

Prodigies 711

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Chapter 711: Treasure Within a Treasure

Life and death were an eternal topic in Blood Kill Battlefield.

Although Lin Xun spent his days in the workshop and didn't go out onto the field, he knew that many empire cultivators died on the battlefield every day and would no longer return...

Like Liu Wen.

The young expert who had once repeatedly provoked, scorned, and ridiculed Lin Xun would no longer appear in the future.

He had died just like that?

Lin Xun felt somewhat melancholic. He had originally been a little angry with him but now felt empty after being told that he had likely disappeared from this world.

Several days passed.

At one of their night gatherings, Hu Tong appeared with a few new faces while several old faces from the Starfrost Mercenary Squad were missing.

"Come, let's drink. I'll introduce you to them, these are our newly recruited members..." Hu Tong didn't explain anything.

A'bi was very silent. Her eyes were red, and she was in low spirits as she drank the whole night away.

Lin Xun understood that the old members of the Starfrost Mercenary Squad likely wouldn't return.

This was the Blood Kill Battlefield. Familiar faces would disappear every day, never to appear again. They had met their end on the battlefield and even their corpses were irrecoverable, let alone leaving a grave.

"Only when you get accustomed to death will you understand the importance of living," said Lu Wenting after drinking.

Lin Xun thought that there was perhaps only one method to end all this—exterminate all of the enemies!

However, it was currently a very unrealistic thought.

The empire and the Brute Tribes had warred for several thousand years, but neither side had managed to achieve this.

Was it because they didn't want to?

No, it was because they couldn't!

Lin Xun could not help but sigh. Wasn't the prosperity and stability of the empire bought using the lives and blood of the cultivators who fought at the frontlines?

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"I wish to use this item as payment to request Founder Lin's help to craft me a certain tool."

One day, just as Lin Xun was about to leave after finishing his third request, a cultivator suddenly arrived.

It was a thin middle-aged man with a sharp face that looked like it had been cut by a knife. He gave off a cold and stern presence that was accompanied by an unconcealable murderous aura.

He was called Yan Feng and was an extremely famous lone wolf in the 7th camp. He possessed peak Cyclic Derivation cultivation and was notably ranked 77th on the Blood Wanted List.

Although his ranking was much lower than Lin Xun's, it was very different for the two of them. Yan Feng had grown his reputation from the steady accumulation of accomplishments on the battlefield and was viewed as an extremely dangerous individual by the enemy.

On the other hand, Lin Xun had risen to fame because he had killed a Half-Step King with a single arrow.

There was a gray stone in Yan Feng's hand. It was the size of a fist and upon closer inspection, one would notice faint golden veins on the stone's surface which made it appear very mysterious.

A rune master leaned over and blurted out in astonishment, "Is that a Gold Vein Jade Stone?"

It was a rare and priceless material that could be used to craft rune armaments.

Yan Feng ignored him and continued to look straight at Lin Xun.

"I've completed my requests for the day. Come again another day," Lin Xun offhandedly replied. He had already arranged to meet Lu Wenting, Hu Tong, and the others for another drinking session tonight.

However, Yan Feng stood in his path and earnestly pleaded, "Founder Lin, I need this urgently. Please help me just this once. I will repay this debt."

Lin Xun frowned. He could tell that this person wouldn't give up until he agreed.

"Hmph! Do you know how many cultivators come to beseech Founder Lin for help every day? Do you actually believe a mere Gold Vein Jade Stone would make Founder Lin make an exception for you? Leave quickly and stop disturbing Founder Lin. Otherwise, you'll be in trouble if General Zhangsun finds out!"

A rune master stepped up to rebuke Yan Feng. Although he was extremely well known for his battle accomplishments, the rune masters weren't afraid of him.

Yan Feng immediately fell silent as disappointment flashed in his eyes. He took a deep breath and said, "Never mind, I'll leave and not disturb you any further. However..."

A look of contemplation appeared on his face. In the end, he gritted his teeth and passed the Gold Vein Jade Stone to Lin Xun. "This item is useless in my hands. I'll give it as a gift to Founder Lin."

After which, he turned around to leave.

Lin Xun was taken aback. He asked, "Where are you going?"

"The battlefield."

“It’s about to become dark.”

“I need to go. My brother is still waiting for me to save him! He has a wife and child and cannot be allowed to die!”

Lin Xun’s eyes narrowed. “Give me your treasure, I’ll take a look.”

In the distance, Yan Feng stiffened upon hearing this as if he was unable to believe his ears.

A rune master loudly reminded, “What are you still standing around for? Hurry up and stop wasting time. This is the first time Founder Lin has made an exception for anyone!”

“Thank you!”

Yan Feng hurriedly turned around and bowed to Lin Xun. There was unconcealable gratitude on his face.

The treasure he wanted to repair was a Heaven-grade high-tier spear that was already badly damaged. It was hard to believe that a peak Cyclic Derivation expert who was also a top hundred wanted person on the Wanted Blood List would have such a shabby weapon.

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun quickly inspected it and began to work.

Moreover, he was clearly very serious and worked much faster than usual. His speed left the watching rune masters dizzy and shocked.

In less than fifteen minutes, the spear was reborn. Not only was it fully repaired, but even its grade had risen substantially.

Yan Feng was moved, overjoyed, and grateful toward Lin Xun.

“It’s important to save someone’s life.”

Lin Xun casually said, “Moreover, I’ve received an amazing treasure from you which made it worthwhile to repair your spear.”

Yan Feng said, “But it’s only a Gold Vein Jade Stone.”

“No, it’s not that simple.” Lin Xun’s black eyes turned deep.

These words caused the nearby rune masters to grow curious.

Is there something more to the stone?

Crack!

Lin Xun exerted force on the stone, causing it to crack. Stone chips fell from it as a silver, star-like light flowed out.

“This is...” The rune masters’ eyes widened in surprise as they looked at the pigeon egg-sized gem left on Lin Xun’s palm. It sparkled like a star, gleaming brightly under the light.

Even Yan Feng was stunned. How could he have imagined that there would be such a mysterious gem hidden inside the Gold Vein Jade Stone?

Crack!

To everyone's surprise, Lin Xun exerted force again, shattering the silver gem. From amidst the glimmering dust, a slender green leaf appeared in everyone's sight.

The leaf was shaped like a copper coin and was the size of a melon seed. Green light flowed from it, bathing the surroundings in a beautiful green glow.

At the same time, a surge of pure and strong life energy spread out, causing everyone to feel refreshed and relaxed.

"This..." The rune masters were dumbstruck. No one could have imagined that this Gold Vein Jade Stone would be so full of mystery. To think that it would contain a leaf rich in life energy.

"A treasure within a treasure. This object is most definitely not ordinary!" Yan Feng was also astonished, realizing the treasure was not as simple as he had initially thought.

"If you regret it, I can return it to you." Lin Xun looked at Yan Feng.

Yan Feng waved his hand and said, "The treasure was discovered by Founder Lin and no longer has anything to do with me."

Lin Xun asked, "Can you tell me where you found it?"

"Mulberry Woodland."

After which, he cupped his fists together in farewell. He intended to slip back into the battlefield before night fell and complete a dangerous and difficult task.

He might die, but he had no regrets.

"That's how empire cultivators should be!"

Lin Xun inwardly sighed deeply in admiration of the man who still set forth despite the great odds that were stacked against him.

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The first thing Lin Xun did when he returned to his room was take out the leaf.

In an instant, the originally dark room was illuminated by rich green light.

"What concentrated life energy!"

Lin Xun's expression subconsciously changed as he quietly felt it. There was a faint dao power flowing within the life energy, making it even more mysterious than he had thought.

How had such strong and mysterious life energy appeared in barren and aeth power starved Blood Kill Battlefield?

Shiing!

Lin Xun summoned the Broken Blade and saw that it was faintly trembling as it seemed to cry out in desire and impatience.

Previously, a peculiar vibration from the Broken Blade had led him to discover that there was something more to the Gold Vein Jade Stone.

Sure enough, the trembling desire currently given off by the Broken Blade made Lin Xun certain that it was the energy of the leaf the blade had reacted to.

“What is it? Why does it possess dao power and such concentrated life energy?”

Despite being the size of a melon seed, the abundant life energy of the leaf shocked even Lin Xun.

Gurgle~

In the end, Lin Xun put the leaf in front of the Broken Blade. It immediately released a cryptic undulation that enveloped the leaf and frantically began to devour its life energy.

Lin Xun observed that the originally blurry runes on the blade began to grow clearer little by little. Although it was still an unreadable outline, the mysterious runes would sooner or later be revealed at this rate.

“The Broken Blade was originally damaged. Could it have been slumbering all along because it lacked such life energy to repair itself?”

A certain thought struck Lin Xun.

Regretfully, even after all of the life energy of the leaf was drained, the runes on the blade were still unreadable and incomprehensible. However, they were a little clearer than before.

“Looks like I’ll have to visit Mulberry Woodland. I might be able to use this opportunity to make the Broken Blade undergo a transformation!”

Lin Xun took a deep breath and made his decision. It would be too regretful to pass up on such a rare chance.

He had already spent nearly a month at the workshop. Although he was busy every day, this lifestyle was already beginning to feel too monotonous and dull.

Early the next morning.

“What? You want to go to that godforsaken Mulberry Woodland? Do you know how dangerous of a place it is? It’s a place that would make even Life Death Stage Kings change their expressions! No way, I absolutely refuse to agree!”

Upon hearing that Lin Xun wanted to head to Mulberry Woodland, Lu Wenting strongly objected, feeling alarmed and afraid.

Mulberry Woodland was a famous great danger zone in the Blood Kill Battlefield. Over the past several thousand years, more than a few Life Death Stage Kings had died inside!

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Chapter 712

Mulberry Woodland was a dangerous place located in the Blood Kill Battlefield.

Experts from both the empire and the Magi Brute Race, regardless of how strong and fierce they were, wouldn't dare to recklessly approach that area.

It was known as the demonic soil stained with the blood of gods due to its mysteriousness. For thousands of years, many famous figures who ventured there had never been able to return!

After learning that, Lin Xun finally understood why Lu Wenting so strongly objected to him going there.

"I want to go there to take a look. If it doesn't work out, I won't enter without careful consideration." Lin Xun still planned to take a look after thinking it over.

Lu Wenting's face grew overcast and troubled. He couldn't persuade Lin Xun no matter what he said, so in the end, he had to inform Zhangsun Lie.

"Could the kid have heard something?" Zhangsun Lie's first reaction was surprise when he heard about Lin Xun's plan.

Recently, he had heard the news of bizarre visions appearing in the Mulberry Woodland and rumors that a rare treasure would likely appear there. The treasure could be a saint item from ancient times or some sort of earthshaking rare elixir!

Now, all the top figures in the eight campgrounds of the empire were paying close attention to the Mulberry Woodland.

On the Magi Brute race's side, many influential figures had already headed to Mulberry Woodland after hearing the news!

"General, look..." Lu Wenting couldn't help asking.

"Even I don't dare to go there rashly. He is just a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage! Why is he going there? Does he not want to live anymore?" Zhangsun Lie refused.

The Mulberry Woodland had become the eye of the storm in the Blood Kill Battlefield and had attracted countless old monsters. Lin Xun would be seeking death if he showed up there.

"General!" A subordinate frantically darted over, forehead beading with sweat, and reported, "General, it's not good! Young Master Lin has just exchanged all his military merits for high-grade aeth crystals and left the campground."

