

## Prodigies 771

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### Chapter 771: Pass the Buck

Following the voice, a long peculiar vine sprang up from an ancient silver tree near the mountain peak.

It was as thick as a bucket and stretched hundreds of feet long. Half of it was a verdant green shade like polished emerald and imbued with incomparable life force.

The other half was withered like charcoal, as though it was a piece of wood burned by lightning and devoid of life force.

The two were in complete contrast to each other. One half was full of vitality and the other was lifeless, just like the coexistence of ups and downs, and life and death.

As it spread down from the ancient silver tree, an incomparably terrifying aura also permeated the air, causing the world to whimper from the unbearable pressure.

However, the aura carefully avoided the top of the mountain for fear of disturbing something.

Withered Vine Old Monster!

Lin Xun identified the person who appeared straight away.

According to the mysterious water python and the pig monster, he was a half-step king and regarded as the number one monster in Ziniu Mountain.

Ever since the ancient array of Fallen Star Peak was unearthed, Withered Vine Old Monster had occupied the area and killed anyone who dared to come near. He was unquestionably a ruthless character.

Many experts hiding in the dark immediately focussed their attention on this side when they sensed movements from Withered Vine Old Monster.

“As expected, that old monster won’t tolerate anyone approaching the top of the mountain. It has become his territory and anyone who approaches it will be killed.”

“It doesn’t look good for the youngster!”

“Young people are too reckless. Did he not think about why so many experts are waiting in the shadows and have not dared to get near the mountain peak?”

“Since ancient times, many geniuses have died young. It seems that this kid also can’t escape that fate.”

Some people sighed emotionally, some gloated, and some pitied Lin Xun.

He was facing Withered Vine Old Monster, a half-step king!

Not even Cyclic Derivation cultivators would be able to defeat him, let alone someone at the Heaven Ascension Stage!

“Little friend, what do you say?” Withered Vine Old Monster approached Lin Xun, revealing his strange face.

Half of his skin was as delicate and smooth as a newborn’s, while the other half was wrinkly and lifeless. Even his eyes were of two completely different states. His bizarre appearance sent a spine-chilling sensation down everyone’s back.

“This great opportunity was born from heaven and earth. You don’t own it. If you want it, you have to get it yourself. You are not qualified to order me about,” Lin Xun said emotionlessly, maintaining a calm appearance.

His words surprised all the experts hiding in the shadows. They never thought that Lin Xun could still be so calm and strong at such a time.

Withered Vine Old Monster clearly looked taken aback. He also didn’t expect to see such courage in a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage.

Immediately, his face darkened. “I was going to bestow the fortune on you, but instead of being grateful, you spoke so rudely to me. Do you want to die?”

Lin Xun smiled, his dark eyes shining with a cold light, “You are just a vine monster and haven’t even set foot onto the Life Death Stage. How dare you call yourself a king and try to threaten me?”

Si!

Many cultivators gasped, wondering if Lin Xun had gone crazy. Although a half-step king was not a true Life Death Stage King, they could look down on all cultivators below the king stage.

However, Lin Xun seemed to think that half-step kings were nothing special. How could they not be shocked?

Withered Vine Old Monster narrowed his eyes, while terrifying murderous intent rushed forth from him and swept across the audience like a torrent.

“Kid, I admire your courage so I will give you one last chance to pick that precious medicinal plant for me. If you do that I can let you die with dignity.” As he spoke, his gaze shifted to the mysterious medicinal plant that was shaped like a fire phoenix.

He wanted Lin Xun to risk his life!

Everyone knew that great dangers surrounded the mysterious medicinal plant since it was connected to the restraining power of the ancient formation on the top of the peak. One would no doubt have to face a tragic fate if they rashly removed the plant.

“Okay.” To everyone’s surprise, Lin Xun readily agreed.

All the experts hiding in the dark thought they heard it wrong. That kid acted so strong and tough just now, so why did he suddenly change his mind?

Could he have been intimidated by the power of Withered Vine Old Monster?

“Hmph, so you are also afraid of death. If so, then quickly do it!” Withered Vine Old Monster said with disdain.

He thought that Lin Xun was a sheep in wolf’s clothing after his calm and tough act.

