

Prodigies 351

Chapter 351 Meeting

Young Master broke through?

Lin Zhong's heart pounded, but when he looked at Lin Xun closer, he found that he didn't exude the aura unique to the Spirit Sea Stage.

He couldn't help but feel a little bewildered.

The aura around Young Master is so strong like a raging storm, and his body is like a giant abyss. He doesn't seem like a Heaven Dipper Stage cultivator at all.

Unfortunately, it doesn't look like he has made a breakthrough.

What is happening?

Lin Xun's dark eyes returned to their usual tranquil state as the storm vortex in his eyes faded. The aura around his body gradually became still and calm.

He rose to his feet and stood tall on the edge of the cliff. The mountainous wind whipped his long, messy hair around, adding an ethereal and detached air to him.

He brought out his blade and made several slashing motions, swiftly cutting his straw-like hair and beard. Then, he casually tied up his hair with a silk string.

His appearance had become like it was in the past. His weather-beaten face was suddenly full of vigor.

Lin Zhong couldn't help but ask, "Young Master, did you break through?"

Lin Xun shook his head with a smile. "There's no rush. I haven't seen enough of the phenomena between heaven and earth. I will break through when there is a need."

His voice was calm and indifferent and seemed to contain absolute confidence. It was as though it was a trivial matter to break through and Lin Zhong shouldn't worry.

A strange feeling rose in Lin Zhong's heart. His young master looked the same as before, but he felt that his young master had undergone a drastic transformation after his twenty days of closed-door cultivation.

He had become calmer, more unemotional, and more unfathomable.

"Uncle Zhong, tell me what happened during my cultivation."

Lin Xun came over, treading along the winding mountainous path from the edge of the cliff.

"Young Master, a lot has happened..." Lin Zhong hurriedly stood beside him and reported all the incidents.

When Lin Xun returned to the study on the second floor of Mind Cleansing Hall, he had gained a good understanding of what happened in the Forbidden City while he was gone.

The auction successfully happened in Stone Cauldron Alms, which was undoubtedly a good thing for Lin Xun. He would be able to find out how much money his extraordinary rare treasures had fetched from the auction the next time he visited them.

Lin Xun had no interest in the duel between Monk Yinian from the Fullmoon Kingdom and Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang.

However, he was surprised to hear that Yinian was evenly matched with Xie Yutang.

He knew that the Fullmoon Kingdom, a small kingdom more than ten thousand miles west of the empire, was a sacred cultivation place for monks.

The Fullmoon Kingdom was far inferior to the Violet Glory Empire in terms of strength, and many cultivators thought little of it given that it was only a small kingdom.

However, Yinian had proved that extremely outstanding people also existed outside of the empire.

Lin Xun was most curious about the result of the national examination.

Lin Xun was familiar with two of the top three candidates in the national exam. The first one was Bai Lingxi, the eldest granddaughter of the Marquis Jinghai and the blessed maiden of heaven, whom he had met in Blood Kill Camp.

He distinctly remembered that Bai Lingxi was born with the innate talent of Eternal Shining Stars!

It was a mysterious and extremely rare spirit talent.

According to the classification of talents in the empire, Forever Shining Stars was ranked grade 4.

Even though the innate talent was only grade 4, it still helped her surpass the vast majority of cultivators in the empire.

After all, very few cultivators in the empire possessed innate talents.

Moreover, Bai Lingxi had formed a supreme-grade aeth power reservoir when she broke through to the Human Dipper Stage!

Bai Lingxi had told Lin Xun about that secret, so he knew very well how terrifying Bai Lingxi's talent and foundation were.

However, he had never thought that she could achieve third place in the national examination!

Undoubtedly, Bai Lingxi had improved massively after leaving Blood Kill Camp and had become completely different to in the past.

The person ranked second in the national exam was Chi Cangfeng. Lin Xun scrunched his eyebrows when he heard the name. He remembered that Chi Cangfeng was younger than him, so he was very surprised to hear that he achieved second place in the national examination. That kid must have some talent.

The person who obtained first place was someone Lin Xun was very unfamiliar with—Song Yi. He couldn't imagine what sort of peerless genius he was to be able to surpass people like Chi Cangfeng and Bai Lingxi.

Lin Xun couldn't help but sigh. There is indeed no shortage of demonic talents. There's always someone better, and there is always a sky beyond the sky.

"Young Master, there is one more thing I want to tell you. Miss Xiaoke has already found out that the ambush on the night we returned from Stone Cauldron Alms was an operation carried out by three collateral branches of the Lin Clan—the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak," Lin Zhong suddenly said.

"The Heaven Ascension leader has the nickname Old Devil Qu. He is a notorious old devil in the empire and is an expert in spirit searching and soul seizing arts."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He had thought that the Chi Family was behind the ambush that night. Apparently, he had underestimated how despicable the other branches of the Lin Family were!

"According to Mister Spirit Vulture, the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan intend to use some underhanded methods to control you and make you their puppet. That would not only put your life at risk but also help them regain control of Mind Cleansing Peak and the power of the clan. It's such a sinister move." Lin Zhong's voice contained a hint of chilling intent. Their malicious action had infuriated him.

"In other words, if I leave Mind Cleansing Peak, I might be attacked or ambushed by them?" A cold glint flashed in Lin Xun's dark eyes.

"That's correct. Mister Spirit Vulture suggests you bring Third Old Zhu when you go out in the future to avoid any accidents."

Lin Xun nodded and then asked thoughtfully, "Uncle Zhong, if I kill some members of the Lin family, will you... stop me?"

Lin Zhong's body went stiff and his face clouded over. "Young Master, you are the master of Mind Cleansing Peak. I will not go against your will, but I will have to ask you to do your best to restrain yourself. After all, it's not good to kill your own family."

A cold smile curved Lin Xun's lips. "Let's see."

Lin Zhong sighed inwardly, knowing that the three collateral branches of the Lin Family had completely angered Lin Xun.

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Early in the morning.

Lin Xun left Mind Cleansing Peak with Lin Zhong on the jeweled carriage from Shi Yu.

The driver of the carriage was Third Old Zhu.

It was the day of the duel that they had agreed on with the North Light Lin Clan. Lin Xun was heading to them to have a duel with Lin Xuefeng.

Lin Xun didn't dare to be careless this time, so he brought Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong with him in case of an ambush from the other collateral branches of the Lin Clan.

Most importantly, he was worried that he would encounter danger on the way to the North Light Lin Clan! Although the North Light Lin Clan had shown a relatively kinder attitude towards him compared to the other Lin Clan branches, they could still turn hostile all of a sudden. After all, Lin Xun was heading to their headquarters. The consequences were unimaginable if they suddenly changed their attitude and attacked him instead.

Lin Xun had to keep his guard up even if the possibility of that happening was very low. He was confident that the North Light Lin Clan wouldn't act rashly with Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong, who was once known as White Casanova, accompanying him.

"Young Master, here is some information about Lin Xuefeng."

Lin Zhong handed a piece of paper to Lin Xun.

[Lin Xuefeng, eighteen years old, the son of Lin Huaiyuan, the head of the North Light Lin Clan. He formed a first-grade aeth power reservoir Misty Rain Mountain when he broke through to the Human Dipper Stage. He is the most dazzling and leading figure among the younger generation of the North Light Lin Clan.

Currently cultivation level: Spirit Sea Stage.

Lin Xuefeng successfully passed the national examination with a ranking of seventy-nine and is one of only two descendants of the Lin Family who had passed the national examination.]

Lin Xun exclaimed, "There is another person besides Lin Xuefeng who passed?"

Lin Zhong said casually, "The other is a descendant of the Cloud Weight Lin Family. She is called Lin Qinglan and is your older cousin. She is eighteen years old this year and is very talented. She was ranked seventy-two in the national examination and has been enrolled into Qinglu Academy for cultivation next year along with Lin Xuefeng."

Lin Xun nodded and said with a smile, "I'm just a little surprised that people of the Lin Clan can still pass the national examination after the Lin Clan's decline."

Lin Zhong sighed, "Young Master, when Duke Daochen was still around, the top ten places were all occupied by the descendants of our clan. Master was...was second in the national exam and Lady was first!"

Lin Xun fell silent. Indescribable emotions swirled in his heart at the mention of his father and mother.

After a while, he shook his head and smiled. "I will also give the national examination a try next year. I have to obtain a dazzling result for the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan!"

Lin Zhong beamed. "Young Master, next year you will be at the Spirit Sea Stage and will no doubt be in the top five of the national exam!"

In his view, Lin Xun was the son of Lin Wenjing and Luo Qingxun, so he would no doubt take first place in the national examination given the fact that his mother Luo Qingxun had been first in the national examination and his father Lin Wenjing had taken second in the national examination.

Of course, this was only Lin Zhong's view. He didn't dare to talk nonsense in order to not give Lin Xun too much pressure.

At that moment, Third Old Zhu said bluntly, "We're here."

Chapter 352 Bring Humiliation Upon Yourself

The jeweled carriage came to a halt.

As Lin Xun got off the carriage, a towering building not too far away caught his attention.

It was the residence of the North Light Lin Clan.

Lin Zhong stepped forward and exchanged a few words with the servant guarding the residence entrance. Soon, Lin Dahong hurriedly darted out of the residence.

He smiled and gave a cupped fist salute. "Please forgive me for not coming out to welcome you. Please come with me."

He quickly invited Lin Xun inside.

Lin Xun smiled and followed him.

Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu shadowed him closely like loyal servants.

However, just as Lin Xun stepped into the residence and before he could look around, a squeaky scream rang out.

"That kid dares to come here? Haha, he's brave. Where is he now?"

Before the voice died away, a young master dressed in a gold robe with a jade fan came over with a threatening-looking group of men and women behind him.

The golden-robed young master immediately pinned a glare at Lin Xun and smiled coldly. "You're Lin Xun? You want to challenge Big Brother Xuefeng. You're too arrogant."

"That guy is Lin Xun? He doesn't seem to be anything special."

"He's only in his teens. I don't know where he got the confidence to take over Mind Cleansing Peak."

The group of men and women behind the golden-robed man all rudely criticized Lin Xun without holding back.

Lin Xun couldn't help but frown and looked at Lin Dahong. Just as they stepped into the entrance of North Light Lin Clan, a group of youngsters had aggressively blocked their path.

Lin Dahong's face darkened as he scolded, "Xuedong! Don't be rude! Lin Xun is a distinguished guest of our North Light Lin Clan. Move out of the way. We have an important matter to attend to!"

The golden-robed young master refused to budge and said contemptuously, "Uncle Dahong, of course, we know Lin Xun is a guest, but he looks so plain. How is he qualified to challenge Big Brother Xuefeng?"

"Yes, what kind of status does Big Brother Xuefeng have? How can anyone challenge him?"

The other youngsters echoed.

Lin Dahong's face grew increasingly dark. "If you don't move aside, don't blame me for punishing you according to the rules of the clan!"