"What?" Lu Wenting went stiff.

"Ridiculous!" Zhangsun Lie was so furious that smoke seemed to be rising from his head.

"Why didn't you stop him!?" Lu Wenting roared, veins popping on his forehead.

The subordinate looked wronged. "We...how dare we..."

Lin Xun wasn't only a young genius who killed a half-step king, but he was also a rune founder. He had a transcendent status within the 7th army camp. Who would dare to obstruct him?

"Is the kid deliberately trying to bring me trouble!" Zhangsun Lie stomped his feet with anger, yelling, "Hurry! Send someone after him! We have to stop him!"

Only a quarter of an hour later, another subordinate came back to report that the several dispatched teams failed to find any traces of Lin Xun no matter where they searched.

Zhangsun Lie and Lu Wenting felt a headache coming on.

“That kid is too fearless. He likely doesn’t know that, because of his status as a rune founder, the Magi Brute Race has already raised his ranking on the Blood Wanted List from forty-ninth to eighteenth!”

“Also, the reward for capturing him is very big, comparable to that of the top five on the list! Why did he run to Mulberry Woodland at such a time? Does he want to die?”

Zhangsun Lie’s head ached more and more.

Lu Wenting was also exasperated.

But there was nothing they could do. Lin Xun had already left, and they couldn’t stop him anymore.

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The Mulberry Woodland was an extremely remote place located thousands of miles away from the 7th campground.

Lin Xun had set off early in the morning and hadn’t stopped even once. On the way, he frequently encountered attacks from groups of Magi Brute experts and killed them all. In the end, he became too lazy to collect his spoils because storage treasures couldn’t be operated on the Blood Kill Battlefield so any spoils had to be carried in luggage. He only had limited space and the load of his luggage would also affect his speed and inconvenience him.

Even so, his luggage was very full. It was filled with four thousand high-grade aeth crystals, which he exchanged for with the military merit points he earned.

That was only a portion of it. The rest was hidden in the campground.

Lin Xun already anticipated that he would fight for days on the battlefield. The Mulberry Woodland was located very far away from the campground. Even if everything went smoothly, it was impossible to return to the camp before night fell. So, even if he knew that the Blood Kill Battlefield was terrifying at night, he had no other choice but to travel if he wanted to investigate the Mulberry Woodland.

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Four hours later.

The sky was dull and oppressive, and the air was covered with haze. The cloying smell of blood and rotting corpses became extremely strong and even a little pungent and nauseating.

On the horizon in the distance, the sky was painted a dark red hue.

Swoosh!

With a huge bag on his back, the Broken Blade strapped at his waist, and the No-Nonsense Bow and Biluo Arrow in his hands, he traveled at lightning speed while keeping vigilant and cautious.

When he passed a dried up riverbed, a huge black hole suddenly split the ground, spewing out a terrifying devouring power. If he hadn't dodged in time, then he would have been swept inside.

He broke out in a cold sweat, becoming more and more aware of the danger of the Blood Kill Battlefield. He couldn't help being more careful along the way.

Huh?

Suddenly, he halted his footsteps. He heard fierce battling sounds from a faraway place.

"Yan Feng?"

As Lin Xun cautiously approached the area, he narrowed his dark eyes, surprised to see Yan Feng, a top Cyclic Derivation cultivator from the 7th army camp!

Lin Xun had discovered the mysterious leaf full of vitality from the gold vein jade stone that Yan Feng had given him, which made him decide to investigate the Mulberry Woodland.

Yan Feng's situation didn't look optimistic with three Enlightened Spirit experts surrounding him.

Not only that, but he was also carrying a cultivator on his back and was in imminent danger. His body was split with many wounds and drenched in blood.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Without hesitation, Lin Xun drew the No-Nonsense Bow and consecutively fired three invisible aeth arrows.

He didn't use the Biluo Arrow, but the power of the NoNonsense Bow couldn't be underestimated. After all, it helped Lin Xun demonstrate his tremendous powers in the Tiger Canyon.

Pu!

As expected, the sudden attack caught an Enlightened Spirit expert off guard. The arrow pierced his chest and a jet of scarlet blood sprayed into the air.

A wailing scream of terror ended abruptly with half of his body exploding and being blasted to the ground by a terrifying force.

Almost at the same time, one of the remaining two Enlightened Spirit experts had his shoulder blade smashed while the other was shot in the thigh. Both screamed in agony and anger.

The series of actions happened too fast. Who would have imagined that three almost invisible arrows would suddenly be fired from the sky?

Who would have thought that the power of the arrows would be so terrifying?

While everyone was in a state of shock, Yan Feng demonstrated his shrewdness and decisiveness. He narrowed his eyes and charged forward without hesitation. His movements were incredibly swift and precise.

Pu! Pu!

Before the three wounded Enlightened Spirit experts could struggle, they were already killed on the spot, dyeing the ground red with their blood.

Yan Feng's eyes only flashed a look of surprise when he saw Lin Xun.

He stared at him, dazed. The rumors are true!

Those archery skills are strong enough to kill a half-step king!

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"What? Master Lin, are you going to the Mulberry Woodland?"

After Yan Feng expressed his gratitude to Lin Xun, his expression dramatically changed when he learned that the youth was heading to the Mulberry Woodland. He tried to dissuade him, "You must not go there!"

"Why not?"

Lin Xun wanted to hear Yan Feng's opinion. The piece of jade stone was found by Yan Feng from the Mulberry Woodland, which means he had to know a little about the dangerous place.

"It might have been possible to explore it in the past, but recently, it has become a bloodbath. It is rumored that a great opportunity is about to descend there and so it has attracted many old monsters."

"Everyone has launched into action upon hearing the news. The people from the empire side and the Magi Brute Race are determined to win the great opportunity," Yan Feng gravely warned Lin Xun.

The Mulberry Woodland was already riddled with dangers, but now that many old monsters were involved, the woodland had become perilous.

"Opportunity?" Lin Xun frowned. This is indeed going to be troublesome.

He had already experienced a similar competition for opportunity in the Deva Secret Domain. It was indeed a scene of dreadful carnage.

According to Yan Feng, even Life Death Stage Kings were at risk of running into unpredictable dangers in the Mulberry Woodland.

Moreover, in order to seize the opportunity, countless bloody conflicts had already broken out between the empire cultivators and Magi Brute experts in recent days. Corpses were piled up everywhere and blood had stained the ground red. The air was saturated with killing intent.

Lin Xun listened carefully. He never expected such a situation when he set off, but he couldn't give up halfway. He was determined to check out the Mulberry Woodland.

"What we know so far is that the Magi Brute race currently has the upper hand because they have dispatched three brute kings."

"They are King Yan Qiong of the Fire Tribe, King Jin Po of the Gold Tribe and King Lei Xiao of the Lightning Tribe. In addition, there are many half-step kings and old monsters of the Enlightened Spirit Stage."

“On our empire side, we only have Top General Xia Houjie from the 4th army camp and Top General Xie Shian from the 6th army camp. There are also half-step kings and Cyclic Derivation cultivators, but we are still at a disadvantage in terms of strength.”

Yan Feng gave up dissuading Lin Xun after the youth insisted on going several times. He could only tell him everything he knew.

According to Yan Feng, the battles had become more and more intense and tragic. Even many half-step kings had been critically wounded, and some had died in battle.

Furthermore, in the next few days, an earthshaking battle would break out. Top General Xia Houjie of the empire would face off against King Yan Qiong of the Fire Tribe.

The Life Death Stage Kings had already fought against each other several times, but a winner had yet to be determined. As the great opportunity descended upon the Mulberry Woodland, a duel between the real kings would also kick off!

“What is this opportunity about? Why would even the Life Death Stage Kings not scruple to fight bloody battles?” Lin Xun’s curiosity was piqued.

“The opportunity is rumored to hold great secrets about the Saint path. It is also rumored that the opportunity would bring about many unbelievable treasures and fortunes in Mulberry Woodland,” Yan Feng didn’t try to hide anything.

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Chapter 713: Traitor

The Mulberry Woodland was located in an abyss of unknown size and depth!

For thousands of years, many people from both the empire and the Magi Brute Race had ventured to the Mulberry Woodland, but none had been successful in exploring all of it.

It was so huge and unfathomable that it made many wonder whether it led to another world!

As visions and strange phenomena continue to frequently break out in the Mulberry Woodland, many regarded it as a sign that a great opportunity was about to appear.

It might be related to the secrets of the Saint Path and many incredible treasures and fortunes might appear!

Lin Xun finally realized why such intense and bloody conflicts would break out. It was all because of the opportunity!

“It’s very scary there. Legendary demon spirits might even appear there. The deeper you go, the more mysterious and dangerous it becomes.” Yan Feng assumed a solemn expression. “A few days ago, it was reported that King Yan Qiong of the Fire Tribe found remnants of a fallen sun! There was still fire essence left in it, and it was surrounded by an astonishing aura!”

“And Top General Xie Shian of our empire has speculated that there is an ancient palace in the depths of the Mulberry Woodland. Unfortunately, its exact location is unknown because the area is too vast and covered with a thick layer of fog.”

“And...” Yan Feng hesitated.

“And what?” Lin Xun raised his eyebrows.

“And a cultivator even swore that they saw a white cicada in the woodland. They say that it was only around the size of a newborn’s palm, but it had immortal light flowing around its body and its voice could shatter everything within a radius of hundreds of miles!”

Yan Feng’s expression turned strange as he continued, “Top General Xia Houjie thinks that, if it's true, then the white cicada is very likely to be a Saint!”

“What?!” Lin Xun exclaimed. A white cicada around the size of a baby’s palm has already reached the Saint stage! How is that possible? That’s absurd!

“However, these are all rumors. No one can be certain if they are true.”

Yan Feng continued, “The only certain thing is that a great opportunity will indeed appear in the Mulberry Woodland. The reason for the intense battles these days is because many people have discovered rare treasures in the woodland.”

“Such as mysterious ore stained with demon blood, a black and white flower that grows side by side, a bronze fragment marked with strange secret runes...”

“Of course, there are also many pieces of treasure similar to the gold vein jade stone.”

Lin Xun’s eyes lit up and his heart blazed with determination. He came to the Mulberry Woodland to search for more rare gold vein jade stones!

They contained mysterious green leaves full of vitality that could miraculously promote the repair and transformation of Broken Blade.

After saying farewell to Yan Feng, Lin Xun continued onwards.

Yan Feng’s words had made him certain that the Mulberry Woodland wasn’t an ordinary place and that it was more amazing than the Deva Secret Domain!

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Two hours later.

On the horizon in the distance, a beam of dazzling blood-red light suddenly shot out, rushing up the sky and dying in a demonic red shade.

At the same time, a bone-chilling murderous intent filled the air. It was as though ahead was a stretch of demonic land filled with endless hidden dangers.

The Mulberry Woodland!

Lin Xun abruptly halted. Where the blood-red beam shot up was a giant abyss that led to the Mulberry Woodland, which was known as the devil’s soil stained with the blood of the gods.

Hu—

Lin Xun inhaled deeply and didn't hurry forward. Instead, he chose a nearby place, circulated the Suanni Qi to hide and quietly restore his strength.

He had traveled a long distance. Even if he hadn't consumed a lot of strength, he had to be in his top condition in the Mulberry Woodland, where bloodshed constantly happened.

When dusk fell, he finally restored his qi to its peak state and was brimming with energy.

He had already hidden away a portion of his high-grade aeth crystals and only carried a small portion in his bag.

