atmosphere in the hall suddenly turned still and silent.

This was exactly the result that Lin Xun wanted. He smiled slightly and said, "Elders, now that you have verified the items, why don't you set a price. A price based on the market price is fine."

The elders' faces twitched imperceptibly upon hearing the words 'market price.' They felt like they had been slapped in the face and their faces were throbbing with burning pain.

Elder Qiu drew a deep breath, forcibly suppressing his discontent and asked, "Are...are you certain that you want to offer those two items for sale?"

"I'm certain," stated Lin Xun casually. "I can go to other businesses if Stone Cauldron Alms doesn't want to accept them."

One of the old men panicked, "Little friend, please don't misunderstand. It's just that those treasures are too precious and rare. We're just not sure whether you want to sell them."

"Yes." The others nodded frantically.

The two treasures would bring unimaginable benefits to Stone Cauldron Alms and also to them!

Who in their right mind would watch such legendary treasures slip away before their eyes?

"Third Young Master, what do you think?" Elder Qiu looked at Shi Yu, his voice gentle and friendly.

It was evident that he wanted Shi Yu to help persuade Lin Xun.

Shi Yu almost burst out laughing. He shook his head. "No way. He wouldn't even take my friend price just now. As a friend, how can I persuade him?"

The old men looked awkward again when they heard 'friend price.'

They were experienced and intelligent, so how could they not tell that Shi Yu and Lin Xun were retaliating?

However, they had no choice but to suffer patiently and tolerate them to keep those two treasures.

"How about this? Elders, please give me a price and if I feel it's a good price, I will immediately sell the two pieces of treasure. If not..." said Lin Xun.

"Then Elders, please don't make things difficult for me out of respect for Shi Yu."

The old men somehow felt that every word from Lin Xun was ridiculing and mocking them. They couldn't help but regret offending the youngster and turning their situation into this awkward atmosphere.

It was karma.

Furthermore, they were most frustrated by the fact that it wasn't easy to offer a price because the two treasures were too rare and precious.

To put it simply, if the outside world found that Stone Cauldron Alms had two legendary treasures for sale, countless cultivators would scramble and fight over each other to purchase them regardless of how high the price was!

"About that...Little friend, can we discuss it first?" Elder Qiu hesitated.

The others nodded. If their offer was too low, Lin Xun wouldn't be happy and Stone Cauldron Alms would lose out on two legendary treasures.

But if their offer was too high, it would affect the profits.

Therefore, they had to come up with a way to not only satisfy Lin Xun but also benefit Stone Cauldron Alms.

"Elders, please go ahead." Lin Xun nodded in agreement.

The group of elders left in a hurry and found a quiet room to discuss their plans.

"That was so satisfying!" Shi Yu burst out laughing. He was in high spirits and felt his displeasure had been completely vented.

"That's just a little trick to make them curb their arrogance and change their attitude," said Lin Xun indifferently.

"Haha, that's already enough." Shi Yu suddenly remembered something and reminded Lin Xun, "Don't make things too difficult for them later on."

Lin Xun smiled. "Of course."

He then whispered to Shi Yu, "I might as well tell you that I won't agree to whatever price they offer."

Shi Yu was puzzled at first and then he nodded thoughtfully. "You're right. Who would want to sell such treasures for money?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "You misunderstood, it's not about that, but I have already decided to sell them through an auction."

A flash of realization came to Shi Yu's face. "It's a good idea, but our Stone Cauldron Alms will suffer a lot from that."

"Are you sure Stone Cauldron Alms belongs to you? This plan will kill two birds with one stone. It will not only help me but also give you a chance to prove yourself!"

Shi Yu was very intelligent so he understood right away. He exclaimed in surprise, "You want me to come forward and help you handle this matter?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Correct, whether or not the price is high from the auction, at least it's all your credit."

Shi Yu pondered for a while, gazing at Lin Xun with a complicated expression. "You're too shrewd!"

Lin Xun rolled his eyes. "Stop talking nonsense, do you agree or not?"

Shi Yu unwaveringly agreed, "Of course! Are you kidding? Only an idiot would refuse such an opportunity."

Lin Xun nodded. With a flip of his hand, he took out the Nine Twisted Heart Iron and Pure Void Spirit Flower and handed them to Shi Yu.

After a thought, he selected several more precious rune materials that he didn't need and tossed them to Shi Yu. "This is a rare opportunity. Put these all up for auction."

Shi Yu was utterly dumbfounded. He stared at Lin Xun in stunned silence. He couldn't believe Lin Xun could casually bring out several more treasures that were not inferior to the previous two in any respect!

That's...too crazy!

Chapter 336 Fortune God Shi

Azure Fiendish Dragon Wood!

The Great White Meteorite Iron!

Tear-Stained Scarlet Shadow Grass!

Shi Yu's heart pounded every time he identified one of the treasures. When he finished, he fell into a somewhat dazed state.

It wasn't his first time seeing such earthshaking treasures, but it was the first time so many were being presented to him at once!

Among them, many were extremely rare treasures that had long disappeared from the world.

For a moment, Shi Yu felt a strong urge to snatch Lin Xun's storage ring!

He couldn't imagine how Lin Xun obtained those treasures. Could it be that he not only robbed the Chi Family but also burgled a treasury of an immortal family?

It was too unbelievable!

If the cultivators of the outside world knew that the third son of the high and mighty Fortune God Shi, the famous Third Young Master Shi Yi of Stone Cauldron Alms, was shaken by some treasures, what would they think?

In the end, Shi Yu refrained from asking about the origins of the treasures. Everyone had their secrets and he knew it would be inappropriate to ask.

Even the closest friends had a limit that mustn't be touched.

Then again, no close friends would make such a mistake.

"Don't stand there blankly. Give me some money for the first batch of loot. I need to hurry back and solve some matters."

Lin Xun couldn't stay any longer. He had a list of things waiting for him to handle in Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Oh, are you leaving like this?" Shi Yu asked in surprise. "These are your treasures. Are you not worried that I would take them for myself?"

"I believe you." Lin Xun clapped Shi Yu's shoulder with a smile.

"In front of such treasures, I might not be able to keep myself from falling into temptation."

Lin Xun sighed. "If these treasures alone can make Third Young Master Shi Yu break his limit then you are too cheap. Of course, it could also indicate that I'm blind and became friends with a money-obsessed friend."

"Get lost!" Shi Yu shouted with a smile.

He walked out of the hall with Lin Xun and ordered an attendant to bring over 64,000 gold coins to Lin Xun.

It was the money for the first batch of supplies.

