

Prodigies 641

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Chapter 641: Young Master Quickly Leave

A youth hissed through gritted teeth, "Damn it, does the Han Clan plan to ruin all relationships with us? They actually sent a great Heaven Ascension cultivator to kill us!"

His name was Ye Dongke. He was as thin and straight as a spear, and his skin was a bronze shade like it was cast from bronze, adding to his stern and fierce bearing.

Ye Dongke, another woman, and a group of servants were being hunted down, which they were panicking and furious about.

The one chasing them was a well-known great cultivator of the Han Clan, one of the three major forces in the East Sea of the Empire.

The Han Clan was their sworn enemy!

Even if the two were enemies, they rarely clashed in the past to avoid damage to their respective sides.

However, to compete for an ore vein in the East Sea, the Han Clan mobilized their troops and directly attacked with murderous intent!

Their attack caught Ye Dongke and his people completely off guard.

"A great cultivator of the Heaven Ascension Stage has been dispatched. They must want to kill us to prevent us from reporting back to the clan since that will ruin their operation to occupy the ore vein." The woman next to him was slender and rather charming. She wore a purple dress that brightened her pretty face.

Her name was Ye Lingtong and she was also a member of the Ye Clan in the East Sea.

She had a very frosty look on her pretty face and her teeth were clenched in anger.

"If we get out of this trouble, I am going to pay them back tenfold!" Ye Dongke's face was overcast.

"Will there be a chance?" Ye Lingtong's lips quirked with bitterness.

A great Heaven Ascension cultivator was catching up to them with full strength.

It likely wouldn't be long before he intercepted them.

How would they have the chance to get out of trouble?

The Han Clan had no intention of letting them leave alive since they had ruthlessly dispatched a Heaven Ascension cultivator!

Ye Dongke was silent. A flash of sadness and bitterness flashed on his face. Do we have to give up?

The group of servants was already terror-stricken behind them. Their faces were deathly pale, and their bodies were shaking in panic.

"We are panicking like stray dogs...how ironic..." Ye Dongke laughed at himself.

But no matter what, they would never give up until the last moment!

Shua! Shua! Shua!

They were all fleeing across the sapphire sea with all their strength. Their figures dazzled like rainbows as they flashed through the air. At that moment, they were only concerned about running for their lives, and they had no time to cover their tracks.

“Huh?”

Suddenly, to Ye Lingtong’s surprise, she came across a treasure ship floating in front of her and noticed a young man in a moon-white robe sunbathing on the deck.

His leisurely appearance stirred Ye Lingtong’s feelings and made her feel more bitter than ever. She thought of her situation of despair and compared it to the young man’s relaxed and comfortable life. The difference between her and the young man was as great as that between heaven and hell.

“This isn’t good! Run!” Ye Dongke, who was leading the way, narrowed his eyes. He sensed a wave of tyrannical aura gushing their way like a storm.

Everyone stiffened and their faces paled, as though they had fallen into an ice cave.

It’s so fast!

Is this the terror of the upper Heaven Ascension Stage?

“Haha, it’s just a bunch of ants. The moment I, Han Yunchong, had my eyes on you, your fate is no longer under your control!” A contemptuous sneer shook the world like raging thunder.

Following the voice, a streak of light whizzed through the sky like a rainbow.

It’s over!

The faces of Ye Dongke and Ye Lingtong twisted with uncontrollable despair.

Han Yunchong, a renowned Heaven Ascension cultivator in the East Sea, possessed a superb cultivation base and had killed countless enemies in the past decades. He could be regarded as a powerful being in the older generation.

The higher-ups of the Ye Clan wouldn’t be afraid of Han Yunchong, but the Ye Clan members present were all at the Spirit Sea Stage. They were as weak as ants to a great cultivator such as Han Yunchong.

It was natural that they’d lose all hope!

“Han Yunchong, you are an elder, do you want to go that far and kill everyone? If my Ye Clan finds out, you won’t be able to bear the consequences!” Ye Dongke threatened.

“Hmph, you’re already at death’s door yet you still think you can threaten me.” Han Yunchong snorted coldly as a sinister glint flashed in his eyes. “Don’t worry, as long as I kill you all today, then who in the world will know that I did it?”

As he was speaking, a figure in the distance startled him. He squinted his eyes and found that it was a youngster with a mediocre aura, and he immediately dismissed him.

Ye Lingtong's expression dramatically changed as she said frantically, "Friend, hurry up and leave. That old bastard is going to kill everyone to silence them. You will be affected if you stay here!"

The youngster was, of course, Lin Xun.

He was enjoying a rare moment of peace, but who would have thought his mood would be ruined so quickly?

He could tell that he wasn't a target of attack and it was purely coincidental that they were there so he coldly watched on, reluctant to get involved in it.

But when he heard Ye Lingtong kindly urge him to leave, it changed his opinion. They were only strangers, but she still looked out for him. It was rare to see such kindness.

Han Yunchong couldn't help but laugh. "Little girl, do you not think that's ridiculous? Do you think that kid can leave?" His voice was filled with contempt.

What a bunch of ignorant juniors! Do they not know the terror of the Heaven Ascension Stage? How naive of her to think that the youngster can leave under my nose!

"Han Yunchong, you just want to deal with us. This matter has nothing to do with this friend. Why do you have to be so ruthless?" Ye Lingtong raged, "How could you call yourself a great cultivator of the East Sea? You are so cruel and ruthless that it is despicable."

"Stop talking nonsense. I don't want word to get out so it doesn't matter even if the kid is innocent. He has to die today. He can only blame his own luck!" Han Yunchong's voice was cold, and his face was devoid of emotion.

Ye Lingtong was so angry that she almost crushed her teeth, but in the end, she held back, overcome by the feeling of sadness in her heart.

It was pointless to argue anymore. They couldn't change Han Yunchong's determination to kill everyone.

They pitied the innocent youngster who unluckily encountered such a disaster...

"Friend, I'm really sorry, it's our fault," Ye Lingtong muttered apologetically.

"Little girl, you talk the most nonsense, so let's start with you!" Han Yunchong flicked his sleeve impatiently and sent a dazzling golden rainbow across the air.

Rumble!

The surrounding air crumbled and collapsed as the golden rainbow blazed more and more brightly. The terrifying power it contained alone made Ye Dongke and the others lose all hope.

It's so terrifying. That is the power of the Heaven Ascension Stage. Who could withstand it?

Ye Lingtong, who was the first to bear the brunt, had become deathly pale. The greatest feeling of fear flooded her heart. She had never felt so close to death before.

Am I...really going to die?

Ye Lingtong's mind went blank and she forgot to even resist.

“Who are you? How dare you kill in front of me?”

An indifferent voice ringing in Ye Lingtong’s ears took her aback, making her realize that she was not dead.

She did not know when a tall and handsome figure had stood in front of her.

It’s the youngster!

She almost subconsciously cried out, “Friend, get out of here! Do you not want to die!?”

But as soon as those words came out of her mouth, she sensed a strange atmosphere. Ye Dongke and the others, as well as Han Yunchong, were all staring wide-eyed at the youngster.

“He...”

She suddenly remembered the golden rainbow that Han Yunchong shot out. Did the youngster dissolve the rainbow?

“Oh, it turns out that you have some skills, little guy. Since you can actually block my blow, you can be regarded as a fierce character among the younger generation,” said Han Yunchong, frowning.

In his opinion, Lin Xun only had an ordinary aura, and there was nothing special about him. Yet it was very unusual that a youngster was able to block his attack.

“He is indeed the one who saved me from the catastrophe,” Ye Lingtong muttered, finding it hard to believe.

Han Yunchong was a great cultivator at the upper Heaven Ascension Stage. His blow might seem casual, but not just anyone could defend against it!

In addition to Ye Lingtong, Ye Dongke and the others’ faces were twisted with disbelief. Everything had happened so fast and sudden that they only saw a blur.

The reason was very simple. The difference in cultivation levels between them was too great. Their reaction speed was far inferior to those at the Heaven Ascension Stage.

“However, everything stops here. No matter who you are, you are not worth mentioning in front of me!” Han Yunchong remarked indifferently, his power and aura growing more and more terrifying.

A cultivator at the upper Heaven Ascension Stage could dominate an area of the Ziyao Empire and shake a province. How would they attach any importance to a junior of the younger generation?

Boom!

As he stepped forward, the air boomed and whimpered like it was collapsing. A wave of frightening divine power was spreading outwards from his body.

The wind and clouds rioted, and the sea bubbled frantically.

“Die!”

Han Yunchong thrust his palm forward. Dao Ripple roared in the air. His beard and hair billowed around him, and his eyes released cold flashes of lightning. Everyone's faces blanched at his terrifying divine power.

The stifling oppressive power made Ye Lingtong, Ye Dongke and the others feel they had sunk into purgatory.

Ye Lingtong anxiously urged Lin Xun, "Young Master, run!"

However, Lin Xun just raised his head and glanced at Han Yunchong as though he didn't seem to notice.

There seemed to be a mocking glint flash across his black eyes.

At the same time, the aura as still as a hibernating dragon in Lin Xun's body erupted like molten lava.

It was as though a peerless beast from ancient times had awoken inside him. The terrifying aura instantly flooded the world as soon as it was released, causing the air to collapse inch by inch and the world to wail.

On the other hand, Han Yunchong's palm was crushed into a shower of light before it neared Lin Xun.

At the same time, there was the sound of snapping bones and Han Yunchong's outstretched right hand became mutilated as if it had been struck by lightning. His flesh, muscles and bones were badly mangled.

All that was caused by the power released from Lin Xun's aura. He hadn't truly made a move from the start.

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Chapter 642: Threats and Recruitment

"Ahh—" Han Yunchong screamed in agony as he looked at his right hand that had been mangled beyond recognition. The excruciating pain caused his face to alternate between shock and anger. He couldn't believe what he saw.

His released aura alone was able to counter my attack and wound me.

Han Yunchong had seen a lot and been through many hardships ever since he started his cultivation journey. He could be regarded as a ruthless, bloodthirsty character, but he had to admit that he had never seen something so unbelievably terrifying.

In the blink of an eye, an ordinary-looking young man transformed into a god of war and wounded him, an upper Heaven Ascension cultivator. If...if he told someone what he saw, no one would likely believe him, right?

It became utterly silent and still.

Only qi continued to roar around Lin Xun's body.

At that moment, he resembled an awakened dormant dragon. His black eyes were like abysses, radiating a cold and deep sheen. His body was covered with divine brilliance and Dao Ripple, adding an ethereal air around him like that of an immortal.

“He...how could he be so strong?” Ye Lingtong should have been ecstatic, but she, instead, was overwhelmed with shocked disbelief.

He’s so strong!

The feeling was akin to watching an ordinary youngster transform into a God of War and stand above the nine heavens, displaying his might.

That kind of strength was beyond Ye Lingtong’s comprehension. She couldn’t imagine how a youngster could defeat Han Yunchong’s blow with just his aura alone.

Han Yunchong was an expert of the upper Heaven Ascension Stage! He was a fierce character of the older generation who had earned a great reputation in the East Sea decades ago!

Unfortunately, such an unbelievable situation had happened to him.

Ye Lingtong thought she was dreaming if she hadn’t repeatedly confirmed it was the reality.

“The youngster turns out to be a master in disguise!” Ye Dongke’s countenance also changed.

A truly talented individual never showed off their true skills!

The servants froze to the spot, eyes wide and jaws hung open.

That was Lin Xun’s current power.

Given his present strength, he could be called a king of the Heaven Ascension Stage, able to suppress all enemies at the same cultivation stage!

As for Han Yunchong, he might be regarded as a top figure in the Ziyao Empire, but in Lin Xun’s eyes, he was inferior to even Qing Yunyang, whom he regarded as a mediocre saint!

“Who are you? How dare you interfere in the affairs of my Han Clan!?” Han Yunchong’s face was livid and solemn, but he didn’t dare to make another rash move.

The young man opposite him had suddenly become his number one enemy.

Lin Xun frowned. “What Han Clan? All I know is that you want to kill people to silence them. If that’s the case, then why are you still talking so much nonsense?”

Someone had ruined his rare moment of peace. How would he not be annoyed?

What he couldn’t tolerate the most was that Han Yunchong wanted to kill even him, an outsider. It seemed too tyrannical and unnecessary.

He could imagine Han Yunchong indiscriminately getting rid of anyone who accidentally stumbled into his killings.

“Perhaps, this is just a misunderstanding. If you reveal your identity and can prove that you have nothing to do with this matter, I will promise, in the name of the East Sea Han Clan, that I will not make things difficult for you again.” Han Yunchong took a deep breath before he continued in a deep voice, “Friend, you must also know that no one dares to oppose the Han Clan in the East Sea region.”

His words were akin to an iron hand in a velvet glove. It was oozing with threats and warnings. Anyone who wasn't an idiot could tell what he truly meant.

