

Prodigies 501

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 501

Chu Shanhe reddened with embarrassment and couldn't retort. He felt so suffocated that his lungs were about to rupture.

Zhao Zhanye and the others didn't look much better when they heard Lin Xun's questioning tone.

Ever since Lin Xun had started to make a rune armament, they had threatened to severely punish him if he failed, regarded him as a disaster to the empire, and stirred up people to point fingers at him.

Today, they believed that Lin Xun would fail, so they decided to strike first and oppress him in one move. Who would have thought that—

At the most critical moment, a rune armament that survived a lightning tribulation emerged in the world! It instantly messed up their situation!

Who would dare blame and punish Lin Xun under such circumstances?

He was a rune grandmaster who could cast rune armaments!

The most terrifying thing was that he was only sixteen years old and had endless potential. No one could compare with him in the entire world!

"Duke Daochen, you have a qualified successor!" Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui sighed emotionally.

Many people echoed his words. Lin Xun was destined to shine, and no one could stop him from rising.

A young rune grandmaster such as Lin Xun was unimaginably valuable to the empire. Anyone who dared to harm him would have to first weigh up the consequences.

Shen Tuo, Yu Beidou and Cheng Jing, rune grandmasters, stared at Lin Xun with blazing eyes like he was a rare treasure. Their gaze was so intense it seemed able to melt people.

They knew more about Lin Xun's terrifying potential than other people. He was only sixteen years old, but he had solely cast a rune armament in less than one month!

No one could compare with Lin Xun. He was unparalleled and unrivaled in the past and present!

Everyone was most amazed by the fact that Lin Xun's first rune armament had attracted a lightning tribulation! It was like an unbelievable miracle!

Shen Tuo wanted to rush over to Lin Xun and ask him how he achieved that.

It was too astonishing!

Lin Xun's performance deserved to be recorded in the historical records of the empire. He was the brightest star in the world of rune masters.

The atmosphere was eerily silent. Many people fought to keep calm and snap out of the shock.

The hazy dark-gray spear floated and rotated in the sky. Although it looked simple and natural, it was overflowing with a terrifying aura and collapsed the surrounding space.

Lin Xun's handsome and elegant figure was standing atop the Refinement Tower, with the spear producing clear and melodious roars above his head. He looked particularly lonely as he looked down at the powerful figures from a height.

Everyone's gazes turned complex when they looked at him. There was shock, admiration, disbelief and confusion.

Indeed, it was hard to imagine such a young handsome man could create an unprecedented miracle!

Suddenly, applause erupted from the audience, breaking the long silence.

Zhao Zhanye, the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department, clapped his hands, beaming with delight. "Not bad, not bad. I already said that you can make up for your mistakes if you successfully cast a rune armament. You didn't disappoint me."

Everyone's expressions turned strange.

Zhao Zhanye had joined in gathering a group of powerful figures to target and pressure Lin Xun. They wished to subdue and kill Lin Xun on the spot.

However, he suddenly changed his stance. He acted as an elder and praised Lin Xun, surprising many people.

Understanding dawned on many people. They realized that Zhao Zhanye had changed his stance to avoid embarrassment when he sensed the change in the situation.

"Pah! Shameless old thing! Your face changes so quickly!" Ning Meng, Shi Yu and the others fumed under their breath.

Even Lin Xun was a little taken aback. He forced a smile and said, "Why do I remember that someone regarded me as a looming disaster and wanted to quickly get rid of me?"

"Lin Xun, don't look so smug. You only made a rune armament! It's already very kind of us to let you make up for your wrongs!" Zuo Fuguang scolded.

Lin Xun's eyes suddenly glinted coldly. "Since you said that, then I have to ask you what I did wrong. Who are you? How dare you try to convict me?" His resounding voice shook the world and chilled everyone.

"You..."

Cold killing intent gleamed in Zuo Fuguang's eyes. He saw it as a kind of provocation for a junior to disrespect him in front of so many people.

"What, you can't answer my questions so you want to resort to violence? If I remember correctly, this is Qinglu Academy. You are just an outsider running wild here. Do you dare to create trouble here?"

Lin Xun's counterattack was unrestrained.

Zuo Fuguang was so angry that his hair rose ,and he couldn't restrain his murderous rage anymore.

At that moment, Zhao Zhanye suddenly sighed.

"Okay, that's it. I will keep the spear for now. You can think of it as the price to pay for making up for your wrongs!" As he was speaking, he stretched out his arms to grab the spear floating in the air.

Everyone was startled.

He was about to snatch the result of Lin Xun's efforts!

Not only that, he did it in an extremely domineering manner and didn't ask for Lin Xun's consent!

"How dare you?!"

Lin Xun never thought that Zhao Zhanye would be so shameless as to covet the treasure he made at such a time!

However, it was already too late when Lin Xun wanted to stop him.

Zhao Zhanye was the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department and a great cultivator who had stepped into the Cyclic Derivation Stage. How could Lin Xun stop him?

Moreover, his unexpected move had caught everyone off guard. Even Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi and the others wouldn't be able to stop him in time, let alone Lin Xun.

Instantly, a giant hand formed from dazzling light emerged in the air and clutched the spear.

The corners of Zhao Zhanye's lips curled. A little brat wants to fight against me. He's too ignorant.

At the same time, he quivered with excitement. The spear was an extraordinary weapon that survived the lightning tribulation. It was considered incredibly rare even among rune armaments.

If I don't take the opportunity to snatch treasure, it will be a waste of all the hard work he has put into it!

"When did my Qinglu Academy become like this? Even our people trample on our rules?" an old and calm voice resounded.

Rumble!

Instantly, the giant hand crumbled like paper and scattered like rain.

Zhao Zhanye grunted. He tottered, and his face turned pale. A trickle of blood overflowed the corners of his lips.

The audience stiffened and felt chilled to the bone when they heard the old and indifferent voice. An indescribable force was bearing down on them, making them feel suffocated.

Everyone's faces twisted with horror. Could it be a terrifying old monster?

Another figure suddenly appeared. It was a thin old man with eyes like deep black holes. There seemed to be the secrets of the great dao swirling inside them.

He stood there casually without any terrifying aura around him, but everyone somehow felt a stinging pain in their eyes. No one dared to look at him directly. He didn't seem like an old man but a blazing sun hanging above the nine heavens and illuminating the mountains and rivers.

Zhao Zhanye's face suddenly contorted with fear. He never thought that the old man would be alerted and come.

At that moment, influential figures sprang to their feet at the same time and bowed respectfully. "Paying our respects to the principal."

The voices echoed all around.

Everyone frantically got up, trembling.

The Principal!

The Principal of Qinglu Academy who hadn't appeared in many years!

He was the most unfathomable old monster in the empire. Rumor had it that he had possessed powers of the Life Death Stage King as early as a thousand years ago. His abilities and skills were said to be mysterious and terrifying.

However, he hadn't appeared for many years, so everyone thought that he had gone traveling around the world and was ignoring world affairs.

No one had expected him to suddenly appear!

Lin Xun was also shocked, but he had met the old man once before so he wasn't as surprised as the others to see him.

Taking the opportunity, he swiftly and nimbly put away the spear and leapt down from the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower.

Lin Xun was no longer worried after the principal showed up.

"I have seen everything. At this moment, I just want to ask you all, where do you think you are?"

The principal's voice was still calm and indifferent, but the meaning of his words chilled the powerful figures to the marrow as they realized that the situation had turned serious.

No one dared to answer because everyone knew the answer.

"You tell me." The old man shifted his eyes to Zhao Zhanye.

Zhao Zhanye's face instantly turned deathly pale, and his body stiffened. Even if he was a powerful figure in the imperial family, he didn't have the courage or confidence to face the old man.

"Principal, please forgive us!" Zhao Zhanye immediately bowed his head and admitted his mistake.

Everyone gasped. Zhao Zhanye has such a remarkable identity and status, but he is like a junior in front of the principal. He didn't even dare to explain.

"From now on, you are not allowed to step into Qinglu Academy ever again."

The principal directly stripped Zhao Zhanye of his status as the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department and expelled him from the academy!

It was no doubt a heavy blow. Zhao Zhanye's prestige would be affected if it spread out.

But he didn't dare to protest. Instead, he bowed his head like he was relieved. He didn't show the slightest dissatisfaction or resentment.

Everyone's heart churned like the sea again. The principal is so strong! He is like a high and mighty supreme existence in Qinglu Academy!

Chu Shanhe, Zuo Fuguang, Qin Baoji and the others sensed that something bad was about to happen. Their bodies stiffened in fear like they were sitting on thorns.

They could tell that the principal came to stand up for Lin Xun!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 502

Zhao Zhanye had attempted to seize Lin Xun's treasure, but the principal appeared and stripped him of his status as the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department, shocking everyone.

Everyone realized that the principal had shown up to protect Lin Xun!

Ning Meng and Shi Yu were overjoyed, and even Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui was amazed that Lin Xun was so lucky to have such treatment from the principal of Qinglu Academy.

The influential figures who had previously targeted Lin Xun stood rooted to the spot as if a thorn had been pierced into their backs, and their faces were glum.

None of them would have thought that Lin Xun would attract the attention of the principal. They, even more, didn't think that the principal would expel Zhao Zhanye without any hesitation.

He wanted to show that he was taking Lin Xun's side.

"Since all of you are here, I'm also curious about what Lin Xun did wrong to make you all come to my Qinglu Academy to punish him?" The principal spoke again, making the atmosphere even heavier.

Finally, an influential figure summoned the courage, took a deep breath, and said aloud,

"Principal, that kid once forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel in public, and he insulted the dignity of the imperial family. How can such a serious crime be tolerated?"

"That kid has killed a member of my Zuo Clan and imprisoned Zuo Yang, a descendant of the Zuo Clan. He has to be seriously punished!" Zuo Fuguang said solemnly.

"He has also slaughtered many clansmen of my Qin Clan."

"He forced Qi Yu, the direct descendant of the Qi Clan, on his knees the other day. He is arrogant and has committed countless evil deeds."

"That kid is so audacious. He will become a great trouble if he isn't taught a lesson."

Many people spoke aloud, all of whom were from the Qin Clan, Qi Clan, Zuo Clan and other high clans. They refused to give up.

Everyone trembled inwardly upon hearing the accusations. Those influential figures each represented a monstrous clan!

The principal scanned the crowd as he asked. "Audacious? Are you talking about Lin Xun, or are you talking about yourself?" Wherever his gaze passed, no one dared to face him directly.

Someone gritted his teeth and asked, "Elder, you..."

"It's very simple, since you keep saying that you want to settle accounts, why don't we put an end to everything today and see who is the audacious one?!"

The principal spoke indifferently, but it was full of majesty. It sent everyone's blood pulsing around their bodies, their spirit shaking, and their eardrums vibrating.

It fell utterly silent.

The principal possessed immeasurable strength, so even the great emperor wouldn't dare to offend him easily. Who would dare challenge the principal?

"Since you believe that Lin Xun is innocent in those matters, then there is nothing for us to say! We will take our leave now!" Zuo Fuguang said indifferently, his voice containing a hint of anger.