He did that in case of any accidents. He could use them to replenish himself if something bad happened in the Mulberry Woodland.

Just as he was about to take action, he suddenly narrowed his eyes and went into hiding again.

Then, a huge golden bat beat its wings and flew his way.

The golden bat was carrying several Magi Brute experts. They were no doubt also heading for the Mulberry Woodland.

A surprised voice rang from the bat, "Can the intel be trusted? How can the youngster called Lin Twelve have the guts to come to the Mulberry Woodland by himself?"

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. Not only did he just set off from the 7th campground today, but he also had only just arrived, so how could the Magi Brute Race already have information about him?

However, he was more shocked by the familiar voice. It was the young master of the imperial family of the Darkness Tribe, Ying Qiao!

Lin Xun almost successfully killed him on the first day he arrived on the Blood kill Battlefield. How would he not remember his voice?

"Young master, the news is undoubtedly true. It is said that Lin Twelve left the 7th campground without authorization and even Zhangsun Lie failed to stop him in time," someone said respectfully.

Despite being calm and composed all the time, Lin Xun lost control of his emotions and a wave of uncontrollable anger surged in his heart. His dark eyes also became incomparably fierce.

That voice...

Also sounded very familiar.

It was Liu Wen!

"Turns out that guy isn't dead. He betrayed the empire and went to serve Ying Qiao, a descendant of the Darkness Tribe imperial family..."

Lin Xun thought of how emotional he was when he heard the news of Liu Wen's death. Who would have thought that he was still alive and betrayed the empire?

Regardless of the reason, a turncoat like him could never be forgiven!

“Haha, it seems that you pay close attention to the news about Lin Twelve. Not bad, as long as you serve the Darkness Tribe well, I guarantee that you will live a more comfortable life than staying in the human empire!” Ying Qiao chuckled.

“Young master, you are over-praising me. I am just doing what I should. Also, I detest Lin Twelve. If he dies at your hands then that is definitely something worth celebrating,” Liu Wen said with an ingratiating smile.

“Yes, when we arrive in the Mulberry Woodland, spread the word that any Magi Brute experts able to provide information about Lin Twelve will be rewarded generously. Also, whoever can capture him alive will be given a reward they could never imagine!” Ying Qiao’s voice was determined and tinged with murderous intent.

As they were talking, they soon disappeared into the distance on the golden bat. If Lin Xun’s spirit power wasn’t strong enough, he wouldn’t have been able to capture their conversation.

“He not only betrayed the empire, but he also wants to use the hands of the enemy to kill me...Liu Wen...Liu Wen, I underestimated how despicable and shameless you are!” Lin Xun came out of hiding, his dark eyes chilling and ruthless.

Without further delay, he sped onwards.

Chilling blood-red light surged into the sky and where the blood light appeared was a huge abyss that split the ground, seemingly able to engulf everything.

Anyone approaching there would feel small and insignificant and deterred from moving forward. Similarly, it felt oppressive and terrifying.

The air there was terrifying as though the stench of blood and killing intent had lingered there since ancient times.

Lin Xun traveled with incredible speed even with huge luggage on his back, the Broken Blade at his waist and the No-Nonsense Bow and arrows in his hands. He activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and headed straight towards the great abyss.

As he dove into the abyss, he felt as though he had entered a vast expanse of redness. The deeper he went, the wider his field of vision.

Along the way, he noticed many battle traces everywhere, including blood-stained rocks, mutilated corpses, and broken and destroyed treasures.

Cultivators from both the empire and the Magi Brute Race had died on the periphery of the Mulberry Woodland.

There were too many of them, and the air was saturated with the smell of blood and smoke, which suggested that fierce battles had broken out in the past few days.

Lin Xun became more vigilant. He didn’t linger around and hurried onwards.

Huh?

Before long, he was shocked again. He saw the corpse of an empire cultivator in the distance, but its aura indicated that it was a half-step king!

All that was left of the half-step king was their flesh and blood. They had died a graveless death and were abandoned there.

Lin Xun raised his head and looked around. He saw nothing but a boundless blood-red world.

"This is cultivation. The path is difficult. Who can dare to say that they will survive for eternity?" Lin Xun took a deep breath and hastened his journey. But to his surprise, he encountered no further danger along the way.

Soon, he ran into a team of cultivators from the empire, surprising them. After all, they were situated in the dangerous Mulberry Woodland. Anyone who dared to act alone was no doubt a fierce and powerful character.

However, Lin Xun was only a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage. He naturally drew a lot of attention.

After a brief exchange, a cultivator informed him that everyone from both the empire and the Magi Brute Race was racing to the depths of the Mulberry Woodland for the opportunity.

No one would want to stop along the way unless there was some kind of opportunity because it would be a waste of time and energy.

A thought struck Lin Xun when he learned about that. After saying goodbye to the cultivators, he continued on his way.

"That boy...could he be the famous Lin Twelve?" someone speculated.

"It has to be him. Didn't you see? He was carrying a bone bow and arrows, and he was dressed in the same outfit as the legendary young genius Lin Twelve who killed a half-step king!"

"No wonder he dares to act alone..." the cultivators exclaimed.

"But this is the Mulberry Woodland. Is he not worried about being killed by top experts of the Magi Brute Race?"

Some cultivators were also worried for Lin Xun.

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Chapter 714: Terrifying Night

Along the way, Lin Xun ran into many people from both the empire and the Magi Brute Race.

Even the top figures of the Cyclic Derivation Stage traveled in groups. It was very rare to encounter someone exploring the woodland on their own.

Lin Xun didn't pause for long along the way. Whenever he detected someone, he would avoid them to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Boom!

Before long, he again sensed enemies ahead and, just as he was about to avoid them, blood-red lightning struck down from above.

Instantly, a group of Magi Brute experts exploded into smithereens and vanished with the blood-red lightning. Not even a fragment of their bones was left behind.

It happened so abruptly and unexpectedly that Lin Xun couldn't help but gasp out loud. He quickly glanced around and found nothing in the sky and saw no traces of the source of the blood-red lightning.

This was another terrifying aspect of the Mulberry Woodland. It was full of many unpredictable natural disasters and strange phenomena. The slightest carelessness could lead to various accidents and cost him his life.

Lin Xun pursed his lips and took a deep breath before he continued onwards. The ominous and peculiar dangers along the way undoubtedly tested his courage and fighting spirit.

Ordinary cultivators likely would have been frightened off and given up already.

Before long, wisps of mist and clouds started to gather between the sky and earth, growing redder and redder like blood and bringing an intense fiendish qi.

The blood mist was very bizarre in that it blocked his spirit-sensing powers and, if not dispelled, it could invade his body and corrode his spirit and qi.

Shua!

He drew the No-Nonsense Bow, ready to strike. After arriving in this area, his spirit power had been obstructed so he could no longer perceive danger like before. He could only rely on his fighting instinct to avoid any disaster.

However, the No-Nonsense Bow was able to display its remarkable ability at such a time. It possessed omni-vision, which allowed it to see through the truth and even emptiness!

As expected, Lin Xun's field of vision instantly became wider, and he could see thousands of feet into the distance. The blood-red mist could no longer obstruct his sight.

Huh?

A moment later, the Broken Blade quivered as it hung by his waist. Lin Xun's dark eyes lit up, observing quietly.

Soon, he came to an ash-brown mound, which looked ordinary and inconspicuous, but the Broken Blade vibrated more intensely as he came closer to the mound.

He paused for a moment before he crouched down and dug a hole in the soil using the Broken Blade.

Ding!

When he reached around five feet deep into the ground, the Broken Blade clattered against something and a ray of soft silvery white light flashed in his vision.

“Is it a silver vein jade stone?” Lin Xun’s spirits were instantly lifted. He examined it closer and found that it was around the size of a bowl and its silvery body shimmered like water.

With a crackling sound, Lin Xun crushed it between his fingers, revealing a little jade-green branch shaped like a deer antler. Lin Xun’s face lit up with joy when he saw that the branch was imbued with divine jade light and vitality.

“Last time it was a leaf and this time it’s a branch, but they all contain unfathomable aura and vitality. Could a sacred tree have collapsed in the past, but its branches and leaves never disappeared and were sealed by the strange jade stones? Then, after many years of changes, they were buried under the soil?”

“Mulberry Woodland...Mulberry Woodland...Perhaps, the leaf last time and the branch this time both came from a mulberry tree with incredible powers?” Lin Xun speculated.

As he thought about it, he allowed the Broken Blade to absorb the vitality in the branch.

Within seconds, the Broken Blade glowed brightly with strong life force while the branch crumbled into powder and faded.

Lin Xun calmly observed and found that the Broken Blade had transformed a little again. It might not be obvious, but it was no doubt an improvement.

The mysterious veins on its surface were looming like the moon in the lake. Although still hazy, they were beginning to grow clearer.

Lin Xun’s black eyes gleamed. The Broken Blade already possessed terrifying powers and could be considered a heaven-defyingly strong blade. If it was further repaired and transformed, it would also raise his combat strength.

Lin Xun didn’t hurry on with his journey, but he explored the surroundings to see whether the Broken Blade would react again. Its buzzing indicated that there were treasures hidden in the nearby area.

The Broken Blade’s ability to detect such treasures saved Lin Xun a lot of energy and time. He only needed to search areas where the Broken Blade vibrated near.

In the blink of an eye, several hours passed by.

During that period, he had collected four pieces of silver vein jadestone and two gold vein jadestone, and each hid a leaf or branch in them. Although they were all extremely small, they were all filled with abundant mysterious vitality.

The Broken Blade refined all the vitality.

By this time, Lin Xun had realized that, if he wanted to further transform Broken Blade, then those drops of vitality weren’t enough.

However, he was very patient. He came to the Mulberry Woodland not to look for any unique opportunities. He also had no intention of participating in those treasure-hunting operations that drew the attention of even Life Death Stage Kings.

He was already very satisfied with being able to repair and transform the Broken Blade.

.....

He suddenly shuddered inexplicably, feeling a bizarre pressure, as though something terrible would happen when night fell.

Boom!

Suddenly, a flash of dazzling lightning pierced the void, illuminating the world, while a wave of terrifying aura swept out from the distant world.

From afar, Lin Xun could make out a figure bathed in divine flames in a fierce battle, exuding superiority.

“King Yan Qiong of the Fire Tribe!”

Even if Lin Xun had never met the brute king before, he could identify him right away because he was too eye-catching. His body was bathed in divine flames, and his aura was one of the most terrifying he had ever seen. Only King Yan Qiong could have such a bearing.

However, it was King Yan Qiong’s opponent who truly amazed Lin Xun—

It was a broken bronze spear!

As the spear moved, it produced earthshaking visions across the sky. And with a sweeping motion, the sky seemed to be collapsing and the void tearing apart.

The battle was spectacular.

Lin Xun wanted to watch longer, but unfortunately, the battle that broke out quickly ended even quicker. It was over within a few breaths.

King Yan Qiong was no match for the spear and retreated in fury. He roared before he left, “You are just a broken saint weapon. I will defeat you one day!”

Those words shocked Lin Xun. A broken saint weapon was as strong as an invincible master and forced King Yan Qiong to retreat.

That night was never peaceful. Just as the earthshaking duel came to an end, several waves of terrifying auras appeared in different areas.

Faintly, the roar of gods and demons and the howling of ghosts and wolves echoed in the dark night, sending shivers down many people’s spines.

The experts in various areas of the Mulberry Woodland quickly stopped what they were doing and went into hiding.