"Young Master, the old bastard is bluffing. In the East Sea, my Ye Clan is also not afraid of the Han Clan," Ye Dongke suddenly interrupted.

He turned to face Lin Xun and gave a cupped fist salute. "In my opinion, that old bastard has disrespected you and he is now trying to threaten you. You shouldn't tolerate his despicable attitude. I hope you don't hold back and eliminate him right now!"

"Young master, please rest assured that the Ye Clan will take full responsibility for his death, and we will guarantee that you won't suffer retaliation from the Han Clan under our protection!"

It was clear that Ye Dongke wanted to borrow Lin Xun's hand to kill Han Yunchong and promised that, in the name of the East Sea Ye Clan, he wouldn't suffer trouble in the future as a result.

Han Yunchong's expression changed slightly. "Friend, the Ye Clan can protect you for a while, but they can't protect you for a lifetime. I hope you consider it carefully!"

"How difficult will it be? Given the young master's strength, he can easily join the Ye Clan and serve as a guest elder. We will be a family then. Let's see if your Han Clan will dare to get revenge then!" Ye Dongke had regained his composure, and even took the opportunity to recruit Lin Xun into the East Sea Ye Clan.

In his view, given the background and power of the Ye Clan in the East Sea, the role of a guest elder would attract countless experts from all over the world.

If he could recruit a top young expert such as Lin Xun into the Ye Clan, then it would be worth the effort.

He believed that Lin Xun would feel his sincerity as long as he knew about the Ye Clan's background.

"Did you think I helped out to obtain some benefits from your Ye Clan?" Lin Xun snorted, his dark eyes turning cold.

Ye Dongke's expression changed slightly. "Of course not. I just want to seek fortune for you. After all, cultivation also requires resources. Given your strength, if you join the Ye Clan, you will no doubt have the Ye Family's full support."

Lin Xun's expression grew increasingly cold.

Ye Lingtong palpitated as she watched on.

Then, she hurriedly said aloud, "Cousin, don't say any more!"

Ye Dongke was taken aback at first, but he also noticed Lin Xun's cold attitude and immediately went silent. He donned an apologetic expression and dared not utter another word.

They still needed to rely on Lin Xun's power to get out of trouble, so how would they dare to offend him?

“Since this friend doesn’t want to have anything to do with the Ye Clan, he must have thought over it clearly and doesn’t want to get involved in this matter.” Han Yunchong smiled confidently. “Friend, if you leave now, I guarantee that the Han Clan won’t make things difficult for you!”

His one sentence made Ye Dongke and the others turn pale.

Lin Xun’s attitude was a little cold, and he seemed annoyed by Ye Dongke’s suggestion. Would he choose to protect himself and avoid the little storm as Han Yunchong said?

Ye Lingtong was trembling anxiously as she looked imploringly at Lin Xun and complained about Ye Dongke’s recklessness in her heart.

How could he think about using the role of a guest elder to recruit the young master at such a time? Does he want to add more chaos to the situation?

Also, what makes him think the remarkable youngster would be tempted to be recruited by the Ye Clan as a guest elder?

He is so stupid!

Lin Xun ignored Ye Lingtong’s gaze. He found it absurd as he looked at the confident look on Han Yunchong’s face.

The Han Clan of the East Sea?

He had offended many high clans and sects in the Forbidden City, so why would he be afraid of a clan in the East Sea?

Moreover, he had slaughtered countless saints in the Spirit Burial Sea. Had he ever shown a tinge of fear towards the clans behind those saints?

Most importantly, he was different from the past. He had met true Saints. He had seen many Saint corpses in the Deva Secret Realm. He had been viciously pursued by many Life Death Stage Kings yet he was still living leisurely.

With that kind of experience, when he heard about Ye Dongke’s proposal and Han Yunchong’s threat, he understandably found it very...absurd.

Under the gaze of Lin Xun’s cold eyes, Han Yunchong’s heart trembled nervously and he couldn’t help but say, “Well friend, do you really plan to stubbornly go your own way and disregard the Han Clan? You must know that even Cyclic Derivation cultivators in the East Sea don’t dare to disrespect the Han Clan.”

“Is that right?” Lin Xun’s voice sounded somewhat ice-cold.

He thought the guy had a death wish to be still threatening him with the power of the Han Clan.

“Friend, what exactly do you want?” Han Yunchong’s expression changed slightly as if he realized his situation wasn’t good.

“It’s very simple. An eye for an eye.” Lin Xun grinned, showing his white teeth. “Just now you launched a palm strike at me, so now I should do the same. If you can block it, then I will leave immediately!”

“You...” Han Yunchong was about to say something when Lin Xun stretched out his right hand.

His hand was slender and fair, circulating with faint azure Dao Ripple like it was polished from azure stones.

Han Yunchong subconsciously let out an enraged roar as he sensed an indescribable feeling of danger surge in his heart. Blood and qi started to riot in his body and his clothes torn into pieces, revealing his tough, bronzed body. Waves of blazing aeth power spread out from him, making it obvious that he had become much stronger.

It was the Great Bronze Spirit Demon Art, a remarkable defense art. It could defend against mountains and was impenetrable to swords and spears. Even aeth tools could only cause scratches under the power of such an art.

“Do you think I would be afraid of a little guy?” Han Yunchong thundered like a mighty god, causing the sea area to vibrate.

Ye Lingtong and Ye Dongke turned ashen-faced. Even if they had great confidence in Lin Xun, they couldn’t help but feel helpless and terrified after witnessing Han Yunchong’s power. They felt like ants looking up at an enraged god!

Rumble!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun thrust his palm forward. The air boomed violently and the earth quaked, as though an ancient giant was lifting a sacred mountain or a Saint was pushing the sun and the moon.

It was the third transformation of the secret art—Bi’an Stamp!

A dazzling azure palm shot out from the air and crashed down. Under the giant palm, Han Yunchong seemed particularly tiny.

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Chapter 643: Karma and Revenge

“Get lost!” Han Yunchong’s voice resounded like a clap of thunder.

As he activated his secret art, his qi soared to the sky, strong enough to move mountains.

However, his full-strength strike only caused the azure palm to vibrate a little before it continued to crash down.

Boom!

The power of the palm completely enveloped the space around Han Yunchong, imprisoning him and blocking all his escape routes.

However, he still refused to believe it. His eyes were about to rupture as he screamed wildly. He kicked his feet and leapt into the air like a giant statue. His body suddenly expanded and his muscles stretched and strengthened. As he lifted his hands, he seemed able to crush heaven and earth.

So strong!

He was like an enraged god.

However, under everyone's horrified gazes, the Bi'an Stamp continued to crash down inch by inch, suppressing everything in its way. Regardless of how Han Yunchong roared in fury, activated secret arts, or even damaged his cultivation base, he couldn't affect the Bi'an Stamp in the slightest.

Moo!

Suddenly, a cold and indifferent roar rang from the palm, quickly followed by a Bi'an shadow emerging in the air. It had a tiger's body with a dragon's head, phoenix scales and a long snake tail. It looked as huge and mighty as a mountain and had moon-like eyes.

From one glance at the beast, Ye Lingtong and the others shuddered and almost collapsed from fright. It was as though they witnessed a real Bi'an emerging from ancient times, trying to flatten the world.

Thud!

Han Yunchong roared in bitterness and anger. His body was forcibly crushed. Bones crackled, skin ripped, and blood oozed from his seven orifices.

"You...you can't kill me, otherwise...the Han Clan won't spare you!!" Han Yunchong could only roar at the top of his voice.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged, and he continued to manipulate the Bi'an Stamp to press down. With a boom, Han Yunchong's body exploded into a rain of flesh and blood and dyed the air a striking red shade.

A renowned Upper Heaven Ascension cultivator of the East Sea was killed with one palm strike.

Hiss!

There was a burst of audible gasps.

Everyone was frozen with shock.

Even Ye Lingtong and Ye Dongke fell into a trance.

Han Yunchong, a powerful cultivator of the Han Clan, had earned his reputation as one of the strongest Heaven Ascension experts in the East Sea.

Except for someone at the Cyclic Derivation Stage, it would be very difficult to find someone able to kill him in the entire world!

Killing and defeating were two different things!

Great cultivators of the same stage as Han Yunchong might have the chance to defeat him, but it would be incredibly difficult for them to kill him.

But now, he had been killed!

The most frightening thing was that he had failed to block the youngster's attack and couldn't even escape. He instantly died on the sapphire sea amid the most bitter and furious roar.

No one would believe his death even if it spread out.

After all, even a Cyclic Derivation cultivator likely couldn't kill an Upper Heaven Ascension cultivator so easily.

Who was this youngster?

Was he a reclusive old master?

No!

He was a teenager and definitely not old.

Both Ye Lingtong and Ye Dongke knew that well.

In the cultivation world, it might be difficult to determine how many years a cultivator had lived, but it could be roughly estimated.

Generally, the older generation of cultivators had accumulated an aura of age and experience, so no matter how well they disguised themselves, no matter how youthful they looked, they couldn't cover up the truth.

After all, the way of time was the most supreme law of heaven. Who in the world could erase the traces of time on them?

Lin Xun was full of energy and the qi in his body was as vigorous as the rising sun. He was no doubt a young man in his prime.

It would be ridiculous to say that he was an old master!

However, the truth struck Ye Lingtong and the others dumb. A young man had killed a fierce Upper Heaven Ascension character of the older generation with one palm. How terrifying had his cultivation level reached?

However, Lin Xun felt he had done something very ordinary.

When he was at the Deva Secret Realm, he had massacred various clans and suppressed saint-level figures such as Niu Tuntian.

Killing of Han Yunchong had no impact on Lin Xun at all.

He began to count his spoils.

However, to his disappointment, except for dozens of high-grade aeth crystals, nothing else caught his eyes.

It was understandable. As his cultivation level increased, he became more critical of cultivation resources. Items that ordinary people regarded as treasures were of little value to him now.

That was one of the important reasons why cultivators longed to train in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

The cultivation resources in the lower domain world could no longer satisfy their needs, so they had to leave for a place richer in resources.

For example, Yao Tuohai could rule the entire southwestern province in the Ziyao Empire with his power, but in the Spirit Burial Sea, characters like him were not uncommon.

It indicated how barren the cultivation environment of the Ziyao Empire was. Otherwise, someone like Yao Tuohai couldn't possibly have authority over a province.

"Young Master, thank you for your kindness. We will never forget it and we will repay you in the future." Ye Lingtong took a deep breath as though she was mustering the courage to step forward and express her gratitude.

After a moment of hesitation, she continued, "I was wondering...Young Master, can you tell us your name?"

Lin Xun didn't answer her, but instead asked, "Do you know Ye Qingtian, the East Sea King?"

His question took Ye Lingtong aback at first before she said solemnly, "That is my grandfather!"

Her heart swelled with pride. It turned out that the incredibly powerful youngster also knew her grandfather.

"It turns out that they are from that Ye Clan," Lin Xun muttered to himself.

One of the reasons he had interfered was that he thought of Ye Xiaoqi and Ye Qingtian.

Otherwise, Lin Xun wouldn't have killed Han Yunchong and offended the Han Clan for no reason.

"Since you know the grandfather of the Ye Clan, you must also know that our Ye Clan is strong enough to protect you in the East Sea. Even if the Han Clan wants to get revenge, then they will not dare to confront our Ye Clan," Ye Dongke added

The implied meaning was obvious. The Han Clan will retaliate for Han Yunchong's death but you won't need to worry about this issue if you have the Ye Clan's protection.

Ye Dongke was unwilling to give up and still wanted to recruit Lin Xun into the Ye Clan.

Naturally, Lin Xun understood his implied meaning. He swept an indifferent glance over Ye Dongke. "I saved you all, but you use this as a reason to ask me to join your Ye Clan?"

Ye Dongke trembled inwardly but he still insisted, "Young Master, we are very grateful to you and will definitely repay you generously in the future. However, for your safety, I strongly recommend you receive our protection from the Han Clan's retaliation."

Lin Xun's gaze turned cold. "Do you think I killed Han Yunchong for your repayment?"

"Young Master, please don't misunderstand. We don't mean that," Ye Lingtong anxiously interrupted and couldn't help but glare at Ye Dongke, telling him to shut up.

But Ye Dongke laughed, “Haha, Young Master, to put it bluntly, the Han Clan will retaliate against you since you killed Han Yunchong. You won’t be able to leave the East Sea with your life. I am just stating a fact. I hope you won’t misunderstand and think carefully before you decide.”

Immediately, he proudly added, “Also, what’s wrong with joining the Ye Clan? Young Master, you are extremely talented and strong, but you will be even more powerful if you have the full support of the Ye Clan. You won’t have to worry about cultivation resources in the future. This is a win-win situation, why would you decline it?”