As for the rare treasures that Lin Xun left behind, they would only know how much they sold for once auctioned.

Lin Xun wasn't the least bit worried because he knew what kind of person Shi Yu was.

.....

Lin Xun left in a hurry, while Shi Yu returned to the palace looking distracted.

It had only been a year or two since he had last seen Lin Xun but he realized that he had already changed so much that it was beyond his imagination. Not only had he become the successor to the Lin Family, but he had also acquired extraordinarily rare treasures that could make the world go crazy. It was too unbelievable.

What sort of thing had that guy encountered after Blood Kill Camp?

Shi Yu fell into contemplation.

Soon, the sound of footsteps snapped Shi Yu out of his deep thoughts and he saw the treasure appraisers emerge from the quiet room.

They had clearly reached an agreement as there was a glimmer of excitement in their eyes. However, they were shocked to learn that Lin Xun was no longer around.

"Third Young Master, where is your friend?" Elder Qiu asked anxiously. He thought that Lin Xun had lost his patience and had given up on the transaction.

"He left," Shi Yu said casually.

"What?"

"He...he...left?"

"Could it be that he didn't like our attitude and didn't want to do business with our Stone Cauldron Alms?"

The old men's expressions changed dramatically like they had suffered the greatest blow.

Earthshaking wonders such as the nine twisted heart iron and clear void spirit flower had slipped away before their eyes. How could they not be irritated and upset?



Seeing them dismayed and dejected, Shi Yu couldn't bear to strike them with another blow. "Who said he didn't want to go ahead with the transaction?"

"Third Young Master, what did you say?" The old men's spirits were immediately lifted and a faint glimmer of hope rekindled in their eyes.

"He has already handed the treasures to me and asked me to auction them on his behalf so you don't need to worry about offering an acceptable price anymore," Shi Yu said indifferently.

Auction!

Elder Qiu and the others were stunned at first, but they then beamed from ear to ear. As long as the two treasures were sold from Stone Cauldron Alms, it was enough. It didn't matter whether it was through a direct sale or an auction.

"Everyone, don't be too happy. I first need you guys to help me identify some treasures. Of course, my friend left them to be auctioned as well."

Shi Yu's sentence immediately drew their attention. There's more treasure?

Their eyes sparkled with interest.

Then, Shi Yu brought out all sorts of treasures including the Azure Fiendish Dragon Wood, the Great White Meteorite Iron and the Tear-Stained Scarlet Shadow Grass!

"Heavens, is this real? The Great White Meteorite Iron! I...I thought I would never see one again in my life!"

"Pinch me now! Am I dreaming? It's a Tear-Stained Scarlet Shadow Grass! It's rare to find one even in the imperial treasury!"

"That..."

Seeing all sorts of astonishing treasures that could only be found by chance in the world appear one after another, the old men almost went crazy. Their eyes lit up, their lips quivered, and they screamed and yelled without any regard for manners.

Shi Yu didn't laugh at them as he had also repeatedly lost his composure when he saw the treasures, so he understood their feelings.

"Third Young Master, you did well this time!" Elder Qiu exclaimed, unable to conceal his joy and excitement.

"Yes, with these treasures, we can host an auction of the highest standard and largest scale. Those treasures are enough to cause a huge sensation in the entire Forbidden City. They will greatly enhance the Stone Cauldron Alms' reputation!"

"Congratulations Third Young Master! Congratulations Third Young Master!"

"Third Young Master, your friend is a lucky star. If we have the chance to see him again, we will definitely apologize to him!"

Hearing the elder's excited cheers, Shi Yu couldn't help but smile. Lin Xun had indeed helped him a lot this time!

He suddenly realized something. Lin Xun's situation was extremely dangerous and he wondered whether he should do something for him.

Shi Yu drew a deep breath and said, "Everyone, this matter is very important, I'm going to see my father about it."

The old men nodded. Indeed, Fortune God Shi had to be notified of the legendary treasures!

However, Shi Yu had a different thought about them. He wanted his father to use his intelligence to help Lin Xun.

He was incredibly cautious because he knew that Lin Xun was in an extremely complicated situation that involved many forces of the Forbidden City. If he didn't act cautiously, he could bring a lot of trouble to Stone Cauldron Alms and also wouldn't be able to help Lin Xun.

That wasn't the result that Shi Yu wanted to see.

.....

The kitchen of Flavor Shack

It was smoky and hot and heaps of junk were everywhere.

A thin, expressionless man was sitting on a wooden stool, sharpening a knife and making scraping noises.

On the other side was a huge, irregular wooden table and a perfectly roasted chunk of barbecued beef dripping with oil.

A large, fat, middle-aged man in a thin, buttoned jacket was brandishing a razor-sharp blade, slicing the crispy but tender beef.

Shink!

His meat slicing was extremely swift, but his eating speed was even more astonishing. His mouth was huge like a bottomless pit. After around ten breaths, the wooden table was left with only an extremely clean carcass.

The middle-aged man licked his lips, set down the blade in his hand, and exclaimed, "I have to say that I have eaten across the entire empire, but Third Old Zhu, your barbecue beef is still the best."

"There are not many of these snowhoof demon ox left. The situation in the Darkness Kingdom has been very tense in recent years, and there is a high possibility of war breaking out. If you want to continue eating them, you better send someone to the Darkness Kingdom to hunt some before the war starts," the thin middle-aged man said emotionlessly as he sharpened the knife. He looked very cold like he was devoid of emotions.

"Don't worry, it's still too early for war. It will be at least another three or five years before it happens."

The fat, middle-aged man took out a snow-white towel, wiped his mouth, leaned back lazily on the chair and sighed comfortably, "Third Old Zhu, it's a waste if you hide here every day. Do you plan to spend your whole life here?"

"You don't need to care about my affairs and I won't bother you about yours," Old Zhu grumbled. His palms and fingers were thick and rough, and the veins on the back of his hands were prominent like earthworms. But he sharpened the blade with a very gentle force like a silkworm spinning silk.

The fat, middle-aged man smiled and didn't say anything else.

At that moment, a handsome and graceful young man in white rushed in urgently and sat opposite the fat middle-aged man. He grinned. "Father, you hid so well. I've been looking for you."

Naturally, the white-robed youngster was Shi Yu.

Of course, the large and fat, middle-aged man was Fortune God Shi, the head of Stone Cauldron Alms, a renowned figure in the empire.

If one hadn't seen it with one's own eyes, it would be hard to imagine that the renowned Fortune God Shi of the empire would be hiding and eating in a smoky and scorching kitchen.

"Quickly state what the matter is." Fortune God Shi shot a glance at Shi Yu.