When night fell, the Blood Kill Battlefield would become hundreds of times more terrifying than compared to the daytime. But it was even more dangerous in the Mulberry Woodland.

No one dared to continue with their operations anymore and went into hiding, making use of the time to rest.

Lin Xun also hid, circulated the Suanni Qi, and started to meditate. The Mulberry Woodland was beyond terrifying at night. The slightest bit of carelessness could lead to instant death.

That night seemed torturously long because everywhere were frightening auras stirring the wind and clouds as they spread.

The weeping of gods and the enraged howls of ghosts reverberated. Anyone without a strong mind would have long been scared out of their wits and become possessed by demons.

Even Lin Xun had to mobilize the Little Divine Meditation Art to calm his mind. Even so, many chilling thoughts still flooded his mind and made him break out in cold sweat that night.

It wasn't until dawn broke and the darkness gradually faded that the frightening and unpredictable scenes disappeared and peace was restored.

As daylight came up, all the experts in different areas of the Mulberry Woodland breathed a sigh of relief. However, they were all aware that many experts likely had suffered a calamity or had been killed by the unpredictable dangers during the night.

Lin Xun got up and resumed his operation.

It was the best time to explore the Mulberry Woodland in daylight, so he didn't want to waste any time.

However, in the next few days, he made no harvest. On the contrary, he encountered many Magi Brute experts, many of whom were half-step kings. If he hadn't activated the omni-vision ability of the No-Nonsense Bow and avoided them then he likely would still be stuck in a fierce battle.

Although he made little harvest in the past few days, he gradually adapted to the dangerous environment of the Mulberry Woodland.

Furthermore, he had a feeling that he was approaching the depths of the Mulberry Woodland. The experts he encountered on the way were more and more terrifying than the previous.

Almost all of them were top Cyclic Derivation cultivators, and it wasn't uncommon to run into old monsters at the half-step king level.

However, he wasn't certain whether he could reach the end of the woodland even if he continued forward because it was too vast like a mysterious demon world.

One day, he came to a barren stone forest area that was abnormally enveloped in blood-red fog.

Huh?

He was about to avoid the area when Broken Blade vibrated much stronger than ever. It even produced a clear cry filled with desire.

Lin Xun slightly hesitated, but he finally gritted his teeth and rushed into the blood-red fog of the stone forest. After a moment, he discovered something—

A dilapidated altar emitting an ancient and extraordinary aura.

An altar!

Is there such a thing in the Mulberry Woodland?!

He stood motionless for a while before he decided to check it out. He found that the altar was in a state of disrepair. The secret runes that covered the altar had been worn away and only some mottled marks remained.

Yet the Broken Blade continued to buzz frantically with an intense desire. It seemed as though it coveted something hidden in the dilapidated altar.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and cautiously inched forward. He only began to dig after repeatedly confirming that no danger was around.

Kacha...

The excavation easily destroyed the dilapidated altar, and ancient stone fragments crumbled down.

"That..."

He quivered, feeling waves lifting high in his heart. Under the altar was a blaze of spectacular light as dreamy as a rainbow.

It was emanating from a pile of jade stones! They were covered in gold veins, silver veins, jet-black veins, fire veins and water veins...

Each one was around the size of a fist, overflowing with seemingly tangible sacred light.

Lin Xun almost screamed out in excitement. He had found nothing for several days. Who would have thought that so many would appear all at once?

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Chapter 715: Terror-Stricken at the Arrows

Clang!

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun inserted the Broken Blade into the pile of dazzling jade stones.

The Broken Blade buzzed and vibrated like it was cheering. The tip of the blade was filled with an obscure aura that began to frantically absorb the vitality in the stones.

Lin Xun's eyes gleamed in excitement and anticipation. He had a feeling that, even if the Broken Blade failed to transform, then its power would improve significantly.

He picked up a piece of jade stone and crushed it in his hand. As he expected, it contained a lush green leaf shaped like a coin and was oozing with vitality.

Lin Xun attempted to absorb it.

Immediately, a current of warm vitality poured into his body and rippled through him, setting every one of his pores open. He could feel qi and energy flooding his body like he was about to become an immortal.

The energy he had consumed on his journey had been restored and returned to its original peak state.

But he was most amazed by the fact that even his spirit power was strengthened!

“What mysterious vitality! It contains an unfathomable dao aura.”

After a careful check, he realized that the benefits were not limited to his energy levels and spirit power. Even his flesh, muscles and bones had been nourished. It might be extremely subtle, but it was still a wonderful effect.

A ray of murderous intent suddenly sped towards Lin Xun!

With a flash, he vanished using the Hornless Ice Dragon Step.

Boom!

A bone spear swept past where he was and firmly pierced into the ground in the distance, whipping up a sky full of dust and dirt and blasting a deep hole into the ground.

If Lin Xun was a little slower, then the spear would have skewered through his head!

His dark eyes became chilling and threatening and he had already drawn the No-Nonsense Bow and aimed it in a certain direction.

There, a Magi Brute expert appeared like a shadow. It was almost impossible to notice him in the foggy stone forest.

It was an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Darkness Tribe!

“If you don’t want to die then get lost. Our Magi Brute Race has already occupied this territory,” threatened the Darkness Tribe expert while his gaze was fixed on the place where the broken blade was inserted into.

The pile of dazzling jadestones was so eye-catching that it couldn’t be covered up.

“You are the one who doesn’t want to live!” Lin Xun fired an arrow as he spoke.

Bang!

The blood-red bowstring produced a clear cry while the bone body roared and rumbled like thunder.

“You are—” The Enlightened Spirit expert’s pupils shrank and his face distorted. It was as though he recognized Lin Xun.

Screaming, he darted to the other side to evade.

Pu!

But it was too late. The arrow had already pierced through the left of his chest and his body was blasted to the ground like it was struck by a tremendous force. Fresh blood sprayed everywhere like a fountain.

“How dare a piece of trash like you occupy territories?”

Kacha!

With a flash, Lin Xun stamped his foot and crushed the Darkness Tribe expert’s chest.

“...It’s you...Lin...Lin...” The Darkness Tribe Enlightened Spirit expert was killed before he finished speaking. He was considered a top figure but, unfortunately for him, he ran into Lin Xun.

When Lin Xun was going through the spoils, he discovered a bag containing a dozen of many different kinds of jade stones.

It made him realize that not only he had discovered the secret, but the other experts also likely knew about it now.

The Broken Blade was still absorbing the power. From the cryptic glow around the blade tip, Lin Xun speculated that it would take several minutes to refine the vitality within the jade stones.

Soon, he scrunched his brows.

He heard a sonic boom from the dense fog coming his way.

.....

“Quick, this way!”

“Ying Tong must have encountered some kind of danger. I heard his tragic scream.”

“I want to see which human bastard dares to act so boldly!”

A dozen of Magi Brute experts had gathered in the stone forest, emitting intense murderous intent. They were all Enlightened Spirit experts.

That kind of power could be regarded as a top force on the Blood Kill Battlefield and could start a small-scale war. After all, Enlightened Spirits were rarely seen.

It was even rarer to see more than ten Enlightened Spirit experts dispatched at the same time.

Generally, an Enlightened Spirit expert often acted as commanders in battles on the Blood Kill Battlefield because their identity, status and power were already top-notch.

However, it was a different story in the Mulberry Woodland. After all, the place was too terrifying and dangerous. Even Life Death Stage Kings had to act with caution, so Enlightened Spirits experts often traveled in groups.

“Have you heard that the young genius Lin Twelve of the empire has also come to the Mulberry Woodland? A group of fierce and ruthless characters in our Magi Brute Race is searching for him to kill him.”

“I heard the news many days ago. I also heard that King Lei Xiao vowed to kill Lin Twelve in the Mulberry Woodland. He wants to not only avenge She Zhen, but also seize his mysterious bow!”

The Enlightened Spirit experts exchanged conversations as they cautiously moved forward.

“Haha, the kid has guts. He dared to come to the Mulberry Woodland alone. We can’t touch him if he decided to hide in the camp of the empire, but now...Haha, if he doesn’t die here, I will kill myself!” sneered an Enlightened Spirit expert disdainfully. The Magi Brute Race no doubt had the upper hand in

the Mulberry Woodland in terms of numbers. Moreover, they had three Life Death Stage Kings watching over the operation.

It would be very strange if they failed to kill Lin Twelve!

Pu!

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a bloody hole split his neck, and because the force was so strong, his entire head was blasted across the air.

The other Enlightened Spirit experts froze for a second before they subconsciously darted away.

Scarlet blood spewed everywhere. The Magi Brute expert had just vowed that he would kill himself if he failed to kill Lin Xun and the next second, his neck was pierced and his headless body collapsed to the ground.

Karma?

The other Magi Brute experts broke out in cold sweat and their faces distorted with terror.

They screamed out in anger, "Everyone be careful, Lin Twelve must be nearby!"

"He was killed with one blow...The rumors are true, the little bastard's bow is terrifying!"

As they roared, they each brought out their treasures, narrowed their eyes vigilantly and spread out like frightened hedgehogs.

It was understandable that they were so panic-stricken. Rumors about Lin Xun had long spread throughout the Magi Brute army, and his feat of killing Man Jiu, a half-step king, also caused an uproar.

Everyone finally understood why the human youth was so powerful. All he had was a mysterious bone bow and a black arrow obtained from the depths of the Tiger Canyon mine.

How could they not panic after witnessing their comrade die instantly before their eyes?

He was too terrifying!

His arrows flew so silently that no Enlightened Spirit expert was able to detect it. That coupled with the various rumors about him was enough to unnerve even a half-step king.

"This is bad! It's impossible to detect the little bastard in this thick fog!" someone roared.

Pu!

But before his voice faded, he was shot dead on the spot. He died a worse death than his comrade. An arrow skewered his mouth to his head!

Another Enlightened Spirit expert had suddenly died before they could even detect traces of the enemy.

The remaining Enlightened Spirit experts were chilled to the bone. They were left facing a terrifying situation.

The enemy seemed invisible, appearing out of nowhere to strike a fatal blow at any time. Worst of all, they couldn't locate him in the dense fog of the stone forest.

It suddenly became deathly still and silent.

No one dared to utter a word. They believed that Lin Xun was using their voices to judge their location!

However, the cruel reality broke their speculation.

Another Enlightened Spirit expert instantly died. An arrow was shot through his skull and splattered blood and flesh everywhere.

“Run!”

Everyone lost their fighting spirit and almost broke down. They couldn’t detect the enemy, but the enemy seemed to be able to sense them. How could they fight against him?

They bolted in a panic like stray dogs.

In the process, another Enlightened Spirit expert was killed. An arrow pierced his buttock and nailed him to the ground. He lay screaming on the ground for a long while before dying.

Calmness was quickly returned to the area.

Before long, Lin Xun’s figure loomed in the blood-colored fog. He drew the No-Nonsense Bow, scanning the surroundings. Only after he confirmed that all the enemies had fled and no one was hiding did he leave the area.

As he made his way back, he was carrying four extra bags in his hand. These were the spoils he picked up. Among them were some peculiar items.

There were various jade stones, some blood-stained iron fragments, some broken bronze pieces, and some unknown things.

They were the items that the Magi Brute experts collected from the Mulberry Woodland, so they wouldn’t be ordinary treasures.

Lin Xun didn’t look at them closely. When he returned, the pile of jade stones on the ground had already been refined by the Broken Blade.