He never expected such an incident to happen after he welcomed Lin Xun inside. It would be very troublesome if Lin Xun misunderstood.

Immediately, the young men and women curbed their arrogant behavior, but the golden-robed young master straightened his neck and shouted out loud, "Uncle Dahong, I didn't come to create trouble but if that kid can get past me then we will move aside for him. Otherwise, we won't let him challenge Big Brother Xuefeng even if you punish us according to the rules of the clan!"

"You..." Lin Dahong's face was livid, but there was nothing he could do.

The golden-robed young master was called Lin Xuedong and was Lin Xuefeng's younger brother and the son of Lin Huaiyuan, the head of the North Light Lin Clan.

Given his identity, Lin Dahong couldn't do anything to him.

Lin Xuedong turned his gaze to Lin Xun and smiled provocatively. "Lin Xun, if you have the guts then don't make things difficult for Uncle Dahong. Do you dare to fight against me first?"

All the youngsters were stirred up.

"If you're a man then take the fight!"

"Hey, I think he's scared. Wasn't there a rumor in the city a while ago that he's the weakest head of a clan in the Forbidden City?"

"Head of an aristocratic clan? Is he worthy of that title? Without our consent, he can never rightfully inherit Mind Cleansing Peak!"

Lin Xun coldly watched on. It was obvious that many people didn't like him coming to the North Light Lin Clan.

Moreover, many opposed his duel with Lin Xuefeng.

"Lin Xun, this..."

Just as Lin Dahong was about to explain, Lin Xun shook his head like he didn't care. "Third Old Zhu, can you lead the way for us?"

This is bad!

Lin Dahong trembled inwardly, afraid of what would happen. He didn't expect Lin Xun to send out a terrifying figure like Third Old Zhu without uttering a word.

When they were on Mind Cleansing Peak, Third Old Zhu had forced Xiao Fengru and the others to kneel with his murderous intent alone!

His ability was terrifyingly shocking.

What if Third Old Zhu acted with murderous intent?

However, it was too late for Lin Dahong to stop him.

Third Old Zhu's mighty figure had marched forward like an iron tower, his unkempt face devoid of expression.

"Lin Xun, you..."

Lin Xuedong fumed, thinking that Lin Xun was shameless and had no backbone to send out a servant.

However, just as he opened his mouth, he was hurled across the air and slammed to the ground like a giant hand had picked him up.

He couldn't get back up regardless of how he struggled.

Not only Lin Xuedong, but the other youngsters were also sent flying and scattered across the ground.

Let alone struggle, they couldn't even scream out loud. They looked incredibly tragic like they had been imprisoned on the spot.

Third Old Zhu hadn't uttered a single word or moved a finger. He just continued to march forward in a mighty and invincible manner.

"Clan Uncle, let's go." Lin Xun stepped forward with a smile.

The corners of Lin Dahong's lips twitched violently. He let out a sigh and followed them. He was just glad that Third Old Zhu hadn't done anything. Otherwise, the consequences would have been serious.

"Young Master is very kind. According to the rules of the clan, anyone who dares challenge the authority of the clan leader will suffer a fate ten times worse than that," Lin Zhong reminded him.

Lin Dahong shuddered and smiled wryly. Whom could he blame?

"Lin Xun, you are so despicable! A despicable person like you isn't worthy to be in charge of Mind Cleansing Peak!"

Watching Lin Xun walk further and further away, Lin Xuedong somehow gathered the strength to let out a vicious cry despite not being able to rise from the ground.

Lin Xun paused his footsteps and turned around with a smile. "Whether you like it or not, I am now in charge of Mind Cleansing Peak. I can forgive you for your ignorance just now, but if you provoke me once more, you might not be able to bear the consequences. Remember, it mustn't happen again."

He walked away in huge strides.

"You..." Lin Xuedong gritted his teeth, his expression changing indefinitely.

That kid has just come to the North Light Lin Clan but he didn't act humbly and instead showed such a tough attitude. He is too arrogant!

The other youngsters' faces grew overcast.

They had planned to make things difficult for Lin Xun and make him know how powerful they were.

Who would have thought that Lin Xun had completely disregarded them and just ordered someone to suppress them!?

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The territory of the North Light Lin Clan was extremely huge, spanning tens of acres. Grand courtyards and beautiful pavilions stood in every corner, and the scenery was as stunning as a painting.

The North Light Lin Clan had enjoyed a very good life after moving away from Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Where are we going?" asked Lin Xun.

"The training grounds," stated Lin Dahong. "Many people in the clan know you are coming today so they have been waiting there for a long time. The duel between you and Xuefeng will also take place there."

Lin Xun nodded and suddenly asked, "Currently, many people in the North Light Lin Clan refuse to acknowledge my identity, is that right?"

Lin Dahong murmured inwardly. Not only are they refusing to acknowledge your identity, but they also hate the fact that they can't seize power from your hands like the other three branches of the Lin Clan!

Of course, Lin Dahong couldn't say that out loud. He just smiled helplessly and explained, "After all, you're new here so it will be hard to make them obey you. But don't worry. Since Patriarch North Light has arranged this opportunity for you, you may be able to change the clan members' opinions of you if you win."

Lin Xun could tell that Lin Dahong's words were untruthful, but he didn't expose him. Instead, he said aloud, "That's good. To be honest, I only came to visit Fifth Granduncle."

"Lin Xun, you have good intentions, but you have to win against Xuefeng first. You will have to depend on yourself and no outsiders can help you." As he was speaking, he inadvertently glanced at Third Old Zhu.

He wasn't optimistic about Lin Xun's duel with Lin Xuefeng.

Although Lin Xun could tell what was on his mind, he didn't expose him and just smiled.

Before long, another incident happened!

A man in a jade-colored robe blocked the path ahead and reprimanded Lin Dahong in the face, "Dahong, how can you be a clan uncle? How can you let outsiders bully the children of our clan?"

It seemed that the jade-robed man had already learned about what had happened to Lin Xuedong and other youngsters.

Before Lin Dahong could explain, the man in the jade-colored robe fixed Lin Xun with a cold look.

"You're Lin Xun? You are so young but so arrogant already! If you bow your head and apologize now, I will forgive you for your mistake. Otherwise, you are not welcome in the North Light Lin Clan!" His tone was aggressive and threatening.

Lin Xun scrunched his brows. "Clan Uncle, this is....?"

“Lin Daqian, according to the family line, he is your clan uncle,” Lin Dahong explained.

“Lin Xun, please don’t stir trouble again.”

It was unknown whether Lin Xun heard him but he calmly swept a glance over Lin Daqian and smiled. “Since Lin Xuedong and the others dared to provoke me, you must be the one instigating them, am I right?”

Lin Daqian’s expression altered subtly. “Junior, you won’t acknowledge your mistake and are accusing other people instead!”

Lin Xun ignored him and said, “Third Old Zhu.”

That name had almost become Lin Xun’s catchphrase. And every time, Lin Dahong shuddered with fear.

He cried out. “No! Don’t!”

With a whoosh, he stood in front of Third Old Zhu and yelled at Lin Daqian, “Brother Daqian, please move aside!”

“I...”

Lin Daqian wasn’t an idiot, so how could he not tell that Third Old Zhu was an extremely fierce and powerful character.

“Junior, just you wait!” Lin Daqian flung his sleeve and stormed off, looking livid.

As Lin Xun watched his figure disappear, he gently spat out five words. “You have brought humiliation upon yourself!”

Chapter 353 Don’t Be So Ambitious

Have brought humiliation upon yourself!

Lin Dahong couldn’t help but smile wryly. Lin Xun has summoned Third Old Zhu every so often but this is the territory of the North Light Lin Clan! Isn’t he worried about causing a catastrophic disaster?

Lin Xun indeed wasn’t worried. His situation was already very bad. He knew people would try to bully him even more if he behaved cowardly!

He had hoped to win the support of the North Light Lin Clan, but if not, it didn’t matter.

He had already become enemies with the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak Lin Clan. It didn’t matter to him if he made another enemy.

Of course, that would be the worst outcome. He just hoped that the North Light Lin Clan wouldn’t make things too difficult for him. Fortunately, he didn’t run into any more troubles or obstructions along the way. Soon, under Lin Dahong’s guidance, he came to the training grounds.

It was an extremely spacious area paved with tough stones and covered with extraordinary rune arrays. The surroundings of the training grounds were already crowded with thousands of people of all ages!

“Why are there so many people?” asked Lin Xun.

Lin Dahong explained, "There are only hundreds of clan members in the North Light Lin Clan. The rest are relatives and guests."

Lin Xun nodded while complicated feelings swirled in his heart. If the Lin Family hadn't suffered that tragedy, we would have many more clan members, right?

"Look, I think that kid is Lin Xun!"

"Hmph! Uncle Daqian said that he bullied other clan members just now and even treated him rudely. He is so arrogant."

"He even dared to come here! Ignorant people are indeed fearless!"

"I don't know what Patriarch North Light thinks of that kid. He even arranged for Brother Xuefeng to have a duel with him. This is showing him too much grace!"

Clamor broke out from the crowd when they noticed Lin Xun.

Those voices of disdain, displeasure, anger and contempt made it obvious that most of the members of the North Light Lin Clan were against Lin Xun's visit. Although Lin Xun had already expected their response, he was still a little surprised to see it.

"Lin Xun, you should be more tolerant and don't get angry anymore to avoid causing a huge disaster. If you do, even Patriarch North Light can't do anything to help you," Lin Dahong whispered imploringly.

Lin Xun's terrifying means of the attack shocked him, and he was very worried that Lin Xun would go crazy again.

"Yes, I won't." Lin Xun smiled, looking relaxed.

However, his indifferent manner made Lin Dahong smile wryly. That kid...where did he get such courage?

Fortunately, someone came to rescue Lin Dahong. It was a middle-aged man in a purple robe who had jet-black hair and eyes as deep as an abyss. He exuded a confident and graceful bearing. He strode towards them and first glanced at Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong before he turned to Lin Xun and asked, "You are Lin Xun?"

Lin Dahong quickly introduced him, "Lin Xun, this is Lin Huaiyuan, the head of the North Light Lin Clan, your clan elder uncle."

"I pay respects to Elder Uncle." Lin Xun bowed with a cupped fist salute.

"Good, since you came, you must be ready for the duel. You can head to the training grounds and wait there. Xuefeng will be there soon."

Lin Huaiyuan exuded authority. He was neither happy nor angry, making it impossible to read his mind.

"Okay." Lin Xun nodded.

Lin Xun's quick answer surprised Lin Huaiyuan a little. He couldn't help but take a deep look at Lin Xun and said, "Just do your best. It is fine to admit defeat. No one in the North Light Lin Clan will make things difficult for you."

Lin Xun said with a smile, "Elder Uncle, thank you for the reminder."

From beginning to end, Lin Xun acted politely and showed little emotional changes.

"Go ahead." Lin Huaiyuan said nothing else.

Lin Xun asked Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu Lao to wait for him while he headed into the training grounds alone.