"Hmph!" The principal snorted coldly, making Zuo Fuguang freeze on the spot. He didn't dare to move an inch.

"Let me ask you one more question. What did Lin Xun do wrong? As long as you can give a reasonable reason, I will not interfere in this matter and let your Zuo Clan deal with Lin Xun!" the principal stated indifferently.

Zuo Fuguang's countenance changed silently. He gritted his teeth and said, "He killed people of my Zuo Clan! Many people present know about this. Now, Zuo Yang is still imprisoned on the Lin Clan's Mind Cleansing Peak. Did he do nothing wrong?"

"How dare you?!" the principal reprimanded. "If the Zuo and Qin Clans hadn't invaded Mind Cleansing Peak, how would such a thing happen? You brought everything upon yourselves!"

Lin Xun realized that the principal already knew everything!

He felt a little touched because he realized that the old man had been paying attention to him.

Zuo Fuguang's expression changed and just as he was about to say something, the principal waved dismissively. "Go, don't make me pay your Zuo Clan a visit!"

His warning was like a bolt of lightning. Zuo Fuguang's face blanched as he finally realized that the principal was determined to do everything to protect Lin Xun.

Zuo Fuguang turned around without a word and left.

He was the high and mighty Marquis of the Hundred Battles. He had fought on the battlefield for years and had slaughtered countless great enemies, but, facing the principal, he didn't dare to say anything and left.

"I also have nothing to say here. Farewell." Qin Baoji turned around and left with an overcast face.

Although Lin Xun was unwilling to let Zuo Fuguang and Qin Baoji leave so easily, he also knew that the principal wouldn't deal with the two for him.

The remaining influential figures kept quiet, and no one mentioned their grudge against Lin Xun anymore.

"I heard that Lin Xun once had a grudge with the Hua Clan. I would like to resolve it. I wonder if there is room for negotiation?" The principal cast a glance at an influential figure of the Hua Clan.

It was a bearded middle-aged man called Hua Qingchi. He immediately said aloud, "Principal, there was indeed a little conflict, but it's just a petty fight amongst the younger generation. Since the principal has spoken, we can leave the matter behind us."

He was neither humble nor arrogant, but wisely expressed the Hua Family's stance. They didn't want to anger the principal because of Lin Xun.

"What do you think?" the principal asked Lin Xun.

How could Lin Xun not know what was good for him? He said aloud, "It was indeed just a little conflict. I had no intention of being hostile to the Hua Clan from the start."

"Good." The principal nodded and looked at Hua Qingchi. "Go back and tell the elders of your clan that they are welcome to come to the academy to discuss scriptures with me when they are free."

Hua Qingchi's face lit up. The elders of the Hua Clan would be delighted when they learned about the principal's invitation.

Many people became envious. Lin Xun is so lucky. How can a young man like him receive the protection and favor of the principal of Qinglu Academy?

"That guy is so lucky..." Ning Meng also exclaimed.

"If you can cast a rune armament that can survive a lightning tribulation at the age of sixteen, you will also enjoy such treatments," remarked Shi Yu.

"Then never mind. I'm not that abnormal." Ning Meng shook his head.

The principal continued as he glanced at an influential figure of the Song Clan, "Did Lin Xun have a conflict with some juniors of the Song Clan?"

The influential figure of the Song Clan immediately said with a smile, "Elder, it's just a little argument amongst the younger generation. It's nothing."

Strictly speaking, Lin Xun had defeated both Song Zhe and Song Chonghe. They were in the wrong, so the Song Clan couldn't pursue the matter further. Otherwise, they would lose face.

“Since that’s the case, why don’t you turn the hostility into friendship?” The principal glanced at Lin Xun.

“Whatever you say.” Lin Xun nodded.

He didn’t have any deep-seated hatred for the Song or Hua families, so it would be best if the conflict could be resolved.

Everyone marveled again. The principal had helped Lin Xun clear obstacles the moment he appeared. That alone showed how much importance he attached to Lin Xun.

Moreover, who else would dare to offend Lin Xun after they saw his relationship with the principal?

“Elder, I hope you understand, but my Chi Family has deep-seated hatred for the kid that can’t be resolved, so I will take my leave,” an influential figure of the Chi Family stated his stance before the principal could say anything, surprising many people.

Only a powerful high clan like the Chi Clan would dare to say that.

The principal didn’t seem the least annoyed. “Since that’s the case, good luck.”

Lin Xun breathed a sigh of relief. In truth, he didn’t plan on working things out with the Chi Family. After all, the Chi Family had ambushed and attacked him multiple times before he arrived at the Forbidden City. It was impossible to melt the deep grudge like ice!

“My Qi Family has the same stance as the Chi Family, but my Qi Family will not bully a junior. I will leave the conflicts between the younger generation for them to settle themselves,” stated an influential figure of the Qi Family.

The principal nodded. “Good.”

Lin Xun thought of Qi Yu, whom he forced to his knees, and couldn’t help but smile to himself. He wasn’t the least bit afraid if the matter was left to the younger generation to settle amongst themselves.

So far, Zhao Zhanye had been expelled, the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan had swallowed their anger and left, and the grudge between the Hua Clan and the Song Clan and Lin Xun had been put behind them. The Chi Clan had stated that they wouldn’t leave the matter at that, and the Qi Clan had made a decision to let the younger generation settle the matter amongst themselves.

The principal had helped Lin Xun resolve many problems with just a few words. He also helped Lin Xun see clearly who the real hostile forces were.

“You don’t need to look at me. I can’t make any decisions on behalf of the imperial family. I’m just here to join in the fun,” Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao stated out loud when he noticed the principal’s gaze.

He had always wanted to be a spectator.

But then, he changed his tone, “Of course, I am personally very happy to see the growth of a young rune grandmaster.”

Everyone was taken aback. Even if Lin Xun couldn’t receive the understanding of everyone in the imperial family, he had won the favor and recognition of Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao!

Chu Shanhe was extremely bitter. He felt uncomfortable and uneasy standing there. He wanted to leave and disappear because all his allies had either collapsed or been suppressed by the principal.

At that moment, Chu Shanhe inadvertently noticed Lin Xun casting a glance at him and the corners of the youth's lips had curved in a cold smile.

Chu Shanhe's heart sank. He had a bad premonition.

Lin Xun said solemnly, "Elder, there is something that I want to ask you to get justice for me."

"What's the matter?" asked the principal.

Lin Xun glanced at Chu Shanhe. The older man's face had become visibly paler, and his body had stiffened. Chu Shanhe's hair stood on end as he knew what Lin Xun wanted to do.

"While I was casting a rune armament, I noticed that the Azure Sky Furnace had been tampered with, and it almost caused me to fail at crafting my rune armament. I hope Elder will investigate this matter and find the culprit. Please help me get justice!"

Chu Shanhe's head buzzed and his soul almost left his body as if lightning had struck him. As expected, he'd been exposed...

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 503

Someone had been secretly tampering with the equipment to ruin Lin Xun's rune armament-making operation!

Everyone couldn't believe it. Who would hate Lin Xun that much to do that?

How despicable!

"Is this true?" Shen Tuo was livid.

He was so furious that he almost crushed his teeth. After all, this was the Rune Department. It would be outrageous if someone dared to do so.

"The Azure Sky Furnace is on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower. We can take a look if you don't believe it." Lin Xun swept a cold glance over Chu Shanhe.

"It's you!" Shen Tuo quickly responded.

"Nonsense! Do you have any evidence!? Don't accuse me!" Chu Shanhe bellowed, forcing himself to stay calm.

No matter what happened, he would never admit to it. Otherwise, he would lose all standing and reputation. He might even suffer incredibly harsh punishment.

"Evidence? Haha, Chu Shanhe, you dare to do it but don't dare to admit it? If you hadn't secretly tampered with the Azure Sky Furnace, how would you be so certain that I would fail and gather so many people here to try to suppress me?" Lin Xun smiled coldly.

Everyone cast suspicious looks at Chu Shanhe. Indeed, as early as the first day of Lin Xun's rune armament making, the older man had acted very strangely. He seemed to be very confident that Lin Xun would fail.

At that time, they were also puzzled as to why Chu Shanhe would be so certain that Lin Xun would fail.

Who would have thought that there was a reason for it?!

As Lin Xun said, Chu Shanhe was despicable! He was the deputy head of the Rune Department, but he shamelessly tried to ruin a junior's rune armament-making operation.

"No wonder that old thing was so arrogant. It turns out that he had messed about with the furnace!" Ning Meng fumed.

Shi Yu and the others donned hostile expressions. Chu Shanhe had almost killed Lin Xun. How would they not be angry?

Lin Xun would have suffered unimaginable consequences if he failed!

"Lin Xun, if I had messed about with the furnace, how could you possibly be able to successfully cast a rune armament?" Chu Shanhe questioned, his face livid.

"That is not enough to prove your innocence. I succeeded because I averted the crisis at the critical juncture!" Lin Xun's expression turned chilling.

"But how are you going to prove that I did it?"

He insisted because he knew Lin Xun had no evidence to prove it.

"Enough, stop arguing. I will investigate and all will be clear," the principal suddenly said aloud.

With a flash, he reappeared on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower.

Furious, he was determined to find the culprit and investigate the truth!

After all, it was a despicable move. Someone in Qinglu Academy had tried to harm a young rune grandmaster who could cast rune armaments!

No one knew what method the principal would use to investigate, but they were all confident that he would find out the truth!

A feeling of unease and restlessness churned in Chu Shanhe's heart. He believed that he hadn't left a single trace of evidence, and he had carried out the work flawlessly. However, when he saw the principal personally investigate the scene, he felt an indescribable pressure bearing down on him.

Time passed, but his body was still rooted to the spot. He was so nervous and terrified like a prisoner about to go on trial.

"Hmph, the principal will soon know who the culprit is. That person has to be severely punished no matter who it is!" Shen Tuo said coldly.

He couldn't help but tremble at the thought that Lin Xun could have failed because of someone else's scheming. That would have been a tragedy.

“Yes, such a despicable and shameless person has to be severely punished!” Ning Meng thundered.

Everyone could tell that Chu Shanhe was the prime suspect, but everything depended on whether the principal could find out the truth.

Before long, the principal reappeared, his face calm and devoid of emotion. It was hard to know whether he had found any clues.

Even Lin Xun was a little nervous. In truth, he lacked evidence to prove that Chu Shanhe had tampered with the furnace.

If the principal failed to find out the truth, then Chu Shanhe would dodge the bullet. Lin Xun couldn’t accept that.

He hated that old guy to the core. Ever since Lin Xun had joined the Rune Department, he had been deliberately targeting and making things difficult for him.

Now, he teamed up with other old guys to harm Lin Xun. Lin Xun wouldn’t be able to stomach it until the old guy was taught a lesson.

Amid the silent atmosphere, all eyes gathered on the principal.

The principal shifted his gaze to Chu Shanhe. Suddenly, Chu Shanhe trembled imperceptibly, and his face stiffened.

“Come with me,” the principal ordered as he walked away.

Chu Shanhe’s expression morphed indefinitely. Ultimately, he gritted his teeth and followed the principal.

“What does that mean? Is he the culprit or not?”