Clang!

He pulled out the Broken Blade and noticed that its jet-black surface had become almost transparent, and the blade was emitting a brilliant starlight-like mist.

Some runes were finally visible on the surface of the Broken Blade.

Unfortunately, there was only a small section of runes and it was impossible to pry into its mystery.

However, Lin Xun knew that the Broken Blade had changed. It felt as light as a feather in his hand, and its power had grown tremendously compared to before!

He strongly resisted the urge to test the power of the Broken Blade. He took a deep breath, turned around and left. He knew that he should leave the area as soon as possible.

Shua!

Not long after Lin Xun left, one figure after another whizzed past, each exuding a frightening aura. The invisible power emanating from them alone dispersed the blood-red fog and cleared up the area completely.

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Chapter 716: The Chase of Half-Step Kings

A dark-skinned middle-aged man said, "That kid was here not long ago. There is still a trace of his aura left here." His eyes were bewitching as they glowed like a pair of blazing suns.

He was Mu Lingfeng, a half-step king of the Magi Brute Race, and was ranked forty-seventh on the empire's king wanted list. He was stronger than the one Lin Xun had killed, Man Jiu.

"King Lei Xiao has issued an order that the kid has to be eliminated. Otherwise, he will become an unpredictable terrifying figure in the future," stated a mighty-looking old man with a glistening gold beard and bronze-like skin.

He was Jin Duzhen, a half-step king of the Gold Tribe.

"It's not easy to kill him. Don't forget that he has a set of bow and arrows that can kill even half-step kings!" Cang Lanxue interjected. She was a half-step king of the Water Tribe. Her hair was white as snow, and her entire body was enveloped in misty water, adding a mysterious and graceful charm to her already beautiful appearance.

"Don't worry. According to the analysis of the king of our tribe, the kid can't fully unleash the power of the bow and arrow with his Heaven Ascension cultivation." Mu Lingfeng, who headed the group, wore a calm expression. "Besides, he can at most fire one arrow with his current strength. This is our chance to kill him. As long as we can evade his arrow, everything will be easy to deal with after that."

"Ying Qiao, the young master of the imperial family of the Darkness Tribe, wants to capture the kid alive. Do we do as he says?" Jin Duzhen asked, frowning.

"We could if there's a chance, but if not, just kill the brat right away!" Mu Lingfeng drew a deep breath and terrifying murderous intent glinted in his azure eyes. "This time, we must not allow the kid to escape again!"

Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue nodded.

Lin Twelve was a human cultivator who had set foot on the strongest supreme path, and was a heaven-defying monster who killed a half-step king. He was also a rune founder!

Any one of those identities was enough of a reason to kill him at all costs!

Otherwise, if they allowed a monster like him to grow, he would no doubt become unpredictable trouble to the Magi Brute Race in the future.

"Let's go!" Mu Lingfeng launched into action.

They had rushed here upon hearing the news and dispatched three half-step kings. Their full preparation showed how much importance they attached to Lin Xun. They seemed to be treating him as their strongest enemy.

This scene would likely cause an uproar if spread to the outside world.

After all, who had ever seen three half-step kings act together to deal with a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage?

It was unheard of!

.....

So troublesome!

Lin Xun frowned. He bolted into a full-speed dash, his figure flickering endlessly.

The area was filled with blood-red fog and seemed boundless, but Lin Xun knew that enemies were chasing after him!

Worst of all, he had tried to get rid of his opponent many times, but he failed every time!

“It seems that the half-step king-level old monsters are making a move now. Only they would dare to chase after me so confidently and without concealing their tracks,” Lin Xun said solemnly.

He could detect them not because of his strong sensing powers, but because the other party did not attempt to hide their murderous intent and hostility!

Half-step kings!

Although Lin Xun had killed Man Jiu, he only managed to do so with the power of the No-Nonsense Bow and the Biluo Arrow. After he fired the arrow, he almost used up all the strength in his body.

He had broken through to the upper Heaven Ascension Stage and his strength was now double compared to before, but he still couldn't guarantee whether he could fire a second full-power Biluo arrow from the No-Nonsense Bow!

When twilight descended, Lin Xun, who was still fleeing, looked graver and graver. He could sense that the enemies behind were getting closer and closer...

Shua!

With a flash, he hid in a rocky ravine thousands of feet away. He took a deep breath and circulated the Suanni Q.

“The kid's aura vanished here.”

Not long after Lin Xun went into hiding, the three half-step kings, Mu Lingfeng, Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue, appeared.

Their terrifying bearing swept the area like a storm, dispelling all the blood-red mist around.

“Do you remember the information about the battle in the Tiger Canyon? At that time, the kid used a special method of hiding to conceal himself from detection,” Jin Duzhen said aloud as he scanned the surroundings. Two beams of light burst out from his eyes and swept the area.

“Based on that, he is just using the same old trick. If my guess is correct, he should be hiding nearby.” Before Jin Duzhen’s voice faded, he flicked his sleeve and sent a golden ripple spreading outwards from his body.

Boom!

Instantly, the surrounding space collapsed inch by inch, the ground split and the cracks spread and expanded in all directions. The rocks and boulders along the way were all turned to dust.

In the blink of an eye, this side of the world seemed to have suffered from an explosion. The sky and earth had turned a different color.

Those were half-step kings!

Although they were not true Life Death Stage Kings, they had already stepped into the realm of kings and transcended the realm of Enlightened Spirits.

“So fierce!”

Lin Xun shuddered inwardly, realizing more and more about the strength of a half-step king. If he faced them head-on, he had absolutely no chance of winning.

Shua!

Without hesitation, Lin Xun activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step with all his strength, leapt up and darted away.

“Haha, has he exhausted all his tricks? He is now a trapped beast!” Following the sneer, Jin Duzhen launched an attack. Blazing golden lights circulated his body. His terrifying power made even the world whimper.

Boom!

A golden bone sword slashed through the air, erupting with divine light as it aimed for Lin Xun in the distance.

Boom!

The thousand-foot-long golden sword qi seemed about to split the universe in half.

There was no way Lin Xun could dodge the attack. It had already locked on him and it was pointless to dodge.

At that critical juncture, he brought out the Broken Blade and decided to fight head-on.

Clang!

An ear-splitting collision shook the area and the golden glow exploded. Then, a scene that horrified everyone happened—

The Broken Blade severed the thick golden sword qi into two!

That was the power of a half-step king, and it contained a king's comprehension and meaning of the Dao. How would it be ordinary?

But it was slashed in half like that!

Jin Duzhen's pupils shrank with horror.

"The broken blade in his hand must be a special treasure," Mu Lingfeng remarked.

His eyes glowed with a blazing light. He was itching to act. He realized that if he could kill the kid, then he could get his hands on a lot of remarkable treasures!

"Must be." Cang Lanxue nodded, her eyes flashing. She was also tempted to act.

At the same time, Lin Xun shook and his blood and qi tumbled throughout his body. He almost coughed up blood from the impact, but he restrained himself and continued to run away.

"The Broken Blade has truly transformed. It is so sharp that it can cut the sword qi of a half-step king. Even a rune armament can't do that..."

"But those old monsters are too difficult to deal with. Otherwise, I would let the Broken Blade feast on their blood!" Lin Xun gritted his teeth in anger.

His entire body tensed up as he activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step with all his strength. He sped into the blood-red fog like a flash of lightning.

He had lost his bearings. He only wanted to run away. Being chased by three half-step kings would make anyone feel despair.

If Lin Xun had the Grand Universe Ark, he wouldn't be in such a predicament. Unfortunately, the laws of space in the Blood Killing Battlefield were too extreme and prevented any treasure with the space-controlling ability to be brought in.

Run!

It was the first time that Lin Xun was activating the Hornless Ice Dragon Step to its peak. He could vaguely see images of a hornless ice dragon flickering around him, guiding him forward most remarkably and mysteriously.

It made his speed increase tremendously compared to before.

Even Mu Lingfeng and the others were surprised by his incredible speed. He was moving at least three times faster than the top figures of the Darkness Tribe!

They chased more and more frantically. If Lin Xun managed to escape from their pursuit, then it would be the greatest shame.

Kacha!

Lin Xun crushed the jade stones one by one in his palm and unhesitatingly absorbed their vitality.

The mysterious vitality contained in the jade stones had an incredible magical effect on replenishing physical strength even when compared to high-grade aeth crystals.

As expected, Lin Xun's strength was restored within seconds, reaching an unprecedented peak state.

Furthermore, as he continuously absorbed the mysterious vitality, maintaining the unprecedented state, he even began to feel full.

"Little guy, this is the Mulberry Woodland. The deeper you go, the more terrifying it becomes. If you wander around recklessly, then you may even run into an accident before we catch you. Why don't you stay there and let's have a good chat first? Perhaps, if you cooperate with us, we will keep your corpse whole and won't let you die an ugly death."

Mu Lingfeng's calm and indifferent voice rang behind him.

"You will die an ugly death!" Lin Xun suddenly spun around, drawing the No-Nonsense Bow, and fired the jet-black Biluo Arrow.

Boom!

The void instantly collapsed, and the sacred sound of great dao resounded between heaven and earth while visions emerged one after another. Rivers of stars exploded and all things crumbled.

There were also terrifying scenes of the sun sinking and the golden crow weeping blood.

The ground split and the space was destroyed where the Biluo Arrow passed, creating a violent and turbulent current. Everywhere was crushed along the way.

The world quaked.

Mu Lingfeng's eyeballs almost popped out. He had completely lost his composure. How could he have imagined that Lin Xun, who was fleeing for his life, would react so fiercely? His one sentence provoked the human youth to fire that arrow...

"Ahh!!"

Mu Lingfeng shrieked like a frightened hare and quickly dodged to one side.

Regardless of how confident he was, he didn't dare to think lightly of the sharpness of the arrow. After all, the bow and arrow had once killed a true half-step king!

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Chapter 717: Storm Set Off On All Sides

Pu!

Despite evading with all his strength, Mu Lingfeng was still severely wounded. The Biluo Arrow had pierced through his ribs and left a bloody hole in his chest.

The terrifying destructive power almost tore his body apart, and the excruciating pain almost made him unleash a shrill scream that shook for nine heavens.

That was the power of the Biluo Arrow!

Unfortunately, Mu Lingfeng had already taken precautions and avoided suffering the same fate as Man Jiu.

“Si—” Jin Duzhen inhaled sharply, face distorting. The arrow was too terrifying and heaven-defying.

But Cang Lanxue took the opportunity to act. With a flash, she summoned a bone bowl filled with shimmering water and was pouring out torrents of divine lights like a great river.

The bone bowl was no doubt a rare treasure given its sacred and lustrous aura. It was called the Overflowing Water Basin.

Instantly, the shimmering water light and divine brilliance enveloped the Biluo Arrow.

“Capture!” she roared as a flood of joy rushed over her beautiful face.

However, her expression changed dramatically the next second, followed by a sharp scream.

With a loud boom, the Biluo Arrow erupted with invisible divine power, breaking free from the force. Then, with another boom, it pierced the Overflowing Water Basin!

Hu—

Cang Lanxue screamed in agony watching the bowl fragments whirl in the air. That was her rare treasure. Who would have thought it would be destroyed so easily?

She tried to gain an advantage, but she only ended up worse off...

Meanwhile, the Biluo Arrow had already returned to Lin Xun’s hand.

That wasn’t because of Lin Xun’s power. Instead, it was due to the connection between the Biluo Arrow and the No-Nonsense Bow.