“Ye Dongke, what are you doing!”

Ye Lingtong was so angry that her cheeks were flushed. Lin Xun was their savior, but Ye Dongke used the matter to threaten Lin Xun to join the Ye Clan. How could he return kindness with ingratitude?

Ye Lingtong almost couldn’t believe that Ye Dongke would do something so despicable.

“Cousin, you don’t understand. I am doing this for the young master’s own good.” Ye Dongke smiled. “Young master, what do you think about my suggestion?”

“I think I shouldn’t have saved you,” Lin Xun remarked indifferently.

Ye Dongke’s expression froze before it turned a little sullen.

Immediately, he forcibly suppressed his emotions, frowned and said, “Young Master, I know that a person like you must be arrogant and unyielding to any force. But the reality is very cruel. Cultivation resources are all controlled by the great clans and sects. My suggestion is for your own good.”

After a pause, the corners of his lips curled up slightly. “What’s more, Young Master, you killed a great upper Heaven Ascension cultivator of the Han Clan. We might be able to protect you for a while to repay you for saving us, but what about in the future? Who would want to offend the Han Clan for you?”

“Ye Dongke!” Ye Lingtong snapped, quivering with anger. “I know that you are anxious to rise in the clan and want to recruit some experts to help you, but what you are doing now is too shameless and despicable. If the Patriarch finds out about this, you will definitely be punished!”

“Cousin, you won’t understand. This is a competition! Among the younger generation of our Ye Clan, who doesn’t want to stand out and compete for more clan resources and support? But you also know that we have to compete and fight for them!” Ye Dongke stated coldly, “This is the reality. Everything is survival of the fittest. Even if the Patriarch knows about it, he will turn a blind eye.”

Ye Lingtong was so angry that she didn’t know what to say. She never knew that her cousin had such cruel ambitions.

Lin Xun finally spoke, “Are you finished?” He looked at Ye Dongke.

Those three words were as calm and indifferent as the clouds, just like his expression.

Ye Dongke was at a loss for words. He had said so much, resorted to temptations and threats, and stated very clearly but the other party...

Didn’t care at all?

“Have you thought about it?”

Ye Dongke took a deep breath and asked with a frown, “This is an excellent opportunity. I am only asking you so passionately out of gratitude for saving us just now. If it was someone else, then I wouldn’t waste my time.”

“Young Master, please don’t get angry! My cousin isn’t very sensible. I hope you will forgive him.” Ye Lingtong trembled as she sharply sensed a hint of killing intent beneath Lin Xun’s calm exterior.

“Enough!” Ye Dongke scrunched his brows and glared at Ye Lingtong. “Cousin, do you know why you have never received recognition from the clan? You are too soft-hearted and too nosy!”

“You...” Ye Lingtong gnashed her teeth, quivering. How could this be? How could he be like this?!

However, Lin Xun raised his eyes and looked at the distant sky, as if he had noticed something.

He pondered for a moment and then suddenly said, “I have some ties with the Ye Clan so I don’t want to make things difficult for you, but it’s clear that a person like you isn’t worthy of me being sensitive to your feelings.”

Ye Dongke’s face darkened. This guy is hopeless and has wasted all my good intentions.

Does he think that he is strong enough to do whatever he wants in the East Sea?

“Do you know Ye Xiaoqi?” Lin Xun paid no further attention to Ye Dongke. Instead, he turned to Ye Lingtong.

She was startled at first before she answered, “Of course I do, he is my uncle’s eldest son.”

“Good, then come with me.”

Lin Xun beckoned and regardless of whether Ye Lingtong agreed or not, he took her onto the Grand Universe Ark.

“Right, who are those servants?”

Ye Lingtong found Lin Xun’s behavior a little strange, surprised that he cared about the servants. But she still replied patiently, “They work for Cousin Dongke.”

“Do you guys want to leave together?”

The servants shook their heads in unison, and many donned expressions of pity and disdain. Only idiots will come with you! You killed Han Yunchong! What if the experts of the Han Clan hunt us down?

Lin Xun smiled disapprovingly, steered the Grand Universe Ark, and disappeared from the area in the blink of an eye.

“Young Master, are you really going to let him go?” a servant asked.

“Hmph, when he is chased by the Han Clan, he will understand the cruelty of reality. At that time, he will submit to me to protect his life,” Ye Dongke snorted coldly. Having said that, he was still a little bitter and annoyed.

Another servant asked in puzzlement, "Strange, why did that guy take Miss Lingtong with him? It's dangerous to be with him. The Han Clan will be looking for him. Is he trying to harm Miss Lingtong?"

Ye Dongke frowned, finding Lin Xun's response just now a bit strange.

At that moment, an ear-splitting roar resounded from the distant sky like a clap of thunder.

The noise was quickly followed by little battleships one after another. They came roaring towards the area in a mighty manner, tearing away the clouds.

Ten Violet Hero Battleships!

Ye Dongke's face blanched, and his eyes widened in horror when he saw the symbol on the flags hung on the ships.

It belonged to the Han Clan in the East Sea!

The servants also froze to the spot. Their faces were deathly pale like their souls had left their bodies.

The Han Clan actually dispatched ten Violet Hero Battleships. Could it be to deal with them?

A servant cried out in surprise, "Could it be...that the youngster noticed this before us so he took Miss Lingtong away in a hurry?"

His question struck Ye Dongke and the others like lightning. Yes, why did ten battleships belonging to the Han Clan appear just after the youngster left?

Why did he leave them behind without telling them?

"He did it on purpose! It's revenge against me!" Ye Dongke was so angry that his eyes almost ruptured and his lungs were about to explode.

How could he remain calm in the face of ten Violet Hero Battleships?

How could he not feel resentful after learning that Lin Xun deliberately concealed the arrival of the battleships?

Revenge!

It was absolutely revenge!

The servants were all struck dumb and became filled with deep regret. Lin Xun had asked them if they wanted to leave with him...

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Chapter 644: One Bow Ten Ships

"Young Master, you...why are you taking me away?"

After regaining her cool, Ye Lingtong abruptly realized that something was wrong. Lin Xun's earlier response was far too strange. It was abnormal that he had left when he was told to.

"Something dangerous is going to happen there."

Lin Xun did not conceal anything and explained, "If my senses are correct, then the danger comes from the Han Clan. They've not only dispatched Han Yunchong, but also sent ten Violet Hero Battleships."

Towards the end, a slightly odd look flashed in his eyes.

This was because the ten Violet Hero Battleships were the new design he and Old Mo had come up with.

"Danger?"

Ye Lingtong was alarmed. Her expression changed drastically as she said, "Young Master, why didn't you tell my Elder Cousin-Brother and the others..."

At this point, realization suddenly dawned upon her and a bitter smile appeared on her lips.

"Do you hate me for showing no compassion?" Lin Xun smiled faintly.

Ye Lingtong hurriedly shook her head. Her expression fluctuated in uncertainty for some time before she ultimately sighed and said, "Elder Cousin-Brother had gone too far, this...might be what they call karma."

Soon after, she mustered her courage and said, "Young Master, I...I wish to go back and have a look. No matter what, they are members of the Ye Clan and I cannot idly sit by and watch Elder Cousin-Brother and the others succumb to disaster."

Lin Xun was slightly taken aback. Soon after, he nodded and said, "Fine, but I will not interfere in this matter anymore."

He admired Ye Lingtong. She was a reasonable person with strong morals. If not for this, he would not have brought her along when he left.

"Thank you, Young Master!" Ye Lingtong had originally made the request with little expectations, but grew increasingly grateful when she saw Lin Xun agree so easily.

"Let's go."

With a swish, the Grand Universe Ark flashed and disappeared.

.....

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Ten Violet Hero Battleships floated in the sky like black clouds. They seemed to blot out the entire sky as their rune arrays rumbled and dazzled with gorgeous light.

Long trails of smoke rose from the many rune battle cannons amidst deafening blasts as terrifying cannon fire bombarded the area.

Giant waves rose from the boiling sea as terrifying energy undulations wreaked havoc in the air above, distorting space itself. It was as if several storms were chaotically dancing in the area.

Ye Dongke and his attendants were immediately engulfed by the dense barrage.

The Violet Hero Battleship was a powerful weapon that would give even Heaven Ascension experts a headache. Compared to the barrage from the battleships, Ye Dongke and the others appeared far too tiny and insignificant.

Hence, they immediately fell into a dangerous predicament when the battle erupted.

“Abominable! It’s all that punk’s fault. He sabotaged me!”

An angry roar rang out. Ye Dongke was like a trapped beast, his eyes blood-red, and his expression twisted in resentment.

He knew that it was impossible to escape death today.

He felt extremely sullen and believed that Lin Xun had intentionally sabotaged him as revenge, which also made him nearly go crazy with hatred.

“Do you hear that? Even at death’s door, your Elder Cousin-Brother believes I sabotaged him. Even if the Han Clan doesn’t kill him today, I will not spare someone like him either.”

Some distance from the battlefield, the Grand Universe Ark hovered in the sky. Lin Xun stood atop it with his hands behind his back as his cold eyes observed the battle.

Beside him, Ye Lingtong was alarmed and furious. She was alarmed that the Han Clan had indeed dispatched ten Violet Hero Battleships. This also made her heart shiver.

She was furious that even at this point, Ye Dongke could not see that he was wrong and still believed that Lin Xun was to blame for everything. Ye Dongke basically deserved to die!

But as a fellow member of the Ye Clan, Ye Lingtong couldn’t bear to watch Ye Dongke and the others be blasted to death by the Han Clan’s battleships.

“I...would rather he be killed by Young Master!” Ye Lingtong tightly clenched her jaw in anger. She truly did not know what to do.

“Does it matter who kills him?”

Lin Xun cast a sideways glance at her, knowing she was still holding the faint hope that he would save Ye Dongke.

Ye Lingtong’s pretty face instantly turned deathly pale. She wobbled unsteadily, knowing that Lin Xun was not going to interfere...

Ye Dongke’s resentful roars resounded across the battlefield. He cursed Lin Xun, believing he was despicable and had intentionally not warned them of the danger.

Ye Lingtong was utterly disappointed by this and sighed internally, “You brought this upon yourself...”

Moments later, Ye Dongke’s and the others’ voices completely disappeared. The concentrated cannon barrage had killed them.

“Oh no, they’ve discovered us and are coming over!”

Suddenly, Ye Lingtong jerked to attention when she realized that the ten Violet Hero Battleships were approaching them at full speed.

"It's the little lass from the Ye Clan!"

"Strange, where's Elder Han Yunchong? Given the old man's power, how could he have let these doggies from the Ye Clan survive until now?"

"We can discuss such things after we kill them!"

Murderous voices spread from the Violet Hero Battleships, belonging to the Han Clan cultivators.

"Young Master, we should leave quickly."

Ye Lingtong's face was pale. She had experienced a dangerous chase today, which she barely managed to survive. Following that, she had personally witnessed a tragedy befall her Elder Cousin-Brother.

Now, the Han Clan was rapidly approaching them with ten Violet Hero Battleships. This series of events caused Ye Lingtong to be on the verge of collapsing.

Since when had she ever experienced such dangerous and terrifying events that made her feel so angry and helpless?

"Leave? Why do we have to leave?"

Lin Xun's expression was unchanged as he stared into the distance. "Although Ye Dongke deserved death, he's still a member of your clan. Since they killed him, I will naturally ensure that your Ye Clan is given an adequate explanation."

Ye Lingtong was taken aback.

Soon after, she saw Lin Xun take out a sinister-looking bow. It seemed to be made from skulls and its bowstring was blood-red as if it had been soaked in blood. The terrifying bow gave off a blood-thirsty and intimidating aura.

The No-Nonsense Bow!

Lin Xun pulled back the bowstring, causing a strange buzzing noise to spread from the bow as if was rejoicing that it would soon feast on blood.

The space around Lin Xun began to fracture as if it was unable to contain such power while Ye Lingtong subconsciously held her breath.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed slightly as if she was silently waiting for something.

"What is he trying to do? Using a lousy bow against us? Hahaha, this is the first time I've seen something so hilarious."

"That's what we call a praying mantis trying to stop a cart. What a hilarious and ignorant fool!"

"Damn, he must be trying to amuse us to death. This kid's brain must be broken. How can his lousy bow possibly face our Violet Hero Battleships?"

The Han Clan cultivators on the battleships roared with laughter, their expressions filled with mockery.

Beng!

It was at this moment that Lin Xun fired an arrow.

The blood-red bowstring trembled, but the arrow released was invisible and impossible to find.

However, it made Ye Lingtong's scalp turn numb as a chill rose from the bottoms of her feet. The attack was far too bizarre, terrifying, and possessed an indescribable fatal power.

Boom!

In the blink of an eye, one of the battleships exploded. Intense flames spouted like an erupting volcano, burning even the air itself. It was a magnificent yet tragic scene.