Shi Yu stated directly, "My friend has some trouble, so I want to ask you for advice."

Fortune God Shi nodded and muttered, "It must be a big issue. Otherwise, you would have taken action already and wouldn't ask me. Tell me, what's the problem?"

Shi Yu immediately recounted Lin Xun's situation.

After listening, Fortune God Shi was still leaning back on the chair, but a strange look was swirling in his eyes.

"That's really big trouble. I'm afraid I can't help him."

Shi Yu was taken aback at first and then he gritted his teeth and said, "Father, if you don't help him, I will have to take action myself. Don't blame me if Stone Cauldron Alms is dragged into it!"

Fortune God Shi snapped, "Brat, are you threatening me!? So ridiculous!"

Shi Yu refused to budge. "I have no other choice. I can't watch my friend fall into an abyss and not do anything."

Fortune God Shi burst into hearty laughter and turned his head to look at Third Old Zhu. "Look, this is my son. To save his friend, he won't even listen to me."

Third Old Zhu said expressionlessly, "Your son is stronger than you."

Fortune God Shi was stunned at first but then he suddenly grinned. "I won't help because there is someone more suitable than me to help."

"Who?"

Shi Yu perked up.

Fortune God Shi cast a glance at the nearby Third Old Zhu.

Chapter 337 Causality

Him?

Shi Yu looked toward Third Old Zhu. He was a big, strong-looking man with untidy hair. Bronze muscles bulged on his body like boulders and were filled with a sensation of explosive power.

He had a stoic face and gave off an aura akin to an unshakable mountain.

Shiiinggg!

Third Old Zhu kept the dagger, rose to his feet, and walked away.

Fortune God Shi said, "Third Old Zhu, you're leaving without saying anything?"

Third Old Zhu replied without looking back, "If I don't die, I'll be back to continue barbequing for you."

Fortune God Shi grinned. "I'll be waiting!"

Shi Yu hurriedly said, "Father, didn't you say he can help Lin Xun? Why are we just watching him leave?"

Fortune God Shi scolded, "Idiot, can't you see that he's already gone to help your friend?"

Shi Yu was confused. "What in the world is going on?"

Instead of explaining, Fortune God Shi rose to his feet and he moved his enormous body to go outside with a strangely bewildered expression on his face.

"Is this fate? It's far too much of a coincidence..."

Fortune God Shi sighed deeply.

Soon after, he explained the reason to Shi Yu.

It turned out that Lin Xun's great-grandfather, Lin Daochen, was Third Old Zhu's savior!

More than a hundred years ago, when Third Old Zhu was a fresh recruit on the battlefield, he had fallen prey to an ambush by the Darkness Race that put him in mortal danger.

Fortunately, Lin Daochen happened to pass by and quickly wiped out the Darkness Race ambushers. Although it was not intentional, he had saved Third Old Zhu's life.

Regardless, Third Old Zhi did not forget this and swore that he would repay the debt if he managed to return from the battlefield.

Regretfully, Third Old Zhu received shocking news when he returned from the battlefield: Lin Daochen was already dead.

For many years after, Third Old Zhu was stationed at the border battlefield and busied himself with military matters. Amidst the life of constant battles, his strength grew greater and greater.

Later on, after hearing that Lin Daochen's bloodline had been murdered one fateful night, Third Old Zhu angrily returned to the Forbidden City.

However, the enemy was long gone by the time he got back, giving him no outlet to vent his hatred. In the end, he dejectedly retreated to Flavor Shack and worked as a cook while concealing his identity.

After all of this was revealed, Shi Yu finally understood. He could not help but feel admiration toward Third Old Zhu. "Third Old Zhi is a true man of his word who doesn't make empty promises!"

Fortune God Shi nodded. "Back then, Third Old Zhu was merely an insignificant soldier, and I'm sure even Duke Daochen never expected that such an insignificant soldier would swear to repay him for unintentionally saving his life once. However, Third Old Zhu did so."

Fortune God Shi sighed. "After learning of the calamity that befell Duke Daochen's bloodline, Third Old Zhu was deeply troubled and could not forgive himself. Such a loyal person is rarely seen in this world."

Shi Yu's expression could not help but change. He had not expected that even his father would give such high praise to Third Old Zhu.

Soon after, Shi Yu dazedly asked, "In other words, I somehow came to the right place this time?"

"This is the mysteriousness of karma. Duke Daochen unknowingly planted the seed of cause that bloomed into the flower of effect today. The cause and effect of karma is a wonder that can never be put in words."

Fortunate God Shi sighed deeply.

Shi Yu also felt that the affair was filled with coincidence.

If he had not brought news of Duke Daochen's direct descendent, Lin Xun, Third Old Zhu would have likely spent all his life in Flavor Shack and be unable to stop blaming himself.

If not for Duke Daochen's random act of kindness back then, Third Old Zhu would not have lived until now...

All of this embodied the principle of causality.

"Spirit Sea stage experts have a life span of three hundred years, Heaven Ascension stage experts six hundred years, and Cyclic Derivation stage experts nine hundred years. Third Old Zhu has only a few years of his Heaven Ascension stage life span left. If he manages to repay his debt, he might be able to overcome his guilt and gain the tiny sliver of hope to attack the Cyclic Derivation stage to increase his lifespan."

Fortune God Shi seemed to recall something and muttered, "Otherwise, this act of repayment might become the final chapter of his life..."

Shi Yu suddenly said, "Father, there's something else I need to discuss with you."

Fortune God Shi was awoken from his thoughts. He impatiently said, "Don't bother bringing it up if it's a troublesome matter. I'm already vexed enough."

Shi Yu grinned. "It's something awesome."

He began to recount how he had undertaken the task to auction off several peerless treasures on Lin Xun's behalf.

"Beautiful! I suddenly realize that I still love earning money the most. I'm always happy when I think about earning money."

Fortunate God Shi let out a hearty laugh as he slapped Shi Yu's shoulder, nearly causing him to fall to the ground.

Shi Yu grinned as he rubbed his shoulder, feeling extremely elated. It was no easy feat to gain his father's acknowledgment and praise!

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Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Spirit Vulture, here's sixty thousand gold coins."

Upon returning, Lin Xun passed most of the money he had just received to Spirit Vulture before handing the remaining four thousand gold coins to Lin Zhong to keep in case of emergency.

The money he had earned from selling off most of his battle spoils was gone again in the blink of an eye.

"Sixty thousand gold coins is enough to recruit several decent experts."

Spirit Vulture did not ask where the money was from. After all, he was only responsible for carrying out his tasks. "However, there is something I should warn you about first."