The people waiting there were suddenly stirred up and broke into an uproar.

"Look, that kid dares to take the challenge!"

"Hmph, ignorant people indeed have no fear. If he knew how strong Xuefeng is, he would regret agreeing to the duel."

"Haha, but this works out better. I am already very annoyed to hear the kid claims that he's the leader of Mind Cleansing Peak. It would be great if Xuefeng can teach him a lesson."

All sorts of mocking and contemptuous remarks rang out one after another.

Lin Xun's graceful figure calmly moved forward amidst the waves of voices like he was unaffected in any way.

As he came to the center of the training grounds, he stood quietly, looked down and lowered his head, like a monk entering a meditative state. His calm behavior astonished many people because they knew many youngsters would have lost their composure. Lin Xun didn't. However, most people subconsciously believed that Lin Xun was acting tough. After all, he was only at the Heaven Dipper Stage. He was doomed to lose to an unrivaled talent such as Lin Xuefeng regardless if he had cultivated a calm state of mind!

He looked like a broken jar.

"Hey, Lin Xun, I advise you to surrender now! Do you think you can challenge Big Brother Xuefeng? You don't know what's good for you," a woman uttered coldly. *OverNext.com*

"If I were you, I wouldn't do something so embarrassing. If you're smart, you will admit defeat now. Then, perhaps, people will look at you differently."

Regardless of how grating the mocking remarks were, Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged.

Lin Zhong's face grew overcast, and his heart ached with helplessness. If the Lin Family still had their tremendous power, who would dare humiliate Young Master?

The clansmen of the collateral branches have gone too far!

Lin Dahong looked deeply worried. But it wasn't because he found it unfair for Lin Xun. Rather, he was worried that Lin Xun wouldn't be able to tolerate the humiliation and go crazy again.

Only Third Old Zhu stood there silently like a statue.

However, no one seemed to notice the flicker of strange light that flashed in the depths of his eyes when they swept over Lin Xun.

"Everyone, forgive me for being late." Suddenly, a clear and sonorous voice rang in the distance.

It was just one sentence but everyone's expression changed. Their faces lit up with excitement and admiration as they cheered. Some women even screamed.

"Big Brother Xuefeng! Big Brother Xuefeng is here!"

"Hahaha, a good show is about to start. Big Brother Xuefeng has already demonstrated his unrivaled strength in the national exams a few days ago and made a successful breakthrough. Compared to him, Lin Xun is just a clown."

A divine arc of misty rain spread across the sky and a youngster in white trod lightly across it. His eyes sparkled like stars and his brows were fierce like swords. A feathered hat crowned his face. He exuded a misty aura as he strolled across the sky, looking leisurely yet extraordinary.

Some people were extraordinary from one glance. Lin Xuefeng was such a person. His bearing alone was superior to those of ordinary people.

Whoosh!

He hovered down into the arena like a crane standing among a flock of chickens. Thunderous cheers erupted from the crowd.

"I haven't seen Xuefeng in many years. He has grown so much but he likes to show off his talent too much. He likely will encounter many setbacks in the future," Lin Zhong uttered quietly.

"Lin Zhong, what did you say!?" Lin Dahong's eyes widened.

He didn't dare to scold Lin Xun, but he had no respect for an old servant like Lin Zhong. Lin Zhong gave an awkward smile but didn't explain himself.

Lin Xun raised his eyes, studying Lin Xuefeng who was dozens of feet away. From one glance, he could tell that his opponent was at the Spirit Sea Stage and had innate power lingering threateningly around his body.

"You're Lin Xun? Sorry to keep you waiting."

Lin Xuefeng peered at Lin Xun. The cheering and applause died away as he spoke, which made him appear even more powerful and extraordinary.

"It's fine," said Lin Xun nonchalantly.

"I know that you are the direct descendant of Uncle Wenjing. Since we're from the same clan, I have some advice for you," said Lin Xuefeng

"Please go ahead."

"I have always had the goal to lead the entire Lin Family back to Mind Cleansing Peak and restore our former glory, which includes getting revenge for our clan."

Lin Xuefeng's voice was resounding. "My great-grandfather had always reminded me of this. I will never forget the humiliation we suffered and the hatred we have towards the enemy. Your return has given me an opportunity!"

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. "What opportunity?"

Lin Xuefeng's eyes were fixed on Lin Xun like a bolt of lightning as he said each word loudly and clearly, "An opportunity to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak, solve our internal troubles, and unify the Lin Clan!"

His voice, sonorous and full of confidence, drew applause from the audience.

Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Daqian and Lin Dahong couldn't help but smile and nod proudly.

On the contrary, Lin Zhong's face darkened. He said it very nicely, but his intention was very vicious. He just wants to take away the power that Young Master rightfully inherited.

Lin Xun smiled. "Your ambitions are a little too big. I also have some advice for you. Don't be too ambitious."

Lin Xuefeng scrunched his brows but before he spoke, the people around broke into an uproar.

"Little trash, what are you saying?"

"Nonsense! Is that something you can say?"

"Big Brother Xuefeng, ignore him. Talking to him will just lower yourself!"

Lin Xuefeng waved his hand, signaling the commotion to stop. Then, he calmly looked at Lin Xun and said, "You don't need to look so conflicted. As your elder brother, I won't let you be treated coldly. On the contrary, if you hand over Mind Cleansing Peak, I can promise that you will receive the same status and identity as any other clansmen. Also, I will help you get revenge."

After a pause, superior confidence gleamed in his eyes as he continued, "I sincerely mean it. You should know that I'm more suitable to take over Mind Cleansing Peak in every aspect compared to you!"

He spoke righteously and seemed to be taking Lin Xun and the entire Lin Family into consideration. The spectators couldn't help but erupt with applause and cheers again.

Lin Xun fell silent, a cold intent swirling in the depths of his dark eyes.

Chapter 354 Jaw Drop

Seeing Lin Xun fall silent, a hint of a smile curved Lin Xuefeng's lips.

"Lin Xun, I know you're very tired and you have many things to take care of. But with your ability, you can't bear such a heavy responsibility," Lin Xuefeng said gently. "Leave it to me and you won't have to be so tired. I will support the entire Lin Family."

All eyes shifted to Lin Xun.

Many people felt that Lin Xuefeng had shown utmost sincerity and that Lin Xun should accept his proposal.

Lin Zhong's face grew overcast and troubled. He had thought that they were here for a duel, but it turned out there were so many dirty tricks hidden behind it

If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have let Young Master come here!

"Ahh." Lin Xun broke the silence with a long sigh. "I never thought I would meet someone who understands my situation in the Lin Family. Most importantly, that person willingly wants to share my burden."

Everyone was stirred up, thinking that Lin Xun was smart to accept Lin Xuefeng's proposal.

The smile on Lin Xuefeng's lips became warmer and gentler as he was very pleased to hear Lin Xun's response. He even thought to offer Lin Xun some benefits once he handed over the power of Mind Cleansing Peak.

To his surprise, Lin Xun quickly changed the topic and said vaguely, "How could I, Lin Xun, deserve such kindness?"

As he was speaking, his face bore a look of determination and his voice turned sonorous, "Forget it. Just let me bear the burden alone. As the saying goes, one must sacrifice oneself to save others."

Everyone was dumbfounded and couldn't believe what they had heard. Is that kid crazy? How can he say something so shameless?

The smile froze on Lin Xuefeng's lips as he said in a disbelieving tone, "Lin Xun, did...did you misunderstand?"

Lin Xun let out a deep sigh, "Elder Brother, you're not mistaken. I'm serious, let me bear the burden myself."

Everyone finally realized that Lin Xun was deliberately playing tricks on them!

How annoying!

Many people's faces darkened. That kid is so obnoxious. He could have refused directly, but he dared to play such a prank on us. He has a death wish!

Even Lin Xuefeng, who had cultivated a calm state of mind, felt a suffocating feeling in his chest, and a chilling look crossed his face.

"Well, if you don't appreciate the kindness, we will have to settle it in the arena!"

Lin Xuefeng seemed to be saying, "Don't blame me for being heartless."

Lin Xun smiled agreeingly. "It should have been this way from the start."

The corners of Lin Xuefeng's lips twitched imperceptibly. He felt he would lose his temper if he continued talking to Lin Xun.

"I'm so pissed off! That kid has gone too far! Big Brother Xuefeng, teach him a lesson that he will never forget!" someone roared in fury.

"Yes! We can't let him off easily!"

The others followed him, yelling in indignation.

Afar, Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Daqian and the others couldn't help but frown. They knew that Lin Xun wouldn't give up anymore. In their opinion, Lin Xun was an arrogant kid who wouldn't stop until he reached his goal.

Perhaps, he has to be taught a lesson to understand the situation.

On the contrary, Lin Zhong laughed. This is Young Master! He doesn't like to show off, but he won't let anyone take advantage of him!

Immediately, Lin Zhong tensed up again, worried whether Lin Xun could withstand one hundred attacks from Lin Xuefeng if the duel happened between them.

After all, the two were at different cultivation levels!

Moreover, Lin Xuefeng wasn't an ordinary person. He was a talented youngster who had passed the national examination. He would no doubt bring pressure on Lin Xun.

Lin Zhong felt helpless as there wasn't anything he could do to help Lin Xun. He could only pray for a miracle to happen.

.....

"If you can withstand one hundred strokes, you are considered the winner!"

Lin Xuefeng's cold voice echoed throughout the training grounds. Instantly, the imposing aura around his body changed, and the misty rain rippled. He sent terrifying qi shooting straight into the sky, agitating the clouds and wind.

His white robe fluttered around him as he stood still, demonstrating the bearing and power of a Spirit Sea cultivator without any restraint.

Many people's eyes lit up with amazement.

"Remember, I won't hold back."

Lin Xuefeng resembled a divine being as his long hair danced in the air and misty rain surrounded his body.

Lin Xun smiled slightly. "It's best not to hold back. Otherwise, when you lose, people will think that you deliberately let me win and that would make me feel very uncomfortable."

"You..." Lin Xuefeng's face turned dark.

Shua!

Lin Xun made a move. Enveloped in a sky blue glow, he sped into the air like a bolt of lightning.

Boom!

A dazzling fist slammed out.

It seemed to contain the power to smash mountains and crush everything in the way. Of course, it was the Mountain Smashing Destruction move from the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art!

The space crumbled with a whimper, and the airflow was disturbed.

Huh?

Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Daqian and other powerful figures widened their eyes in bewilderment. It wasn't easy to possess such terrifying power at the Heaven Dipper Stage.

No wonder that kid dared to accept the challenge. It turns out that he has such power. Unfortunately, he is facing Xuefeng. Regardless of how powerful he is among Heaven Dipper cultivators, he is destined to lose this battle.

Lin Xuefeng didn't take Lin Xun seriously at first. In his view, Lin Xun was just a teenager at the Heaven Dipper Stage and wouldn't be able to shake him at all.

However, he realized he had underestimated Lin Xun when he saw the powerful punch.

"Nice!"