“It has to be him. The principal just called him away to help him save face. After all, this is a scandal and would affect Qinglu Academy’s reputation if it spreads out.”

“Then is everything over for Chu Shanhe now?”

There was a long clamor of discussion.

Lin Xun scrunched his brows. No matter what, he believed the principal would give him a satisfactory answer.

“Congratulations little friend! You successfully made a rune armament!”

“Little friend, dare I ask if the rune armament is for sale?”

“Little Brother Lin Xun, can you show me the miraculous power of the spear?”

As soon as the principal left, many powerful figures rushed toward Lin Xun, and their eyes gleamed covetously.

Their hearts already fluttered when they witnessed the spear survive the lightning tribulation, so they had long coveted the spear. They couldn’t control themselves anymore when the principal left.

Rune armament!

One rune armament could change the situation of a powerful clan, so who wouldn't want one?!

Ning Meng and Shi Yu were going to rush over, but they saw that a group of old men had already surrounded Lin Xun.

"Everyone, listen to me first."

The clamor ceased.

"In ten days, I will hold a conference to talk about this rune armament in Stone Cauldron Alms. On that day, you will understand the miraculous ability of this treasure."

Shi Yu's eyes lit up. He knew Lin Xun had done that deliberately to return the favor. After all, his father Fortune God Shi had appeared today to support him.

"Hmph, that guy is biased. Why is he thinking of Stone Cauldron Alms all the time? What about me?" Ning Meng grumbled.

PA!

Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui slapped Ning Meng on the forehead and scolded him with a smile, "Little brat, as long as Lin Xun is around, do you need to worry about rune armaments?"

Fortune God Shi, Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo laughed. They were originally dragged here to support Lin Xun even though they didn't know much about him, but they were very glad that they agreed to do so. They were very pleased to learn that the friend of their son or grandson was such a rare talent.

"Little Friend Lin Xun, dare I ask if you intend to sell this treasure on the day of the conference?" an influential figure asked fervently.

"This treasure won't be sold," Lin Xun answered without any hesitation, disappointing many people.

However, his next sentence reignited their excitement.

"However, if anyone finds the antidote to the Demon Tribulation Poison, I promise to reward them with a custom-made rune armament!"

Everyone was stirred.

Many influential figures decided to do everything they could to collect antidotes and treatments for the Demon Tribulation Poison once they left the academy.

"Of course, on the day of the conference, I will also make some announcements concerning the commission of rune armaments. Please look forward to it then."

Lin Xun's remark was met with a fervent reaction. Many people had secretly decided that they have to befriend the youth no matter what.

A young rune grandmaster able to cast rune armament would no doubt have a boundless future.

After a long while, people started to disperse.

Just as Lin Xun was about to breathe a sigh of relief, he saw Shen Tuo, Yu Beidou, Cheng Jing and other rune grandmasters gathered around him with fanatical gazes.

They wanted to inquire and ask Lin Xun for advice on casting rune armaments.

Lin Xun hurriedly interjected first, "Everyone, let me rest a while. I'm so tired after making this rune armament these days. My body is about to collapse."

Shen Tuo and the others felt a little embarrassed and quickly nodded in agreement.

"Little guy, have a good rest. In a few days, I will ask Shi Yu to personally pick you up and take you to Stone Cauldron Alms. I will be looking forward to the surprises at the conference." Fortune God Shi clapped his hand on Lin Xun's shoulder before he left with Ning Bugui, Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo.

Lin Xun finally let out a long sigh when he returned to the teacher dormitory, and his brows were creased with fatigue.

He was too tired. As soon as he lay in the bed, he collapsed from exhaustion.

Meanwhile, a piece of news set the entire Forbidden City in an uproar.

"Lin Xun successfully made a rune armament today!"

The news swept every area of the Forbidden City like a storm and shook the minds of every cultivator.

No one thought that Lin Xun, whom many people looked down on, would succeed!

The news sparked all sorts of discussions and every little detail that happened at the Refinement Tower was being dug up and became the hottest topic of discussion.

Lin Xun!

His name once again shook the Forbidden City like it had some sort of magical power!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 504

In the evening.

Under the glow of the setting sun, an old man led a donkey into the Forbidden City.

A slender and delicate figure was sitting astride the beast. The figure was clad in a black cloak that concealed half the face. Only the tip of a flawless and fair chin was exposed.

The city was as noisy and lively as always. The streets were bustling, and the air was heavy with worldly dust.

"Lin Xun isn't an ordinary person. Who would dare to imagine that he would succeed?"

"What is a miracle? That's it. I heard that a purple lightning tribulation descended from the sky when the spear was born. It is unheard of!"

"From now on, who can stop Lin Xun from rising? So what if he is arrogant? So what if he is unrestrained? He has real skills and abilities!"

The old man heard nothing but discussions about Lin Xun as he led the donkey along the bustling streets.

He couldn't help but assume a strange expression. We haven't seen each other in a long time. It turns out the youngster can now cast rune armaments!

The old man couldn't help but glance at the slender and delicate figure on the donkey.

Unfortunately, the brim of the hood covered her face and obscured her expression.

"When did Lin Xun come to the Forbidden City?"

Suddenly, an ethereal and tranquil voice rang from under the brim of the hood. The voice was as pleasant and clear as the flowing spring water.

"Around one year ago," the old man answered.

"Why wasn't I informed about it?"

"Even if you knew, the two of you would not be able to see each other. You still have to grow up and train, and he has his own path to walk. It is best for you two to not meet," the old man patiently explained.

The delicate figure fell silent.

"You may encounter more dangerous situations this time. Miss is running out of time. She hopes that you can grow up as soon as possible."

As the old man navigated forward, he said warmly, "When you are strong enough, you can do what you want and won't be obstructed by anything."

"You mean I won't be able to come out for a long time after I return?" the sweet voice rang out from the donkey.

The old man's expression turned serious as he nodded and said, "Yes, very likely."

The little girl kept silent until they reached a busy intersection. She suddenly raised her hand and halted the donkey.

Next to the intersection was a teahouse, where many cultivators were enthusiastically discussing the incident that happened in Qinglu Academy.

"The principal came forward and removed Zhao Zhanye from his role and expelled him from the academy. He was like a gust of wind sweeping away the autumn leaves. Even the powerful figures who came with him had to bow their heads and dared not be hostile to Lin Xun again. Only the Zuo, Qin and Chi Clan have refused to give up on dealing with Lin Xun!"

"Yes, only the powerful Zuo, Qin and Chi Clans would not give face to the principal. I wonder how they will deal with Lin Xun in the future."

"The feud can't be resolved so easily. I heard that the bloody tragedy on Mind Cleansing Peak more than ten years ago was related to those three clans. It's impossible to resolve such a blood feud."

After listening silently for a long while, the little girl suddenly said aloud, "Before I go back, I need to go somewhere."

The old man seemed to have guessed something as a rare look of helplessness spread across his kind face. After a long moment, he sighed, "One hour at most."

"Fine," the little girl answered bluntly.

.....

Flying Crane Peak, one of the seventy-two aristocratic peaks.

It was the territory belonging to the Chi Clan. The peak was shaped like a crane rising into the sky. It was a sacred place.

That evening, a little girl arrived at the entrance of Flying Crane Peak on a donkey led by an old man.

Elite guards were stationed around the entrance to the mountain peak. When they saw the old man and the little girl, one of them walked forward and asked loudly, "Who are you and why did you come to the Chi Clan's territory?"

The little girl raised her head, quietly gazed at the Flying Crane Peak for a moment, and then she answered, "My name is Xia Zhi, and I am here to kill."

Her voice was as ethereal as the sounds of nature, but her words were chilling.

The guards were taken aback for a moment. They couldn't believe what they heard. Who had ever dared to come to the Chi Clan and cause trouble?

However, a little girl suddenly came and threatened to kill!

It was too bizarre.

"Kill?"

The guard looked baffled. "Little girl, do you know where this place is?"

"I know. The Chi Clan," the little girl answered calmly.

The guard was immediately annoyed. "You know yet you still came to spew nonsense! Do you want to die? Hurry up and get lost! Otherwise, you can't leave today!"

Clang!

The little girl stretched out her slender and fair hand and a ten-foot-long spear appeared in her grip. The spear's body emitted a cold, hazy glow like an illusion.

She was dressed in a black cloak that concealed her face and slender figure, but she was clearly a little girl. However, when she held the star spear, she seemed to have become a different person!

An indescribable murderous intent engulfed the area like night. The world dimmed and seemed to be plunged into darkness.

The little girl felt like the king of darkness. Everywhere her spear pointed became darkness!

Pu!

In the blink of an eye, the formless tip of the spear sliced the guard's throat, and he silently collapsed to the ground, blood gushing everywhere.

His eyes bulged wide open wide with disbelief. Even at death, he couldn't believe that a little girl would dare to come and kill at the entrance of the Flying Crane Peak of the Chi Family!

Who was she?

The old man stood quietly on one side with the donkey, his expression calm and kind as always. But occasionally, a complicated glint flashed across his eyes when he looked at the little girl.

"You have guts!"

"You dare to kill on the territory of my Chi Clan! You have a death wish!"

The guards on the other side were alerted by the disturbance and charged over.

PU! PU! PU!

The little girl stood calmly, her black cloak fluttering like a shadow in the darkness. Only the spear in her hand emitted a dreamy, starry brilliance.

With the flick of her wrist, the guards charging over were slashed by an invisible sharp edge. They collapsed to the ground with a slit in their throats and screamed in agony.

It was a ghastly sight. The darkness enveloped the bloody corpses and the blood-stained ground like a curtain.

No one saw the girl's attack, and no one was able to fight back or resist.

It was as though any life shrouded in the darkness would be harvested.

"An enemy attack! Hurry up and report it!" someone yelled.

Soon, alarmed members of the Chi Clan rushed out one after another.

They were in the Forbidden City, and they were one of the seven high clans. No one had ever dared to come to the Chi Clan's door to create trouble in thousands of years.

However, someone dared to block the entrance and launch a killing spree. That was no doubt a provocation to the Chi Clan!

The little girl didn't move an inch. She was as quiet and still as the eternal night. It was as though she had no fear.

PU! PU! PU!

Groups of cultivators charged out in succession but all, without exception, were engulfed by the darkness and lost their lives.

No one could struggle or flee.

The blood-red glow of the setting sun couldn't dispel the darkness or blood stench. Corpses were strewn everywhere, and thick scarlet blood soaked the ground.

It was a massacre.

The little girl just stood there quietly, clasping an illusionary-looking spear and letting darkness descend and end lives. She looked ruthless and cold.

It wasn't until four Heaven Ascension cultivators appeared that the little girl finally made a visible move. However, the movement seemed too casual and simple.

She waved the spear in her hand, and blood-colored stars streaked downward from the darkness.

Four Heaven Ascension cultivators were slaughtered on the spot. They had only just summoned their treasures and were about to mobilize their secret arts...but they were obliterated like weeds!

At that moment, an influential figure of the Chi Clan was finally alerted and a thunderous roar resounded from Flying Crane Peak—

"Black Glory Sacred Hall! How dare you attack our Chi Clan!?"

"We should go." The old man spectating from afar strolled over to the little girl, his expression calm and kind as always. There wasn't a tinge of panic on his face.