Lin Xun was taken aback. "Go ahead."

Spirit Vulture softly said, "This is only the beginning and we'll need even more money in the future. If the funds are insufficient, all of the initial investments we put in will end up being wasted."

Lin Xun immediately felt pressured. Mind Cleansing Peak was basically broke now. All of the properties and businesses that once belonged to the Lin Clan had either been seized by others or split amongst the four branch clans, leaving Lin Xun with an empty shell.

Under these circumstances, it was impossible for him to gain control of Mind Cleansing Peak and reverse the situation without money.

Fortunately, he had already passed Shi Yu several valuable treasures to auction off and believed that it would not be long before he returned with a huge fortune.

For the time being, Lin Xun did not need to worry too much about money.

However, selling things was not a long-term solution. The key to Mind Cleansing Peak regaining its former glory was to deal with its internal problems and external threats.

Once he could make all the branch clan members submit and spit out the property they had taken, Mind Cleansing Peak would be able to regain some vitality!

To take things a step further, if he could take back the wealth and properties that had been stolen by their enemies, it would only be a matter of time until Mind Cleansing Peak revived completely!

Of course, things had to be taken one step at a time. Moreover, the process was going to be plagued with danger and difficulties.

“Don’t worry, I shall handle the money issues.”

Lin Xun took a deep breath. The pressure was great, the responsibility was heavy, and the situation was dangerous, but these were burdens he needed to bear.

“I shall leave it to you then.”

Spirit Vulture nodded.

Suddenly, Lin Zhong, who had been waiting by the side, asked, “Will Mister Spirit Vulture be recruiting from Thousand Household Lane?”

Thousand Household Lane!

It was where the talented gathered in the Forbidden City as it was a prime location for them to find work.

People with various talents could be found there. Most of them were from poor backgrounds, and there was no lack of formidable characters amongst them. However, it was also very pricey to recruit them.

In the Forbidden City, many noble factions would choose Thousand Household Lane to recruit guards and similar subordinate roles.

However, Spirit Vulture smiled and shook his head. “Nope.”

He did not explain but gave off an aura of pure confidence.

It seemed that he already had a plan.

Soon after, Spirit Vulture and Xiaoke, who had just returned, left Mind Cleansing Peak.

Lin Xun walked to the second floor study. Many thick ledgers were stacked up on the desk. The books recorded all of the things that had been stolen from Mind Cleansing Peak.

These were categorized into cultivation manuals, pills and herbs, aeth tools, and other valuables. The details of every item were listed down such as their names and quantity.

After going through everything, Lin Xun could not help but let out a long sigh.

Although he already knew that everything of value in Mind Cleansing Peak had been stolen after that bloody incident, seeing the list still made an uncontrollable hatred rise in his heart.

“Every single one of these debts shall be accounted for sooner or later!”

Ruthlessness flashed in Lin Xun’s black eyes.

He carefully stored the ledgers, leaned back against the soft backrest, and soon became lost in thought.

It had only been a day since he entered the Forbidden City but far too many things had already happened. It made Lin Xun feel weary and exhausted.

Learning of his identity, arriving at Mind Cleansing Peak, disciplining the branch clan disciples that had been partying inside, analyzing the current state of affairs...

Subsequently heading to Spirit Vulture Residence and inviting Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture back...

Sending Xiaoke to investigate the four branch clans, tasking Spirit Vulture to recruit manpower...

Due to the lack of funds, he even had to sell off his battle spoils at Stone Cauldron Alms...

As Lin Xun recalled all the events that had occurred over the past twenty-four hours, he could not help but sigh. Being the Lin Clan's successor sure isn't easy...

Lin Xun shook his head and recollected himself. Weakness was the most terrifying feeling. Before reversing the situation, he would not permit himself to reveal even the slightest weakness!

"The West Creek Lin Clan's Lin Yingzhen was thoroughly humiliated by me in the morning, and I'm sure news of this incident has already spread amongst the four branch clans. I wonder how they will respond to my strong attitude?"

Lin Xun fell into deep thought.

In his view, the Lin Clan's biggest internal problem was the four branch clans. If the problem wasn't solved, he would be the Lin Clan successor only in name!

Someone knocked on the study door.

Lin Zhong's voice soon followed. "Young Master, a cultivator called Third Old Zhu has come to visit. He says he's here to repay a debt..."

Chapter 338 Snow Infant Jade Ginseng

Mind Cleansing Hall.

Third Old Zhu stood in the hall. His figure was like a majestic mountain and cast a long shadow on the ground.

His beard and hair were messy and ungroomed like weeds, his face was darkly tanned, and his bronze muscles bulged like boulders. His hands were large like palm leaves, his fingers thick and bulky, and veins bulged on the back of his hands. Although he was merely standing there, he gave off a bold and unshakable aura.

Lin Xun's heart shook when he saw Third Old Zhu for the first time, feeling an indescribable pressure.

It felt as if Third Old Zhu was a war god that had walked out from a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood. A unique war-like aura had already soaked into his bones, making it impossible to hide.

He's strong, very strong!

At least the Heaven Ascension stage!

Lin Xun was surprised. He had not expected the large man who claimed he was here to repay his debt would be such a powerful expert.



While Lin Xun was observing Third Old Zhu, he looked up and glanced at the former. The man's face was expressionless and his gaze was calm, but a single glance still made Lin Xun feel as if something sharp was stabbing him all over!

Fortunately, it only lasted for a split second. Old Third Zhu withdrew his gaze and said in a low, suppressed voice, "I am called Old Third Zhu. Five hundred and seventy-six years ago, on the battlefield of the empire's 19th attack on the Darkness Races, I was caught in a nearly hopeless situation. Fortunately, I received Duke Daochen's help, allowing me to live."

His voice echoed in the large, spacious hall. "I made an oath back then that I would repay this debt to Duke Daochen!"

He suddenly stopped speaking and fell silent.

That's all?

Lin Xun was taken aback. After a long time of observing that Old Third Zhu had no intention of continuing, Lin Xun could not help but say, "My ancestor died long ago. You've come too late."

Third Old Zhu said, "It's not late. As Duke Daochen's great-grandson, I will view you as my benefactor to repay the debt."

Truth be told, voluntary aid from such an expert was undoubtedly something to be happy about for Lin Xun, who was currently sorely lacking manpower at this time.

However, he did not dare to accept it so easily.

"A little over a dozen years ago...a bloody incident occurred in the Lin Clan that claimed the lives of my grandfather, father, and kinsmen. If you wished to repay your debt, why didn't you appear then?"

Lin Xun's eyes turned unreadable as he looked straight at Third Old Zhu.