“Okay, since you’re in such a hurry I will fulfill your wish.” Lin Xun nodded and stepped forwards towards the mysterious medicinal plant.

“Hurry? Fulfill my wish?” Withered Vine Old Monster lowered his brows, finding his choice of words a little strange.

The next moment, his expression dramatically changed and he roared in anger, “Stop—!”

A sparkling snow-white blade flashed out from Lin Xun’s body at an incredible speed, slashing towards the medicinal plant.

So fast!

No one thought that Lin Xun would do something so ruthless as destroying the medicinal plant after he promised to pick the plant.

Everyone’s eyes almost popped out.

Withered Vine Old Monster was so caught off guard that he couldn’t do anything in time.

Boom!

Following an earthshaking rumble, the terrifying restraining force around the medicinal plant suddenly rushed forth, evolved into mysterious, cryptic runes, and violently blasted the broken blade away.

Lin Xun was also affected. His blood and qi tumbled frantically within his body, and he almost coughed up blood from the impact.

However, he already expected that and made preparations. The moment he launched the blow, he moved with lightning speed and steered the Grand Universe Ark with all his strength away from the Fallen Star Peak.

He knew that it was impossible to destroy the medicinal plant with his current powers. He only launched the blow to pass the buck to Withered Vine Old Monster.

Rumble!

Sure enough, the restraining power was immediately set off. Thousands of mysterious rune symbols descended, each one as bright as a silver star shining in the night and releasing a monstrous oppressive force.

That force shook the entire Fallen Star Peak.

Withered Vine Old Monster trembled all over, livid with rage. He unleashed a deafening roar before he turned around and fled.

That restraining power was too terrifying. Once it exploded, it could wipe out the world. Having occupied the area for a good while, Withered Vine Old Monster had personally witnessed the terror of the restraining power, and the thought of it still sent a chill to his heart.

So, he didn't dare to dither and bolted right away.

"Damn it, quickly run!"

"Damn that kid! He wants to kill us all!"

"He wants to use the restraining power of the ancient formation to deal with the old monster. But that's a risky move. He doesn't know how terrifying the restraining power of the ancient formation actually is!"

The experts hiding around Fallen Star Peak went into a panic and bolted like frightened hares.

Some even yelled, cursed and flew into a rage, thinking that Lin Xu had basically ruined everything for them with his blow.

They only managed to occupy a place on Fallen Star Peak after much difficulty, hoping to use that to gain an upper hand when the opportunity broke out.

But all the favorable conditions they had seized were destroyed by Lin Xun!

Rumble!

The restraining power continued to erupt, and the sacred silvery light continued to transform into obscure rune symbols and pour down from the mountain peak like a dormant volcano stirred to life after thousands of years.

The power of destruction seemed capable of obliterating the world.

It was as though a hornet's nest had been agitated.

Bang!

Although Withered Vine Old Monster was already running at full speed, an obscure silver-white rune symbol still struck him and smashed a bloody hole into his thick torso.

He screamed in agony. His bloodshot eyes reflected his utmost hatred and anger. He felt extremely humiliated after being tricked by a junior of the human race and suffering such a huge loss.

The other experts quickened their speed when they saw that even someone as strong as Withered Vine Old Monster failed to withstand the restraining power.

The scene was utter chaos. The pig monster and Xia Xiaochong, who were hiding in the distance, were struck dumb. They couldn't understand why there was such a shocking change.

"Big Brother Lin Xun, will he be okay?" Xia Xiaochong's innocent face scrunched up with worry.

"It's better if he's dead!" The pig monster was still seething after getting beaten by Lin Xun. He couldn't wait for an accident to happen to Lin Xun.

Immediately, he changed his tone and comforted Xia Xiaochong in a warm and kind voice, “Little lady, don’t be too upset. Even if the kid is dead, I will still be around for you. I will treat you much better, and I will not let you suffer.”

Xia Xiaochong glared at him. “How dare you curse Brother Lin Xun?! When he comes back, he is going to make a pig feast out of you!”