Lin Xuefeng grinned. Standing in the same spot, he thrust his hand into the air.

Wisps of divine light gathered and drizzled down like misty rain. It was as though a master painter was splashing ink freely and leisurely in the air.

"Misty Rain Transformation Art!"

"It's remarkable that Big Brother Xuefeng has mastered this unique art to such a level."

"That kid Lin Xun is going to suffer!"

Many people exclaimed with excitement, amazed by Lin Xuefeng's ability.

Rumble—

Terrifying collisions rang in the air, and divine light rapidly spread across the area.

The rune array around the training grounds had long been activated. An invisible defense force shrouded the arena and completely dissolved the impact of the battle to prevent the audience from being wounded.

Da Da Da—

Lin Xun reeled back several steps.

A burst of laughter erupted from the audience. One move is enough to determine who is the stronger one!

However, to everyone's surprise, Lin Xun smiled slightly and said, "This is the power of the Spirit Sea Stage? It's nothing special!"

Before his voice faded, he was already charging forward.

His imposing bearing had intensified compared to before. His entire body was enveloped in divine sky blue power, making him look as strong as a dragon.

"You don't know what's good for you!" Lin Xuefeng snorted coldly.

Then, with a swoosh, he floated forward like the misty rain, gathering tremendous force to his fair hand. He sneered and slammed his palm forward.

Rumble—

The two repeatedly clashed like two volcanoes, crushing the surrounding space and making the world pale from its terrifying powers.

It had to be said that Spirit Sea power was indeed terrifying. A Spirit Sea cultivator could draw upon the power of heaven and earth with the turn of a hand and produce a power capable of disrupting yin and yang.

In just a few seconds, Lin Xun was sent flying across the air.

However, to everyone's amazement, he charged forward again like nothing had happened.

"How is that possible?"

"When did Heaven Dipper cultivators become so powerful?"

Many people exclaimed.

Even Lin Huaiyuan and the others narrowed their eyes. Lin Xun has such extraordinary tenacity. Other Heaven Dipper cultivators would not be able to withstand more than three attacks from Lin Xuefeng! I am not looking down on the heroes of the world, but I know that someone at a higher cultivation level always has an absolute advantage. This is the reason why Heaven Dipper cultivators can't bear attacks from Spirit Sea cultivators. Not only is Lin Xun unscathed after being blasted back two times, but his imposing bearing has also grown even stronger!

Another thought flashed across Lin Huayuan's mind. That kid has a very powerful foundation. Many people at the Spirit Dipper Stage are no match for him. If he was given a few more years, he may perhaps become comparable to Xuefeng. Unfortunately, only one person can take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak and Lin Xun currently isn't as good as Xuefeng.

Lin Xun was fully immersed in the battle. His mind was clear of everything apart from the battle. He was completely focused on fully presenting the wonders of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art.

Mountain Smashing Destruction, Sea Splitting Destruction, Emptiness Destruction, Soul Shattering Destruction, Dragon Destruction, Phoenix Destruction...

Lin Xun effortlessly displayed the wonders of the ancient art concealed in the Ancient Heavenshaking Stamp fragment that he found in the Omega Secret Realm.

Even so, he was constantly blasted back. Although he hadn't sustained any injuries, his blood and qi were tumbling ceaselessly around his body and it felt unbearable.

Lin Xuefeng was indeed very powerful and could be the most powerful opponent, other than Chi Cangfeng, that Lin Xun had faced ever since he started his cultivation journey.

Lin Xuefeng was also a Spirit Sea cultivator like Chi Cangfeng!

However, Lin Xun had undergone a complete transformation.

After twenty-something days of cultivation on the summit of Mind Cleansing Peak, he had completely comprehended the phenomenons of heaven and earth and had observed the mighty power of all heavens. As a result, the inside and outside of his body had mysteriously transformed.

He had reached the perfect realm of the Heaven Dipper Stage and could advance at any time.

The reason he chose to delay his breakthrough was, just as he had told Lin Zhong, he hadn't seen enough of the phenomenon between heaven and earth and would only choose to advance when there was a need.

At present, Lin Xuefeng's pressure wasn't enough to make him need to break through!

Rumble—

The fierce battle continued. Thirty-odd moves had been exchanged within minutes. Lin Xun looked disadvantaged as he was constantly being blasted back, and it looked like he would be defeated at any moment. However, he persistently continued, making many people's jaws drop.

Lin Xuefeng's face turned ice-cold. Lin Xun's performance amazed him.

He had thought that he could easily suppress Lin Xun in just a few moves but now, it seemed impossible for him without resorting to some true means of combat.

He felt a little uncomfortable knowing that.

How can a Heaven Dipper cultivator be this strong? I would become a laughing stock if this matter spreads out!

Chapter 355 Moon-Catch Blade

Boom!

Sullen, Lin Xuefeng lifted his hand, and his palm was shrouded in dreamy misty rain. Instantly, thunderous collisions erupted from the training grounds and cracks split the paved ground.

Unsurprisingly, Lin Xun was again blasted backwards.

"I'll show you the true power of the Spirit Sea Stage!"

Amidst Lin Xuefeng's indifferent voice, he soared into the air. His body was ablaze as he looked over Lin Xun.

"Big Brother Xuefeng isn't holding back anymore!"

“He should have done this earlier.”

The audience went wild with excitement, wishing that Lin Xuefeng would instantly defeat Lin Xun.

“But the kid is also a cultivation genius if he can force Xuefeng to show his true ability. But everything will change from now on,” Lin Huaiyuan murmured.

“Moving in the air and inflicting injury from a distance. There is no need to fight anymore. Young Master is already at a disadvantage.”

Lin Zhong frowned with worry, his heart tensing up in his chest.

The most unique thing about the Spirit Sea Stage was the ability to fly in the air and attack from a distance, but Lin Xun wasn't able to do so with his current cultivation level.

Based on that, he was already at a disadvantage against Lin Xuefeng!

In mid-air, Lin Xuefeng looked down contemptuously like a divine being looking over the world. He crossed his hands and made a random stroke in the air and brought down a shower of misty light that enveloped the entire area.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A burst of booming noises rang out.

The ethereal, misty light seemed gentle and soft, but the surrounding space collapsed with an ear-piercing thunder upon contact with it.

It was incredibly terrifying and was a unique secret art!

However, Lin Xun's dark eyes didn't ripple in the slightest. He bolted into a full-speed dash, flickering indefinitely like an erratic bolt of lightning

Whoosh!

Images of Lin Xun appeared as he flashed across the training grounds. His speed and body movements had to be incredible to achieve that. His terrifying speed helped him narrowly escape Lin Xuefeng's powerful attack!

“How is that possible?”

“Big Brother Xuefeng's attack had covered the entire area. It would be difficult for Heaven Dipper cultivators to evade his attack but Lin Xun...”

“How did he do that?”

“The power of the Spirit Sea Stage is terrifying! It was like an inescapable net crashing down! How did that kid dodge it?”

Uproar broke out. Everyone reacted with disbelief and horror as they couldn't imagine how Lin Xun could evade Lin Xuefeng's attack completely unscathed despite being in a disadvantaged situation.

“Hmph!”

Lin Xuefeng snorted coldly in the air. He again unleashed his unique art, bringing showers after showers of dazzling and dreamy misty rain down. Every blow could easily kill any Spirit Dipper cultivator and instill fear into any Spirit Sea Cultivators. The power from the attack plunged the training grounds into a state of chaos. The space whimpered, the air pulsed wildly, and deafening explosions pierced everyone's ears.

The audience was repeatedly horrified, their hearts swaying wildly in their chests.

That was the power of the Spirit Sea Stage. Cultivators of the Spirit Sea Stage could kill enemies from a distance and unleash earthshaking powers with the turn of their hands.

Under the bombardment of such terrifyingly violent attacks, Lin Xun looked increasingly distressed. He was like a lonely boat that could capsize on the vast ocean at any moment.

Lin Zhong shuddered with fear and nervousness as he watched the dangerous scene unfold.

On the other hand, many people in the audience couldn't help but cheer out loud. They thought that Lin Xun couldn't escape this time!

However, Lin Xun continued to evade Lin Xuefeng's ultimate move and escaped from the jaws of danger every single time. Although he looked troubled and had sustained multiple injuries as he evaded, he hadn't fallen once!

"Let's see how long you can survive!" A sinister look crossed Lin Xuefeng's face as he continued to streak his hands across the air, bringing waves of misty light down like waterfalls.

The entire training ground quaked. It was obvious how terrifying Lin Xuefeng's attack was.

However, Lin Xuefeng's face looked increasingly red and the divine light around his body was surging frantically. He had almost consumed all his strength.

Under the bombardment of attacks, Lin Xun's situation became more and more precarious. He was already riddled with wounds and dripping with blood.

Even so, his dark eyes remained terrifyingly calm.

He seemed to be dodging the attacks with difficulty, but he had never collapsed on the ground.

"Strange, why is that kid still not defeated?"

"Xuefeng is a Spirit Sea cultivator who has passed the national examination, but Lin Xun is only at the Heaven Dipper Stage. How is he able to survive his attacks till now?"

"I don't understand. This battle is strange."

Everyone was baffled as to how Lin Xun achieved that.

Even Lin Huaiyuan looked astonished. He could tell that Lin Xun seemed to have the ability to foresee the future, which allowed him to escape every single attack at the most critical moment.

It was too unbelievable.

“It turns out that Young Master’s understanding of the power of heaven and earth has reached an incredible level! He has even surpassed Lin Xuefeng, who is at the Spirit Sea Stage!” Lin Zhong trembled with shock.

Lin Xun indeed lacked the power to counterattack, but he was able to sharply capture when Lin Xuefeng drew upon the power of heaven and earth!

That ability allowed him to avoid the attacks one after another like he was able to foresee them.

Before long, something even more unexpected happened. Lin Xuefeng floated down and landed on the ground!

Lin Xuefeng couldn’t tell anyone his misery. Although he had an absolute advantage in the battle, he had exhausted his power after the multiple, full-strength attacks.

Since he had just broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage and couldn’t quite yet control its power, he didn’t dare to prolong the battle.

Otherwise, it would create an opportunity for Lin Xun!

However, he had a plan in mind. The moment his feet touched the ground, he charged toward Lin Xun at lightning speed.

If he couldn’t wound Lin Xun from a distance, he could change to close combat! With the power of the Spirit Sea Stage, even the slipperiest mudfish couldn’t escape!

However, Lin Xun suddenly halted when he saw Lin Xuefeng speeding toward him. It was as though he was waiting for that moment.

“Huh?”

Lin Xuefeng narrowed his eyes, seeming a little surprised.

Shua!

At that moment, the Flowing Light Blade appeared in his grip and Star-Gather, which Lin Xun had mastered to the perfect realm, emerged in the sky!

Everyone’s vision blurred, and they seemed to see an eternal darkness descending upon them. Thousands of stars looked like they were falling, and a destructive aura pervaded the air.

Bang!