In that brief moment, Lin Xun could sense a nearly unnoticeable ripple flash in Third Old Zhu's tiger-like eyes that seemed to be a mix of pain and self-blame.

However, Third Old Zhu quickly regained his composure and said, "By the time I rushed back from the battlefield, the culprit had already disappeared."

He did not elaborate any further.

He was like an emotionless rock that was impossible to read.

However, Lin Xun instantly understood.

After the bloody incident, everyone believed that his bloodline was finished. Moreover, the culprit was from the mysterious Omega Sword Sect. Under these circumstances, it was impossible for Third Old Zhu to take revenge even if he wished to

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "I only returned to Mind Cleansing Peak yesterday. How did you ascertain my identity?"

Third Old Zhu simply said, "I heard it from Fortune God Shi's son."

“Shi Yu?”

Lin Xun was taken aback, but most of his suspicions were dispelled. He was already planning to find a time to ask Shi Yu about Third Old Zhu’s background.

Lin Xun asked, “How do you intend to repay your debt?”

Third Old Zhu said, “The only thing I know is battle so you may treat me as a bodyguard. I will leave once I feel the debt has been repaid.”

Lin Xun nodded. “Do you need me to prepare anything for you?”

Third Old Zhu replied, “Food and water. I will not interfere in your life and appear only when you need me.”

Lin Xun was finally certain that Third Old Zhu was indeed here to repay his debt and could not help but sigh.

Although Lin Xun had never met his great-great-grandfather, from how his influence and blessings were still around today, it was easy to imagine how great of a man he must have been!

Third Old Zhu was quite an oddball that refused to forget a mere debt from long ago. Any other cultivator would probably not be as stubborn as him.

This was a true hero!

A man of his words who never took promises lightly!

Lin Zhong escorted Third Old Zhu out of the hall. It was not long before he returned and reported, “Young Master, I’ve arranged his accommodations.”

Lin Xun acknowledged and thoughtfully said, “Uncle Zhong, what do you think about him?”

Lin Zhong pondered for a moment and swiftly answered, “He has advanced Heaven Ascension cultivation and gives off a fierce, war-like aura. From these characteristics, he’s probably a powerful expert that has spent many years on the battlefield. From his words and conduct, he shouldn’t pose any problems.”

Lin Xun suddenly asked, “Can you beat him?”

“This...”

Lin Zhong was taken aback as if he was caught off guard by the question. He embarrassedly said, “Young Master, I’m only an old servant. I can’t possibly match such a powerful expert.”

Lin Xun acknowledged and smiled. “Uncle Zhong, even I can’t discern Third Old Zhu’s strength. However, you were not only able to tell but could also precisely identify him to be an advanced Heaven Ascension expert. This is rather odd, don’t you think?”

Lin Zhong forced a smile. “Young Master, you must have misunderstood. This old servant has followed the old clan leader for many years and has seen many Heaven Ascension cultivators. The exposure has naturally taught me how to easily identify these experts.”

Lin Xun sighed. "Never mind, I will not probe any further. You may leave."

Lin Zhong looked like he had something to say but ultimately held back, turned around, and left.

White Casanova Shen Jinglun was a ladies man from the national exam sixty years ago that even Spirit Vulture has heard of. It's easy to imagine how dazzling of a genius he must have been. If Uncle Zhong truly is Shen Jinglun, how did he end up like this?

Lin Xun was lost in thought as he walked up to the third level of the hall.

The third floor of Mind Cleansing Hall was designed to be a private cultivation room for the Lin Clan Leader. In the past, it was a restricted area that only the clan leader could use.

As the current owner of Mind Cleansing Jade Seal, Lin Xun was naturally able to enter.

When he arrived, he found an old bronze door that was covered in numerous, ancient runes.

This was the first time Lin Xun had come here since he stepped foot into Mind Cleansing Peak.

Omm~

With a deep breath, Lin Xun took out the Mind Cleansing Jade Seal and began circulating his Spirit Dipper Power. A ray of purple light suddenly shot out from the seal and flowed into the bronze door.

Cryptic and hazy undulations rippled on the door's surface as if it was awakening from a deep slumber.

Soon after, it silently opened in front of Lin Xun.

Outside the hall, Lin Zhong was clearing the weeds by the mountain path. When the bronze door opened, his hunched body suddenly turned slightly rigid as he abruptly jerked his head and looked at the hall.

There was a hint of expectation, hesitation, and an unexplainable conflict in his expression.

After a long time, Lin Zhong sighed and withdrew his gaze.

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Rather than a private cultivation room, it was honestly more akin to a grand residence.

When the bronze door opened, a magnificent, spacious hall appeared in front of him.

As he walked into the empty hall, Lin Xun felt a sensation of smallness.

Behind him, the door soundlessly closed again, seemingly sealing the room off from the rest of the world.

"Is this the private cultivation room only the clan leader can enter?"

Lin Xun looked around but could not find any decorations or furniture. There was only a single prayer mat at the center of the giant hall.

He could not help but suspect that even this private room had been robbed clean after the bloody incident a dozen years ago.

Why else would it appear so simple?

Lin Xun could not help but sigh. What use is there in thinking about such things?

He walked to the prayer mat at the center of the hall and sat down.

Although there were many things he had to do, Lin Xun did not dare to neglect his training. He had already decided to use any free time he had to cultivate.

In fact, he had made ample preparations to raise his cultivation as quickly as possible!

With a deep breath, Lin Xun retrieved a snow-white ginseng with many fine roots. *NOVELNEXT.COM*

It measured half a foot in length and was as thick as a candle. It somehow resembled a sleeping baby and gave off a thick, heart-palpitating, medicinal fragrance. A mere whiff of the fragrance made Lin Xun feel invigorated and relaxed.

It was a Snow Infant Jade Ginseng!

It was a sacred cultivation herb that would make cultivators go crazy. It did wonders for a cultivator's cultivation and was worth a fortune.

Normally speaking, such an unparalleled herb would only be used by experts with high cultivation.

After all, an ordinary cultivator was incapable of withstanding its tremendous medicinal power.

Lin Xun knew this. However, he did not intend to consume the entire Snow Infant Jade Ginseng in one go.

He first prepared a jade bottle, and carefully pulled off one of the Snow Infant Jade Ginseng's roots, before immediately storing the ginseng in the bottle and securely sealing it.

This was to minimize any loss of the ginseng's medicinal power.

In the end, Lin Xun shoved the root strand into his mouth.

Although he was already extremely cautious, he still underestimated the terrifying medicinal power of the Snow Infant Jade Ginseng.