The pig monster shuddered and his face paled. He was indeed worried about that happening. As the saying went, a loose tongue might cause a lot of trouble. He had already experienced that once before from Lin Xun.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was in the midst of his own trouble. Although he was operating the Grand Universe Ark to its full speed, an obscure restraining force suppressed it as soon as he reached the high altitude like he was stuck in a quagmire.

Worst of all, the restraining power that erupted from Fallen Star Peak was madly going after him like it had its own consciousness.

He just wanted to pass the buck to Withered Vine Old Monster, but he never thought that he would also be swept into the chaos.

If he had known earlier, then he would have just used the No-Nonsense Bow and Biluo Arrow and he wouldn’t be in such a crisis, right?

“Look, that kid’s treasure ship has been suppressed! Hahaha, this is karma!”

“He basically shot himself in the foot!”

Many experts who had escaped were laughing and gloating at the foot of the mountain.

“Little bastard, even if you are dead, I am going to burn your flesh and bones to ashes!” Withered Vine Old Monster gnashed his teeth with hatred.

He had been severely wounded, and he might lose the best position on the Fallen Star Peak if a powerful enemy were to come.

Meanwhile, Xia Xiaochong and the pig monster finally realized Lin Xun’s unfavorable situation. Their expressions dramatically changed and their hearts leapt into their throats.

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### **Chapter 772: Astral Insect Command Art**

The Grand Universe Ark was a damaged saint treasure. Despite it not being as powerful as it was in the past, in the right hands, it could still evade the attacks of Life Death Stage Kings.

When Lin Xun was in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea, it was the treasure that helped him and the mysterious girl A’hu escape the pursuit of a group of Life Death Stage Kings and leave the Dao Burial Sea Mound without running into any danger.

However, the restraining force that erupted from the Fallen Star Peak was able to suppress the Grand Universe Ark.

Lin Xun palpitated, realizing his problematic situation.

If his guess was correct, the mysterious ancient formation unearthed on Fallen Star Peak was precisely a formation set up by a true saint.

Otherwise, it couldn't possibly contain such unbelievably terrifying power!

Rumble—

The restraining power erupting from the Fallen Star Peak was only growing stronger and more terrifying. The silvery obscure symbols were dancing all over the night sky, dispelling the darkness and illuminating the mountains and valleys.

It startled all the living beings within a radius of thousands of miles. Many crouched on the ground, trembling under the indescribable oppressive force.

At the foot of the mountain, the experts who had escaped the Fallen Star Peak also turned ashen and had to retreat farther and farther away, which made them hate Lin Xun even more.

If he hadn't created the disaster, then would the Fallen Star Peak have undergone such a shocking change? Would they have to retreat in embarrassment?

Withered Vine Old Monster looked the worst. His face was livid, his teeth were gritted together, and his head was spewing out steam. He hated the fact that he couldn't rush across the void and tear Lin Xun to pieces.

So infuriating!

He only asked him to pick the medicinal plant, but the youngster triggered a disaster instead. He deserved to die!

The top of Fallen Star Peak had changed drastically. An ancient formation had emerged on the silvery frost-like ground, connecting with the powers of the star and absorbing the essence of heaven and earth. It projected countless waves of secret rune symbols, forming a gorgeous and sacred spectacle.

Vaguely, in the depths of the ancient formation stood a giant and round egg that was as huge as a millstone. Its crystal clear body glowed with dazzling and pure starlight.

It was as though it was born from an ancient beast. It was extremely mysterious, standing barely visible within the ancient formation and filled with an extremely sacred aura.

The power of stars and the essence of heaven and earth absorbed by the ancient formation were being poured onto the giant egg for it to absorb.

"An egg?"

High in the sky, Lin Xun widened his eyes in disbelief. A divine formation occupied a mountain peak and connected with the power of the stars and the heaven and earth all for nurturing the life in the egg?

So unbelievable!

But Lin Xun couldn't think about it anymore because the restraining power was suppressing the Grand Universe Ark to the point of engulfing it.

"It's over for that kid!"

In the distance, both the human cultivators and monster-beast cultivators noticed that Lin Xun's treasure ship couldn't withstand the force much longer.

They felt more and more satisfied and couldn't wait to see Lin Xun suffer.