"Okay." The little girl nodded.

She came to kill, not to die. She knew that she would have to face a lot of danger if she stayed any longer.

The two instantly vanished with the donkey.

"Old Sword Slave! You have gone too far, I will personally pay the Castle of Darkness a visit later for an explanation!" a furious roar quaked Flying Crane Peak and churned up clouds like a god venting his anger.

.....

Cloud Stream Peak, the territory of the Zuo Clan, one of the seven high clans.

Bathed in the glow of the setting sun, an old man, a little girl and a donkey appeared.

"I am called Xia Zhi and I am here to kill."

When the little girl uttered that sentence, another bloody killing spree was launched.

This time, forty-six corpses were buried and drenched the earth with blood.

By the time the influential figures of the Zuo Clan were alerted and came, the old man and the little girl had already vanished.

The same thing repeated on Vast Sun Peak, the territory of the Qin Clan, one of the seven high clans.

When the sun set and night fell, one hour was up.

The little girl was silent for a moment before she said aloud, "One day, I will wipe out those three clans."

The old man finally couldn't remain calm and smiled helplessly.

"Let's go."

The old man left with the donkey and the little girl.

That night, the news about the bloody massacres in the Chi, Zuo and Qin Clans spread throughout the Forbidden City at an incredible speed and set off huge waves of shock and disbelief in every cultivator.

In thousands of years, who had ever dared to openly provoke an aristocratic clan? They were the strongest forces in the empire and had monstrous authority and powers!

However, a little girl called Xia Zhi had appeared at the door of the Chi Clan, Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan and stirred up one storm of blood after another.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 505

The next morning, the news of the massacres in the Chi, Zuo and Qin Families was suppressed from spreading, making the incident even bewildering.

No one knew the number of casualties in the three high clans, nor what sort of fierce conflicts had broken out.

They only knew that a little girl called Xia Zhi had caused the massacres.

Xia Zhi!

A warm and simple name had caused a sensation in the Forbidden City overnight. Although no one knew who she was, that didn't dampen their astonishment.

She was the only person brave enough to launch killing sprees in three high clans in the past one thousand years.

The most unbelievable thing was that all the rumored descriptions of her formed the image of a little girl!

Why would a little girl do that?

Many people speculated that the incident was related to Lin Xun. After all, everyone in the city knew that Lin Xun was enemies with the Chi Clan, Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan.

It couldn't be a simple coincidence for Xia Zhi to attack those three powerful clans.

While the outside world was widely speculating the motive behind the attacks, the Chi, Zuo and Qin Clans blocked the news from fermenting using the toughest means.

However, the scandal had happened, and it became a signal to the world that there were people who dared to challenge the high clans!

Xia Zhi!

Who was she?

Was she connected to Lin Xun?

Many people were curious.

Only some of the major forces knew that the little girl had an extraordinary background, but they were confused about her motive.

.....

The outside world was enveloped in a storm once again, but Qinglu Academy had already resumed its former tranquility. The academy was like a pure, sacred land undisturbed and unaffected by the outside world.

Two days later!

Early in the morning, Lin Xun woke up from meditation. Birds were chirping outside, and sunbeams slanted through the lattice window, bathing the interior of the house in a mellow, warm morning glow.

The fresh aroma of grass and trees lingering in the air and the wisps of spiritual qi lifted Lin Xun's spirit and refreshed his mind. It had been a while since he felt this comfortable.

As he lay on the bed, he cast his mind back to the scenes before he drifted off and couldn't help but mutter to himself, "I successfully made a rune armament and alarmed the principal. I believe I have caused a huge enough disturbance this time..."

After pondering for a moment, he leapt out of bed and stretched.

He pushed open the window and was greeted by the warm rays of the morning sun, dancing cranes in the clear sky and its distinctive and pleasant cries.

Ancient buildings were standing tall in the distance, bathed in the morning sun. Occasionally, students in groups of three and two walked past, casting youthful silhouettes.

Soon, Shen Tuo came to visit him. He had heard some movements and knew that Lin Xun had woken up.

"Congratulations, Master Lin Xun, do you know who is the center of attention in the Forbidden City now?" Shen Tuo teased Lin Xun.

"It seems like Elder is in a good mood." Lin Xun smiled.

However, Shen Tuo let out a sigh. "You're wrong. I'm in a bad mood." As he was speaking, he flicked his sleeve and brought out a thick stack of exquisite-looking invitations. All of which were made from the highest quality jade and gemstones. They were no doubt extraordinary.

"Take a look. In just a few days, dozens of forces have sent invitations to you. These are only the ones I have selected."

Shen Tuo shoved the bunch of invitations into Lin Xun's hand. "You can take care of them yourself. The imperial family, the high clans, the middle-level clans, the military headquarters, the Rune Master

Association headquarters, the Divine Workshop...I can't afford to offend any one of them. You can make the decisions on your own."

Lin Xun stared at them blankly. Then, a spark of realization dawned on his face, and he tossed all the invitations to the corner of the room like garbage.

Shen Tuo's eyes opened wide.

"Elder, don't look at me like that. They are just invitations. Would the senders treat me as an enemy if I don't go?"

Shen Tuo sighed emotionally. "Indeed, your identity is no longer the same as before. No one wants to offend you now. Oh, by the way, have you heard of Xia Zhi?" he suddenly asked.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed and his heart trembled. "Elder, why did you suddenly mention that name?"

A puzzled look crossed Shen Tuo's face. "Just a few days ago, that mysterious little girl did something..."

He recounted the rumors of the bloody massacres that took place at the entrances of the Chi, Zuo and Qin Clans a few days ago.

Lin Xun froze. He couldn't calm the churning feeling in his heart.

Memories flooded his mind. He thought of the first time he met Xia Zhi. He thought of the days they spent together in Feiyun Village. He thought of the little girl's serious but calm words when they parted in Donglin City. Lin Xun, you can't die before I come back.

Inexplicably, his heart trembled, and the little girl's stunningly beautiful and tranquil face appeared in his mind. She was always independent, quiet and aloof. She was very unique as though she was living in another world.

Lin Xun had never thought that Xia Zhi would appear in such a way after two years of absence. Why...why didn't she come to see me?

"Lin Xun, what's wrong?" Shen Tuo's voice rang in his ears and snapped him out of his thoughts.

"It's nothing. Elder, can you tell me where she is now?" Lin Xun asked after drawing a deep breath.

"I don't know." Shen Tuo shook his head.

Let alone him, the vast majority of people in the Forbidden City were unaware of the little girl's origin.

"Dark Night Sacred Hall..." Lin Xun murmured. "Yes, she must be there..."

Shen Tuo suddenly remembered something and said, "Did you say the little girl is from Dark Night Sacred Hall? No wonder, I understand."

Lin Xun had a feeling that Shen Tuo knew something.

As expected, Shen Tuo stated, "If that little girl is really from Dark Night Sacred Hall, you won't be able to see her even if you go there."

"Why is that?" Lin Xun scrunched his brows.

“Because the Dark Night Sacred Hall has vanished as of yesterday.”

“Vanished?”

“Yes, it disappeared with the Castle of Darkness. This is a very secretive matter and only a few people know about it. I only coincidentally learned about it through a conversation with someone else. I heard that it is because the Queen in the Castle of Darkness is going through the first Immortality Tribulation, so she has to isolate herself from the world to avoid any disturbance,” Shen Tuo patiently explained.

Immortality Tribulation!

Lin Xun stood there blankly. He had previously heard that Life Death Stage Kings had to go through a perilous calamity to set foot on the true path of immortality.

The calamity was called the Immortality Tribulation and was rumored to involve the power of the great dao heaven secret. There was only a very slim chance of surviving the tribulation!

Even those with the power of the Life Death Stage King wouldn't dare to recklessly challenge the tribulation because the consequences were disastrous. If failed, one would perish and be left without a corpse. The terrifying power of the great tribulation would obliterate them from the world and remove all hope of survival!

The most terrifying thing was that the path to immortality was rumored to be perilous. There was a tribulation of life and death with every step!

In other words, one wouldn't gain immortality after passing the tribulation. Once they set foot on the path of immortality, they were destined to face endless, unavoidable calamities.

“The Queen of the Dark Night is an existence that sends a chill down countless powerful figures' spines so many people view her as an enemy in this world. If she has chosen to challenge the Immortality Tribulation, she would no doubt suffer many setbacks.” Shen Tuo sighed.

The Dark Night Queen was a taboo name shrouded in the darkness of the empire for thousands of years. The mention of it made many powerful people turn pale.

Her enemies wouldn't stand and do nothing if they heard that she wanted to challenge the Immortality Tribulation!

“Fortunately, the power of the Dark Night Sacred Hall has disappeared like it has vanished into the thin air. The Dark Night Queen must have known that many people would want to ruin her chance so she made some advanced preparations.”

Shen Tuo analyzed, “Based on the circumstances, even her enemies likely won't be able to find any traces of her, let alone you.”

Lin Xun was silent for a moment, and then he finally sighed softly.

He suddenly thought of the reason why Xia Zhi would suddenly appear at the entrances to the Chi, Zuo, and Qin Clans. She knew that she would soon disappear with the Queen of Dark Night so she decided to use the opportunity to help him do something.

“One day, I will bring you back, and no one can take you away from me again then!” Lin Xun muttered in his heart.

It felt like his heart was being ripped out when he thought of the Dark Night Queen taking Xia Zhi away. He felt powerless, helpless and in despair.

Even though the old man from the Dark Night Sacred Hall had helped him several times, he still couldn't help from harboring hatred toward them for taking away Xia Zhi!

Lin Xun hated the feeling of being forced to accept fate!

“Lin Xun, what's going on? Could it be that Xia Zhi is your relative?” Shen Tuo had sharply noticed that Lin Xun had started to act strangely as soon as Xia Zhi's name was mentioned.

“It's nothing.”

Lin Xun took a deep breath, trying to calm himself. “Oh, by the way, Elder, did you come to find me for something?”

Shen Tuo could tell that Lin Xun didn't want to mention Xia Zhi again.

He said thoughtfully, “There is indeed one thing that I want to ask you to take care of. The owner of Sky Martial Arena, Zhao Tailai, came yesterday. He is still waiting for you in the academy and refuses to leave until he sees you.”

Shen Tuo couldn't help but smile wryly. Clearly, he felt helpless about Zhao Tailai's pestering.

Zhao Tailai?

Lin Xun knew that he had drawn the attention of the influential figure in the imperial palace with the great disturbance he caused.

Otherwise, Zhao Tailai, a cunning old guy, wouldn't have come to find him on his own initiative.

Lin Xun's lips curled into a smile. “What a coincidence! I also wanted to see him for something!”

He had promised Third Old Zhu to help him solve his breakthrough problem, and there was a solution to that in the depths of the imperial palace!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 506

The academy was peaceful, quaint and overflowing with antique charm and character.

It was early in the morning but the academy was already full of students, all in high spirits.

An uproar of cheers erupted when they saw Lin Xun and Shen Tuo coming out together.

“Little Instructor Lin!”

“Little Instructor Lin, we will always support you!”