A single arrow had destroyed a Violet Hero Battleship!

The Han Clan cultivators on the remaining nine battleships were stupefied, not daring to believe their eyes.

A Violet Hero Battleship that would give even Heaven Ascension experts a headache and was known to be one of the trump cards among the empire's small-scale battleships had been destroyed just like that?

It was as unrealistic as a dream!

After the new series Violet Hero Battleship was announced, the imperial army was quickly outfitted with it, and it had become sought after by countless cultivators.

It possessed astonishing defense and terrifying combat capabilities. On the battlefield, its destructive power would make even the enemies despair.

However, that very same Violet Hero Battleship had been destroyed by an invisible arrow.

"This..."

"What kind of bow is that? Could it be some kind of supreme treasure?"

"Who is that kid? Why didn't the information mention anything about such a person from the Ye Clan?"

"Attack! Quickly attack with our full power!"

Alarmed and angry voices rang out one after another.

The nine remaining Violet Hero Battleships aggressively released deafening rumbling noises as concentrated cannon fire enveloped the area.

If this were to happen on land, it would instantly destroy an entire city!

Boom!

However, another explosion was heard a split second later as another battleship was destroyed. The frightening explosion boiled the sea water and incinerated the air.

Lin Xun stood on the Grand Universe Ark with a confident expression as he continuously pulled back and released the blood-red bowstring. The No-Nonsense Bow buzzed in excitement.

Beng! Beng! Beng!

Invisible and undetectable arrows were shot out one after another. They flew as quickly as lightning and gave off an aura that would make anyone's heart shiver.

Ye Lingtong's mind had become completely blank as she dazedly stood there in shock.

She watched as battleship after battleship was destroyed like paper, turning into giant fireballs that burned menacingly.

Everything was happening far too quickly. The Han Clan experts did not even have time to react. All they could do was scream in misery as they were engulfed by the raging infernos.

The place had become a hellscape of horrifying destruction.

It felt so unreal. That was the Violet Hero Battleship and a powerful weapon of the empire! Why did they seem so weak and frail?

Ye Lingtong could not understand what was happening.

The final Violet Hero Battleship was destroyed amidst a mushroom cloud explosion. Flames devastated the surroundings, illuminating the blue sea below.

In the span of a few breaths, ten Violet Hero Battleships and all the Han Clan cultivators onboard had been completely wiped out!

Lin Xun made no further actions. He stood there like a pine tree, his moon-white clothes and black hair fluttering around him.

A raging sea of fire burned in the distance, making it seem as if they were looking at hell.

The wreckage of the battleships and the corpses of the Han Clan cultivators were burned away in the sea of fire.

Ye Lingtong dazedly took in everything. She looked at the proud figure that stood there with his hands behind his back as her heart stirred in a strange manner.

"He's definitely a legendary heaven pride of the younger generation! How else could a single person and a bow shoot down ten Violet Hero Battleships in the blink of an eye?"

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Chapter 645: Turbulence in the Ye Clan

Truthfully, the reason why Lin Xun could destroy each battleship with an arrow wasn't that his combat power had reached an inconceivable terrifying level.

It was because he was far too familiar with the Violet Hero Battleship!

After all, the new series Violet Hero Battleship was essentially his design, so he knew its ins and outs like the back of his hand. It would not be an exaggeration to say that besides Old Mo, there was no one who understood the Violet Hero Battleship better than Lin Xun.

Due to these circumstances, every arrow he shot was aimed at the weakest point of the Violet Hero Battleships. Hence, it would instead be strange if he couldn't achieve such an accomplishment.

The flames of battle raged above the blue sea, marking the end of the entire affair.

Lin Xun stored away the No-Nonsense Bow and soon left with the still-dazed Ye Lingtong.

.....

"You're saying that Ye Xiaoqi has already headed to Ancient Wasteland Domain to cultivate?"

Along the way, Lin Xun was somewhat taken aback after asking about Ye Xiaoqi.

"That's right. Three months ago, Brother Xiaoqi was personally sent there by our Ancestor. Among the Ye Clan's younger generation, Brother Xiaoqi is the only one who has received such special treatment. He is the hope of our Ye Clan."

A look of worship appeared in Ye Lingtong's eyes. Ye Xiaoqi was publicly acknowledged as the number one heaven pride of the Ye Clan's younger generation. He was very talented and famous in the East Sea.

However...

When Ye Lingtong compared Ye Xiaoqi to Lin Xun, she helplessly shook her head. They were obviously not even in the same league.

Lin Xun had easily destroyed ten Violet Hero Battleships and was basically an irrational monster. Compared to him, Brother Xiaoqi appeared rather dull and ordinary.

"It seems that many cultivators in the Ziyao Empire have become aware of the Great Dao Catastrophe..."

Lin Xun pondered.

Ye Xiaoqi wasn't the first person he knew that had been sent to the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Before him, Bai Lingxi, Song Yi, and Yuchi Ze had been taken to the Ancient Wasteland Domain by representatives from the ancient sects during the Empress' three-hundredth birthday.

In addition, Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang, Stone Cauldron Alms' First Young Master Shi Xuan, Song Clan's First Young Master Song Yunji, Qinglu Academy Successor Gu Yunting...and other top heaven prides of the Forbidden City's younger generation had all left as well.

This was called following where the wind blew.

In fact, Lin Xun was sure that more and more disciples from the powerful factions would be sent to the Ancient Wasteland Domain in the near future.

After all, it was rumored that a true Great Dao Catastrophe would occur in this 'lower world' within the next ten years!

When that happened, the dao would become broken and damaged. Let alone cultivating, even the path to higher cultivation levels would disappear. For cultivators, this was akin to destroying all of their hopes and dreams.

Ye Xiaoqi's departure was just one of many.

"When I return to the Forbidden City, I shall begin to make preparations to head to the Ancient Wasteland Domain..."

Lin Xun took a deep breath and made a decision.

After experiencing the many ups and downs of his expedition in the Spirit Burial Sea, Lin Xun understood that he needed to head to a bigger cultivation world to pursue his supreme path.

Simply put, the 'lower world' was already no longer sufficient for his cultivation.

"Young Master, will you tell me your name before I leave?"

An incense stick of time later, on a beach near the East Sea. Ye Lingtong had decided to leave but had one final request: she wished to know Lin Xun's name.

Lin Xun was startled before he nodded and agreed.

"Goodbye."

Lin Xun cupped his hands together and directed the Grand Universe Ark toward the land in the distance.

"So he's called Lin Xun..." Ye Lingtong mumbled.

She had a feeling that the name was somewhat familiar, but could not recall why.

.....

East Sea, the Ye Clan.

Ye Lingtong had returned with news of being chased by the Han Clan, which enraged the Ye Clan's upper echelons.

On that same day, the Ye Clan dispatched a powerful force to the deeper region of the East Sea to contest with the Han Clan over the aeth vein.

It was also on that same day that Ye Lingtong revealed another piece of news in the Ye Clan Discussion Hall that shook the higher-ups.

A mighty advanced Heaven Ascension cultivator, Han Yunchong, had been killed by a single palm from a youngster?

If Ye Lingtong had not sworn this was true, the Ye Clan's higher-ups would not dare to believe it.

However, their shock was soon replaced by anger.

"What? Dongke is dead? Weren't the two of you together? Why are you alive while Dongke is dead?"

Ye Nanlin's enraged roar thundered in the hall.

He was Ye Dongke's father. The pain of losing his son made it impossible for him to keep his composure and made him so furious that his eyes turned red with anger.

"Speak! What exactly happened!? If you dare to hide anything, you'll be the first to face my wrath!"

Ye Nanling glared at Ye Lingtong. The terrifyingly sinister light in his eyes caused the latter to turn deathly pale and mumble incoherently.

The other higher-ups were also bewildered. Since Han Yunchong had been killed, how did Ye Dongke die?

Ye Lingtong knew she could not hide anything and had no choice but to tell them the truth.

The higher-ups immediately frowned while Ye Nanling's anger hit its peak. "Just because he rejected my son's recruitment offer, that heartless youngster tried to take revenge on him? That's too much!"

Ye Lingtong gathered her courage, gritted her teeth, and said, "Third Uncle, it was Elder Cousin-Brother Dongke's fault because he didn't show appropriate behavior and repaid goodwill with vengeance. I tried to persuade him, but was instead scolded and blamed by him. Wouldn't you agree that he brought it upon himself?"

"How dare you! Who do you think you are to say that Dongke doesn't behave appropriately and repays goodwill with vengeance? You have such a poisonous tongue!"

Ye Nanlin shattered the documents in front of him with a slap and rose to his feet. He murderously glared at Ye Lingtong like an enraged wild beast.

Ye Lingtong shivered in fear and shock as if she was in an ice cave while feeling extremely sullen, frustrated, and angry. Like father, like son. Ye Dongke's temperament and behavior were exactly the same as his old man's.

Another higher-up of the Ye Clan declared in a deep voice, "Although the youngster saved you and Dongke was killed by the Han Clan, his involvement in Dongke's death will not be overlooked."

"That's right. Such vile acts have never happened to our Ye Clan in the many years we've been here in the East Sea. If word of this spreads, others would laugh at us. In my view, we cannot let off the Han Clan, and we also need to make that youngster pay a price!"

The other higher-ups voiced their agreement.

Ye Lingtong felt increasingly disappointed and could not help but say, "Uncles, if that Young Master did not save me, I would not have been able to immediately bring back news about the Han Clan trying to seize the aeth vein. Wouldn't what uncles are suggesting be..."

Although she didn't complete the sentence, the meaning was already very clear. Wasn't it no different from repaying goodwill with vengeance?

The higher-ups' expressions immediately darkened, and they became rather unhappy.

"Even at this juncture, you are still trying to protect an outsider?" Ye Nanlin snarled as his eyes grew increasingly cold.

Ye Lingtong pursed her lips. Although she did not reply, her stubborn expression caused many of the bigwigs' frowns to deepen.

One of the higher-ups asked in a gentle tone, "Lingtong, do you know that youngster's name and background?"

Everyone immediately perked up their ears.

After hesitating for a long time, Ye Lingtong said in a small voice, "I only know that he's called Lin Xun. Oh right, before we said our farewells, he asked me to say hello to the Old Ancestor on his behalf."

Lin Xun?

Asked a little lass like Ye Lingtong to help him say hello to the Old Ancestor?

Everyone was taken aback. What an arrogant fellow. Ye Dongke's death had everything to do with him, but he still dared to act so fearlessly. Did he think the Ye Clan couldn't touch him?

Ye Nanlin was especially furious. The veins popped up all over his forehead and his teeth nearly shattered from the force of his clenched jaw. "How dare he humiliate my Ye Clan in such a manner. The hatred in my heart will not be quelled unless I kill him!"

Ye Lingtong's hands and feet turned ice-cold as bitterness flashed in her eyes. She had already told them everything, but the Ye Clan's higher-ups' reactions were honestly disappointing.

"Wait, did you say the youngster is called Lin Xun?"

One of the higher-ups suddenly spoke up as if remembering something, his expression somewhat bewildered.

"Who is Lin Xun?"

"Could it be that famous young rune founder from the Forbidden City?"

In an instant, all of the higher-ups' expressions changed as they recalled some of the rumors regarding 'Lin Xun'.

Lin Xun was famous in the Forbidden City. He was a rising star, and the tales about him were far too many to count.

When he was taking the rune master qualification test, he caused the 'Nine Draconic Cries' phenomenon that shook the Forbidden City.

In Precious Laughter House, he beat up the descendants of two high clans, the Hua Clan and the Song Clan.

On the Empress' three-hundredth birthday celebration, he forced the Marquis of Rising Sky, Zhao Jingyin, to kneel in front of everyone.

At the age of sixteen, he became an instructor at the Qinglu Academy Rune Department.

In less than six months, he had crafted a rune armament that shook the world, the Shattered Tragedy Spear.

He...

All in all, there were too many legendary feats and unbelievable tales about him. Ever since his rise in the Forbidden City, he had outshone nearly all of the younger generation's heaven prides.

Some said that he was cruel, violent, and had no morals. Others said that he was a young heaven pride with youthful arrogance.

However, no one had expected that this very same youngster would be implicated in Ye Dongke's death.

The hall suddenly became much quieter. If 'Lin Xun' was the same rising star of the Forbidden City, then their original plans would become very difficult to carry out!

Ye Lingtong was also stunned. She could sense that Lin Xun's name seemed to possess some kind of magical power that changed the attitudes of the higher-ups present.

It turns out that he was far more extraordinary than she had imagined...

Ye Lingtong did not know who Lin Xun was. She had been cultivating in the East Sea most of her life and had never taken notice of news from the Forbidden City.

Otherwise, she would have immediately understood why the higher-ups' expressions had changed.