Then, a blade strike sent Lin Xuefeng reeling back dozens of feet. If he hadn’t brought out his bronze sword to block the attack, it would have sliced him into two.

“You!” Lin Xuefeng raged. He couldn’t believe that Lin Xun could counterattack given that he was only at the Heaven Dipper Stage!

However, Lin Xun gave him no time to scream further as he charged forward and thrust his blade at him again!

The blade resembled the bright moon on the sapphire sea!

It contained the anger that Lin Xun had suppressed for a long time.

It was his counterattack against the ridicule and mocking he had suffered since the battle began!

Who wouldn't be angry?

Who could truly remain indifferent to the endless provocation, mockery and humiliation?

Ever since he had stepped into the North Light Lin Clan's territory, he had only received repulse and taunting and not the slightest hint of respect!

How could Lin Xun not be angry?

He had been waiting for such a moment for too long. Now that the moment had come, he planned to launch his most powerful attack: Moon-Catch, one of the three ultimate moves of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art!

The world looked like it had become blanketed by eternal night and only a beam of blade light along with a bright moon hung high in the sky, casting a lonely and desolate light upon the world.

Indescribable despair spread uncontrollably in everyone's hearts, and their expressions went lifeless.

Bang!

Lin Xuefeng roared in fury and did everything he could to counter the attack. Still, the bronze sword crumbled in his hand, and he failed to block the terrifying blade.

He hurtled across the air and collapsed on his butt with a thud. His handsome face blanched with terror, and he couldn't help but spew out a mouthful of blood.

The audience fell deadly silent.

Everyone's eyes widened with horror and disbelief.

One blade strike had severely wounded and defeated Lin Xuefeng!?

Who would believe it?

At that moment, even Lin Huaiyuan and the others were in utter shock. The blade art that Lin Xun performed had completely baffled them.

It didn't seem like an attack of a Heaven Dipper cultivator!

It's too strong!

They couldn't imagine that such a mysterious blade art existed in the world and could help a Heaven Dipper teenager defeat someone at a higher cultivation level!

"It turns out that Young Master has a trump card up his sleeve!" Lin Zhong muttered excitedly.

He suddenly spun around and asked Third Old Zhu, "Did you see through the mystery of the blade art just now?"

Third Old Zhu didn't respond.

Lin Zhong chuckled. He didn't mind as he knew it was more difficult to make a quiet guy like Third Old Zhu speak than to ascend to the sky.

"It's very similar to the imagery power of the Heaven Ascension Stage." To Lin Zhong's surprise, Third Old Zhu responded to him through a voice transmission.

He nodded as he had the same thought.

The power of Lin Xun's blade broke the conventions of the world. It was like a divine art that only existed in legends.

Lin Xun's figure was soaked in blood. He stood alone under the daylight, his handsome face filled with disdain.

Many clansmen of the North Light Lin Clan were utterly speechless like they had been slapped in the face. No one dared to utter a word.

Even the thought of Lin Xun sent a chill down their spine. That youngster is such a freak! How could he severely wound Lin Xuefeng with just the strength of the Heaven Dipper Stage! He's too terrifying!

Afar, Lin Xuefeng sat in stunned silence on the ground. Then, his face suddenly turned livid and he unleashed a furious roar and sprang up. "How is that possible!?"

Chapter 356 Unexpected Phenomenon, Mighty Force Descends From Heaven

Lin Zhong's smile deepened. Young Master's performance has opened my eyes, and I can't help but look at him differently.

It suddenly crossed his mind that his young master could likely pass the national examination if he hadn't missed it.

However, a voice disturbed Lin Zhong's happy moment. "You don't accept defeat?"

Huh?

Everyone's expressions changed. It's already over! Does that kid still want to show off his power?

Lin Xuefeng coldly snorted, his face dark and unpleasant. He secretly swore that if Lin Xun dared to humiliate him, he wouldn't mind breaking the rules and teaching him a lesson!

Unexpectedly, the smile faded from Lin Xun's lips and his voice became indifferent. "If you don't admit defeat, I can give you another chance to fight in a quarter of an hour."

What?!

The audience broke into an uproar, finding it hard to believe what they heard.

Is that kid crazy? He is severely wounded yet he still dares to urge Lin Xuefeng to challenge him again?

In a quarter of an hour!

He won't even recover in an hour!

"Your young master is very courageous," laughed Lin Dahong.

This time, Lin Zhong's face turned dark and unpleasant. He couldn't help but grumble inwardly why Lin Xun had to do that if he had already won.

Even Lin Huaiyuan was stumped. What...what is Lin Xun thinking?

"Are you sure?" Lin Xuefeng asked in bewilderment.

"A man doesn't go back on his words. Since I will be in charge of the entire Lin Family in the future, I wouldn't joke around about such a matter," Lin Xun said indifferently.

In charge of the Lin Family!

A swell of rage rose in Lin Xuefeng's heart as he said through gritted teeth, "You don't need to wait half an hour. You can rest and recover as long as you want. When you think you can fight again, I will accept your challenge any time!"

His words seemed beautiful, but he had lost to Lin Xun in terms of imposing manners.

After all, Lin Xuefeng had already lost according to their previous agreement. It would be dishonorable to fight again.

However, who would laugh or mock Lin Xuefeng in the North Light Lin Clan?

On the contrary, many people started to look at Lin Xun differently. They began to admire him and think that not many were as courageous as him despite his arrogance.

The entire training grounds fell silent.

All eyes were fixed on Lin Xun who was standing alone.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun didn't consume any elixirs or medicinal pills nor did he meditate to recover. He just stood there quietly.

Clad in a blood-stained robe, he stood tall with a blade in his hand.

A gust of wind blew, pushing his hair from his face and highlighting the indescribable expression on his handsome face.

Boom!

Suddenly, a tyrannical aura gushed forth from his body and shot into the sky, piercing the layers of clouds!

Instantly, a storm seemed to be set off, disturbing the wind and clouds and making the world pale.

Many people exclaimed, "That..."

Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Zhong, and Third Old Zhu seemed to realize something as a fierce glint flashed in their eyes.

Lin Xun lifted his head and swept a glance across the sky.

At that moment, everyone felt a strange feeling. Lin Xun looked like he was waiting for something. Something that seemed like it would change in the sky.

As they thought, a deafening boom, like the roar of the thunder, shook the world and made everyone shudder.

What is happening?

Many people's expressions dramatically changed.

Before long, rays of dreamy azure light spread across the sky and descended upon the world like divine light.

They intertwined with one another in the air, forming an indescribable mighty force that bathed Lin Xun's entire body.

Lin Xun resembled an abyss as he madly swallowed the rays of divine azure light and constantly strengthened his aura.

"A phenomenon descended from heaven?" many people exclaimed in disbelief.

The terrifying oppressive force from heaven made even their spirits tremble.

Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu also turned ashen-faced. They could tell that Lin Xun's power was being cleansed by a mighty force descending from heaven!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

A storm devoured the world around Lin Xun like it was enraged!

It was an earthshaking spectacle.

Lin Xun was standing there with his eyes closed, his body like a storm and his figure ablaze with divine sky blue light. Many people couldn't see clearly except for the divine light intertwining in the sky and the storm whirling constantly. In the depths of the storm, Lin Xun's figure was completely drowned in blinding light. At the same time, his skin, blood, bones and organs seemed to be reborn, undergoing a drastic transformation as a mighty force swept over every inch of his body.

Rumble!

Aeth power rolled and roared like torrents in his body as the storm grinder madly tempered and compressed it.

In the end, they all converged in his sea of qi.

"Open!" Lin Xun muttered in his heart.

The chaotic sea of qi crackled and boomed like an invisible barrier that had been disintegrated and opened up a new world.

Rumble—

Majestic power poured out of his sea of qi like it had found an escape route. Immediately, a river of aeth power took shape. Soon, more aeth power rivers began to form. Within minutes, hundreds and thousands had appeared. They converged in the same place and formed a vast sea!

It was indeed like a sea!

The sea of qi, the root of qi, was as boundless as the sea.

In the past, his sea of qi was chaotic and untouchable, but now, it had transformed into a raging sea of aeth power! This was the Spirit Sea Stage!

Once a cultivator reached that stage, it could be said that they were free of the shackles of the mortal world and could summon the wind and rain, fly unhindered across the sky, and possess unbelievable powers.

Lin Xun had already encountered the opportunity to break through during his twenty days of cultivation on Mind Cleansing Peak, but he chose to suppress it to concentrate fully on comprehending the powers of heaven and earth. Now, although Lin Xun had been severely wounded in his battle with Lin Xuefeng and almost couldn't survive, that battle refined and confirmed his comprehension of the power of heaven and earth!

In the end, he couldn't bear it any longer and advanced into the Spirit Sea Stage! His breakthrough set off phenomena across the world!

In fact, it hadn't ended yet. The sky blue light descending from heaven was a mysterious mighty force performing a rare cleansing ritual on Lin Xun.

Boom!

In the end, his body, spirit and various powers in his body underwent complete transformations. At that moment, he felt that his body was about to explode. He couldn't help but lift his head and roar skywards like a dragon.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Cracks suddenly cut across the ground around his feet and spread in all directions.

Many people drew back in panic.

On the opposite side of Lin Xun, Lin Xuefeng seemed to have lost his soul. His eyes were lifeless and dull, and his mind had gone blank after witnessing the magnificent scene.

It was unknown how much time had passed before the sky restored its usual state and the storm subsided and returned to Lin Xun's body. The area gradually calmed down.

Lin Zhong beamed. "Phenomena emerged and a mighty force descended from Heaven! Young Master's breakthrough is unparalleled in the world!"

Then, his heart suddenly churned in his chest as he thought of his master and lady and the clansmen of the Lin Clan who had passed away. Then, he remembered the dark times he had suffered from guarding Mind Cleansing Peak alone for over ten years.

His young master's appearance made him see a glimmer of hope.

Chapter 357 So-Called Approval

Lin Xuefeng snapped out of his lifeless state like he had just woken up from a dream. As he stared at Lin Xun, an indescribable feeling of defeat rose in his heart, and his expression changed indefinitely.

Everyone's expressions turned strange.

How can he possibly fight?

Lin Xun was already able to defeat Lin Xuefeng before his breakthrough.

Now, he has ascended into the Spirit Sea Stage and triggered frighteningly rare phenomenons during his breakthrough. How can Lin Xuefeng fight him? *novelnext.com*

Although unwilling, everyone had to admit that, from the moment Lin Xun advanced, there was no suspense in the match anymore.

"Xuefeng, withdraw." Lin Huaiyuan sighed in the distance.

"I..." Lin Xuefeng seemed conflicted about what to do.

In the end, he shook his head and gave a cupped fist salute at Lin Xun. "I'm...not as strong as you!"

He turned around and left.

His calm acknowledgement of his defeat surprised Lin Xun a little. His opinion of Lin Xuefeng suddenly changed.

Everyone donned complicated expressions.