When the root strand entered his stomach, Lin Xun felt as if countless volcanoes were erupting in his body!

In an instant, searing hot medicinal power rushed through his channels like wild horses that had been released, making him feel an unbearable burning pain.

Lin Xun's skin immediately flushed red and steam began rising from his body as if he had swallowed a stove and was about to catch fire.

The medicinal power was too frightening!

A single root strand made Lin Xun feel as if his body was about to explode.

It must be known that his Earth Dipper foundations were incomparably solid and could easily crush Heaven Dipper experts!

However, even those foundations were being pushed to their limits!

It was too late to regret his decision. Lin Xun stifled a groan and gritted his teeth as he circulated the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

Meanwhile, Storm Grinder frantically revolved in his body...

Chapter 339 Chaotic Void Dao Scripture

An unknown amount of time passed before Lin Xun awoke from his meditation.

Huu~

The breath he expelled turned into a stream of white steam as it shot forth with great momentum, cutting through the air like a sharp blade!

In the end, it smashed into the wall several dozen feet away with a loud bang.

Breath akin to a blade when expelled by inner force!

It was a sign that he was close to reaching the Heaven Dipper stage.

Lin Xun was stunned, not daring to believe that absorbing a mere root strand of the Snow Infant Jade Ginseng had boosted his cultivation all the way to the perfect Earth Dipper stage!

Still in disbelief, Lin Xun submerged his senses into his body to verify.

The dipper force in his body churned like a mighty sea, giving off a pure and boundless aura of stability and heaviness.

Its original sky-blue glow had turned into a pure, soothing, and unblemished jade-green!

The Earth Dipper stage consisted of creating a connection to the land's qi: comprehending the might of the earth, gathering its qi, and using it as a link like duckweed that had taken root and would not be washed away by the water.

These changes in his body were proof that Lin Xun had indeed reached the perfect Earth Dipper stage!

It's real...

Lin Xun was still dazed and shocked by the enormous medicinal power of the Snow Infant Jade Ginseng. If a single root strand contains such terrifying power, consuming the entire thing...

Lin Xun immediately shook his head. His body had nearly been unable to bear the power from a single root strand.

If he were to consume the entire ginseng at once, his body would explode!

Not bad, my foundations are stable despite the rapid growth in cultivation, and my power seems to have grown as well...

Lin Xun could not help but smile in satisfaction as he carefully felt the changes in his power.

When he ascended to the Earth Dipper stage, he slaughtered an army of Heaven Dipper cultivators from the Chi Clan. He looked forward to finding out how much his combat abilities had grown now that he possessed perfect Earth Dipper cultivation.

All of a sudden, Lin Xun recalled Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang and the scene of him holding a sword to Lin Xun's throat.

He recalled Chi Cangfeng who possessed the Purple Sea Golden Lotus bloodline and the scene of him flying through the air to kill Lin Xun.

The happiness in his heart immediately scattered.

It's still not enough!

Lin Xun might be pretty much unrivaled in the Spirit Dipper stage but he was still sorely lacking compared to the Spirit Sea stage!

An unyielding will to fight began to burn in Lin Xun's heart. A person did not live merely to breathe. Wasn't the path of cultivation the same?

Fight the heavens, fight the earth, fight others, and fight oneself!

If a cultivator did not fight, he or she would lose the drive to keep bravely advancing and would never amount to anything.

The day will come when all of you will feel the taste of being subdued by me!

Lin Xun took a deep breath, his clear, black eyes filled with determination.

This marked a change in his dao heart. A single thought, a single decision, a single memory, or a single tribulation was all it would take sometimes to affect a cultivator's dao heart.

This change of mindset was undoubtedly one of the most mysterious and unexplainable phenomena of cultivation.

Eh?

Lin Xun suddenly noticed a mysterious black halo on the ceiling above him.

It resembled a painting that had been woven from light. Strange and cryptic symbols silently floated within, painting an extremely mysterious sight.

Lin Xun's attention was immediately drawn in.

He was certain that this strange thing had not been here when he entered the room.

In other words, it had appeared while he was cultivating!

Lin Xun stood up from the prayer mat and frowned in thought. This was a restricted zone that only the Lin Clan Leader could enter, and it was indeed rather strange for such a seemingly mysterious place to contain only a single prayer mat.

After all, the Lin Clan once possessed the wealth of one of the almighty high clans. How could they possibly be unable to afford a top-tier cultivation paradise?

The mysterious black halo was evidence that there were secrets in this room that he was unaware of!

After pondering for a long time, Lin Xun had reached a decision. He leaped into the air and reached out to grab the black halo.

However, before Lin Xun could get closer, the black halo suddenly disappeared as if it had been frightened.

Oh?

Lin Xun's keen senses noticed that a tiny black shadow had fallen from the black halo as it disappeared.

He instinctively reached out and caught it as his body gracefully landed on the ground. Without reaching the Spirit Sea stage, he could only briefly move through the air and was still incapable of flight.

Lin Xun opened his hand, revealing a black ring.

It looked extremely ordinary, like a small strip of black metal that had been welded into a circle. The entire ring was jet-black and barely had any weight.

The most disappointing part was that it wasn't a storage artifact and contained no aeth power.

Lin Xun raised his head and looked at the roof again only to find it empty. The black halo seemed to have evaporated from existence, leaving no trace that it had ever been there.

"Strange..."

Lin Xun fiddled with the ring as he walked out of the room.

To his surprise, he saw Lin Zhong waiting outside the door. "Uncle Zhong, is something the matter?"

Lin Zhong was about to answer when he caught sight of the black ring in Lin Xun's hand. His eyes immediately widened as his face flooded with all sorts of emotions.

In a trembling voice, he said, "The ancestral ring! It...so it wasn't stolen but hidden here by the old clan leader!"

His voice was filled with unconcealable joy as if he was on the verge of crying due to happiness.

This 'ancestral ring' was clearly of great importance to Lin Zhong and had made him lose control of his emotions.

Realization dawned upon Lin Xun. The seemingly ordinary and aeth-power-less ring was likely a treasure passed down by the Lin Clan ancestors. Moreover, it was probably made such that outsiders could not discover its secrets.

Lin Xun waited until Lin Zhong recovered before he asked, "Uncle Zhong, please tell me about the ring."

"Young Master, this ring is called Chaotic Void and is a treasure that has been passed down by the Lin Clan founder. Only a successor with direct blood ties to the Lin Clan has the qualifications to possess it"

"Other branch clan members and outsiders will not be able to gain true ownership over it because only the bloodline of a direct descendent can awaken it and make it submit!"