Ye Nanlin's fluctuated indeterminately as he roared, "It doesn't matter if he's that young rune founder. Since he dared to take revenge on Dongke, he needs to pay the price!"

However, the only responses he received were a few hesitating gazes. Everyone present had become much more silent.

Although the Ye Clan lorded over the East Sea, they were barely equivalent to mid-tier noble clans in the Forbidden City.

According to the rumors, Lin Xun had offended five of the high clans, the Hua Clan, the Song Clan, the Zuo Clan, the Chi Clan, and the Qin Clan!

There were only seven high clans in the entire empire, but he had offended five of them in a short period of time. Truly a savage.

Despite this, he was still living well and had not succumbed to any misfortunes.

It was honestly extremely shocking if you were to think about it.

With all these in mind, who would dare to provoke such a youngster?

"Have all of you become scared? A mere youngster has scared you guys so much?" Ye Nanlin grew increasingly angry.

"You piece of crap! Your son repaid goodwill with vengeance and was killed by the Han Clan, so now you want to seek trouble with our benefactor? Have you become stupid after living for so long?"

A stern voice suddenly sounded from outside the hall, causing the hearts of everyone present to tremble. Everyone immediately rose to their feet and bowed.

Ye Nanlin's expression changed as he stiffened in alarm.

There was no one outside the hall, but all the Ye Clan higher-ups knew that the voice came from the Ye Clan's Old Ancestor.

There was only one Old Ancestor in the Ye Clan, Ye Qingtian!

"Even Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui, Stone Cauldron Alms' Fortune God Shi, Gong Clan's Old Ancestor Gong Bupo have nothing but praise for that young man. Why has he become such an evil-doer in your mouths?"

Ye Qingtian's voice sounded again with a questioning tone. It shook everyone's hearts and caused Ye Nanlin's expression to grow increasingly ugly.

"Our clan's Xiaoqi has received help many times from the boy Lin Xun, and I even have to give some respect to a young rune founder who can craft rune armaments. With all this in mind, you guys are pretty damn ballsy to call for revenge!"

These words struck everyone like thunder. Ye Nanlin could no longer endure and fell to his knees as he bitterly said, "Old Ancestor, I was wrong."

"From today, you will be stripped of all duties and be sent to reflect in the restricted area!"

A single sentence from Ye Qingtian caused Ye Nanlin to turn deathly pale as if he was at a funeral. He could not understand why the Old Ancestor would be so furious because of a mere youngster.

The other higher-ups inwardly shivered, and secretly rejoiced that they had not said too much.

"Little girl, come to my ancestral shrine. I have something to ask you."

Ye Qingtian's voice was kind and gentle like a spring breeze, causing everyone to be taken aback.

Soon after, the Ye Clan higher-ups revealed complicated expressions. How could they not understand by now that due to Ye Lingtong's relation with Lin Xun, she had already entered the Old Ancestor's sights?

The little lass had obtained fortune from misfortune!

Ye Lingtong dazedly stood on the spot for a moment before suddenly returning to her senses and hurrying to comply.

She was still very dazed inside. Who was Lin Xun? Why...did even the Old Ancestor personally appear because of him?

It was simply inconceivable!

When Ye Lingtong met Ye Qingtian, she was immediately scared silly by the Old Ancestor's first question.

"There was recent news from the Forbidden City that Lin Xun died in Spirit Burial Sea a few months ago. Are you certain you saw him? Could he have survived and returned?"

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Chapter 646: Abnormal Appearance of Monster-Demon Beasts

Died?

Ye Lingtong was taken aback. Could the Lin Xun she saw and the Lin Xun mentioned by the Old Ancestor be different people?

However, after she described Lin Xun's appearance, Ye Qingtian's response told her that these two Lin Xuns were the same person.

"I never imagined that he actually survived and returned from the Spirit Burial Sea..."

Even a Life Death Stage King like Ye Qingtian could not help but feel his heart stir when he ascertained that Lin Xun was alive.

From the information he had received, Lin Xun had been pursued by a group of old Life Death stage monsters several months ago in Spirit Burial Sea!

Under such circumstances, almost no one would believe Lin Xun would survive. In fact, Ye Qingtian had also sighed in pity when he heard the news.

It could be said that Lin Xun was the most dazzling and outstanding heaven pride among the empire's younger generation!

He had accomplished many glorious and miraculous feats.

If such a heaven pride were to die, it would be a terrible loss for the entire empire.

Who could have imagined that the supposedly dead Lin Xun would actually be alive?! It was shocking, to say the least.

He had been chased by a group of Life Death Stage Kings! Even Ye Qingtian had to admit he would have been hard-pressed in Lin Xun's situation.

Most inconceivable of all was that he had returned alone from the treacherous depths of Spirit Burial Sea. This was already an unbelievable feat.

After all, it was common knowledge that only Life Death Stage Kings and above could cross Spirit Burial Sea.

Any other cultivator who entered would be dead nine out of ten times.

Despite this, Lin Xun survived without a single injury!

A group of Life Death Stage Kings could not take his life, and even the immeasurably dangerous Spirit Burial Sea could not stop him from returning to the Ziyao Empire!

How could Ye Qingtian not be shocked by this?

He was a Life Death Stage King, so ordinary matters would not stir his heart. However, the things that had happened to Lin Xun were far too outrageous that even Ye Qingtian could not help but feel amazed.

The atmosphere in the ancestral shrine was somewhat silent.

Ye Lingtong could sense that after ascertaining Lin Xun's identity, the Old Ancestor seemed to be in shock.

This made her grow increasingly curious. Who was...this Lin Xun? He only appeared to be a youngster with overwhelming combat ability so why did the Ye Clan higher-ups have such a huge reaction at the mention of his name?

Ye Lingtong secretly decided that she would gather information about him in the future and learn about this mysterious youngster.

"It's been half a year since he disappeared, and many things happened in the Forbidden City when news of his death spread. But now..."

Ye Qingtian's eyes became as deep as the night as a strange expression appeared between his brows. "Everything is going to change. When he returns to the Forbidden City, a huge storm will follow!"

.....

Swoosh!

The Grand Universe Ark flickered across the sky at high speed like a flashing spark. In the blink of an eye, it disappeared into the ends of the sky.

Finally returning to the Ziyao Empire made Lin Xun feel relaxed and happy like a bird returning to its nest.

With his current cultivation and the Grand Universe Ark, even a Life Death Stage King would not be able to contain him.

At the same time, as long as he chose not to face someone directly, anyone cultivator below the Life Death King Stage could no longer threaten him!

This was why Lin Xun neither bothered to conceal himself nor was he worried as he returned to the Forbidden City.

"It's been about half a year since I left. I wonder how Xia Zhi, Uncle Zhong, Xiaoke, Mister Spirit Vulture, Third Old Zhu, and the others are doing..."

Various thoughts swirled in his head as he recalled his many friends and family. He wondered what kind of changes had occurred to the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak over the past half year.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, battle undulations spread from the distance, rousing Lin Xun from his thoughts.

He found himself at a rugged mountain range with no trace of human settlements or nearby cities, making it appear very primitive.

A battle had erupted in the desolate area!

A merchant group of about thirty to forty people was being besieged by countless monster-beasts in a valley, leaving them no choice but to desperately fight for their lives.

“Since when did so many monster-beasts appear in the Ziyao Empire?”

Lin Xun was somewhat surprised and slowed down the ark.

Monster-beasts were intelligent variant species that knew how to cultivate. They could also be called monster-beast cultivators.

These monster-beasts were far more powerful than the usual savage-beast. Some beast king level monster-beast cultivators were comparable to the great cultivators among the humans and could summon wind and rain with a thought.

However, from what Lin Xun knew, monster-beasts were rare in the Ziyao Empire and you would usually only find ordinary savage-beasts around.

And yet, the valley was currently flooded with monster-beasts. There were golden avian creatures and all kinds of land-based beasts that gave off extremely ferocious presences.

A cacophony of bestial roars filled the air, making anyone who heard it shiver involuntarily.

This was far too unusual!

“Could some kind of change have happened due to the coming Great Dao Catastrophe?”

Lin Xun frowned.

He soon made another surprising observation. The merchant group was bearing the Stone Cauldron Alms flag!

Lin Xun immediately stopped. Without any hesitation, he stored away the Grand Universe Ark and descended toward the valley.

.....

“Miss Wansu, we’re probably going to be wiped out this time...”

Wang Lin bitterly said with a despairing expression. He was a treasure appraiser and did not know much about fighting, but even he could see that their guards were falling one after another.

The monster-beasts were terrifying and bloodthirsty, and there were far too many of them. They surrounded the valley so tightly that not even water could seep in.

There was no doubt that they would all die to the monster-beasts if this terrible situation continued.

Boom!

A flash of blood-colored light suddenly shot toward Wang Lin and narrowly missed his body, leaving a giant hole in the ground amidst an explosion of dirt.

It caused Wang Lin’s face to turn deathly white as his body trembled uncontrollably. Wouldn’t he have died if he was hit?

“How hateful! For

By his side, Mu Wansu gritted her teeth in anger. She was dressed in a black dress and was still as beautiful as before, like a seductive black rose.

Her expression was ashen. Even someone with her mental fortitude and tenacity could only feel powerless in the face of this situation.

“Could the rumors be true that a huge change is about to happen to this land?”

Mu Wansu shivered.

Natural disasters and human disasters were the most terrifying disasters of all, especially for cultivators. A natural disaster could easily bring destruction that was unforeseeable and unable to be estimated!

A shriek suddenly brought Mu Wansu back to reality. Soon after, her face turned deathly pale.

The elite guards accompanying her had all been killed. There was nothing left of them but bones, chunks of flesh, and blood that was still being torn and trampled on by the many monster-beasts. The cruel scene would make anyone look away.

“Roar!”

The monster-beasts charged at her with deafening roars, their cold eyes filled with blood-thirsty brutality that would make anyone shiver.

It made Mu Wansu and Wang Lin completely fall into despair.

Was there any hope of survival surrounded by a sea-like army of monster-beasts in this godforsaken wilderness?

“Humans, this mountain has been occupied by me, the Scarlet Eagle King. If you do not wish to die, surrender and serve this king.”

Suddenly, a giant hundred-foot-tall eagle descended from the air. It looked as if it was made from molten lava and its wings burned with fiery light.

With a light flap of its wings, fiery light poured out and burned the mountains on one side of the valley, creating a horrifying scene of endless terror.

The tide-like army of monster-beasts trembled in fear and lay on the ground as if they were welcoming a king.

This made the Scarlet Eagle King appear increasingly terrifying.

“Surrender and serve you?”

Mu Wansu was surprised.

The Scarlet Eagle King indifferently said in a tone that did not allow refusal, “That’s right. This king has just awakened from a deep sleep and needs to learn about this world. You guys are the people this king has chosen.”

“You want a human like me to surrender and serve a feathered bastard like you?”

Mu Wansu's entire body felt cold as if she was in an ice cave. She gritted her teeth and said, "Whatever, if I die, I die. However, I will bring some of you bastards along with me to accompany me in the afterlife!"

Upon seeing that Mu Wansu was about to throw away her life, Wang Lin's eyes bulged their sockets as he sorrowfully cried out, "Miss Wansu—!"

"You're courting death!"

The Scarlet Eagle King rose into the air and flapped its wings, creating a ten-thousand-foot-tall pillar of fire that seemed capable of burning all matter.

It was a superior existence whose intelligence and power was already equal to the great human cultivators.

Wang Lin once again felt himself plummeting into despair. The Scarlet Eagle King was too frightening, and Miss Wansu had zero chance of survival.

Screeeeee!

A dazzling silver blade suddenly approached at extreme speed.

What was that?

Wang Lin jumped in alarm.

"Eh?"

The Scarlet Eagle King was also alarmed. It turned its attention away from Mu Wansu and quickly shifted direction in an attempt to avoid the attack.

However, the blade was too swift and fierce. It flowed through the sky at an inconceivable speed like a reverse starry river pouring down from space.

The Scarlet Eagle King failed to dodge. Its lava-like wings were struck, leaving a large bloody wound that splattered blood onto the ground.

"My god! Did a great cultivator come to our aid?"

Wang Lin cried out, nearly unable to believe his eyes. All of his despair and sorrow had been swept away, replaced by excitement and other emotions.

Mu Wansu was also shocked by the turn of events. She had originally given up and sought to at least bring a few monster-beasts along with her before she died. Who could have imagined that a silver blade would suddenly descend from the heavens and change everything?

Even an existence as powerful as the Scarlet Eagle King had failed to avoid the attack. It was an unbelievable miracle that would excite anyone.

Who had come to their aid at this timely moment?

As if hearing Mu Wansu's thoughts, a figure floated down from the sky and entered her vision.