Previously, they had mocked, ridiculed and rejected Lin Xun as they thought he was arrogant and ignorant. They even wanted to force him to hand over the power of Mind Cleansing Peak.

However, Lin Xun had proved to them that Lin Xuefeng, the talent they all admired, was inferior to him, at least in terms of foundation and cultivation!

It was like a silent counterattack and left everyone speechless.

"Lin Xun, come with me," Lin Huaiyuan said again.

He had resumed his imposing demeanor.

Lin Xun knew that he had earned the opportunity to meet Lin Beiguang, his fifth elder uncle, after obtaining a victory in the showdown!

.....

Lin Xun and Lin Huaiyuan walked side by side along a quiet gravel path.

Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu didn't follow Lin Xun because Lin Xun was about to meet a legendary figure in the North Light Lin Clan.

Along the way, Lin Huaiyuan explained, "I had put all my focus and mind on Xuefeng, hoping that he could grow up to bear the responsibility of reviving the Lin Clan. The entire North Light Lin Clan also believed that Xuefeng could become an authority figure, resolve the internal problems of the Lin Clan, and gain control of Mind Cleansing Peak."

"So, many people couldn't accept it when you appeared. It was hard for them to adapt because your appearance meant that Xuefeng would lose too much."

Lin Xun quietly listened.

"It's just that no one thought you would be better than Xuefeng in terms of power and talent."

Lin Huaiyuan sighed, "Perhaps, this is Xuefeng's fate."

"I don't believe in fate," Lin Xun interjected unexpectedly.

Lin Huaiyuan was taken aback at first. Then, he shook his head and said, "Let's not talk about this. I hope you won't mind about what happened in the duel just now. Xuefeng has a strong personality, but he isn't bad."

Lin Xun said nonchalantly, "We are all from the Lin Clan. Of course, I won't mind."

Lin Huaiyuan took a deep look at Lin Xun, but to his disappointment, Lin Xun's expression was so calm and indifferent that he couldn't figure out whether Lin Xun was sincere or not.

Soon, under the leadership of Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Xun came to a simple-looking courtyard.

The courtyard only consisted of a thatched hut, a stone table, and an old locust tree. Although simple, it was very tranquil and clean.

A tall and thin old man dressed in ordinary clothes was sitting in front of the stone table, his eyes narrowed like he was in deep thought.

Naturally, the old man was Lin Beiguang, Lin Xun's fifth granduncle!

"I am Lin Xun. I pay respects to Fifth Granduncle!"

As Lin Xun stepped into the courtyard and bowed respectfully, Lin Huaiyuan had already left. The meeting was only between Lin Xun and Lin Beiguang.

"You look like your father."

Lin Beiguang raised his clear eyes and gazed at Lin Xun for a long moment. Then, he said emotionally, "Quickly come and sit down."

Lin Xun calmly sat down opposite Lin Beiguang.

"I watched the duel between you and Xuefeng. I have to admit that, among the younger generation of the entire Lin Clan, no one can be compared to you in terms of talent and cultivation foundation."

A strange glint flashed in Lin Beiguang's eyes.

"Fifth Granduncle, you are praising me too much."

"It's not false praise. It's the truth. The phenomenons you caused when you broke through to the Spirit Sea Stage alone already show that you are remarkable. Not many people in the Forbidden City can achieve that."

Lin Beiguang suddenly changed the subject, "But, based on that alone, I still can't trust you enough to leave the North Light Lin Clan to you."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes, knowing that it was time to get down to business.

"When the North Light Lin Clan moved away from Mind Cleansing Peak, we took many sacred books, medicinal herbs, rune materials, and equipment passed down the clan. We also took control of the thirty-seven properties the Lin Clan had across the empire."

Lin Beiguang said casually, "The reason I did so at the time was to preserve some family estates and the foundation that the ancestors of the Lin Clan left behind so that they can be continued to be passed down the family."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and didn't say anything.

As though Lin Beiguang read his mind, he explained, "Of course, you might not believe me and think that the North Light Lin Clan just took advantage of the chaos to split the clan's wealth like the other collateral branches of the Lin Clan."

Lin Xun looked slightly embarrassed. He didn't know how to respond to Lin Beiguang's direct and blunt explanation.

However, Lin Beiguang waved his hand. "Although I am old, I'm not stupid. Since you have decided to take over the Lin Clan, the treasures and properties I took away should be returned to Mind Cleansing Peak!"

Lin Xun quivered with disbelief.

Does he actually agree?

Immediately, Lin Xun knew it wouldn't be that simple.

Lin Beiguang added, "But in my opinion, your current strength is still not good enough to protect those treasures, and you can't give the entire North Light Lin Clan the confidence to return to the main Lin Clan."

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. "Then I wonder when you think I will be good enough?"

Lin Beiguang smiled and patted Lin Xun on the shoulder. "Kid, you can't eat hot tofu in a hurry. You will understand my kind intentions in the future. For now, I think very highly of you, but that's all. If you want more support, you have to show me what you can do!"

His eyes gleamed. "Remember, you are the direct successor to the Lin Family. If you can't pass these little tests, you're not qualified to become the head of the Lin Family."

Lin Xun contemplated for a moment, took a deep breath, and said solemnly, "Fifth Granduncle, I just want to confirm one thing."

“Yes?”

“From now on, will the North Light Lin Clan stand on Mind Cleansing Peak’s side?”

“Correct, but right now, you can’t control the North Light Lin Clan. When you have the power to control the North Light Lin Clan, you can even order me around.”

“Good.” Lin Xun nodded, feeling a lot more at ease.

As long as the North Light Lin Clan wasn’t an enemy of his, it was already enough. He didn’t care whether they supported or helped him.

With the help of Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke and Third Old Zhu, he had the confidence that he could completely change Mind Cleansing Peak! When Mind Cleansing Peak rose, it would be the time when Lin Xun had the power to control the life and death of the clan!

At that time, he wouldn’t need to pass any so-called tests and receive approval if he wanted to do something anymore. However, he had to accept his current situation no matter how aggrieved he felt as it was the reality.

Chapter 358 Two Great Opportunities

Lin Beiguang stopped Lin Xun just as he was about to leave.

“Our Lin Family owns a third-grade ore vein one thousand seven hundred miles outside the Forbidden City. It can provide five hundred thousand gold coins in one month. In the future, the profits from this ore vein will be sent to Mind Cleansing Peak.”

Lin Beiguang had given Lin Xun a huge gift.

“As you grow stronger in the future, I will gradually return the properties controlled by the Lin Clan to Mind Cleansing Peak.”

Lin Xun stared at Lin Beiguang in shocked silence. He finally believed that his fifth grand uncle wasn’t deliberately making things difficult for him and disguising them as tests.

“Thank you, Fifth Granduncle.” Lin Xun bowed to express his gratitude.

“Also, there is something else I want to discuss with you,” Lin Beiguang said thoughtfully.

“I heard that some of your subordinates now are outsiders. This might be unfavorable to unifying the clan. After all, outsiders will always be outsiders. The clan affairs should be handled by clan members.”

Lin Xun had also considered the same issue, and Spirit Vulture had previously helped him analyze the pros and cons. So, he immediately understood what Lin Beiguang wanted to say. “Fifth Granduncle, do you have some advice regarding this?”

Lin Beiguang said, “I plan to send a group of young disciples from the clan to Mind Cleansing Peak. What do you say?”

Ordinary people would no doubt be wary when they heard such a proposal. After all, it was no different from placing people of the North Light Lin Clan around Lin Xun! If the clansmen of North Light Lin Clan took control of everything on Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Xun would become a mere figurehead!

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and said, "Of course, they are welcome on Mind Cleansing Peak. Mind Cleansing Peak lacks people and there aren't many people I can trust. If I have help from my clan, it would no doubt lessen the weight of my responsibility."

Lin Beiguang smiled ruminatively. "If you want to wield the power of the head of the clan, you must have the ability to control that power. I wonder if you have the power to control the new clan members when they arrive at Mind Cleansing Peak."

Lin Xun smiled. "In my heart, there is only one Lin Family. There is no difference between the West Creek, Cloud Weight, Flying Peak and North Light and the main clan. I will treat them as my people if they listen to me. If they don't listen to my orders—"

"What would you do?" Lin Beiguang stared intently at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun smiled and asked in response, "What would you want me to do?"

Lin Beiguang was stumped at first and then he waved his hand. "Never mind. You can decide on your own. I just hope that you can consider the overall situation when you make that decision."

"Overall situation." Lin Xun scrunched his brows.

"Yes, the overall situation."

"Okay," said Lin Xun bluntly.

His answer was so casual and calm that it made Lin Beiguang unsure of how genuine his response was.

After a while, Lin Beiguang waved his hand and said, "Go, you not only have to deal with the internal problems within the clan but also foreign enemies. I hope that you can avenge the Lin Family and lead us to rise in the Forbidden City one day!"

His expression was calm, but he spoke earnestly.

With that, Lin Xun said farewell and left.

He was in deep thought on his way back to Mind Cleansing Peak. He had a rough understanding of the North Light Lin Clan's attitude towards him. Although most of the clansmen disliked him, he believed that, as long as the North Light Lin Clan didn't treat him as an enemy, they would one day give their allegiance to Mind Cleansing Peak!

Lin Xun felt a lot more at ease.

Among the four collateral branches of the Lin Family, the North Light Lin Clan was no longer a threat to him. He felt he had taken a huge step towards solving the internal problems within the clan!

As for how to deal with the remaining three branches, Lin Xun was in no hurry. He had already promised to give them three years to consider.

However, if they still stubbornly insisted on staying enemies, he wouldn't show any mercy!

Mind Cleansing Peak.

After Lin Xun returned, he recounted his trip to North Light Lin Clan to Spirit Vulture.

"Some resistance is unavoidable. Once your power strengthens in the future, the North Light Lin Clan will submit to you," stated Spirit Vulture.

Lin Xun agreed, "I think so too."

"After days of preparation, Blood Thorn's alchemy room and Yang Ling's weapon forging workshop will soon start operation. Old Diao has also begun setting up formation around Mind Cleansing Peak."

Spirit Vulture quickly asked another question, "Do you have any suggestions regarding this?"

Lin Xun thought for a moment and said helplessly, "I don't know much about this. I can only ask you to help me take care of it."

Spirit Vulture nodded, "Fine. Leave it to me."

Suddenly, he remembered something. "Lin Xun, after investigation, Xiaoke is certain that the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan—West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak, will not submit to you."

"I understand. I gave them three years to think about it anyway. After three years, I will make a decision based on their attitude then."

Spirit Vulture shook his head. "No, you misunderstand me. They will not submit to you no matter what."

"Why is that?"

"It's very simple. After the bloody tragedy on Mind Cleansing Peak, those three branches had secretly colluded with external forces to seize and split the wealth and properties of the Lin Family!"

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and fell silent for a moment. "Did the North Light Lin Clan also collude with external forces back then?"

"No." Spirit Vulture shook his head.

Lin Xun breathed a sigh of relief. If the North Light Lin Clan did, it would be a huge blow to him.