“Little Instructor Lin, when will you teach us to make rune armaments?”

All the students' eyes brimmed with heartfelt admiration, excitement and awe.

Some girls even blushed with fanatical gazes. Lin Xun imaginably held a transcendent position in the students' hearts.

If Shen Tuo wasn't around, the students would have already surrounded Lin Xun.

"It's good to be young." Lin Xun sighed.

Shen Tuo grumbled, "How old are you?! I should be the one saying that."

Lin Xun smiled and didn't refute.

When they passed the Refinement Tower, Lin Xun was surprised to see a familiar figure.

It was Chu Shanhe!

However, he had a broom in his hand like a servant and was sweeping the area around the Refinement Tower.

When he noticed Lin Xun, his expression dramatically changed. His eyes flashed with a mixture of resentment, anger, fear and frustration.

In the end, he snorted coldly, turned his head and returned to the Refinement Tower.

"That is the principal's punishment for him. He is stripped of the position of deputy head of the Rune Department and demoted to guard the Refinement Tower for a hundred years," Shen Tuo explained.

Lin Xun frowned. "Isn't the punishment too light?"

Shen Tuo shook his head and explained, "You don't understand. He is an important figure of the high and mighty Chu Clan, one of the three great rune clans, and also the deputy head of the Rune Department. He enjoyed a glorious status and identity, but is now just an odd-job worker. He lost all his powers and authority. That is worse than death for him."

Lin Xun contemplated and didn't say anything else.

That was the principal's decision, so what right did he have to get upset regarding the justice that had been obtained for him?

Of course, if it was up to Lin Xun, he would cripple Chu Shanhe, if not outright kill him, as a punishment so that he couldn't retaliate in the future.

.....

Reception Hall.

Lin Xun immediately noticed Zhao Tailai. He was dressed like a businessman with his stout figure clothed in luxurious robes and had a natural charisma.

However, Lin Xun knew that he was the perfect example of an old and cunning man. It was impossible to get information out of his mouth.

“Oh, Master Lin Xun finally came to see me. I feel very flattered.” Zhao Tailai rushed over to greet Lin Xun with a wide smile.

“Hahaha, Elder, I am also delighted to see you here.” Lin Xun also beamed.

Shen Tuo was speechless for a while. How fake!

However, Zhao Tailai and Lin Xun didn’t feel the least bit embarrassed. On the contrary, they exchanged warm greetings like old friends who were reuniting after a long time.

Shen Tuo stared, amazed at them. I have to say that I am impressed with their level of fakeness.

“Elder, I wonder what brings you here,” Lin Xun said after a long while.

He inadvertently darted a look at the other side where a purple-clothed youngster was sitting. A feathered hat crowned his head, and a beautiful white belt was strapped around his waist. A pair of azure python boots completed his extraordinary looks. His lips were bright red, his teeth were pearly white, and his eyes were bright and captivating. He was undeniably pretty and handsome.

However, Lin Xun noticed that the young man’s skin was too smooth and flawless like jade, and he exuded unique elegant femininity.

“Well, before we get down to business, let me introduce a person. This is my nephew, Zhao Xuan. He also came to catch a glimpse of Little Master Lin,” Zhao Tailai said with a smile.

“Paying my respects to fellow cultivator Lin Xun.” Zhao Xuan swiftly stood up and greeted Lin Xun with a pure smile, revealing his perfect white teeth.

To Lin Xun’s surprise, he addressed him as “fellow cultivator,” which meant they both followed the same path.

Lin Xun also greeted him with a smile, but he couldn’t help but marvel inwardly at the young man before him. The young man was extraordinary in every way—appearance, behavior and mannerism. He was as flawless as a natural jade and likable in every way.

Shen Tuo consciously took his leave and left the hall to Lin Xun and Zhao Tailai. He had a feeling that they had something important to discuss.

“The reason I came here is, firstly, to congratulate you on your success in casting a rune armament and becoming famous all over the world. Secondly, I am entrusted with the task to ask you for a favor.”

He did not hide this presumptuous request from the purple-clothed youth, which meant that he didn’t mind him overhearing.

Seeing this, Lin Xun grinned and said, “What a coincidence! I happen to have something that I have to trouble you with.”

The corners of Zhao Tailai’s lips twitched imperceptibly. “Oh, little friend, why don’t you speak first then?”

“No, you should go first,” Lin Xun declined with a smile.

The purple-clothed youth smiled speechlessly as he could tell that Zhao Tailai and Lin Xun were probing each other.

Zhao Tailai cleared his throat with a cough and assumed a solemn look. "Well, my request is very simple. I just want to ask you to make a rune armament."

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and then he stumbled, "That...that's not a problem but...I am currently occupied with other matters...so I'm afraid I won't have the energy to..."

Before he could finish, Zhao Tailai interrupted angrily, "Fine, fine, I know you won't agree so easily. Say it, tell me what your conditions are."

Lin Xun grinned. "Hey Elder, you are too blunt! But I do have one thing that I have to trouble you."

"Say it!"

Zhao Tailai didn't want to talk nonsense anymore. He could tell that he would only waste time and wouldn't get any real benefits.

"Elder, since you're so blunt, I will also be direct with you." Lin Xun smiled brightly. "I heard that there is a Cyclic Derivation Tower in the depths of the palace. I wonder if my friend can train there for some time."

Zhao Tailai already twitched when Lin Xun mentioned the Cyclic Derivation Tower, but when he learned about the youth's true intention, he couldn't help but exclaim out loud, "Boy, your request...isn't it too much?"

"Too much?" Lin Xun frowned in puzzlement.

"That's a forbidden place in the imperial palace. Even important people in the imperial family are not allowed to enter it. Do you think an outsider will be allowed?"

Lin Xun's frown deepened. "It seems like it's going to be difficult..."

"What does your friend want to do in the Cyclic Derivation Tower?" the purple-clothed youth suddenly asked aloud.

"He has stagnated at the pinnacle of the Heaven Ascension Stage for years and is on the verge of exhausting his lifespan. He is doomed if he can't make a breakthrough soon."

Understanding immediately dawned on the purple-robed youth. "That is indeed a problem. The Spirit Sea Stage gives a lifespan of three hundred years, and Heaven Ascension cultivators have a lifespan of six hundred years. If a cultivator can't break through within that time, they will eventually become a pile of rotten bones regardless of how strong they are."

Lin Xun sighed emotionally, "Yes, Brother Zhao has said exactly what I'm thinking, but unfortunately, I can't think of any other way to help my friend apart from entering the Cyclic Derivation Tower."

Zhao Tailai snapped, "But your request is too much. That's a forbidden place in the imperial palace!"

Lin Xun nodded. "Then I have no choice but to ask other people for help. I believe that I can solve this problem since I can cast rune armaments!"

Zhao Tailai said anxiously, "Hey, boy, what do you mean by that? Are you trying to make things difficult for me?"

Lin Xun sighed. "Elder, of course, I don't dare to be disrespectful to you, but if I don't solve this problem, I can't sleep or eat properly."

Zhao Tailai rolled his eyes. "Kid, you are doing this deliberately!"

Zhao Xuan interrupted, "Fellow Cultivator Lin Xun, I can help you with your problem."

Lin Xun's face lit up. "Really?"

"How can this work?! Absolutely not!" Zhao Tailai shouted anxiously.

"Ninth Uncle, it's decided. It's just an opportunity to enter the Cyclic Derivation Tower to train. If we can help Fellow Cultivator Lin Xun solve his friend's problems, it will be all worth it."

Zhao Xuan smiled. His face was as beautiful as jade, and his smile as bright and pure as a clear stream.

At that moment, Lin Xun was certain that Zhao Xuan had an extraordinary identity and status within the imperial family. Otherwise, the youth wouldn't promise to help him that easily.

"Hmph! Boy, why don't you hurry and show your gratitude?" Zhao Tailai shot a glare at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun assumed a solemn expression and cupped one hand in the other as he bowed respectfully.

"Brother Zhao, I will never forget your favor and I will repay you in the future."

"You're welcome." A smile spread across Zhao Xuan's lips.

"Isn't it simple if you want to repay the favor? Just make another rune armament that can survive a lightning tribulation." Zhao Tailai stared at Lin Xun with narrowed eyes.

"I will do my best." Lin Xun happily agreed.

Then, he changed the topic. "Can I ask what kind of rune armament you want and whom I am making this rune armament for?"

"A cauldron," Zhao Xuan answered.

He seemed to have become a different person. Not only did he wear an extremely serious expression, but he also exuded indescribable authority.

"Cauldron?"

"Yes, strictly speaking, it is called the Nine Dragons Cauldron. All the rune materials it requires have been prepared. I hope you can successfully make it. If I have it, I can head to Ancient Wasteland Domain and train without worry."

Lin Xun was finally certain that Zhao Tailai came to find him for Zhao Xuan!

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and agreed, "Okay."

Since the other party had agreed to let Third Old Zhu enter the Cyclic Derivation Tower, he had no other reason to refuse his request.

Zhao Tailai breathed a sigh of relief, relaxed, and smiled.

However, while Zhao Tailai thought that the meeting ended in a way that was to everyone's delight and satisfaction, Zhao Xuan suddenly looked at Lin Xun and said with a smile. "I heard that Fellow Cultivator Lin Xun is a prodigy in cultivation and that you are now ranked first in the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings. Why don't we take this opportunity to have a friendly match and learn from each other?"

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 507

Zhao Xuan's request surprised Lin Xun a little.

"Come on, it's just a friendly match to learn from each other." Zhao Xuan smiled.

His purple robe fluttered around him as he drew his hand across the air in a peculiar and graceful motion. It was as though he was picking a flower in the air.

Buzz—

The airflow suddenly buzzed and distorted as it formed a terrifying, destructive force around Zhao Xuan to oppress Lin Xun.

The fact that Zhao Xuan could summon such terrifying earth-shattering power with just a casual wave of his hand indicated that he had reached a terrifying level in his cultivation.

Without much thought, Lin Xun resorted to the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. He stepped forward, balled his hand into a fist, and slammed a punch forward. Not only was it simple, swift and direct, but it also targeted the flaw in Zhao Xuan's strike.

With a boom, currents of air blasted in all directions.

"Not bad."

Zhao Xuan's eyes were alight with amazement. Then, like a breeze, he stepped forward, and his fingers aimed for Lin Xun's throat.

Lin Xun's heart went cold. Without any hesitation, he rapidly spun around and catapulted high into the air like a spinning top.

To Lin Xun's surprise, Zhao Xuan leaned forward like a dragon emerging from an abyss and swiftly folded his fingers in a hand seal and met Lin Xun's punch head-on.

Bang!

When the two collided, Lin Xun felt his bones being hammered and going numb. He winced. His physique had been tempered to an almost perfect state and was comparable to a divine weapon, but Zhao Xuan's strike still managed to paralyze his body. It was too bizarre.

"What tyrannical physical strength. Do you also practice body tempering arts?" Zhao Xuan's eyes were bright and dazzling like stars

As he was speaking, he strode forward, and his every step sent purple dragon patterns spreading across the ground. His imposing bearing soared. It was as though an ancient dragon was being revived.