His eyes were as deep as the abyss, and his black hair flowed behind his shoulder. Dressed in moon-white clothes, his figure stood elegantly like a pine tree as it gave off a transcendental aura.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 647: Slander

Lin Xun!

Mu Wansu's pupils abruptly shrank, unable to believe her eyes.

He's...alive?

Didn't they say misfortune befell him in Spirit Burial Sea?

Mu Wansu thought she was seeing things, but her intuition told her that the youngster was definitely Lin Xun!

Although his presence had changed tremendously and he now gave off an indescribable sensation of transcendence, his appearance was basically the same as before.

He's still alive!

Shock was soon followed by elation. At her most despairing and helpless juncture, Lin Xun had descended like a flying immortal and injured the terrifying Scarlet Eagle King with a single slash of his blade. How could anyone not be overwhelmed by emotion in this situation?

"This...this can't be real. He's still alive?" Wang Lin was also dumbstruck and looked as if he had seen a ghost.

"Is there some problem with me being alive?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. He was naturally bewildered by their odd reactions.

Before he could get to the bottom of the matter, the Scarlet Eagle King sinisterly said, "A little youngster who has already stepped into the Heaven Ascension stage was able to injure this king. You truly astonish this king."

It spread out its wings as it spoke. Divine fire swirled around its body as a terrifying aura soared into the sky.

"Careful! It's a monster-beast that has just awoken from a deep sleep and possesses horrifying strength. No ordinary cultivator can match it."

Mu Wansu's expression changed, and she could not help but warn Lin Xun.

"It's a mere feathered beast. Big Sister Wansu does not need to worry." Lin Xun displayed a relaxed smile and a jovial expression.

Mu Wansu suddenly felt as if she had returned to Donglin City. Back then, Lin Xun was merely a True Martial stage youngster in a difficult situation.

Now, he was famous in the Forbidden City and was a peerless heaven pride that even she could not help but be amazed by.

How many years had it been?

The poor and thin youngster had already risen to power in the empire. Even against a terrible monster-beast like the Scarlet Eagle King, he was completely relaxed and unafraid.

“Feathered beast...”

Sparks flew from the Scarlet Eagle King’s eyes, clearly infuriated by the insulting nickname. It had never met such an arrogant youngster since it had started cultivating.

The Scarlet Eagle King menacingly threatened, “Little fellow, on account that it was not easy for you to achieve such cultivation, if you surrender and choose to serve me, this king will give you a chance to live. Otherwise, this king will teach you what it will feel like to wish you were dead!”

The nearby monster-beasts angrily roared, trying to scare and intimidate Lin Xun.

“I’ve lost track of how many beasts like you I’ve killed. To think the likes of you dares to call yourself a king.” Lin Xun laughed.

The Scarlet Eagle King was indeed very strong and possessed power comparable to a peak Heaven Ascension expert. It was definitely a top-tier existence among the monster-beast cultivators.

However, it still wasn’t enough in Lin Xun’s eyes. In fact, it was far inferior to the Herculean Demon Bull Clan’s Niu Tuntian.

These words only triggered the Scarlet Eagle King even more. “You are seeking your own death!”

Rumble!

It spread its wings, producing flames that rose ten thousand feet into the air. The bright flames burned away the clouds and covered the entire area, incinerating the nearby mountains to ashes.

Some of the nearby monster-beasts could not avoid the flames in time and were also burnt to ashes. This showed the depths of the Scarlet Eagle King’s savageness. It didn’t care the least bit about its subordinates’ lives and was bloodthirsty, heartless, and ruthless.

“So noisy!”

Lin Xun did not wish to waste any more time. He glowed as he rose into the air like a supreme blade that was being unsheathed.

Swoosh!

He activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step, causing his figure to turn illusory and shine intimidatingly.

Strong!

Mu Wansu and Wang Lin were shocked. Although it had been a relatively short period since they had last met, Lin Xun had grown stronger again. He had stepped into the Heaven Ascension stage, becoming a true, great cultivator!

It was unbelievable.

It must be known that half a year ago, Lin Xun had only been at the Spirit Sea stage. But now, he could stand shoulder to shoulder with the great cultivators of the empire!

Rumble!

The Scarlet Eagle King's huge body seemed to burn and gave off a scarlet glow. At this particular moment, every red feather on its body was bristling angrily.

Because it was feeling an extremely dangerous aura.

It extended its sharp claws. Thousands of fire waves rolled through the air as it pounced at Lin Xun.

However, an astonishing scene soon followed. With a single punch, Lin Xun instantly shattered the opponent's claws!

Urgh!

Blood splattered as the Scarlet Eagle King rapidly backed away in pain. It was astonished and angry as a chill rose from the bottom of its heart.

A single strike had injured its claws and nearly crippled it. This made it realize that the youngster was no ordinary person, but instead an extremely formidable individual.

After the clean strike, Lin Xun decisively gave chase. Compact fist force that gave off a majestic presence slammed through the air, causing space to crumble around it.

The Scarlet Eagle King cried out in anger. Ever since it woke up, it had always felt that it was an existence that was above everyone else. Who could have imagined that a human youngster would cause it such pain?

Rumble!

It burned like the sun, sending out a torrential rain of fire that sought to engulf Lin Xun.

Swish!

However, Lin Xun was too fast. He avoided the attack in a flash, arrived beside the Scarlet Eagle King, and punched.

A loud, thunder-like boom rang out. Under Mu Wansu's and Wang Lin's shocked gazes, the ferocious Scarlet Eagle King was struck down from the sky by Lin Xun and crashed into the ground with a miserable shriek, creating a huge crater.

In contrast, Lin Xun remained confident and relaxed from start to end. His moon-white clothes fluttered around him, making him resemble a superior, immortal-like existence.

The nearby monster-beasts trembled like frightened cats and lay on the ground while shivering in fear.

They did not dare to hiss and roar like before. They could sense an indescribable terror from Lin Xun that intimidated them and made their hearts shake in fear.

Even the Scarlet Eagle King had been easily suppressed, so what more the likes of them?

Swish!

Lin Xun dove down from the sky. A faint azure glow covered his fist as he fell like a shooting star to kill the Scarlet Eagle King.

To everyone's surprise, the Scarlet Eagle King suddenly shrieked, "Please spare me, Young Master! I surrender and am willing to serve the Young Master!"

Screeech!

Lin Xun's fist stopped three inches from the Scarlet Eagle King's head. Due to the terrifying residual force, the surrounding air emitted a grating wail.

The Scarlet Eagle King was drenched in a cold sweat, and its soul nearly left its body. The youngster was far too frightening. He was clearly only in his teens, but how could he possess such overwhelming combat power?

Could he be a core true disciple of some ancient sect?

The possibility made it grow increasingly respectful. It withdrew its wings and pressure and lay on the ground with its head bowed. "The heavens are virtuous. Please show mercy Young Master and spare me!"

The nearby monster-beasts looked at each other as their eyes nearly fell out of their sockets from shock. That was their 'king'! But it was now laying at a human youngster's feet and begging for its life. The drastic change happened far too quickly and caught them completely off guard.

Mu Wansu and Wang Lin were also dazed. Earlier, the Scarlet Eagle King had not even participated and relied on its subordinates to wipe out the group.

Now, that same beast-king-level tyrant was begging for its life at Lin Xun's feet. It felt far too unreal.

This made them realize how strong Lin Xun had become. It had only been half a year, so what had happened in between to result in such drastic growth?

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Swish!

Moments later, the Grand Universe Ark began to move, carrying Lin Xun, Mu Wansu, and Wang Lin toward the Forbidden City.

The Scarlet Eagle King was also present. It had shrunk itself into a small two-foot-tall scarlet eagle that was standing at Lin Xun's feet like a loyal servant.

Lin Xun had indeed spared its life, and it was now serving at his side.

The Scarlet Eagle King was undoubtedly powerful. Within the Heaven Ascension stage, it was stronger than the many saint-level individuals from the various clans in Spirit Burial Sea.

As for the Heaven Ascension experts in the Ziyao Empire, the Scarlet Eagle King could go toe to toe with the best of them and was only a single step from reaching the Cyclic Derivation stage.

The Scarlet Eagle King belonged to an ancient variant species known as the 'Fire Spirit Blood Eagle.' It had the innate ability to control fire dao and was one of the peak existences among monster-beast cultivators.

Hence, Lin Xun was naturally happy to gain the service of such a powerful monster-beast cultivator.

He had already decided that he would make it the guardian of Mind Cleansing Peak so he would not need to worry too much about his friends and family after he left for the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

In fact, Lin Xun was thinking about catching a few more powerful monster-beasts to make them guardian beasts of Mind Cleansing Peak.

After much hesitation, Mu Wansu could no longer hold back and asked, "Lin Xun, didn't they say that you...ran into misfortune? What happened in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea?"

"Misfortune? Who said that?"

Lin Xun was taken aback.

"You still don't know? It was the hottest topic in the Forbidden City several months ago. Everyone said you died in the depths of Spirit Burial Sea and could no longer return...eh, that's right. How can you know if you just returned?"

Mu Wansu's words made Lin Xun frown as an icy light flashed in his black eyes. Who had spread such malicious news?

Unfortunately, Mu Wansu didn't know either as she had only heard about it and did not investigate.

Spirit Treasure Holy Land!

Lin Xun arrived at this conclusion after some thought. It must be Xiao Ran, Su Xingfeng, and the others who had spread such inauspicious news.

Only they knew everything he had experienced in Spirit Burial Sea!

"Trying to use such methods to slander me? It looks like you guys are at your wits end!"

Lin Xun inwardly sneered.

Although he had posed as 'Lin Xuan', it wouldn't be hard to discover his true identity nor was it possible for him to conceal it from the Spirit Treasure Holy Land Successors.

However, Lin Xun did not understand why they had done so and what was their goal. Was it merely to slander and annoy him?

There was definitely more to this matter!

Lin Xun suddenly felt an urgent need to return to the Forbidden City.

He had only been away for half a year, but someone had lied that he had died in Spirit Burial Sea. If his enemies heard this same rumor, wouldn't they be tempted to move against Mind Cleansing Peak?

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Chapter 648: Return to the Forbidden City

In the end, Lin Xun could not help but ask, "Big Sister Wansu, do you know how Mind Cleansing Peak's Lin Clan has fared for the past half year?"

He had a sinking feeling.

Several months ago, false rumors of his death had spread in the Forbidden City. Under these circumstances, the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan would undoubtedly be the most affected.

After all, Lin Xun was the backbone of the current Mind Cleansing Peak. If he was dead, would Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke, Third Old Zhu, and the others continue to serve at Mind Cleansing Peak?

Likewise, how would the Northlight Lin Clan react after hearing the news?

This was only Mind Cleansing Peak's internal affairs. There were also the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans, the Zuo Clan, Qi Clan, and other high clans. How could they possibly sit still if he was dead?

"This..." Mu Wansu's expression changed slightly, unable to continue.

"Feel free to speak. I already have a rough guess." The sinking feeling in Lin Xun's heart deepened.

His black eyes were like an abyss that was oozing almost solid killing intent.

The Scarlet Eagle King trembled as it grew increasingly fearful and respectful of Lin Xun.

As a pinnacle existence among the monster-beast cultivators, the Scarlet Eagle King could naturally sense Lin Xun's terrifying killing intent. It was killing intent that could only be cultivated by being engulfed in blood and killing for a long time!

It could not imagine how a teenage human youngster could so closely resemble a killing god that had walked out from a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood.

"Don't worry. Although the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan is in a shaky position, they will be able to endure for the time being."

Mu Wansu took a deep breath and continued, "What's more, aren't you back now? You'll definitely be able to help overcome this crisis."

Lin Xun shook his head. "Big Sister Wansu, you do not need to console me."

"This..."

Mu Wansu hesitated. In the end, she sighed and told him the truth, "While you were still in the Forbidden City, the East Creek, Cloud Weight, Flying Peak branch clans, the Zuo Clan, Qin Clan, Chi Clan, and other high clans would naturally not dare to act recklessly."

"However, the problem is that you've disappeared for an entire half year. In addition, news of your death spread in the Forbidden City several months ago. That's why..."

The meaning was already clear without finishing.

Although half a year might seem short, to the various powerful factions in the Forbidden City, Lin Xun's disappearance would undoubtedly draw much attention.

The reason was simple. In the Forbidden City, Lin Xun was a famous young rune founder, the master of the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan, and the most outstanding heaven pride among the younger generation.

Such a dazzling and monstrous heaven pride had suddenly vanished for half a year. Moreover, news that he died in Spirit Burial Sea had rampantly spread in the capital.

These circumstances would draw various reactions from many parties. Some would be skeptical while his enemies would be tempted to take advantage of this opportunity.

This was the human heart!

A cold smile rose from the corners of Lin Xun's lips as his black eyes grew increasingly deep.