Shua!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun continued to flee.

Behind him, Mu Lingfeng, Cang Lanxue and Jin Duzhen were all livid to the point of going berserk.

The arrow just now made them all look very embarrassing. But worst of all, they were three half-step kings yet they still failed to stop Lin Xun from escaping!

“Chase!” Mu Lingfeng bellowed like a wounded and frightened ancient beast.

Cang Lanxue continued to scream, “I’m going to kill the kid and eat his flesh and blood!”

“He has already shot one arrow. I doubt he can shoot a second one. His time of death is near!” Jin Duzhen’s eyes shot out with murderous intent.

Rumble—

They continued the chase without concealing their murderous intent, streaking across the sky like streams of light.

Kacha!

Lin Xun crushed one jade stone after another, absorbing the mysterious vitality contained in them to continuously restore his strength.

The Biluo Arrow he shot out just now hadn't quite drained all his strength.

This was because he had reached the upper Heaven Ascension Stage, and his cultivation base was completely different compared to when he fought against Man Jiu.

Even so, the remaining power wasn't enough for him to fire a second arrow.

However, he wasn't worried because he could continuously replenish his strength with the jade stones.

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"Just now...there was a terrifying power! Could it be Lin Twelve, the rune founder from the 7th army camp?"

Not long after Lin Xun and Mu Lingfeng and the others left, a group of empire cultivators appeared in the area.

They had already noticed the indescribable shock waves sweeping out from the area from afar and even witnessed the terrifying visions produced when Lin Xun shot that arrow.

"It has to be him! Didn't you hear that Mu Lingfeng, a half-step king from the Wood Tribe, had been severely injured? The screams from this area shook the world!"

The cultivators' faces blanched in horror.

"Heavens, Lin Twelve is being hunted down by three half-step kings! It seems that the intel is right! The Magi Brute bastards are determined to get rid of Lin Twelve!"

"Hurry up and spread this news! Let all the cultivators of our empire in other areas of the Mulberry Woodland know that Lin Twelve is a heaven-defying young genius, and he must not be killed by those bastards!"

After their initial shock, the cultivators launched into action.

As cultivators of the empire, they wouldn't hesitate to choose to stand on Lin Xun's side. How would they not do anything after hearing that he was in such a predicament?

On that day, a piece of serious news spread throughout the major areas of the Mulberry Woodland—

Lin Twelve, the young genius of the empire, is being hunted down by three half-step kings of the Magi Brute Race and is in a precarious situation!

A storm was set off like that.

"Haha, that young devil is finally going to die. I knew he was going to suffer soon. Does he think that he is invincible with that huge bow? Ridiculous!"

"That brat is so audacious. That's his fate for provoking the Magi Brute Race. No matter how talented he is, no matter how powerful his treasures are, he is doomed!"

Many Magi Brute experts were buzzing with excitement, chattering endlessly.

The rumors about Lin Xun had already instilled fear into them. After all, it was unheard of that a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage could kill a half-step king.

Now, they finally heaved a sigh of relief and were quick to gloat that Lin Xun was about to be killed.

The news also caused great disturbance among the empire cultivators. Lin Twelve wasn't only well-known among the Magi Brute Race, but he was also an illustrious and dazzling character among the eight camps of the empire. How would his precarious situation not draw people's attention?

"This is bad! Can Lin Twelve get out of trouble this time?"

"The situation is very bad. He is under the pursuit of the three half-step kings! Even a half-step king would likely be met with disaster let alone a Heaven Ascension teenager!"

Many empire cultivators were filled with worry.

"Why are you worried? Don't forget that Lin Twelve killed a half-step king with one arrow in the battle of the Tiger Canyon! He shocked everyone at that time. Since he dared to come to the Mulberry Woodland alone, he must have come prepared. He won't die so easily."

"Hey, no matter what, we have to hurry up and find Lin Twelve. We can't just sit and watch the Magi Brute bastards kill him!"

Upon learning the news, Ying Qiao, the young master of the Darkness Tribe imperial family, immediately issued a message: "Lin Twelve must die this time. You humans won't be able to rescue him, let alone have the chance to collect his corpse! Even if your Life Death Stage Kings are dispatched, they won't be able to change the situation!"

Those words made many faces overcast and troubled as they realized that the situation didn't look optimistic.

Even some top figures had temporarily stopped looking for treasures and opportunities and paid close attention to the matter!

Before long, Top General Xia Houjie thundered, "I believe that Lin Twelve will be able to turn the crisis around, but if Lin Twelve is killed, I will massacre all Magi Brute bastards in the Mulberry Woodland!" His overwhelming murderous intent stirred all cultivators of the empire.

"Haha, Xia Houjie, your death is also coming soon! How dare you speak nonsense here? Just you wait, I will come and harvest your head soon!" King Yan Qiong also issued a disdainful threat, sparking a huge commotion.

The atmosphere in the Mulberry Woodland changed.

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While all sorts of rumors and uproars were breaking out, Lin Xun was still running for his life.

Buzz!

Before long, he drew the-No Nonsense Bow and readied the Biluo Arrow.

However, before he could fire an arrow, the three guarded half-step kings scattered one after another.

He sighed and had no choice but to withdraw the bow and continue to flee.

The same scene had happened many times. Ever since Mu Lingfeng was wounded, the three half-step kings had been very vigilant and gave Lin Xun no chance to fire a Biluo Arrow.

Lin Xun started to look glum.

He was running low on jade stones, and his strength was constantly being consumed as he bolted with all his strength. He would be faced with a fatal problem sooner or later.

"Fortunately, the night is about to fall..." He drew a deep breath. Even if he was running at full speed, he could feel that the sky was getting dark.

"That damn little bastard! Why is he so fast?"

Mu Lingfeng and the others were more glum than Lin Xun. They had already raised their speed to their max, but they could never catch up to the human youth.

They almost coughed up blood from anger. They were half-step kings!

They felt ashamed to death that they failed to catch a Heaven Ascension Stage teenager! They wouldn't be able to hold their heads up if word of this spread!

"This is bad! Night is about to fall!" Cang Lanxue grunted, her beautiful face scrunching up.

Mu Lingfeng's and Jin Duzhen's faces also darkened.

When night fell, the Blood Kill Battlefield would become hundreds of times more terrifying than during the daytime, especially in the mysterious Mulberry Woodland.

Even half-step kings wouldn't dare to venture into the woodlands recklessly in the dark.

Night was approaching.

The world was shrouded in an oppressive and hair-raising atmosphere.

"It's okay. If the kid doesn't want to die in an accident, then he also wouldn't run around. We should stop. I have already locked on his aura. It's useless even if he hides!" In the end, Mu Lingfeng made a decision.

The darkness also made him feel uneasy and uncomfortable like danger was looming.

"That's all we can do." Although Cang Lanxue and Jin Duzhen were reluctant, they had to agree to be safe.

To their surprise, Lin Xun showed no intention of stopping. He continued to speed away, disappearing into the vast darkness like a wisp of smoke.

"He..." Mu Lingfeng was at a loss for words. "Does the little bastard not want to live anymore?"

"He must have realized that after nightfall is his only chance to escape our pursuit!" Cang Lanxue gnashed her teeth. "What should we do? Do we chase after him?"

Jin Duzhen hesitated, considering the pros and cons.

"Old bastards, why don't you chase after me? If you have the guts then come and fight!" Lin Xun's voice suddenly echoed in the darkness.

Before his voice faded, the Biluo Arrow rumbled across the air with a wave of destructive power, splitting the void and aiming directly for them.

Mu Lingfeng and the others almost jumped up in rage. That bastard is at the end of his rope yet he still dares to provoke us!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 718: Blood Moth and Ice Saint Tree

Even if Mu Lingfeng and the others were furious, when the Biluo Arrow was shooting straight towards them, they activated all their skills in a panic to avoid it.

Boom!

A bottomless pit was blasted into the ground and stones and rocks were projected everywhere. Dust and ashes filled the air while dirt covered their ashamed faces.

"Argh!" They were so enraged that their lungs almost ruptured. As high and mighty half-step kings, when had they ever looked so discomposed and embarrassing?

"Old bastards, try and catch me if you're not scared!" Lin Xun's provocative voice rang in the distance, which almost made Mu Lingfeng and the others erupt into a berserk rage.

He called them old bastards! Did he think they didn't dare to kill him?

"Should we chase after him?" Jin Duzhen's face was livid and his eyes were spewing out flames.

"He..." Mu Lingfeng hesitated. Everything was blanketed in darkness as night fell, and they had come to the depths of the Mulberry Woodland, where it was riddled with dangers.

"That kid is so arrogant! If we don't kill him, then how can we face our clansmen?" Cang Langxue trembled with anger. Not only did they fail to catch Lin Xun, but her precious treasure, Overflowing Water Basin, had also been destroyed.

How could she tolerate Lin Xun's repeated provocation?

"Huh?" Mu Lingfeng's expression abruptly changed. "This isn't good. Something seemed to be disturbed! A terrifying aura is coming this way!"

Almost at the same time, Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue also sensed the undisguised fiendish aura rising in the night, seeming particularly eerie in the darkness.

Lin Xun's arrow had caused too great of disruption and attracted the attention of a terrifying existence!

"Don't tell me that kid deliberately fired that arrow to alert others..."

The same thought struck Mu Lingfeng and the others.

“We have to chase! Danger will no doubt come if we stay around. It’s best to risk it and try to eliminate that little bastard!” Mu Lingfeng gritted his teeth and made a decision.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

They flashed across the darkness, continuing to catch up to Lin Xun. But regardless of how furious they were, they knew they had to be cautious and vigilant.

It couldn’t be helped. The Mulberry Woodland was too terrifying in the night.

Not long after they left, a blood-colored moth flapped its wings and fluttered across that area.

Its palm-sized body seemed to be carved from the purest blood-colored gemstone. It was bright and beautiful and surrounded by a scarlet glow. Despite its elegant and light movements, the flap of its wings caused the nearby space to collapse and sink like it had been swallowed up by a black hole.

The fiendish qi that filled the air precisely came from its body.

Although it was small in size, its imposing bearing wasn’t the slightest bit ordinary. Even if it was just floating there, it oozed superiority like a ruler of the world.

“Biluo...” It murmured, “It turns out that it hasn’t been destroyed. But its aura is weak. Back then, it could even kill...”

“It seems that it has suffered some kind of heavy damage. Or perhaps, its power has deteriorated over the years...”

After a moment of silence, it flapped its wings and followed Lin Xun and the others.

.....

Huh?

While fleeing, Lin Xun suddenly felt inexplicably uneasy. He stopped abruptly, only to realize that he had broken into a bizarre place.

It was too quiet. The area was wrapped in darkness, and blood-colored mist was spiraling in the air. The palpable silence was eerie and not the faintest whistle of wind could be heard.

In other areas, there were all kinds of earthshaking roars and sounds, such as the howling of gods and demons and the cries of ferocious beasts that could make one’s hair stand on end.

Only this area was abnormally silent.

Lin Xun became more vigilant than ever. The numbing feeling running through his scalp told him that there had to be some kind of unknowable terror hidden in the area.

Just as he was hesitating whether to continue moving forward, he heard something piercing the air behind him.

“Have those old bastards caught up?” he exclaimed in surprise.

His provocation was just a test to see if the half-step kings would dare to continue to pursue him after nightfall.

He never thought that they would come after him.

He said through gritted teeth, "Then let's fight it out. Let's see which one of us is tougher!"