There was a sliver of reminiscence in Lin Zhong's voice as he explained the origins of the Chaotic Void Ring.

"The true reason why this old servant has stayed in Mind Cleansing Peak all these years is to safeguard the private cultivation room on the third level of Mind Cleansing Hall. I knew that even though the old clan leader and the others are gone, the Chaotic Void Ring would not be lost."

Chaotic Void Ring!

An item that had been passed down from the founder!

Only a direct bloodline successor had the qualifications to wield it!

Lin Xun could not help but feel shocked by these revelations. Although he had already guessed that it was no ordinary item, he had not expected it to once belong to the founder.

"Young Master, obtaining it is equivalent to being acknowledged as the clan successor by the Lin Clan ancestors! In the future, no one will dare to question your identity!"

Lin Zhong excitedly looked at Lin Xun.

"So it's an acknowledgment of my identity."

Lin Xun's interest waned somewhat. What was the point of obtaining such acknowledgment? It would not make the four branch clans obediently bow their heads in submission.

"Young Master, you've misunderstood."

Lin Zhong said, "Strictly speaking, this ring is the true reason why the Lin Clan has been able to survive till today!"

Lin Xun's body froze as his expression changed. "What do you mean?"

Lin Zhong took a deep breath and said, "Because only through the ring's power can you be able to obtain the Lin Clan's ultimate sacred text, the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture!"

"It is a secret art that only the Lin Clan Leader has the qualifications to learn!"

Lin Xun was completely stunned as a myriad of emotions heaved within him. He had not expected the ring to hide such an astonishing secret. If not for Lin Zhong, Lin Xun would have never realized this in his lifetime.

"Young Master, our Lin Clan was one of the eight high clans five hundred years ago! The Chaotic Void Dao Scripture is the reason why we've been able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other seven high clans!"

Lin Zhong could not help but sigh. "It was regrettable that the old clan leader was unable to comprehend the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture's true secrets despite investing an entire lifetime of effort. His cultivation was stuck at the Cycle Derivation stage and he was unable to become a true Life Death Stage King."



"Originally, the master, your father, had been the most likely person to master the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture due to his outstanding talent and amazing comprehension abilities. However, he met his unfortunate demise in that incident a dozen years ago..."

Lin Zhong's voice had become downcast and his expression gave off an indescribable feeling of loneliness and melancholy.

Only then did Lin Xun realize that he had not only come into possession of an empty shell that was Mind Cleansing Peak, but also the biggest inheritance left by the founder!

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "Uncle Zhong, how do I activate the Chaotic Void Ring's power? Why do I sense nothing special from it?"

Lin Zhong explained, "Young Master, I once heard the old clan leader mention that you would only be able to begin accessing the ring's secrets after stepping into the Spirit Sea stage."

"I see."

After some consideration, Lin Xun carefully kept the Chaotic Void Ring. After all, it was the ultimate treasure of the clan. Once he advanced to the Spirit Sea stage in the future, he would be able to have a peek at the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture!

Lin Zhong suddenly slapped his forehead as if he had recalled something and said, "Young Master, I was too excited earlier and forgot that I had something to report."

Lin Xun was taken aback. "What is it?"

Lin Zhong's expression darkened slightly. "The four branch clans will each be sending a representative to meet you at Mind Cleansing Peak tomorrow afternoon."

Lin Xun raised his brow and icily chuckled. "It's only been two days since I returned to Mind Cleansing Peak. So they're finally unable to sit still any longer?"

#### Chapter 340 Malicious Guests

West Creek Lin Clan, Guest Steward Xiao Fengru

Cloud Weight Lin Clan, Guest Steward Chang Ziheng

Flying Peak Lin Clan, Guest Steward Shi Zhan

North Light Lin Clan, Steward Lin Dahong

Lin Zhong handed over a visiting card with the details of the people who would be coming to Mind Cleansing Peak.

Interesting!

Lin Xun noticed several things after a single glance.

The West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans were sending Guest Stewards. Although their status might seem high, they were ultimately outsiders.

Only the North Light Lin Clan had sent a proper member of the clan.

This alone told Lin Xun many things.

Are these three branch clans trying to say that I do not have the qualifications for them to send important clansmen?

Lin Xun pondered.

Soon after, he asked, "Uncle Zhong, what do you think??"

Lin Zhong solemnly said, "They are up to no good."

Lin Xun acknowledged as iciness flashed in his black eyes. "Uncle Zhong, call Third Old Zhu over. If these 'guests' are indeed coming to cause trouble, it will be a good opportunity to see how capable Third Old Zhu is."

Lin Zhong was slightly taken aback before he nodded and left.

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On the first floor of Mind Cleansing Hall.

It was noon.

Lin Xun silently sat in the master's chair while thinking about something.

Spirit Vulture had left with Xiaoke yesterday and had yet to return. Could a problem have occurred with the recruitment?

"Young Master, noon has passed."

Lin Zhong reminded him.

Lin Xun chuckled. "Uncle Zhong, they're testing my patience. Of course, we cannot cross out the possibility of them doing this on purpose. Regardless, I'm growing increasingly expectant towards their arrival."

There was a smile on his face and his tone was calm, but his black eyes were not smiling at all.

Anyone could tell that Lin Xun was being ironic!

"Right, Third Old Zhu, what is your real name?"

Lin Xun turned his head and looked at Third Old Zhu.

Third Old Zhu flatly replied, "I don't have a name."

His towering figure with messy weed-like hair stood there with his eyes slightly closed, silent as a statue.

Lin Xun acknowledged and did not ask any further.

Third Old Zhu was the type of person that was silent as a rock and probing further would yield nothing.

Time passed, leaving noon further and further behind. Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged, but Lin Zhong's brows gradually furrowed together.

Footsteps suddenly sounded outside the hall.

"Apologies, I encountered some delays on the way. Thank you for waiting."

An apologetic voice sounded, heralding the visitor's arrival. Lin Xun raised his head and saw an appropriately dressed, portly, middle-aged man walk in.

Lin Zhong explained in a low voice, "Young Master, this is Lin Dahong. According to clan seniority, he is your clan uncle."

Lin Xun remained seated. He looked at Lin Dahong and said, "Please be seated."

Lin Dahong did not immediately seat himself but instead cupped his fists together in remorse and said, "We should not have been late. Our four clans had originally arranged to come together but the other three representatives ended up being delayed by some matters. I couldn't wait any longer and decided to come first by myself."

His sincere attitude surprised Lin Xun, causing his expression to soften substantially. At least the other party wasn't showing a bad attitude for now.