He knew that as long as he was around, no one would dare to touch the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan. Even the high clans did not dare to carelessly burn bridges with a young rune founder who could craft rune armaments!

Furthermore, the imperial family would not permit such a thing because the mysterious bigwig in the imperial family had long promised to silently support Lin Xun from the background.

Due to this, the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans had no choice but to lay low and not cause any trouble.

However, Lin Xun's death would change everything. As the saying went, the tea would cool when people left, and human emotion could be hot one second and cold the next.

Why did the old monsters in the high clans seldom leave?

Firstly, for closed cultivation, but more importantly, these old monsters were strong deterrents that would intimidate the other factions. They were akin to a strong stabilizing rock for these factions.

As the saying went, a clan cannot be without a leader while a country cannot go without a king.

Mu Wansu wanted to go into detail, but Lin Xun already understood that the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan was in a precarious situation.

"I guess it's about time to eliminate all the original hidden threats to the Lin Clan..."

Expressionless, Lin Xun stood on the deck with his clothes fluttering around him. Neither sadness nor happiness could be seen in black eyes.

On the side, Mu Wansu suddenly found it difficult to breathe as if an invisible force was squeezing her chest.

It made her heart tremble, realizing that the youngster who had disappeared from the Forbidden City half a year ago had finally been angered.

An unpredictable storm was soon going to engulf the Forbidden City!

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Half a day later, in front of the Forbidden City's north entrance.

A ship descended from the sky. Dressed in moon-white clothes, Lin Xun looked up at the old majestic city entrance he had not seen for half a year and could not help but take a deep breath.

He was back after half a year!

Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and walked into the Forbidden City with his hands behind his back. The Scarlet Eagle King was perched on his shoulder, looking around with its clear and sharp eyes.

One of the guard commanders stationed at the entrance randomly glanced at Lin Xun's back while relaxing, only to immediately stiffen.

"Eh, that youngster looks very familiar...wait a minute, isn't he Lin Xun who was rumored to have died in Spirit Burial Sea several months prior?"

The guard commander suddenly stood up in alarm and shock.

Half a year ago, the master of Mind Cleansing Peak, who was also a young rune founder, had created several legendary miracles that shook the Forbidden City, causing his name to spread to the ends of the empire. How could the guard commander be unable to recognize this young heaven pride?

"He...he...he's still alive!?"

The guard commander was dumbstruck and looked as if he had seen a ghost.

The nearby guards were stunned. Who had alarmed their commander so much that he would fall into such a state?

"Lin Xun! It must be him! I personally talked to him back when he brought a bunch of people who looked like villagers to the Forbidden City. It's definitely him!"

The guard commander mumbled to himself as huge waves rose in his heart. As one of the more informed locals, he knew the various events that had transpired over the past half a year.

Several months ago, news of Lin Xun's death had spread like wildfire in the Forbidden City, causing quite a stir. Back then, the guard commander had even sighed in regret.

In the beginning, many people refused to believe it, but as time passed, more and more rumors spread while Lin Xun was still nowhere to be found. It was then that many people realized that something was wrong.

At this juncture, nearly no one believed that Lin Xun would survive and return!

Lin Xun was dead!

As a result, the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan began to face difficulty. The originally up-and-coming faction encountered unprecedented setbacks and rapidly lost all of its previous momentum.

Ever since Lin Xun had become the master of Mind Cleansing Peak, the fallen Lin Clan had once again entered the Forbidden City's eyes. Moreover, its steady rise drew a lot of attention.

All of this was because of Lin Xun. He was the master of Mind Cleansing Peak and a legendary young rune founder. He was well-known in the city, and everyone believed that as long as he was around, the Lin Clan would regain its former glory and possibly return to the ranks of the high clans.

However, the news of Lin Xun's death changed everything.

Firstly, the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans began to clamor about wanting to enter Mind Cleansing Peak and take over the Lin Clan.

They were supported by the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan, making them fearless and arrogant.

Several factions that used to have good relations with Mind Cleansing Peak chose to watch as bystanders and cut off their previous ties.

There was also no lack of people who were ready to kick them while they were down. These people believed the Lin Clan direct line was destined to go extinct, which would change Mind Cleansing Peak's situation.

The guard commander had witnessed all of these events over the past half a year and could only lament Mind Cleansing Peak's predicament.

The Lin Clan had offended numerous factions amidst their rise which included high clans like the Hua Clan, the Song Clan, the Chi Clan, the Qin Clan, and the Zuo Clan.

There was also one of the three great rune clans, the Chu Clan, and even the imperial family had been offended by Lin Xun more than once.

Without Lin Xun, the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan would immediately be targeted by many powerful factions and be bullied into a miserable situation.

The guard commander never imagined that after half a year, the supposedly dead Lin Xun would return!

The guard commander muttered, "Great turmoil is going to befall the Forbidden City!"

Meanwhile, Lin Xun arrived in front of Mind Cleansing Peak. He noiselessly opened the array and began walking up the peak.

Along the way, he heard the sound of quarreling from the discussion hall which caused his eyes to narrow.

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"How long has it been already? Lin Zhong, are you still going to do nothing and watch the Lin Clan fall? Lin Xun has long been proven dead. Since that's the case, we need to choose a successor to become the new master Mind Cleansing Peak!"

"That's right, do you know why our North Light Lin Clan members do not dare to go out these days? It's because Lin Xun offended too many factions! We're like rats that everyone wants to chase away. Our lives are miserable."

"We have no leader, are plagued by internal troubles, and are facing external pressure. Our North Light Lin Clan should never have joined Mind Cleansing Peak. When Lin Xun died, he caused all of us to suffer

as well. We're constantly facing hostility and being bullied by others. What place will we have in the Forbidden City in the future?"

"Lin Zhong, as a senior member of the Lin Clan who wields the almighty Shattered Tragedy Spear, as long as you give the green light, my North Light Lin Clan might be able to turn things around if we take control of Mind Cleansing Peak. Otherwise, we might lose Mind Cleansing Peak!"

In the discussion hall, the North Light Lin Clan higher-ups were angrily cursing and threatening Lin Zhong.

The North Light Lin Clan Head, Lin Huaiyuan, was also amongst them, but he remained expressionless and only showed an ambiguous attitude.

"Everyone, before Miss Xia Zhi went into closed cultivation, she said that the Young Master is still alive. Why are you people so adamant about pressuring me on this issue?"

Lin Zhong wore a stormy expression as he said with restrained anger, "What's more, hasn't everything the Young Master did over the past few years all been for our Lin Clan? Can you guys touch your heart and ask who hasn't benefited from Mind Cleansing Peak while the Young Master was around? The Young Master has only been missing for a while, so aren't you guys too impatient in trying to seize power?"

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Chapter 649: Ugly Power Struggle

Lin Zhong's words were filled with emotion and were said with a questioning tone.

Several North Light Lin Clan high-ups' expressions turned uncomfortable. They had to admit that when Lin Xun was around, they had indeed received many benefits from Mind Cleansing Peak.

Even in the Forbidden City, just mentioning that they were from the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan would make others show respect toward them.

However, Lin Xun was dead!

Everything had changed as a result. The Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan was in a precarious situation and was nearly on the brink of collapsing due to being targeted by numerous factions.

How could these North Light Lin Clan higher-ups possibly remain calm?

Someone disdainfully said, "What a joke! Without the support of my North Light Lin Clan, how could Lin Xun alone possibly support the entire Mind Cleansing Peak? Remember, we do not owe him anything!"

Someone else aggressively pressured, "Cut the crap. We need to choose a new leader for Mind Cleansing Peak. Regardless of whether you're willing or not, you will give us a clear answer today, Lin Zhong!"

Someone else tried to persuade him, "Lin Zhong, you're a senior member of the Lin Clan and have always been very loyal. We admire you for that, but the truth is that Lin Xun is dead while our Lin Clan is facing great difficulty. If we do not make any changes at this crucial juncture, Mind Cleansing Peak will be lost by us. I beg you to please reconsider."

"I said that the Young Master is still alive and there is no need to discuss this matter any further!"

Lin Zhong remained firm and unwavering.

This exasperated someone and he could not help but scold, "You old thing, you're so pig-headed. Are you still hoping that brat will return? How long has it been already? He was chased by a group of Life Death Stage Kings and has definitely died in Spirit Burial Sea. If a mere Spirit Sea cultivator can survive that, I'll happily kill myself!"

"You..." Lin Zhong trembled in anger. He had always been a good-tempered person, but he had been genuinely infuriated this time, causing his expression to turn incomparably ugly.

Xiaoke, who had been seated at one side of the hall since the beginning, raised her brows. She could no longer keep silent and coldly said, "You guys have gone too far!"

One of the North Light Elders rebuked, "You're just an outsider. What right do you have to interfere in my Lin Clan's internal affairs? Please show some self-respect and obediently shut your mouth!"

He was called Lin Huaitang and was Lin Huaiyuan younger brother.

"Exactly, the likes of you have no right to interfere in my Lin Clan's internal affairs!"

The other North Light Lin Clan higher-ups also spoke up one after another to scold Xiaoke.

Xiaoke's eyes turned frosty. She had been invited by Lin Xun to help Mind Cleansing Peak and wasn't their servant. Hence, being scolded and blamed by them infuriated her.

Spirit Vulture persuaded Xiaoke to stop, sighed, and said, "Before Lin Xun left, he left Mind Cleansing Peak's authority in my hands. That's why I have to live up to his expectations. Hence, there's a piece of advice I wish to give everyone here. Always leave a little room for negotiation, and never force things too far..."

Before he could finish, someone angrily interjected, "You old cultivation cripple, how shameless are you to dare and try to teach us how we should act? Do you actually think you're the master of Mind Cleansing Peak? Remember, this is my Lin Clan's territory and not a place where an outsider like you can do whatever you want!"

These words weren't just rude, but filled with unconcealed intent to humiliate.

While Lin Xun was around, they might have shown some respect toward Spirit Vulture, but who would care about a cripple at this juncture?

Shiing!

Xiaoke was furious. She immediately drew her blade as killing intent swirled in her clear eyes.

"Oh? The little girl wants to try something on our Lin Clan territory?" The North Light Lin Clan members sneered fearlessly.

They had long wanted to remove these outsiders. The reason was simple: before Lin Xun left, he had left the authority of Mind Cleansing Peak to Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke, and the others, which naturally made them unhappy.

Since they were now certain that Lin Xun was dead, they naturally would not allow this situation to continue.

“Xiaohe, keep the blade.”

Spirit Vulture waved his hand. His expression was still calm, but his tone gave off a sensation of unquestionable authority.

Spirit Vulture looked at Lin Huaiyuan, who had not said a single word since the beginning. “Old chap, it seems that everything that happened today has already received your approval?”

Lin Huaiyuan’s gaze flickered. After a long time, he sighed and said, “I have no choice either. The West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans have been acting abnormally recently and have even issued an ultimatum that they will use force to occupy Mind Cleansing Peak and seize power. I am only doing this as a last resort.”

Spirit Vulture asked, “In other words, you believe the only way to resolve this problem is for the North Light Lin Clan to take power?”

Lin Huaiyuan was silent for a moment before he replied with a question of his own, “Then how does Mister Spirit Vulture believe we can solve this predicament?”

“Wait.” Spirit Vulture’s reply was a single simple word.

However, the answer clearly did not satisfy the North Light Lin Clan members.

Suddenly, Lin Huaiyuan’s younger brother, Lin Huaitang coldly said, “Hmph! From what I can see we only have one path left to choose.”

“What path?”

Spirit Vulture displayed a superficial smile as he already knew what Lin Huaitang was going to say.

“Lower our heads to the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans, and then join forces to rule over Mind Cleansing Peak!”

Lin Huaitang’s words boomed in the hall like thunder, causing the atmosphere to turn very silent.

“Never!”

Enraged, Lin Zhong decisively rejected.

Even Lin Huaiyuan seemed to be rather surprised and stunned. He frowned and said, “Huaitang, do you think lowering our heads to them will make them drop this matter altogether? They are backed by the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan. Under these circumstances, they will never let us off.”

“Elder Brother, you’re wrong.”

Lin Huaitang indifferently replied with a confident expression, “At the end of the day, we’re still one clan and there is no deep grudge between us. The only ones they won’t let off is Lin Xun’s bloodline!”

“Since Lin Xun has died, we only need to chase out these outsiders, open up Mind Cleansing Peak, and receive the other three branch clans. Then we will be able to easily resolve all of our problems.”

The atmosphere in the hall turned increasingly stifling as numerous people's gazes flickered in thought.

These were damning words that implied they should completely cut ties with Lin Xun and lower their heads to the hostile factions in return for peace and wealth.

"You guys...are backstabbers!"