That only ignited Lin Xun's fighting spirit. He activated the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art to meet the attack head-on.

All of a sudden, the two of them darted across the hall, leaving blurred images in the air and creating violent blasts of wind. Both rapidly exchanged fists and kicks at a great speed. If they hadn't consciously restrained their strength, the hall would have collapsed long ago.

After a while, Zhao Xuan's figure flickered, and a palm spliced the air like a mighty dragon charging forward, suppressing all four poles.

Boom!

The strike launched Lin Xun three steps backwards. He tottered as blood and qi tumbled all over his body.

His face grew grave. It was the first time that he had encountered such a powerful opponent and faced unprecedented pressure since reaching the Perfect Spirit Sea Stage.

Everyone regarded him as an abnormal monster due to his heaven-defying strength, but it seemed that Zhao Xuan was in no way inferior to him. In fact, the youth might be even more terrifying than him!

Who is this guy?

Why have I never heard of him before?

Compared to Gu Yunting...he is much superior!

With that thought, he no longer dared to hold back his strength and displayed his powers to their fullest.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lin Xun blasted his fist across the hall. Occasionally, it seemed to be smashing a mountain or splitting the sea, and sometimes it resembled a dragon breaking through the sky. Regardless, it seemed to contain the power to devour the world.

"Not bad!"

Zhao Xuan's eyes brightened, and his purple robe billowed around him like flickering flames. He didn't try to disguise his compliment.

Compared to Lin Xun, he was like an azure dragon roaring across the sky without any obstruction and looking over the mountains and rivers. He was overflowing with superiority.

Lin Xun felt a little awkward when he heard his compliment.

Ever since he had started his cultivation path, he had always been a leading figure among his peers. In fact, he had even killed cultivators of a higher cultivation level. His success along the way had built an invincible self-confidence in his heart, so he couldn't agree with the compliment.

Boom!

Lin Xun didn't utter a word as his aura drastically changed. He adopted more natural and ancient moves. Each one was simple and unremarkable and without any sparks.

However, the power was much stronger than the previous fist strikes and even demonstrated the wonders of returning to the natural state.

Even so, Lin Xun's brows were still knitted together. This was because Zhao Xuan also became stronger, and he had failed to get the upper hand.

"That guy is so abnormal!" Lin Xun muttered to himself.

He just didn't know that Zhao Xuan was more shocked than him.

Zhao Xuan had only wanted to have a friendly match and find out whether Lin Xun was as powerful as rumored, but, to his surprise, Lin Xun's strength was even more terrifying than the rumors!

"What a freak!" Zhao Xuan muttered.

Zhao Tailai had the same thought. He was also flabbergasted to see Lin Xun evenly matched with Zhao Xuan.

He knew very well how terrifyingly strong Zhao Xuan was, but Lin Xun was able to match his skill. The word 'freak' described Lin Xun perfectly!

Boom!

Zhao Xuan abruptly stopped when he again countered Lin Xun's attack.

"You don't want to fight anymore?" Lin Xun frowned.

"If we continue, it won't be a friendly match anymore," Zhao Xuan replied, his smile as bright and pure as the sun.

"Boy, don't look so frustrated. You are already very impressive," remarked Zhao Tailai.

Lin Xun simply smiled. He hadn't brought out his true trump card yet, so he couldn't agree with the remark.

"You are indeed very good. At least, it will be very hard to find someone as strong as you in the Spirit Sea Stage."

Zhao Xuan seemed to have acknowledged Lin Xun's strength as his words and tone became much gentler. He said softly, "If there is a chance, I hope you will go to the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Countless peerless geniuses are there and only there can you understand the true meaning of the Great Dao." His eyes were full of longing.

"If there is a chance, I will go there." Lin Xun nodded, his fighting spirit calming.

Zhao Xuan smiled slightly and turned around to leave.

Only Zhao Tailai stayed behind to discuss the Nine Dragons Cauldron with Lin Xun.

As Lin Xun watched Zhao Xuan depart, he contemplated for a moment and then suddenly asked, "Who is she?"

Zhao Tailai was startled at first then he answered, "As I expected, you saw through the disguise. She is Princess Jingxuan, the only child of the current emperor and empress."

Princess Jingxuan?

The name was very unfamiliar to Lin Xun. He had only met Princess Linghuang before and found her annoyingly proud and arrogant.

"It's normal that you haven't heard about Princess Jingxuan. Shortly after she was born, she was sent to train in an ancient sacred land in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. She only returned to the empire last year. Very few people in the world know about her existence.

Zhao Tailai sighed. "But Her Highness Princess Jingxuan is unquestionably outstanding and has an exceptional appearance. The blood of the emperor and the empress runs in her body, and she has studied supreme inheritance arts of the imperial family such as the Imperial Dragon Scripture and the True Immortal Art."

"Most of all, Her Highness Princess Jingxuan is extremely intelligent and has unparalleled talent. She was already at the Spirit Sea Stage at the age of seven."

"When she was thirteen years old, she stepped into the Heaven Ascension Stage. This is considered a miracle even in the Ancient Wasteland Domain."

"It was only later that the emperor thought that her cultivation path was too smooth and worried that she would face unpredictable danger if she encountered a cultivation setback, so he suppressed her cultivation level. It has been ten years since then."

"If she hadn't been suppressed for ten years, she likely would have reached the Cyclic Derivation Stage!"

Lin Xun couldn't maintain his calm anymore.

As expected, there is never a shortage of geniuses in the world. If Zhao Tailai is telling the truth, then Princess Jingxuan is indeed born to be a cultivator given her unimaginable talent and foundation.

Additionally, her father is the great emperor and her mother is the great empress. She has been training in an ancient pure land in the Ancient Wasteland Domain since she was a child, so her cultivation path has been smooth sailing all along!

Perhaps, only such a peerless genius maiden can be called a true heaven pride. Her presence makes countless cultivators in the world dim like the sun and the moon.

"Now, you should understand how lucky you are to be acknowledged by Princess Jingxuan, right?" Zhao Tailai sighed emotionally.

"She has her way, and I have my path. It makes no difference whether she approves of me or not," Lin Xun remarked.

A cultivator should always stick to their Dao, otherwise, they would lose their spirit and will!

Who would be the first to attain the Dao?

It was still too soon to tell!

Seeing Lin Xun so calmly handle the situation and remain unaffected, Zhao Tailai couldn't help but smack his lips. "Amazing, you are the most special one among the younger generation of geniuses I have ever seen."

Lin Xun smiled. "Elder, you are also the most unfathomable expert I have ever seen. Why don't we talk about it now—Was it your idea or Her Highness Princess Jingxuan or the influential figure in the imperial palace to come to find me?"

Zhao Tailai laughed. "You have already received acknowledgement from Her Highness Princess Jingxuan, so what difference does it make? Do you remember what I told you last time? The more outstanding you are, the more attention you will receive from the empire. Isn't that true?"

Lin Xun suddenly felt a headache coming on, and he couldn't help but glare at Zhao Tailai. This old guy is too cunning. It's more difficult to get a clear answer from him than ascending to the sky.

"In a few days, after your conference in Stone Cauldron Alms is over, I will send you the rune materials and diagram for refining the Nine Dragons Cauldron."

"Don't screw up. Compared to upsetting Her Highness Princess Jingxuan, annoying the Marquis of Rising Sky and Her Highness Princess Linghuang is a small issue. I can't help you anymore if that happens."

After a brief chat, Zhao Tailai said goodbye and left in a hurry. He bolted faster than anyone else as though he was worried about Lin Xun finding out anything more.

"It seems that Princess Jingxuan has a truly unparalleled status in the imperial family. Even the Marquis of Rising Sky and Princess Linghuang can't compare to her..." Lin Xun said ruminatively.

He knew that Zhao Tailai had told him that information on purpose.

Then, he shook his head and stopped thinking about it. He decided to meet up with Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu as soon as possible.

He wanted to solve Third Old Zhu's breakthrough problem. In addition, he wanted to hand over the completed rune armament to Lin Zhong in preparation for the upcoming conference in Stone Cauldron Alms!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 508

That night, Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong came to Qinglu Academy together.

When Third Old Zhu heard that Lin Xun had obtained permission from the imperial family for him to train in the Cyclic Derivation Tower, he couldn't help but feel moved. It was very rare to see such a reserved and uncommunicative man's eyes widen and brim with excitement and gratitude.

"Thank you," he uttered two words when he regained his composure.

That might be the first time he had thanked someone in his life because he said it in such a strangely rigid way. Regardless, Lin Xun was gratified.

He had always been very fond of Third Old Zhu. He admired how the older man could give up everything to repay a favor and how he could risk his life to fulfill a promise.

People like him were the most worthy of admiration and becoming friends with.

Not long after that, Zhao Tailai sent someone to pick up Third Old Zhu from Qinglu Academy.

The arrangement had been previously agreed upon between Lin Xun and Zhao Tailai. Lin Xun believed that Third Old Zhu had a high chance of making a breakthrough if he could seize the rare opportunity.

If Third Old Zhu successfully broke through, not only would he solve the problem of reaching the end of his lifespan but his cultivation would also improve by leaps and bounds! He would become a great cultivator of the Cyclic Derivation Stage!

At that time, Third Old Zhu's presence on Mind Cleansing Peak would be a great deterrent to the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan.

"Young Master, I can't believe you have succeeded in making a rune armament. Everyone on Mind Cleansing Peak can't wait to celebrate with you!" Lin Zhong exclaimed with excitement.

"There's no need to celebrate. I'm just curious to know how the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan will act after they learn the news," Lin Xun said indifferently.

"Them? Hmph, they must be panicking!" Lin Zhong snorted coldly.

During the two months that Lin Xun was in closed-door cultivation, the three collateral branches joined the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan and acted in a much more arrogant and outrageous manner than before. They thought that they found strong supporters and often provoked and humiliated people on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Now, Lin Xun had become a young rune grandmaster able to make rune armaments. His name had shaken the empire, and he had become unrivaled in the world. Additionally, the principal of Qinglu Academy recognized his talent!

Under such circumstances, if the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan were not stupid, they must know that it would be hopeless to continue to target Lin Xun.

Most importantly, Lin Xun's current power had already threatened the three clans and made them feel uneasy!

"I gave them three years to think about my proposal and almost one year has passed now. If they still won't repent then I won't show any mercy when the time limit comes," Lin Xun said indifferently.

After that, he and Lin Zhong entered a secret room that Shen Tuo had specially prepared.

.....

The secret room was densely covered with terrifying rune formations, sealing it from the outside world and preventing anyone from prying into the room. Even Shen Tuo who was waiting outside was unaware of everything happening inside.

However, Shen Tuo already guessed that Lin Xun and Lin Zhong were testing the newly made rune armament!

“I wonder what sort of mysterious powers the spear has...”

Shen Tuo quivered at the thought of the scene of Lin Xun making the rune armament that day. A rune armament that survived a lightning tribulation was unheard of!

However, even if many had witnessed the amazing spectacle, no one knew what sort of grade the spear was or the powers it possessed.

As an experienced rune grandmaster, Shen Tuo was eager to learn more about the rare treasure.

Unfortunately, he knew that Lin Xun wouldn't allow that.