Moreover, it had been clear from the visiting card that Lin Dahong was the only proper member of the Lin Clan among the four representatives. This subconsciously improved Lin Xun's opinion of the North Light Lin Clan.

Lin Xun nonchalantly said, "Delayed by some matters? I feel that they're doing this on purpose to show me where I stand."

Lin Dahong merely smiled in response.

"Please be seated."

Lin Xun looked deeply at Lin Dahong before inviting him to be seated again.

Lin Dahong smiled and cupped his fists together. "Thank you."

He randomly picked one of the seats before stealthily observing Lin Xun.

Lin Zhong asked in a low voice, "Young Master, should we proceed?"

"Wait a while longer."

Lin Xun waved his hand and said, "We're still missing the other three representatives. Wouldn't it be too boring without them?"

Lin Dahong's eyes narrowed in thought.

He did not speak much after seating himself, and Lin Xun did not seem to wish to speak first either, making the atmosphere in the hall somewhat stifling.

It was not long before voices sounded outside the hall.

"It's been more than ten years. Who could have imagined that Mind Cleansing Peak would become so run down? It truly pains my heart."

"Who else can we blame but ourselves. If our three clans did not move out from Mind Cleansing Peak, how could we have allowed such a treasure land to fall into this state?"

"Brother Shi does not need to sigh. Our three clans might be able to return to Mind Cleansing Peak soon!"

Their conversation was unrestrained and sounded especially loud amidst the silent atmosphere.

Lin Dahong immediately looked at Lin Xun as if he wanted to see his reaction.

However, Lin Xun was motionless like a rock. His expression remained indifferent and there was even a faint smile on his lips.

Lin Dahong could not help but feel surprised. This young man...seems to be different from expected!

Before coming to Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Dahong had asked around about Lin Xun. Lin Dahong had heard about how Lin Xun had stirred up a huge fuss on the first night he returned to Mind Cleansing Peak and beat up several of the West Creek Lin Clan younger generation members.

There was also the incident of how an elite younger generation West Creek Lin Clan member was stripped naked and humiliated when he tried to seek justice for his fellow clansman.

Lin Dahong had thought that Lin Xun was a violent and impulsive youngster but soon realized he was wrong after observing Lin Xun's behavior.

Interesting!

A slight change occurred in Lin Dahong.

Two men and a woman swaggered into Mind Cleansing Hall as if they owned the place. The men were dressed in fine embroidered clothes and the woman had clearly taken the time to doll herself up.

They stopped chatting when they entered and looked toward Lin Xun. They did not bother hiding the disdain in their eyes upon seeing that he was just a simple-looking young man.

The woman immediately said, "You're the wild child that appeared out of nowhere?"

She wore a white dress and her long hair was coiled into a bun on her head. Although she gave off an air of elegance, her words were sharp and overbearing.

The fact that she openly ridiculed Lin Xun right after entering the hall meant that they were clearly here to cause trouble!

The woman was the Guest Steward from the West Creek Lin Clan, Xiao Fengru.

Lin Zhong's expression immediately darkened.

Before he could speak, one of the other men chuckled and said, "Fengru, don't get angry with a young'un, we're here for formal business."

He had a thin figure and triangular eyes that glimmered with intelligence. He was called Shi Zhan and was from the Flying Peak Lin Clan.

"That's right, let's not delay any further. Everyone's time is very valuable so it would be best to settle things as soon as possible."

The other man nodded in agreement. He had a cold, haughty expression and his voice sounded gentle yet dangerous, like a viper's. His name was Chang Ziheng and he came from the Cloud Weight Lin Clan.

"Fine, let's get down to it."

Xiao Fengru agreed.

Not once had they shown any respect to Lin Xun since entering the hall. Even while conversing, they did not at any point ask for his opinion or give him any chance to interject.

Without knowing the circumstances, someone would probably think they were the owners of Mind Cleansing Peak instead and Lin Xun was a petty criminal awaiting his trial.

This made Lin Zhong's expression turn increasingly stormy. Just as he was about to say something, Lin Xun stopped him with a smile. "Let them continue."

Lin Dahong, who had been watching from the beginning, suddenly felt an unexplainable chill as his eyelids jumped.

This youngster is way too composed!

Lin Dahong knew that he would not feel good if he was on the receiving end of such disdain instead. After all, if Lin Xun was indeed Lin Wenjing's flesh and blood, he would indeed be Mind Cleansing Peak's only legitimate successor.

Of course, that was only in name.

Regardless, Xiao Fengru, Chang Ziheng, and Shi Zhan were 'outsiders' compared to Lin Xun!

They were not clan members. Instead, they were people from the Lin Clan's subsidiary factions!

Hence, this behavior was too much.

Even if the other clans wished to make things difficult for Lin Xun, there was no need for them to let outsiders ridicule him, right?

Lin Dahong immediately concluded that the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak Lin Clans had sent these three representatives to cause trouble!

While such thoughts were swirling in his head, Xiao Fengru suddenly sneered after hearing Lin Xun's words. "Kid, stop acting like you're something in front of us! If you obediently cooperate, we will not make things difficult for you. If you don't, don't blame us for showing no courtesy!"

Lin Xun smiled and asked, "So how should I cooperate?"

Xiao Fengru frowned. The fact that Lin Xun could still smile at such a time made her feel disgusted and frustrated.

"It's very simple. Our four clans have already decided that we will return to Mind Cleansing Peak tomorrow. All of Mind Cleansing Peak's affairs shall become our responsibility."

Xiao Fengru finally revealed their motive.

There was no room for compromise or discussion. Whether he listened or not did matter. The decision had already been made and all he needed to do was follow instructions!

"Of course, since you are a member of the Lin Clan, our four clans will not make things difficult for you as long as you comply. We will allow you to stay in Mind Cleansing Peak and even treat you well such that you will never need to worry a day in your life."

Xiao Fengru arrogantly raised her chin like a queen who was giving a command. "These conditions are already very generous and we do not even seek your gratitude. We only hope that you remember that Mind Cleansing Peak is not something a hairless brat like you should even think about owning!"

Lin Zhong's entire body trembled in anger. This was a clear threat and ridicule!

What did they take the Young Master for?

What did they take the Lin Clan's direct bloodline for?

The most detestable part was that these humiliating words had been said by an outsider! This was far too vile!

Lin Xun could not help but narrow his eyes.

Just as Lin Dahong was sure that Lin Xun could no longer tolerate this and was going to shoot back, he suddenly smiled faintly and looked at Lin Dahong.

"Do you also share their opinion?"

The sentence made Lin Dahong's heart tighten as his expression changed slightly.