He couldn't care about anything else and rushed deeper into the eerie area.

He had decided to go all out. If he encountered great danger, then the worst result would be nothing but death. At least, that was better than dying at the hands of the enemy.

Shua!

Lin Xun darted through the dense fog with incredible speed, but the uneasiness in his heart never reduced. Instead, it grew more and more intense. His heart shuddered with fear and his hands and feet became ice-cold.

There seemed to be a pair of eyes watching him in the quiet, eerie area, which almost made him break down mentally.

It was an unprecedented feeling of horror, much more terrifying than facing a Life Death Stage King.

But Lin Xun couldn't care about that anymore.

Huh?

A ray of crystal-like light flashed in the blood-colored fog afar, filled with an indescribable sacred charm.

"That's—" he cautiously inched forward and saw an unforgettable scene—

Within the blood-colored mist stood a giant tree that seemed to be carved from ice. Its leaves fluttered like a palm leaf fan, its body glistened like snow, and its branches seemed to be sprinkling rays of sacred light.

The trunk of the tree was the most astonishing part. The bark cracked like dragon scales, but it was also as clear and pure as ice. It was of unfathomable heights, towering straight into the sky!

The sacred and pure giant tree had a majestic aura that made people want to worship it.

A thousand rays of snow-white light hung from its branches like a waterfall of light. They seemed to be dancing in the blood-red mist, looking particularly striking.

Lin Xun stared at it, stunned. He felt an incomparably sacred vitality spreading outwards from the ancient ice tree, setting his qi pulsing throughout his body and becoming the most lively it had ever been.

He felt he was being enlightened!

"This..."

A storm set off in his heart. "Could it be a legendary saint tree?"

But at the same time, he felt more and more uneasy. His hair stood on end. A feeling of imminent danger slapped every inch of his body like waves. He almost had the urge to leave the place.

Lin Xun speculated, "The eeriness and silence here seem to be connected to this tree!"

He thought it over and finally grit his teeth and cautiously approached the sacred ice tree. When he was ten feet away he stopped as he couldn't bear the terrifying aura anymore.

In the end, he activated the Suanni Qi and concealed all traces of himself. Although the place was extremely dangerous, it could scare away Mu Lingfeng and the others!

Lin Xun wanted to see if those guys would dare to do something here.

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"Something feels off! There is a great danger hidden here!"

Very soon, Mu Lingfeng and the others approached the eerie area, and their expressions changed in an instant.

As half-step kings, they were more sensitive to dangers than ordinary cultivators, so they sensed dangers in the area that could threaten their lives.

"Should we still chase after him?" Jin Duzhen gulped, shivering. He felt a suffocatingly oppressive aura in the area.

"That kid has gone in! Why don't we dare to do the same? Also, judging from the aura he left behind, it's obvious that he is still alive. We have come all the way here. Wouldn't it be too embarrassing if we retreated?" Cang Lanxue said through gritted teeth.

Despite saying this, there was a feeling of unease in her heart.

"Then...chase after him!" Mu Lingfeng ordered. "But if something feels wrong, we have to leave immediately!"

Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue nodded. That was already the safest approach.

"Huh?"

As they nervously advanced, their eyes bulged wide open at the sight of a sacred tree.

"The aura of the saint path! The ancient tree is filled with a saint aura. Could...could the rumors be true?"

Mu Lingfeng's and the others' eyes blazed, and they almost screamed in excitement.

"Legend has it that the Mulberry Woodland holds a great secret of the saint path. By a lucky chance, a mulberry tree learned the secret and ascended to the Saint Stage!" Jin Duzhen murmured, eyes gleaming covetously. "I thought the rumors were exaggerated, but now, it seems that it may all be true..."

"Look! On the top of the saint tree is an ice flower and on the flower bud is a fruit! It's so dazzling like the sun in a world of snow!" Cang Lanxue exclaimed, "That...that can't be the saint fruit, right?"

Mu Lingfeng and Jin Duzhen followed her gaze and noticed an ice flower around the size of a millstone sitting atop the saint tree. The petals were crystal-clear, and it was blooming with thousand rays of divine lights.

A fruit was hanging from the ice flower. Even if it was only the size of a fist, it was so bright and dazzling that it resembled a little sun in the snow.

“That...is the great fortune that the king of our tribe is searching for! Unexpectedly, we discovered it first by accident!” Mu Lingfeng gasped.

He even forgot about catching Lin Xun. The opportunity in front of him was so astonishing and fascinating that it captivated his entire mind.

“Help protect me while I attempt to take this opportunity!” Mu Lingfeng gritted his teeth and decided to pick the mysterious fruit hanging from the tree.

“Okay!” Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue also decided to risk it. Even though they felt uneasy and looming danger, they wouldn’t hesitate to take the rare treasure.

Wealth was obtained from taking risks, let alone such an earth shaking rare treasure. They were willing to fight for it at all costs!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun, who was hiding not far away, was at a loss for words. He was the first to arrive, but he failed to notice the great opportunity on the tree because he was too vigilant of his surroundings.

What should I do?

Do I have to watch them take this great opportunity?

He soon calmed down because if the opportunity was so easy to obtain, it would have been taken away long ago. How would it still be around to this day?

There must be more to it!

Would Mu Lingfeng and the others not realize this?

Impossible!

Even so, they still decided to take the risk! That shows how much they want this great opportunity!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 719: Battle of the Saint Level

Boom!

Mu Lingfeng launched into action, but he was extremely cautious and calm. He mobilized his strength to its peak and even brought out his most precious treasures.

There was a necklace made from beast bones, a mysterious inner armor, a cloak covered with brute totem patterns, and a brilliant azure spear. He was armed to the teeth.

His entire body glowed brightly. Lin Xun, who was hiding in the dark, couldn’t help but stare at him in amazement. Only then did he realize the foundation of a half-step king was truly extraordinary.

At the same time, Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue became more guarded and each brought out secret treasures to protect Mu Lingfeng.

Everything was all set!

Mu Lingfeng raised his head and locked his gaze on the top of the ice saint tree. Then, he took a deep breath and strode forward.

Rumble—

His power instantly soared to its pinnacle state.

Lin Xun shuddered inwardly, realizing that he wouldn't be able to block a single move of the old man if he were to face him head-on.

Swoosh!

Mu Lingfeng stepped into the air, rising upwards. He wasn't particularly fast, and was instead extremely vigilant and careful.

Soon, he neared the top of the saint tree. His heart pounded more and more violently and his mouth became dry.

If I win this unrivaled opportunity, then...will I be able to step into the realm of the true kings?

Calm down! Calm down!

Mu Lingfeng displayed the composure of a half-step king. He was on full alert and became more and more careful.

It's near!

He saw mysterious visions spinning around the crystal-clear fruit, and he heard ancient dao sounds reverberating in a sacred and mysterious rhythm.

A shower of light danced around, and a pure and sacred aroma spread out from the flower, making Mu Lingfeng so comfortable that his soul almost left his body!

In the end, he couldn't bear it any longer and stretched out his hand with lightning speed, reaching to grab the fruit.

At the same time, a soul-stirring cicada cry rang out like a musical-sounding song.

But when it fell into Mu Lingfeng's ears, his blood froze, his spirit seemed to be imprisoned, and a terrifying tearing force spread throughout his body.

"That..."

His pupils shrank at the sight of a snow-white cicada laying quietly on the ice flower beneath the fruit. It was only the size of a newborn's palm, but its eyes were ice-cold and filled with intense disdain.

He felt as though a divine being was peering down at an ant on the ground.

“White cicada...it’s...it’s...” His face instantly paled. He thought of the widely circulated legend of the Mulberry Woodland.

A cultivator once swore that they saw a brilliantly white cicada wiping out everything within a radius of hundreds of miles with just its soft cry!

Top General Xia Houjie speculated that, if true, the white cicada most likely had reached the Saint Stage!

Indeed, Mu Lingfeng noticed dreamy light rain floating around the body of the white cicada-like the glow of immortals.

After that, he lost consciousness.

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At the bottom of the saint tree, Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue couldn’t help but clench their hands in excitement when they saw Mu Lingfeng near the saint fruit.

However, they soon realized that something didn’t feel right. Mu Lingfeng was frozen to the spot in an awkward stance like he had been imprisoned.

“Did something happen?” The two frowned in puzzlement, but they were most puzzled by the fact that they hadn’t noticed any murderous intent or danger.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

Their pupils rapidly shrank.

Mu Lingfeng’s motionless body suddenly crumbled into countless particles of flesh and blood and rained down.

From the beginning to the end, there was not a single sound, not even a scream or cry for mercy. Silently, a half-step king had been turned into a rain of flesh and blood!

Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue were scared out of their wits and almost cried out loud. What the hell happened?

The scene was so bizarre and terrifying that the two almost subconsciously fled for their lives!

They wouldn’t look back even if the secret to immortality was sitting there!

It was far too terrifying!

Goosebumps ran over Lin Xun’s entire body, and his heart thumped violently. He had experienced the remarkable power of Mu Lingfeng in the past, so he couldn’t believe that the old expert would die so suddenly and silently in front of him!

He was a half-step king who had long been ranked among the top experts in the world. How could he die just like that?

Lin Xun also felt the urge to turn around and bolt with all his strength. The ice saint tree was very captivating, but the murderous intent it concealed was more than terrifying!

Then, a more chilling scene happened. The bodies of Jin Duzhen and Cang Lanxue, who were running for their lives, cracked inch by inch before being reduced to flesh and blood.

Lin Xun was so shocked that he couldn't speak.

It was the first time that he saw someone die in such a mysterious and chilling way. He didn't even know who was behind the attack!

He should have been glad to see Mu Lingfeng and the others dead, but he wasn't the slightest bit happy.

He was hiding next to the ice saint tree. Even though he had concealed his aura with the Suanni Qi, he knew that, from the moment he had appeared here, he was being watched!

Suddenly, a strange noise sounded from the distant area, which seemed particularly sharp in the deathly silence.

A blood-colored moth fluttered across the air. Its slender body seemed to be carved from the most perfect blood-colored gemstone in the world. It glowed a sacred bright red hue as it moved swiftly across the air. When it flapped its wings, the void seemed to be silently collapsing like a black hole.

The aura around it soared into the sky. It was as though a ruler had descended upon the world. Lin Xun felt a stinging pain in his eyes, and his face blanched once again.

This aura... is more terrifying than a Life Death Stage King!

He thought of the old ape he met in the Deva Secret Domain. He was a Saint-level being, and there was no doubt that the scarlet moth was also a terrifying existence of the same level.

Shua!

However, before he could react, he sensed a cold, indifferent gaze on him.

It felt like a sharp knife pressed against his throat!

But soon, the gaze retracted and Lin Xun, who had broken out in cold sweat, noticed a white cicada rising from the top of the saint tree.

Its sacred ice-like body sprinkled a shower of dreamy light upon the world. In the blink of an eye, it arrived in the distant void.

The sound of cicadas echoed like the ethereal and melodious sound of a zither, stirring the nine heavens.

Then, a sacred aura surged upwards from the white cicada's body, causing the void to rumble and ripple violently.

"You crossed the line." The white cicada produced an ice-cold voice, "The great dao catastrophe hadn't arrived, so do you want to do something already?"

"I comprehended the dao in ancient times and awakened in the present. I can't remember many things, but I will never forget the things about some old friends."

The blood-colored moth fluttered elegantly in the distance, shining brightly. It was in no way inferior to the white cicada in terms of imposing bearing.