“Perhaps, I can only find out more at the conference held at Stone Cauldron Alms...” Shen Tuo muttered.

Then, he couldn't help but smile bitterly.

He remembered that the Forbidden City was going crazy about the upcoming conference. Many powerful forces were doing everything they could to get their hands on a ticket to the conference.

From what Shen Tuo knew, the price of one ticket was being sold for a sky-high price of ten thousand gold coins! Some had even failed to acquire a ticket even with the money.

That was enough to show the huge sensation that Lin Xun's rune armament had caused.

“Fortunately, I got a ticket from Stone Cauldron Alms because of my relationship with that kid. Otherwise, I wouldn't have a seat at the conference.”

Shen Tuo laughed at himself. He was a senior rune grandmaster of Qinglu Academy, but he had to get a ticket through his relationship with Lin Xun. How could he not feel embarrassed?

Huh?

Shen Tuo ceased his chaotic thoughts because he saw the closed door to the secret room being pushed open.

Lin Zhong stepped out first, but his expression was dazed, mixed with astonishment, shock and disbelief. It was as though he had just experienced a devastating storm.

Shen Tuo couldn't help asking, “What's the matter?”

Lin Zhong was startled at first and then he exhaled a long breath of turbid air and clapped Shen Tuo on the shoulder. “You will understand at the conference.”

Shen Tuo almost couldn't bear the suspense, but unfortunately, Lin Zhong clamped his lips together and stopped talking.

There was nothing that Shen Tuo could do.

Without further delay, Lin Zhong left Qinglu Academy in the dark of night with the spear that Lin Xun named the Shattered Tragedy Spear.

A rune armament that was indestructible under a lightning tribulation!

Shen Tuo couldn't help but ask, "Lin Xun, what sort of secrets does the spear have?"

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and explained, "I can't say for sure. Although I am the one who made it, it underwent a transformation during the completion that surprised even me."

Shen Tuo nodded with understanding. He had a wealth of experience in casting weapons, so he was aware that even rune masters might not be able to predict the transformation their treasures would undergo during the moment of completion.

However, the transformation was always good!

"I look forward to the conference even more now." Shen Tuo sighed.

Lin Xun said with a smile, "Elder, why don't I give you a copy of the design for the spear?"

Shen Tuo's eyes lit up. That was precious, invaluable information.

It was the fruit of a rune master's knowledge and efforts and contained all sorts of rune-related secrets!

"Really?" Shen Tuo's voice trembled, and he swallowed with difficulty.

Lin Xun nodded, took out a thick scroll, and handed it over. "Elder, you have helped me a lot these days, so this is a little something from me. But elder, can I ask you to burn it after you've taken a look at it?"

Shen Tuo nodded repeatedly and immediately vowed not to say a single word to anyone. He looked as excited as a child receiving a new toy.

Rune masters were often obsessed with runes. It was understandable that Shen Tuo was wild with excitement when he had the opportunity to see the design of a rune armament.

Lin Xun smiled. Shen Tuo was both a friend and a teacher to him, and the older man had been taking good care of him ever since he joined Qinglu Academy.

Lin Xun wouldn't hesitate to give him the rune armament design to repay his kindness.

.....

The entire Forbidden City was buzzing like never. Many cultivators would likely be stirred up when they recalled this period in the future.

Stone Cauldron Alms was the largest business in the empire, and their headquarters was one of the top large-scale businesses in the Forbidden City.

Perhaps, only some commercial forces under the wing of the imperial family were slightly stronger than Stone Cauldron Alms. However, they undoubtedly stole the limelight during this period.

It had attracted the attention of the entire Forbidden City and even the entire empire like a magnet!

That all started from an incident a few days ago.

One day, Lin Xun, a young rune grandmaster, created a rune armament that drew upon a lightning tribulation and stirred up a storm.

A rune armament!

It was considered a rare treasure even among aristocratic clans, and its preciousness couldn't be measured in terms of its monetary value alone.

No other clans possessed a rune armament except for the high clans!

They were incredibly rare, and it was not an exaggeration to say that the possession of a rune armament could change a clan's power and situation.

In the past, even rune founders would take at least one month to create a rune armament with only a small rate of success.

Moreover, there were only a handful of rune founders in the entire Forbidden City!

If even the making of a rune armament was so difficult, it was imaginably more difficult to own one.

The rune armament that the major clans owned was likely an inherited treasure.

Understandably, the news that Lin Xun made a rune armament by himself in less than one month caused a sensation in the city.

Not only the wealthy and powerful forces but also many rune masters were curious to find out more about the rune armament, such as how Lin Xun achieved such a feat and the astonishing power of the rune armament.

The Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters had become the center of attention.

This was because Lin Xun's rune armament conference was being held there!

Lin Xun, the Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters, the rune armament conference...those keywords were like a giant hand stirring the Forbidden City and attracting the attention of the entire world. The event had become the hottest topic in other areas of the empire.

Under such a stormy atmosphere, the conference kicked off as scheduled...

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 509

Stone Cauldron Alms Headquarters.

Before dawn broke, the masses had already crowded the outside of the building

Anyone able to pass through the crowd and enter Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters had to be either a clansman of an aristocratic clan or an influential and powerful figure.

Feng Qingyou was also in attendance. Dressed in simple and plain clothes with her black hair draped loosely over her shoulders, she looked pure and beautiful. Her skin was soft and delicate.

Before Lin Xun rose to fame, she had been enjoying the title of a genius maiden for her magnificent mastery in the art of runes.

Even to this day, she was still a well-known figure among the younger generation of rune masters.

A beautiful woman in simple clothes with a calm, reassuring demeanor was walking along beside her.

Feng Qingyou suddenly scrunched up her face and muttered, "The admission ticket has gone up to thirty thousand gold coins. Apparently Lin Xun is very popular."

The beautiful woman smiled. "It is, after all, a conference held by a young rune grandmaster. It's normal for people to be curious."

"Teacher, do you think the Shattered Tragedy Spear is as powerful as rumored?" Feng Qingyou asked curiously.

The beautiful woman said casually, "We won't know until we see it with our own eyes."

At that moment, following a commotion, Yu Beidou, Cheng Jing and other rune grandmasters showed up.

The rune grandmasters were all from the Rune Master Association or the Divine Workshop, and they were all leading figures in the art of the runes. Their arrival understandably caused an uproar.

However, Yu Beidou and the others were stunned to see the beautiful woman standing beside Feng Qingyou. They immediately rushed forward to greet her.

"Paying our respects to Lady Baohua!"

"Elder, I didn't expect you to come too."

Yu Beidou and the others all bowed their heads respectfully, which made the surrounding people smack their lips as they realized that the beautiful woman was also an extraordinarily influential figure.

"Baohua, look time no see," said a thin old man with unkempt hair beside Yu Beidou and the others.

If Lin Xun was around, he would recognize the old man right away: Old Mo!

The rune grandmaster who had developed the new style of Violet Hero Battleship in Blood Kill Camp.

Old Mo's eyes were glistening with excitement and emotion. He also seemed a little restrained as though he couldn't believe that he would see the beautiful woman there.

"Senior Brother Mo, you also came. I haven't heard from you for many years." The beautiful woman smiled subtly.

"Oh, I..." Old Mo sighed when a burst of laughter interrupted him.

"Oh, everyone has arrived already."

Old Mo's face immediately darkened. He saw a stern and dignified man with a neatly trimmed beard approaching them.

Yu Beidou and the others immediately assumed solemn expressions and bowed. "Paying our respects to Master Luo."

"Senior Brother Luo." The beautiful woman gave him a nod.

However, Old Mo snorted coldly, and his face grew overcast with a hint of resentment and hatred flashing in his eyes.

"Hahaha, what a coincidence! We met again today because of a junior's conference. Let's go inside and catch up." The dignified man chuckled as he led everyone into Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters.

.....

"That's Lady Baohua, an iconic figure of the Rune Department and also a rune founder. She has a transcendental identity and status, but she has been living in seclusion for the past twenty years to study the art of runes. I didn't think she would come today," stated Shen Tuo as he stood at the window of a room on the ninth floor of the Rune Master Association.

The Rune Master Association headquarters was a magnificent and grand nine-storey building in the capital.

Shen Tuo couldn't help but express his deep reverence when he talked about Lady Baohua. She was a legendary figure who had watched over the crafting process of five rune armaments. Each one was a peerless treasure.

The rune armament that the emperor held was also a masterpiece of Lady Baohua!

"What is her relationship with Old Mo?"

Lin Xun felt waves lifting in his heart when he saw Old Mo, but he also noticed that Old Mo looked unusually emotional while being restrained at the same time, so he couldn't help feeling curious about his relationship with Lady Baohua.

The Old Mo he knew was eccentric and proud.

"Old Mo is Lady Baohua's senior brother." Shen Tuo explained, "I also heard that the reason Old Mo disappeared from the Forbidden City was related to Lady Baohua."

"Lady Baohua forced Old Mo to leave?" Lin Xun frowned.

Shen Tuo shook his head and just as he was about to say something, he narrowed his eyes. "Look, Master Luo is here too."

"Who is he?" Lin Xun followed his gaze and saw a perfectly groomed and dignified-looking man.

"Luo Feng, one of the few rune founders in the Divine Workshop. He is well-known across the world and is admired and respected by many rune masters. There are even rumors in the capital that he has reached a sublime level of mastery in the art of runes and not many people can rival him."

Shen Tuo's expression turned strange. "Old Mo's sudden disappearance from the Forbidden City was also said to be connected to him."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. "So he's the true culprit. Elder, do you know what kind of grudge there is between him and Old Mo?"

Shen Tuo whispered, "I only know that it involves Lady Baohua."

"Because of her?"

Lin Xun stared at him blankly while the scene of two men fighting over a woman flashed across his mind...

"You can ask him in person after the conference." Shen Tuo scratched his head. He didn't know much about the relationship between them.

Lin Xun nodded.

Old Mo had helped Lin Xun a lot in Blood Kill Camp, so he would take Old Mo's side if there was a grudge between the two.

.....

The arrival of Rune Founder Luo Feng and Lady Baohua quickly spread and sparked many discussions.

They were two rune founder-level figures, and it was incredibly rare to see them in person.

However, the attendees of the conference were all powerful and influential figures so their appearance didn't cause too great of a sensation.

The attendees of the conference included the masters of aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City, the authority figures of the imperial family, the leaders and generals of the imperial army and military, and other authorities from all over the empire. Every one of them could make ordinary people tremble with their powers.

The gathering of such powerful figures was already an unprecedentedly grand occasion!

The audience gradually quieted down as the conference started.

A man in formal attire stepped onto the stage and bowed in all directions before he spoke aloud. He was called Li An and was relatively handsome, elegant and full of charisma.

"Welcome to the conference of Master Lin Xun. As we all know, Master Lin Xun is very young, but he has already become famous all over the world. He is a young genius known to everyone in the Forbidden City. Master Lin Xun possesses unimaginable talent in the art of runes and has even evoked the Cry of the Nine Dragons. Now, he is currently teaching at the renowned Qinglu Academy."

"At today's event, there will be a rune armament created from the hands of Master Lin Xun shown to the world. It is called the Shattered Tragedy Spear!"