Lin Zhong was fuming. "Over a dozen years ago, a bloody incident occurred in the Lin Clan, leaving the Young Master as the only survivor in my Master's bloodline. That was the greatest tragedy the Lin Clan has encountered. Back then, you guys betrayed us and worked with the enemy to split the Lin Clan's assets among yourselves. Not once have you guys ever thought about avenging our dead clansmen!"

"Now that the Lin Clan has fallen into danger again, are you guys going to repeat what happened back then?"

"For the Lin Clan's sake, the Young Master chose to overlook this grave sin and ultimately agreed to allow you guys into Mind Cleansing Peak. Moreover, he gave all of you many benefits. But what did you guys do in response? Is this how you repay the Young Master?"

"You guys...deserve to be punished!"

Lin Zhong's eyes bulged from their sockets in anger, his face steely green as his voice thundered in the hall, causing numerous people's expressions to change.

"We are also doing this for the Lin Clan's sake. Do you wish to see Mind Cleansing Peak fall and be taken over by our enemies?"

Lin Huaitang expressionlessly stared back with ice-cold eyes.

"Never mind, do not bring up this matter again."

Lin Huaiyuan let out a long sigh and said, "We made a mistake back then and cannot make the same mistake again."

Lin Huaitang merely smiled faintly and did not say anything else.

However, he knew that his words had already done their work. If Mind Cleansing Peak was truly pushed to a desperate situation, many people would support his suggestion!

"Elder Brother, since you do not agree, then what do you think we should do now? Mind Cleansing Peak's authority is still in these outsiders' hands and we can't help even if we wanted to."

Lin Huaitang sighed. Although his voice wasn't loud, his words were unrelenting and implied that they should still use this opportunity to seize authority over Mind Cleansing Peak.

"When the tree topples, the monkeys scatter. I told Lin Xun about this potential problem when I first entered Mind Cleansing Peak. I never expected that it would come true so soon."

Spirit Vulture sighed softly. Having an outsider with authority inside a clan was ultimately taboo, and it was especially easy for internal conflicts to emerge when there was no clear leader.

He had once advised Lin Xun to make preparations for such a situation. Regretfully, it still happened despite their efforts.

“Hmph! Mister Spirit Vulture, are you trying to say we’re heartless people without any morals? What a joke. You guys are outsiders, but refuse to let go of your authority over the Lin Clan. What else can we do?”

The North Light Lin Clan higher-ups were clearly unhappy and felt that Spirit Vulture was scolding all of them.

Only Lin Huaiyuan was silent as he frowned deeply.

To be frank, he did not wish to see such a thing happen. However, news of Lin Xun’s death had already spread everywhere. With Mind Cleansing Peak in such a precarious situation and facing external pressure and internal worries, it was impossible for Lin Huaiyuan to not have a headache.

What should they do?

Even he felt helpless!

“Elder Brother, why are you still hesitating at this juncture? The longer Mind Cleansing Peak goes without a master the more danger we will face. It is only logical and right for Lin Clan descendants to have authority over the Lin Clan. We cannot continue to tolerate the interference of outsiders!”

Lin Huaitang fanned the flames from the side.

The other North Light Lin Clan members also voiced their agreement.

“This...”

Lin Huaiyuan’s expression fluctuated indeterminately.

Lin Zhong’s, Xiaoke’s, and the others’ hearts turned cold as their expressions became ugly. Only Spirit Vulture remained calm and unaffected. He had long anticipated this turn of events and was not very surprised.

He only had a single worry: if Lin Xun had no way to resolve this problem, it would not matter even if he returned!

Knock knock knock

Someone outside suddenly knocked on the tightly shut doors.

Eh?

Everyone immediately frowned. After all, they were currently having a very important meeting.

Which ignorant servant would dare to knock on the doors at such a time?

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 650: He Has Returned

Mind Cleansing Peak was protected by a great array, making it impossible for any outsider to enter without first notifying them.

Hence, everyone in the hall instinctively concluded that an ignorant servant had disturbed them.

"You guys continue, I'll go have a look."

Xiaoke used this opportunity to go open the door. She could not bear to stay a second longer because the faces and mouths of the people inside utterly disgusted her.

Creak.

The tightly shut doors opened.

"Is something the matter?"

Xiaoke peered outside only to instantly shut her mouth as disbelief flashed in her clear eyes.

"Instructor, do you not recognize your student anymore?"

Outside the hall, Lin Xun wore a warm smile as he looked at his pretty Instructor Xiaoke.

"Eh...you..."

Xiaoke was stunned by the sight of his familiar face as unprecedented emotion, surprise, and elation surged in her heart. He was alive!

Although Xiaoke had appeared strong for the past half a year, how could she not worry about Lin Xun, especially on Mind Cleansing Peak, where they were plagued by internal and external problems?

She had been in a state of constant worry for the past few months, and her brows had been constantly furrowed. When she saw Lin Xun today, she nearly thought she was dreaming.

Lin Xun walked forward and gently hugged Xiaoke as he said in a low voice, "Instructor, it's been tough on you guys. You can leave everything else to me and just watch. Your student is no longer the same as in the past."

His gentle, soft, spring-water-like voice and his firm, reliable shoulder swept away all the frustration, worry, and anxiety in Xiaoke's heart, finally giving her peace of mind.

She acknowledged him with a soft grunt.

Lin Xun chuckled and walked past Xiaoke. The instant he stepped into the hall, his smile was replaced by an almost emotionless look of indifference as his black eyes turned cold and deep.

"Elder Brother! You cannot hesitate any longer. How could we have fallen into such an embarrassing state if Lin Xun didn't offend so many factions? Worst of all, he's young and ignorant. Even after dying, he gave Mind Cleansing Peak's authority to a bunch of outsiders. What a troublemaker!"

In the hall, glib words continued to roll off Lin Huaitang's tongue. "If you continue to stay passive, our Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan might no longer be called 'Lin'!"

He looked around at the other North Light Lin Clan members as he spoke, signaling them to also speak up to force Lin Zhong and the others to hand over the clan authority.

However, when his gaze swept past the hall's entrance, his body immediately stiffened and his originally excited expression froze as if he had been struck by lightning.

"You you you..."

His eyeballs nearly popped from their sockets, and he was so shocked that he could not speak.

"You what you? What is going on?"

Lin Huaiyuan frowned and glanced at the door. When he saw Lin Xun, he also shuddered violently as his tea cup fell from his hand, spilling boiling hot tea on his clothes. However, he seemed completely oblivious to it as he stood there with a rapidly changing expression.

By this juncture, everyone else in the hall also noticed the strange situation and puzzledly looked over. When they saw Lin Xun, all of them were dumbstruck as if something had scared them.

The originally noisy atmosphere had turned completely silent.

The only noise to be heard was tea cups crashing onto the ground, which sounded especially piercing at this moment. The noise somehow felt almost mocking and cursing as numerous people's expressions began to look interesting.

Thud!

One of the North Light Lin Clan higher-ups even fell from his chair as if his ass was on fire, creating an embarrassing and sorry sight.

The other higher-ups were doing no better and couldn't care less about his disgraceful and shameful posture.

Lin Xun!

After disappearing for half a year, the backbone of Mind Cleansing Peak and a young heaven pride who was worshiped by countless cultivators in the Forbidden City had returned!

However...wasn't it confirmed that he had died in Spirit Burial Sea?

News of his death had been acknowledged by numerous powerful factions in the Forbidden City. They had all said that he had committed a grave crime in Spirit Burial Sea and was chased by a group of Life Death Stage Kings. Everyone believed that he had died, so who could have expected that he would survive and return?!

Everyone's minds were blank as they stood there like statues.

Someone whom they had believed dead had suddenly appeared before them. The shock and impact of such a scene were nearly impossible to put into words.

Worst of all, the North Light Lin Clan members had been trying to seize power in the Lin Clan just moments ago.

But now, the rightful master of Mind Cleansing Peak had returned...

The hall was deathly silent and the atmosphere was so suffocating it was almost impossible to breathe.

"Mister Spirit Vulture, Uncle Zhong, I'm back."

Lin Xun ignored the North Light Lin Clan members as he walked forward and nodded to Spirit Vulture. He then looked at Lin Zhong as a sliver of tenderness flashed deep in his eyes.

Uncle Zhong had originally looked rather old, but he now had substantially more white hair, his wrinkles had deepened, and his eyes were more sunken, making him appear quite haggard.

It was easy to imagine the tremendous pressure the loyal senior had been under recently due to the internal and external woes of the Lin Clan.

"Great! Great! Great! It's good that you're back, it's good that you're back."

Lin Zhong was almost incoherent due to emotion. His lips trembled as tears began to slide down his wrinkly face from his murky eyes.

The Young Master had returned!

Miss Xia Zhi was right. How could the Young Master have died?

Lin Zhong had indeed been under unimaginable pressure recently, but the moment he saw Lin Xun, he felt that everything was worth it!

The fact that a mighty Heaven Ascension expert who was once famous in the Forbidden City was reduced to this crying old man made Lin Xun feel indescribable guilt and heartache.

It also made the killing intent and hatred in his heart grow.

He had only been away for half a year and so many nasty events had occurred. It looked like he had been far too soft in the past!

Amidst the stifling silence, Lin Huaiyuan took a deep breath, forced himself to smile, and asked, "Clan Leader, you...thank the heavens that you survived. This old man is genuinely happy that you made it back, but didn't they say that you encountered grave danger in Spirit Burial Sea? Was it merely a rumor?"

"Yeah! Surviving after being chased by a group of Life Death Stage Kings is truly..." Lin Huaitang also spoke up, but quickly caught himself before he said too much.

Although the others did not say anything, they were all extremely puzzled. News of Lin Xun's death had been repeated and acknowledged many times, and even they had initially not believed the news.

However, as more and more factions began to target the Lin Clan, they were finally convinced that something unfortunate must have happened to Lin Xun.

Hence, it was astonishing to find out that Lin Xun had survived and returned.

"We can talk about that later."

Lin Xun's expression was calm, but his words seemed to contain a force that made everyone's hearts shiver and realize that they were in trouble.

Sure enough, Lin Xun looked at Lin Huaitang, causing his expression to change as his heart began to beat wildly.

"I heard everything that happened in the hall earlier. I do not care who is right or wrong, but I have a single question for you."

A strand of iciness abruptly shot out from Lin Xun's black eyes as an invisible pressure spread, causing everyone's expressions to change indeterminately.

Too powerful!

Even Lin Zhong, Lin Huaiyuan, Xiaoke, and the others instinctively tensed up upon feeling the indescribable pressure.

Evidently, Lin Xun had grown much stronger compared to half a year ago!

He had been at the Spirit Sea stage half a year ago, but now, even Lin Zhong and the others could not gauge the extent of Lin Xun's cultivation. However, he had undoubtedly stepped into the Heaven Ascension stage!

As the target of Lin Xun's gaze, Lin Huaitang was feeling the worst of it. He felt as if he was facing a majestic mountain which made him feel extremely tiny.

"Tell me if everything you did today was planned in advance after secretly colluding with certain factions."

Each word boomed like thunder in Lin Huaitang's ears, causing him to tremble uncontrollably. He was almost unable to meet Lin Xun's eyes as his expression rapidly changed countless times.

Everyone in the hall gasped. Lin Xun was questioning if Lin Huaitang had betrayed Mind Cleansing Peak!

"I..."

Before Lin Huaitang could answer, Lin Xun indifferently said, "There will be only one chance to answer, so choose your words wisely and think about the consequences."

The atmosphere immediately grew increasingly stifling.

Lin Huaitang's entire body went cold, feeling as if every inch of his skin had suddenly become rigid. He swallowed with some difficulty and tried to speak.

However, when he looked into Lin Xun's cold and black eyes, his heart suddenly shivered, realizing that if his answer did not satisfy Lin Xun, the latter would kill him without any hesitation!

The intense feeling nearly made Lin Huaitang collapse. He never imagined that facing a youngster would make him feel such terror and pressure.

Everyone watched as Lin Huaitang turned pale and began to sweat as he internally struggled to speak.

The sight made their hearts tremble. A single sentence from Lin Xun could produce such pressure? How had this young man gained such astonishing power in half a year?

“Clan Leader, Mind Cleansing Peak is in a precarious situation where we’re facing both internal problems and external pressure. Talking about such matters at this critical juncture might cause unrest among the people.”

Another North Light Lin Clan higher-up spoke up as if unhappy to see Lin Huaitang being accused.

“Unrest among the people?”

A mocking smile rose from the corners of Lin Xun’s lips. “To me, it seems that you North Light Lin Clan members are the ones who are feeling uneasy!”

All the North Light Lin Clan higher-ups, including Lin Huaiyuan, immediately began to feel uncomfortable.

“My patience has its limit. If you do not reply, prepare to bear the consequences!”

Ice-cold killing intent rose in Lin Xun’s eyes and locked onto Lin Huaitang. He did not plan to show even the slightest trace of mercy today!