They were two terrifying sacred creatures!

Lin Xun inhaled sharply. The white cicada must have given up on dealing with me because the blood-red moth appeared. I luckily escaped a catastrophe!

Otherwise, I would have suffered the same fate as those three!

“No matter what, crossing the line is a provocation!” The white cicada’s voice was ice-cold and filled with a unique charm. It was as though dao sounds were echoing and filling the world with a sacred qi.

“Oh, since that’s the case, why not fight then?” the blood-red moth said indifferently, seemingly carefree and conceited.

“As you wish!”

Boom!

The white cicada soared, reaching the ninth heavens in the blink of an eye.

At the same time, the blood-colored moth beat its wings, charging into the sky like a scarlet tornado.

“How dare you stop me from killing that kid!” The white cicada’s voice became colder and colder like it was infuriated.

Lin Xun went stiff, realizing that the white cicada wanted to kill him, but for some unknown reason, the blood-red moth stopped it!

“What? Are you annoyed?” The blood-red moth chuckled indifferently.

Boom!

An earthshaking battle broke out in the sky. Sacred light beamed in every direction, ripping the night sky.

All the cultivators hiding in various areas of the Mulberry Woodland were trembling in fear. Their eyes were all fixed on the night sky.

Two sacred and unfathomable auras were repeatedly clashing above, illuminating the sky and tearing apart the night.

Faintly, there were visions of the great dao collapsing and gods and demons weeping blood!

“A battle of the Saint-level!”

Even the Life Death Stage Kings such as Top General Xia Houjie, Top General Xie Shian, Brute King Yan Qiong, Brute King Lei Xiao and Brute King Jin Po were shuddering.

The Saint level!

How many years had it been since such a level of power appeared in the world?

Now it reappeared in the Mulberry Woodland! If this spread, it would no doubt shake the entire world!

Lin Xun stood in front of the ice saint tree, his clothes drenched in cold sweat. He had narrowly escaped death, but his heart was still palpitating with fear. He felt as though he had just walked through the gates of hell.

“Run!”

Without the slightest hesitation, he turned around and darted away. If he didn’t take the opportunity to escape, then he wouldn’t be able to survive when the white cicada returned.

As for the fruit on the ice saint tree, he never thought to take it. He was certain that, if he dared to near the fruit, the white cicada would kill him at all costs!

“Friend, since you have come, why do you want to leave? The battle won’t end so soon. I just awakened from infinite silence and you happened to come here. This is fate. We are destined to meet, why don’t we take this opportunity to have a good chat?”

Just as he was about to leave, a clear and soft voice filled with kindness sounded from the ice saint tree.

His body stiffened and his hair stood on end. He frantically sprinted away, shouting, “Forget it, you should find someone else to talk to. I better go first. We will meet again if fate allows it! No, it’s best to not meet again even if fate allows it!”

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 720: Enlightened Overnight

Lin Xun had a strange feeling, and all the hair on his body stood on end.

It seemed unbelievable that someone he didn’t know would invite him for a chat from the mysterious saint tree.

“Ah, the years are long and I’m as lonely as the snow. It’s fate that we met today. Why do you want to leave? I just want to have a chat with you,” the clear, gentle voice rang again.

Following that, Lin Xun found an invisible force enveloping him and lifting him to the saint tree!

An ice flower bloomed and sprinkled thousands of rays of light like a dreamy spectacle. Lin Xun was helplessly seated on the crystal tree trunk beside the ice flower, unable to resist from the beginning to the end.

“Friend, you...aren’t you too forceful? How can you call this fate?” Lin Xun gulped with difficulty, trembling inwardly.

Fortunately, he didn’t feel any danger.

Rather, he felt incredibly relaxed and comfortable as he sat on the saint tree and bathed in the sacred rays of ice light.

“The laws of fate are like an illusion and are as empty as anything. It is best to follow your heart and desires. But if you persist obstinately, you will fall to a lower level and oppose the great dao.” As the

clear and gentle voice sounded once again, Lin Xun noticed a golden cicada lying peacefully on an ice mat within the blooming ice flower.

The golden cicada was only the size of a newborn baby's palm, but its clear eyes glowed with a soft golden light that seemed capable of reflecting a person's deepest secrets.

Even if it was just a cicada, it radiated a glow of wisdom yet had a solemn and carefree charm.

All of a sudden, Lin Xun's eyes widened. He never expected there to be a golden cicada besides the white cicada on the ice saint tree!

Could...

Could it also be a terrifying creature who had set foot onto the saint path?

Lin Xun shuddered.

"Is the saint stage terrifying? I don't think so. It's just a door on the path of the dao. You are only afraid because you can't see through its mystery when you are outside the door. One day, when you open the door and walk in, you will find that it is nothing special." The golden cicada spoke again like it was able to read Lin Xun's mind. But its voice had a calming power.

"It's nothing special?" Lin Xun exclaimed. It's the Saint Path! Since ancient times, countless cultivators have yearned to set foot on that path!

But the golden cicada made it seem extremely ordinary.

"Yes, it's nothing special." The golden cicada said aloud, "I had a vision very early on. One day, all living beings in this world will ascend to become saints and be freed from the suffering of old age, sickness and death."

Lin Xun's eyes widened in surprise. What a high-sounding sentiment!

Can all living beings in the world become saints?

Who would dare to utter such nonsense?

The golden cicada said in a very gentle tone, "Did it scare you? It doesn't matter. You don't need to believe it. It's my business after all."

Lin Xun started to calm down a little. "Are we really just chatting?"

"Yes, we are just chatting. Did you know that, before ancient times, the living beings in the world began to awaken their roots of wisdom? Do you know what they first did when they knew about the world?"

Lin Xun couldn't help asking, "What?" He had never thought about such a question.

"Chat." The golden cicada's answer left Lin Xun almost speechless.

But the golden cicada quickly explained further, "Chat—they naturally chatted about the matter of heaven. At that time, the world was still in a state of primal chaos. Everything had an ancient and primitive appearance. The existence of heaven was like the incarnation of the great dao. It was too high

to be touched and too far away to be reached. If one wants to embark on the road of cultivation, one must understand and explore it.”

“At that time, the first thing that the cultivators who got together did was chat. They chatted about their understanding and perception of heaven and exchanged their experiences with each other. After a long time, the path of cultivation was also explored step by step.”

“That sort of chatting...” Lin Xun said ruminatively after he heard the refreshing explanation of ‘chatting.’

“When you set foot on the saint path, you will have to learn to chat.” The golden cicada continued, “But at that time, you are chatting to the sentient beings. Passing on teaching and enlightenment are all related to the saint path you are pursuing...”

“Is the saint path so particular?” Lin Xun asked in surprise.

Not even the Life Death Stage Kings were able to pry into the mysteries of the saint path because it was too lofty and mysterious.

It was undoubtedly a rare learning opportunity for Lin Xun to learn about the saint path from the mysterious golden cicada.

“Becoming a Saint is not difficult but also is not simple. The path contains many great mysteries. You should know that many saints in the world are only so-called saints. They walk the same old path of the past and have limited achievements. They could at best be called pseudo saints.”

“A true saint must open up a path by themselves.”

Lin Xun palpitated. The Saint Path can be split into true and pseudo.

“The saint without a saint is the true saint, the dao without the dao is the great dao. Thinking about it over and over again will bring headaches. It is better to become unconscious of the boundary between yourself and the external world,” the golden cicada murmured as if it thought of something.

Lin Xun stood there in a daze. He was still far from the Saint Stage. Even if he heard some secrets regarding the Saint Path, it didn’t affect him much.

He only thought that the ‘chat’ was special and even strange and absurd.

In the blood-mist sky of the vast and dangerous Mulberry Woodland, two terrifying Saint-level creatures were locked in a fierce battle while he was sitting atop an ice saint tree and chatting with a golden cicada.

The atmosphere was incredibly bizarre.

There was also the saint fruit almost within his reach!

Only then did he realize that the saint fruit, which was as bright as a sun of ice, wasn’t far from his head.

The fist-sized fruit seemed to be carved from pure ice and emitted thousands of dreamy rays of light.

It had a clear and pure aroma that seemed to penetrate the depths of the soul.

Faintly, there were also mysterious visions flickering around the fruit amidst heavenly sounds.

Bathed in the warm rays of light, Lin Xun suddenly felt his mind relaxed and empty.

His qi, blood, spirit power and energy were all rippling throughout his body, and his Heaven Ascension cave dwelling was roaring and spewing out divine lights.

At that moment, he had forgotten everything.

He forgot about the earth shaking duel in the sky. He forgot that there was a mysterious golden cicada beside him. He forgot to be on guard...

He had fallen into a very peculiar state as if he was merging with the great dao. He also felt he had fallen into a trance with no thoughts.

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Unknowingly, the battle in the night sky came to an end, and calmness was restored to the world. Even so, the cultivators hiding in various areas of the Mulberry Woodland were still haunted by the experience.

The duel of the Saint Path was too terrifying. Even the Life Death Stage Kings were scared out of their wits.

Who won in the end?

No one knew.

Who were the two Saints who fought?

No one knew.

The battle made everything in the vast Mulberry Woodland feel even more mysterious and dangerous.

"Why don't you kill him?" The white cicada appeared on the ice saint tree and its eyes flashed with murderous intent when it saw Lin Xun bathed in the sacred light.

The golden cicada looked at Lin Xun and said leisurely, "It's not easy to awaken. It is fate that I met such an interesting young man. I have no killing intent in my heart, so how can I take his life?"

"Interesting?" The white cicada said disdainfully, "He is just a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage. He isn't the only one who has embarked on the supreme path. He might have obtained the No-Nonsense Bow and the Biluo Arrow, but that pair of treasures have long lost their original power. How is he interesting?"

"You won't understand." The golden cicada shook his head. "You only see the outside, but there is something more interesting about him."

"Oh? How about I kill him and tear open his body to see what's so interesting about him?" The white cicada chuckled.

The golden cicada said leisurely, "If you do that, then I will just reconstruct his body using the saint fruit."

"Do you dare?!" The white cicada's voice turned ice-cold.

“Do you think that there are things in this world that I dare not to do? Don’t forget that the reason I chose to stay silent here is just to wait for an opportunity to prove an idea I have. Only you would care so much about something so insignificant.” The golden cicada’s voice was gentle and calm as always.

The white cicada asked after a long period of silence, “What exactly do you want to do?”

The golden cicada responded casually, “I want to see what saint path this young man will walk. It’s like planting a seed. I want to see what kind of flower it will produce.”

“You still believe in the so-called hope. I already told you that the path you imagined does not exist in this world,” the white cicada laughed. “If you don’t believe it, then just wait and see!”

“Then let’s wait and see,” the golden cicada uttered calmly.

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When the night faded, Lin Xun woke up. He was puzzled at first, but then shock flooded his heart!

The ice saint tree was gone, and he was sitting on a boulder surrounded by blood-red fog. It was as though everything he experienced last night was nothing but a dream.

“This...” he sprang up, glancing around.

Everything had indeed vanished. Even the golden cicada seemed to have never existed.

“No! It wasn’t a dream!” He very quickly found that his body seemed to have been reborn. Every inch of his skin was oozing with mighty life force, and his spirit power was bubbling like an ocean. The tremendous power added a sacred aura to his Heaven Ascension cave dwelling.

His cultivation had reached the perfect level of the upper Heaven Ascension Stage!

He seemed to have received enlightenment overnight!