Li An paused and clapped his hands. Immediately, a young girl brought out a long bronze box.

"Everyone, the Shattered Tragedy Spear is in the bronze box before me."

Shua!

All eyes stared at the bronze box placed in front of Li An. Many people couldn't help but stretch their necks and widen their eyes. It was as though they thought they could see inside the bronze box by doing so.

The atmosphere changed, and the hall was filled with tense anticipation.

However, Li An smiled slightly and said, "Before I reveal the rune armament. Please allow me to describe the birth of such an incredible treasure."

Everyone cursed inwardly and wanted to strangle him to death.

"Everyone must have heard that Master Lin Xun had successfully crafted the Shattered Tragedy Spear in Qinglu Academy twenty days ago. However, when the treasure was born, lightning tribulation struck down from the sky and strange visions flashed across the air. That had never happened in the past..."

Everyone patiently listened to Li An rambling.

In the end, Li An concluded, "In short, the spear is a treasure different from other rune armaments and a peerless weapon that will amaze the world."

"Perhaps you all think that I am exaggerating, but I can guarantee that you will marvel at the treasure's mysteriousness when you lay eyes on it. Your reaction might even be greater than mine!"

Everyone listened with bated breaths. Li An's speech had completely piqued their curiosity, and they made them look forward to the reveal even more.

One fiery-tempered person couldn't help but shout out loud, "Stop creating suspense. Do you want me to die of anticipation?"

Even the more shrewd people couldn't conceal their anticipation.

Li An took a deep breath as his face suddenly flushed. He reassured, "Everyone, please be patient. I can guarantee that today's conference is destined to be a miracle!" His voice trembled with suppressed excitement, which many people noticed and it only made them more curious and anxious.

The majority of people were full of anticipation because, regardless of whether Li An was exaggerating or not, a rune armament that survived a lightning tribulation was worthy of their attention.

People from the older generation couldn't help but frown, irritated by Li An's exaggeration.

Miracle?

When had the birth of a rune armament ever been called a miracle in the past?

"Youngsters these days like to show off. It's just a rune armament but such a grand conference is held for its reveal. This is too unnecessary and is just for showing off," someone suddenly said indifferently.

It was Luo Feng, a rune founder of the Divine Workshop. His remark drew many people's attention.

However, everyone was aware of Luo Feng's identity as a rune founder so although his remark was a bit condescending and patronizing no one would retort.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 510

Unexpectedly, someone sneered shortly after Rune Founder Luo Feng spoke.

"Each age brings new talents to the empire and each will rule a domain for years to come. What do you mean by showing off?"

Old Mo was the one who spoke out and questioned Luo Feng, surprising everyone.

However, Luo Feng leisurely responded, "Old Mo, ask that question again when you can cast a rune armament."

In other words, the rune founder was saying: "Do you want to question me? You are not qualified yet!"

"I'm just telling you that today is Lin Xun's event. If you don't like it, you can leave. Don't sit there and act condescendingly just because of your seniority and age." Old Mo snorted.

Everyone was a little taken aback and sensed the friction between Old Mo and Luo Feng. Otherwise, they wouldn't quarrel on such an occasion.

"Old Mo!" Luo Feng's face darkened and his voice turned ice-cold. "It seems like you have some complaints about me. Why don't we take this opportunity to settle things between us then?"

"Why not?" Old Mo said unyieldingly, his eyes piercing with hatred.

The atmosphere suddenly became stifling. No one expected a conflict would break out before the true face of the Shattered Tragedy Spear was revealed to the world.

"Gentlemen, please calm down. We are all here to evaluate Master Lin Xun's masterpiece so a little dispute is inevitable," Li An said with a smile, trying to ease the situation. "After the wonders of the Shattered Tragedy Spear are demonstrated, I believe everyone will be very happy to hear comments from Elder Luo Feng and Elder Old Mo. I also hope the elders of the rune world won't hesitate to enlighten us."

The words were beautiful as he seamlessly complimented the two while implying that the two should wait until the conference was over before they got into an argument.

"Brother Luo, Old Mo, what do you two think?" Lady Baohua asked gracefully.

Old Mo's expression relaxed and he nodded. "Fine, let's see who is the one showing off later."

Luo Feng said with an expressionless face, "A rune armament born from a lightning tribulation might be extremely powerful, but I suspect its spiritual intelligence has been obliterated during the lightning tribulation. If so, the so-called rune armament is nothing but an empty shell. Of course, ordinary people won't be able to tell the difference."

He still wanted to express that he had a different view of Lin Xun's rune armament.

Many people couldn't help but knit their brows in thought. Luo Feng was a rune founder of the Divine Workshop and was well-known and respected throughout the world. He was an authority figure in the world of runes.

No one would dare disregard his view, even if it differed from others.

“Brother Luo is right, but it’s still too early to tell. Maybe we will have a clearer answer when we take a look at the rune armament later.”

Before Old Mo said a word, Lady Baohua had already spoken out loud, worried that the two would continue to quarrel.

The little incident came to an end.

However, it made the audience look forward to seeing Lin Xun’s rune armament even more since it had already caused a dispute among the leading figures of the world of runes before it was even revealed—something that had never happened before in the past.

The atmosphere stilled again and all eyes were focused on the platform.

Li An also stopped talking and smiled. “Time is precious. Now, I invite you to appreciate the masterpiece from Master Lin Xun!”

He turned around and descended the stage.

At the same time, a slender figure came onto the stage and stood straight as a spear. His cheeks and face seemed to be carved from a blade, and years of wisdom and knowledge were etched into his face and brows.

An uproar erupted in the audience.

Many people sprang to their feet and exclaimed in surprise, “Is that...White Casanova Shen Jinglun?”

“Heavens, it is Shen Jinglun! I haven’t heard from him for so many years. He is so old now.”

“It is him. I heard that he served the former head of the Lin Clan, but has now concealed his identity. Since he appeared here, he must be representing Lin Xun to demonstrate the wonders of the Shattered Tragedy Spear.”

White Casanova Shen Jinglun!

He was a famous figure in the Forbidden City and was known as a heaven pride many years ago. Even the emperor had repeatedly praised his talent.

At that time, he was very handsome, especially when he passed through the capital on a white horse. He had many admirers and was said to have a boundless future like the blazing sun.

Who would have thought that White Casanova Shen Jinglun would reappear in the world after so many years?

After the commotion was a series of sighs. “Time flies like a blade. Shen Jinglun was suave and handsome back then, but now he has a wrinkled face and is late in his life. How could people not feel emotional?”

The geniuses that had risen with him back then had all either died or become authority figures of an area. Only he became an old servant, concealed his identity and became forgotten.

Countless people sighed emotionally in the audience but Lin Zhong seemed unaware. He stepped toward the central position and silently opened the bronze box. He looked like a humble old servant, and no one could imagine how he shook the Forbidden City and dazzled the mountains and rivers with his appearance back then.

Buzz!

A clear cry rang like the sound of the Dao, drawing all attention.

A beam of hazy gray light emerged in Lin Zhong's grip, and his aura dramatically changed. It was as though he had become another person!

If Lin Zhong was a wrinkly old servant earlier, then he had become an unsheathed sword now, aggressively displaying his sharp edge!

Many people's eyes lit up and they held their breaths. It became deathly silent and stiflingly still.

Lin Zhong didn't demonstrate the spear's powers right away but lowered his head and closed his eyes. He stood as silent as a mountain. It was as though he was adjusting himself. Even if he was just standing there, a threatening aura spread out from him.

Many people's eyes flashed a brilliant light. They could sense Lin Zhong's aura rising steadily like a dormant dragon was awakening in his body!

Lin Zhong's eyes sprang open.

Clang!

The hazy gray light suddenly changed in his hand, transforming into a twelve-foot-long spear. It was simple and unadorned yet it was overflowing with terrifying energy, causing the air to whimper, buzz, and almost crumble.

Si!

Gasps rippled throughout the audience. The spear's appearance sent a chilling destructive power spreading across the area and brought stinging pain to everyone's skin.

It was as though the spear had come to life and possessed an incomparably sharp soul inside it!

Everyone's eyes widened, and they quickly tried to investigate the aura emitting from the spear with their sensing powers. They didn't let go of the slightest detail.

Lin Zhong moved. His eyes glinted like swords, his face glowed, and his aura soared to its pinnacle state.

It was as though the former White Casanova had returned. Wielding the spear, he seemed to have become a different person, radiating elegance and superiority.

Boom!

A copper-skin puppet suddenly appeared on the platform. It was the strongest defense puppet in Stone Cauldron Alms and could withstand the blow of a Heaven Ascension cultivator. Puppets at this stage were incredibly valuable.

However, Lin Zhong simply pointed his spear ahead, and the puppet exploded into smithereens and scattered with the wind.

A wisp of aura from the spearhead had crumbled a puppet that could withstand the full-strength attack of a Heaven Ascension cultivator!

Its unbelievably frightening power caused an uproar in the audience. Many powerful figures couldn't help but cry out and their expressions changed.

Luo Feng's pupils rapidly shrank and then he snorted coldly. "Is that it? At best, it is just a rune armament with slightly more destructive power."

Suddenly, his face stiffened and his heart twitched violently.

The dark gray spear suddenly cast out obscure rune patterns and arrays one after another on the stage. Faintly, there seemed to be visions of a Kui Ox bellowing and the moon and sun floating up and down.

The scene stunned the audience like a miracle.

The powerful figures of the older generation with more experience couldn't stop their expressions from changing as they sensed a dangerous aura spreading everywhere!

Feng Qingyou's face brimmed with astonishment and she muttered, "Teacher, can you tell how many rune arrays are engraved on that treasure?"

"If I'm not mistaken, there should be forty-nine heaven-grade rune arrays..."

Lady Baohua's eyes were also alight with amazement. "There are fifty laws of operation between heaven and earth, but only forty-nine evolutions of heaven. The remaining one is the secret and the variable of heaven. But the spear is complete and has everything! It breaks the laws of heaven! How...how did he make it?"

Her heart trembled turbulently, unable to calm down!

"Teacher, what are you talking about?" Feng Qingyou furrowed her brows in puzzlement.

Lady Baohua ignored her like she was bewitched and continued to mutter to herself, "No wonder it drew upon a lightning tribulation and wasn't tolerated by the heavens. The remaining one is sealed within the spear. It goes against the laws of heaven...but how did he manage to craft it? He actually made such a spear come into existence in this world..."

Not only Lady Baohua but Luo Feng also noticed the unusualness. His face had become extremely stiff, and his eyes went wide with utter disbelief.

On the other hand, Yu Beidou, Cheng Jing and Old Mo were full of speculations. They vaguely noticed something unusual but they couldn't put their finger on it.

They were all leading figures in the world of runes, so they were most concerned about the secret techniques and runes arrays that made up the spear.

However, the powerful figures with high achievements in cultivation sensed a dangerous energy from the visions that the spear presented.

Clang!

On the stage, the hazy gray aura rolled, gathered and transformed into wisps of divine light. It then took the shape of a dark gray armor and cloaked Lin Zhong entirely, matching perfectly with the spear in his hand. All of a sudden, his imposing bearing soared once again.