"What do you plan to do now?" asked Spirit Vulture.

"Since I have promised them three years to think about it, I won't change it. But that doesn't mean I will forgive them for their crimes back then." Lin Xun drew a deep breath, and a chilling glint flashed in his eyes.

Deep in the night.

Lin Xun sat alone in the study on the second floor of Mind Cleansing Hall.

It seemed that the troublesome matters on Mind Cleansing Peak had been sorted, and he was moving in the right direction.

With the assistance of Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke, Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu, the affairs on Mind Cleansing Peak were being tackled one by one.

Patriarch North Light had promised to send five hundred thousand gold coins to Mind Cleansing Peak every month, so Lin Xun no longer needed to put too much time and effort in making money.

Moreover, once Blood Thorn and Yang Ling's projects proceed smoothly, they would also definitely bring benefits to Mind Cleansing Peak.

As for the issue of the three collateral branches—West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak, Lin Xun had no intention of acting rashly for the time being.

He intended to deal with the internal problems once Mind Cleaning Peak became stronger and its power reached a certain level.

However, Lin Xun also knew that the other three collateral branches wouldn't sit and do nothing even if he didn't act.

Spirit Vulture had speculated that they had already started to act in secret. They wanted to control Lin Xun and make him their puppet.

That way, they wouldn't put Lin Xun's life at risk, but would still control the power of the clan and allow them to return to Mind Cleansing Peak.

For example, the ambush that Lin Xun encountered the other day on his way back from Stone Cauldron Alms a few days ago was their doing. If it wasn't for Lin Zhong, Lin Xun would have suffered from an accident already.

The ambush that the three collateral branches planned was led by a Heaven Ascension cultivator called Old Devil Qu! He was skilled in spirit searching and soul-seizing arts.

As Spirit Vulture had analyzed, they didn't want to kill Lin Xun. Instead, they wanted to control his soul and turn him into their puppet!

It was precisely because of this that Lin Xun brought Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong with him to the North Light Lin Clan. He was worried about attacks from the other three branches.

However, he didn't need to worry as long as he remained on Mind Cleansing Peak.

As one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans, Mind Cleansing Peak had extremely terrifying restrictions. Outsiders couldn't break in without Lin Xun's consent.

"Now, I need to strengthen the power of Mind Cleansing Peak as soon as possible, but I can leave this to Spirit Vulture..." Lin Xun fell into contemplation. "I need to grow stronger, raise my prestige, and use all means to enrich my foundation."

Lin Xun knew that, as the successor of Mind Cleansing Peak, his strength and prestige were most important! It would be ridiculous to ignore them!

Huh?

Suddenly, another matter came to his mind. Now that he had broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage, he had two opportunities waiting for him!

Yes, not one but two!

The first was the Omega Secret Realm!

When he passed the third level of the Great Azure Cloud Path, he was informed that he had to reach the Spirit Sea Stage to enter the Omega Secret Realm again.

He had reached that stage!

What test and rewards will there be waiting for me when I enter the Omega Secret Realm this time?

Lin Xun was full of anticipation.

But after thinking it over and over, he gave up on challenging the Omega Secret Realm for the time being.

He had only just broken through and still hadn't managed to perfectly control his new Spirit Sea power. It was too reckless to challenge the Omega Secret Realm as the amazing opportunity couldn't be wasted.

With this thought, Lin Xun brought out an unremarkable-looking black ring. Despite its looks, it was rich in history! It was called Chaotic Void, and it was a treasure passed down from the ancestors of the Lin Family and only direct descendants of the Lin Family could control it.

The clansmen of the collateral branches and outsiders couldn't possess the ring because only the power of the direct bloodline could awaken it and make it appear in the world.

According to Lin Zhong, the Chaotic Void Ring was the reason that the Lin Family could exist to this day and establish a foothold in the world.

Only those who possessed the ring could obtain the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture, a supreme sacred book of the Lin Clan!

Chapter 359 The Mystery of the Dao Sounds

After Lin Xun left the study, he came to the quiet training room on the third floor.

He sat down cross-legged on the only praying mat in the room, inhaled deeply, and circulated the blood and qi in his body.

When the qi and blood around his body were bubbling like lava, the Chaotic Void Ring in his hand started to change! It quivered, echoing mysteriously with Lin Xun's bloodline power.

Instantly, a mysterious but unfamiliar force enveloped Lin Xun's body and mind. Loud and clear noises reverberated in his mind like the morning bell. Scriptures seemed to be recited in his sea of knowledge.

However, Lin Xun couldn't understand it at all even though it was extremely clear. He couldn't understand it no matter how hard he tried, let alone comprehend its mystery. He felt like he was listening to a heavenly book.

Soon, he gave up on trying to understand and listened intently. He felt as though he was listening to a mysterious ancient language. He subconsciously fell into a meditative state and mobilized his cultivation. His mind felt light and clear as it entered a wandering state. In his mind, the clear noises continued to ring like a bell, echoing endlessly in his sea of knowledge.

Early next morning, he woke up from the meditation and right away he noticed that his body felt incredibly relaxed and as light as a feather.

Then, to his surprise, he found the surging aeth power in the sea of qi in his body had become distinctly purer.

That one night of cultivation was comparable to ten days of his usual cultivation!

Additionally, his qi was full of energy, his mind was clear, and his body felt refreshed like it had been cleansed.

He had only broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage yesterday, but his foundation felt very sturdy like it had already been tempered thousands of times!

Lin Xun found it incredibly hard to believe.

One night of cultivation not only tempered and improved my cultivation but also cleansed and refreshed my mind and spirit.

Such mysterious changes!

Soon, he realized that the amazing transformations were due to the Chaotic Void Ring. Although he couldn't understand the clear Dao sounds echoing endlessly in his mind, he knew its power had helped him achieve those amazing and unbelievable cultivation results. In other words, his drastic cultivation changes were closely linked to the Dao sounds.

"It seems that the noise is the recitation of the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture! I don't understand it because my skills aren't good enough," Lin Xun remarked thoughtfully.

The Chaotic Void Dao Scripture was a treasure passed down the Lin Family and only the direct bloodline descendants of the Lin Family could practice it. Hundreds of years ago, the Lin Family was only able to stand at the top with other top aristocratic families of the Forbidden City because of the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture!

Lin Xun was certain that he had only obtained very superficial benefits from the scripture. Once he could comprehend its true mysteries, he could truly understand its wonders!

Lin Xun inhaled deeply and made a decision. "I will use the Chaotic Void Ring in future cultivation and, through the constant exposure to the Dao sounds, hopefully, one day I can pry into and comprehend its true mysteries."

"This way of cultivation brings great benefits. At least, my cultivation is improving at a significantly faster speed than usual!"

On the summit of Mind Cleansing Peak.

The mountain wind was chilly. and the clouds were fluttering in the air.

It was noon. Rays of golden sunlight pierced through the clouds and sprinkled a dazzling light upon the world.

Two figures were directly facing each other in the air!

Boom!

A blast of wind from a fist tore the clouds like a bolt of lightning. It was swift, direct, and contained terrifying power capable of destroying everything in its way.

Xiaoke's shoulder-length black hair swayed in the air, making her stunning and delicate face look even more chilling and fierce. As her figure sped across the sky with swift and neat movements, her simple punch produced a mighty force that could shake the mountains.

Lin Xun's figure flickered back and forth opposite Xiaoke, looking a little discomposed.

If it weren't for the incomparable power of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art, Xiaoke would have long suppressed and defeated him.

Boom!

A blast of wind tore through several feet of the sky like a thunderbolt, speeding towards Lin Xun. Lin Xun had no choice but to face it head-on. His arms went numb, and his blood and qi tumbled frantically within his body. His body was propelled across the air.

Just as he had steadied his figure, Xiaoke charged toward him and launched another attack.

"Stop!" Lin Xun yelled.

Boom!

Xiaoke instantly withdrew the domineering blast of wind, and it vanished without a trace. Her control was extremely skillful.

"Not bad. You have just broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage, but your strength is already comparable to intermediate Spirit Sea cultivators," Xiaoke calmly assessed Lin Xun's strength as she nimbly landed on the mountain summit.

In truth, her mind wasn't in the least bit calm. Although Lin Xun had been beaten badly and had to stop the battle, Xiaoke knew that his performance was already very remarkable and could even be described as demonic!

He only broke through yesterday, but he can withstand my attacks for so long. No one would believe this!

Xiaoke believed that his rapid progress must be related to the natural phenomena brought about by Lin Xun's breakthrough.

This kid's foundation is too deep. I still remember that the Dipper Transformation Lake almost dried up when he attacked the Human Dipper Stage in Blood Kill Camp.

At that time, Xiaoke and Xu Sanqi both believed that Lin Xun had formed an aeth power reservoir stronger than first grade! Xiaoke was pleased to see Lin Xun's achievements and progress. This kid is a monster! How can he be judged by ordinary standards?

"Instructor, you should talk about my shortcomings too. I feel a little uneasy when you suddenly praise me."

Lin Xun collapsed on his buttocks on the ground, gasping for breath. Although he was beaten badly, indescribable joy filled his heart. He felt as though he had returned to Blood Kill Camp. Back then, he often had one-on-one training with Xiaoke. Of course, he was always beaten.

"Are you sure?" Xiaoke calmly asked.

"Of course." Lin Xun nodded.

He had challenged Xiaoke to a battle because he wanted to see how strong he had become after breaking through to the Spirit Sea Stage.

At the same time, he knew he had to quickly familiarize and adapt to his new Spirit Sea Stage powers.

After all, it was a completely different cultivation level, and his combat means had also changed completely. He was no longer constrained to the ground but could attack from the air and kill from a distance.

He had to learn and adapt.

After all, he had no experience in flying, let alone fighting in mid-air.

Xiaoke was at the peak of the Spirit Sea Stage and was very skilled in fighting as she was a Blood Kill Camp instructor, so Lin Xun had benefited hugely from receiving direct advice from her.

Xiaoke pondered for a moment and said, "Okay, speaking of your shortcomings, there are quite a few, and they are all quite fatal."

Her voice was extremely clear and cold. "First of all, your movements during evasion are extremely poor. Enemies could kill you instantly in the air if you're not quick enough."

"Secondly, your control of your power is very bad. If you can't control your power precisely and skillfully, it will waste unnecessary energy, which can be fatal in a prolonged battle."

The complacent look faded from Lin Xun's face and he fell silent. It turns out that I'm this bad in the eyes of a cultivation master like Instructor Xiaoke.

After thinking it over, Lin Xun had to admit that Xiaoke's analysis of his flaws was dead on target. He couldn't deny it even if he wanted to.

"Also, your use of the power of heaven and earth is too superficial. A true master can effortlessly draw upon the power of heaven and earth to kill the enemy."

Xiaoke continued, "To sum up, you have the strength comparable to intermediate Spirit Sea cultivators, but your combat experience is very poor."

Lin Xun felt depressed after being criticized like that. He smiled wryly and asked, "Instructor, am I really that bad?"

Xiaoke retorted with another question, "Didn't you want to hear about your shortcomings?"

"..."

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Well then if you compare me to someone at the same cultivation stage, how is my strength?"

Xiaoke said coldly, "You already have power comparable to the intermediate Spirit Sea Stage, why are you comparing yourself to people at the same stage as you? I remember you weren't such a loser."

Lin Xun smiled.

He understood. In Xiaoke's view, few people in the initial Spirit Sea Stage would be able to defeat him!

He should focus on cultivators at the intermediate Spirit Sea Stage!

From that day on, Lin Xun practiced at night and trained with Xiaoke during the day. His life was peaceful and fulfilling. Although he was beaten up and felt very embarrassed in every training session, he could distinctly feel his control of the Spirit Sea Stage power improving tremendously!

His learning ability surprised even himself. He felt like he had been enlightened and had gained remarkable intelligence. Every problem he encountered was easily solved. He had never realized he had such terrifying learning and comprehension ability!

It suddenly dawned on Lin Xun that his changes were linked to him listening to the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture every night. The mysterious Dao sounds were silently changing everything about him.

Half a month passed by in the blink of an eye.

On that day, after Lin Xun's practice session with Xiaoke, he pondered over his mistakes in the battle but Xiaoke suddenly said aloud, "We don't need to battle again. You have learned the combat strategies and skills that you should master. And now, you only need to practice them by yourself."

Lin Xun said in puzzlement, "That's it?"

For the first time, Xiaoke lost her composure and snapped, "What? I've already passed down everything I know to you! Don't tell me you think I'm not teaching you properly?"

Lin Xun quickly shook his head and smiled. "How would I dare?"

Xiaoke snorted, turned around, and left. Her lonely-looking, slender figure quickly disappeared, and Lin Xun was left baffled. What's wrong with Instructor Xiaoke?

He was unaware that Xiaoke was a little terrified by his unbelievable improvement after the two weeks of training.

She felt like he was a monster able to learn whatever she taught or instructed him. How would she not feel uneasy?

They were both cultivators but why was Lin Xun's comprehension ability so much better than hers?

He really is abnormal!

Chapter 360 Banquet

Lin Xun returned to the Mind Cleansing Hall, washed up and changed into a new set of clothes, feeling refreshed.

The training sessions with Xiaoke had allowed him to practice a fighting style belonging to the Spirit Sea Stage and allowed him to bring out his true power perfectly.

He was very satisfied with the result.

Cultivation improvement couldn't be achieved overnight and was based on progress over time.

Lin Xun wasn't in a hurry. His cultivation speed had already surpassed many people's in the world.

Simply speaking, Lin Xun wouldn't make another cultivation breakthrough any time soon so he planned to focus on practicing his cultivation arts.

He had already comprehended Moon-Catch, which was much more profound than Star-Gather.

Although his comprehension of Moon-Catch was only at the Elemental Realm, its power was much greater than Star-Gather at the Perfect Realm.

The cultivation arts were different from the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art in that it tested a cultivator's cultivation base. The stronger one's cultivation base, the stronger its power.

Most importantly, the nine great moves of the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions could be combined and integrated into new moves.

When Lin Xun was able to completely integrate the nine great moves of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction and display them in one strike, he was considered to have reached the Perfect Realm.

That strike was also known as the Heavenshaking Strike.

However, Lin Xun was still a distance from reaching that stage.

In short, cultivation arts training and cultivation were the same in that they were both endless. He would need to search up and down the long road.

While Lin Xun was in deep concentration, Lin Zhong rushed in anxiously.

"Young Master, Young Master Shi Yu has sent over an invitation." Lin Zhong handed over the invitation card.

Lin Xun received it and took a look. Lin Xun was invited to attend a banquet tonight along with many students of Blood Kill Camp.

Lin Xun suddenly remembered that Shi Yu had mentioned that he would host a banquet to gather with the former Blood Kill Camp students.

"Uncle Zhong, can you and Third Old Zhu come with me tonight?" asked Lin Xun.

At night, Lin Xun, Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu headed down Mind Cleansing Peak.

Mind Cleansing Peak was much livelier than in the past. Under Spirit Vulture's arrangement, Blood Thorn's Alchemy Workshop and Yang Ling's Blacksmith Workshop were in full operation.

Even Old Diao was very busy setting up rune arrays around Mind Cleansing Peak.

Spirit Vulture had again recruited a group of loyal and trustworthy servants from the Forbidden City to help them deal with miscellaneous tasks. There were around fifty new servants, but with Xiaoke keeping a close watch on them every day, there wouldn't be any problems.

Lin Xun couldn't help feeling emotional as he walked around Mind Cleansing Peak. It's no longer as quiet and deserted as before, and it's beginning to show signs of improvement. Although the changes are small, Mind Cleansing Peak will one day present a new appearance to the world!

However, Blood Thorn rushing over from the distance snapped Lin Xun awake from his emotional state.

"Lin Xun, are you going to do anything about those bastards? Today, they ruined all sixteen of my Butterfly Blood Flowers that I managed to plant after much difficulty!"

Blood Thorn's face was livid.

He was a war medical practitioner, but also a skilled alchemist. His fury showed just how important the Butterfly Blood Flower was to him.

"Who?" Lin Xun asked blankly.

"Who else could it be? The bastards that the North Light Lin Clan sent over here! Those hedonistic young masters are all arrogant, willful and lazy. I don't understand why you agreed to let them live on Mind Cleansing Peak!" Blood Thorn was clearly raging and he vented it all on Lin Xun.

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun. Then, a chilling intent crossed his face. "Blood Thorn, take me to see them, and I will make sure justice is served."

A few days ago, at the request of the North Light Lin Clan, a group of youngsters were sent to Mind Cleansing Peak. Nominally, they were there to assist Lin Xun and listen to his orders. However, Lin Xun, after deliberation, decided to not arrange jobs for them yet and planned to observe them for a period to find out their characters and backgrounds.

At that time, Lin Xun issued three prohibitions to them. They weren't allowed near Mind Cleansing Hall. They weren't allowed to bring outsiders into Mind Cleansing Peak without his permission, and they weren't allowed to cause trouble and destruction on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Of course, Lin Xun knew that it was impossible to expect them to obey the three prohibitions.

He was proven right. Ever since they arrived on Mind Cleansing Peak, they had only been drinking and having fun. They often gathered together to gamble and created a murky atmosphere on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Their actions were still within the limit that Lin Xun could tolerate, and he was too lazy to deal with them, so as not to make his Fifth Elder Uncle think that he was deliberately making things difficult for the clansmen.

However, it seemed that his leniency had contributed to their arrogance.

Lin Xun couldn't tolerate the fact that they dared to destroy Blood Thorn's medicinal garden!

Blood Thorn guided Lin Xun to the group of youngsters from the North Light Lin Clan.

There were around a dozen people, both men and women. They were all sitting along a clear stream, drinking and laughing.

They were startled to see Blood Thorn and Lin Xun, but they then laughed disapprovingly.

"We just picked a few flowers of yours, and you ran off to get help. You're too stingy," remarked a young man.

"That's right, we need the flowery aroma for drinks. You should be honored that we picked your flowers, but you still don't know how fortunate you are. How disappointing!"

"Do you think we would be scared that you called Lin Xun? What a joke! Who is he? How can he decide what we can and cannot do?"

All the men and women burst into laughter.

Blood Thorn was so enraged that his veins popped on his forehead, and he gnashed his teeth. "Lin Xun did you see? Those bastards...you invited here are all simply lawless!"

A young man with puffy eyes sprang up, pointing and yelling at Blood Thorn. "Who are you calling a bastard? Do you have a death wish?"

Lin Xun sighed and clapped Blood Thorn on the shoulder. "It's my fault. I failed to take care of this. Leave it to me. It won't happen again."

"Haha, Lin Xun, you talk big. We just picked a few flowers, but you also have to stick your nose into it? You..."

Before the young man with puffy eyes finished his sentence, Lin Xun lashed out with a kick to his stomach.

His body rose into the air like a broken kite and slammed into a rock tens of feet away. With a boom, the rock crumbled to smithereens. It was obvious how strong the kick was.

The youngster convulsed, then foam gathered around his mouth and he lost consciousness.

The other youngsters jumped up in shock. Their expressions dramatically changed as they glared at Lin Xun.

"You dare hit us?"

"Although Mind Cleansing Peak is your territory, the North Light Lin Clan won't let you off for what you have done!"

"Don't think that you can do anything you want and we will obey you just because you defeated Big Brother Xuefeng! No way!"

They roared, seemingly arrogant and haughty, but, in truth, fear was flashing in their eyes. They were clearly scared that Lin Xun would ruthlessly attack them.

Rumble—

Lin Xun didn't want to waste time talking nonsense to them. With a flick of his sleeve, a gush of terrifying sky blue aeth power took the shape of a giant hand and enveloped the entire space.

Following several muffled booms, the dozen youngsters were on their knees, screaming in agony.

"Listen, I don't have the energy to play with you. Since the North Light Lin Clan has sent you here, you better obediently listen to me and not create trouble for me."

Lin Xun's voice was icy cold and full of threat. He exuded an aura unique to the Spirit Sea Stage that made the youngsters shudder with fear to the extent that they didn't dare to utter a single sound.

"Remember, this mustn't happen again!" Lin Xun turned around and left.

On the way, he instructed Lin Zhong, "Tell the bastards to start working. They will do whatever the servants on Mind Cleansing Peak do. If they don't obey, then let Xiaoke personally deal with them. I'm certain they won't dare to be like this again."

"Young Master, the North Light Lin Clan sent those thorns here to test your ability in controlling your subordinates. If you do this..."

Lin Xun interrupted before Lin Zhong finished his sentence, "This is how I control my subordinates. When dealing with such arrogant youngsters, it's best to put them in their place!"

Taken aback, Lin Zhong said nothing else.

"Then I'll take my leave now." Blood Thorn's anger had almost quelled. He gave a cupped fist salute and took his leave.

As Lin Xun watched him leave, he said ruminatively, "Uncle Zhong, Blood Thorn is a Spirit Sea cultivator but also a medicinal practitioner. His strength is unquestionable, but he never took action against those bastards even if he was furious. Do you know why?"

Lin Zhong pondered for a while and explained, "Because he is an outsider compared to those arrogant bastards. As an outsider, he would be overstepping his authority if he taught people of the Lin Family a lesson and that would bring a lot of trouble. He knows this very well, so he came to find you to help him get justice."

"Yes, now I finally understand why Spirit Vulture spent so much effort to invite Blood Thorn and others to come to help me. People like him are not only talented and capable but also have a clear understanding of the ways of the world. It's rare to find people like him," Lin Xun said admiringly.

As they were speaking, they left Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Let's go to Precious Laughter House."

Lin Xun gave an order to Third Old Zhu and got on the carriage with Lin Zhong. Taking advantage of the wonderful twilight, they headed into the distance.