Withered Vine Old Monster was already ready to collect Lin Xun's bones and crush them to ashes.

Otherwise, how would he be able to vent his anger and hatred?

"So annoying! Bring it on then!" Sensing the danger, Lin Xun gritted his teeth on the Grand Universe Ark and summoned the No-Nonsense Bow and the Biluo Arrow.

He planned to fight the ancient formation head-on.

However, just as he was about to go ahead with his risky plan, a cold voice rang in his ears, "Friend, please stop and listen to me first."

"Who are you?" Lin Xun's black eyes narrowed and at the same time, he found that the restraining rune symbols that were coming at him from all directions abruptly froze in the air.

His crisis might have been temporarily averted, but he couldn't help feeling uneasy and bewildered. He couldn't tell where the chilling voice came from.

"My name is Shaohao, the young master of the Astral Imperial Clan. I have been in a slumber in the Constellation Egg since a long time ago, and my power remains to be fully awakened, so I can't meet you in person at this moment."

The cold voice was like clear spring water as it sounded with the rhythm of bells and drums and reached into the heart like a dao sound.

Lin Xun shook inwardly and his expression changed. This guy is actually the living being in the egg of the ancient formation!

Astral Imperial Clan?

What kind of clan is that?

There were thousands of clans in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, but Lin Xun had never heard the name of that clan!

"When you tried to destroy the Flying Phoenix Nirvana Flower, you also awakened me. However, I hold no hostility towards you. The previous attack was an independent counterattack by the formation," Shaohao explained in a steady voice, which had incredible convincing power.

"I see." A tinge of embarrassment came to Lin Xun's face. He had no intention of destroying the miraculous medicinal plant called the Flying Phoenix Nirvana Flower.

He only wanted to use the ancient formation's restraining power to wound Withered Vine Old Monster.

Regardless, he was the one who started the chaos. Fortunately, Shaohao didn't plan to pursue the matter further, showing his generosity.

Lin Xun already had a very good impression of Shaohao even if it was only their first meeting.

"This is just a trivial matter. The reason I asked you to stay for a moment is just to confirm one thing." Shaohao's voice sounded again.

"Please go ahead."

Lin Xun heaved an inward sigh of relief. Shaohao seemed to have an incredibly mysterious origin and background, and he reminded him of the Little Young Master in the Five Elements Holy Island.

The only difference was that the Little Young Master was guarded by a saint-level old ape and Shaohao was housed in the Constellation Egg and protected by a mysterious ancient formation!

Lin Xun had a feeling that, when the battle of the great age came, Shaohao would awaken on the Fallen Star Peak and appear in the world!

"How is this a place of opportunity? It's clearly a place where freaks who have been silent for an unknown number of years are born!" Lin Xun smiled wryly.

He was almost certain that even a true Life Death Stage King would accomplish nothing here.

While incessant thoughts were streaming through Lin Xun's head, Shaohao's voice rang again, "My friend, do you have a god-devourer insect on you?"

Lin Xun's eyes went wide. He thought that Shaohao wanted to talk to him about the extraordinary abilities of No-Nonsense Bow and Biluo Arrow, but he never thought it was because of the god-devourer insect!

"That's correct."

Lin Xun had nothing to hide. There were a total of nine god-devourer insects sealed in his mind-sea.

Shaohao was silent for a moment before he said aloud, "God-devourer insects are the guardian protector insects of our Astral Imperial Clan. Unfortunately, they all met with misfortune and died when they escorted our clan in our migration, and it was thought that no descendants remained. I never thought that there would still be traces of them in the present world. I'm glad." His voice was filled with all sorts of emotions.

He continued after a moment, "Never mind, perhaps this is fate. I have a secret art used by the god-devourer insects. I would like to give it to you, and I hope you will treat them with care and allow them to live up to their name. Please don't let them disappear from the world, otherwise, it would be a pity..."

Hua—

A shining silver rune symbol rushed forward and transformed into a scroll in front of the Grand Universe Ark.

Lin Xun held the scroll in his hand, and a column of ancient peculiar characters that looked like earthworms caught his eyes—Astral Insect Command Art!



After flipping through it, Lin Xun knew that the secret art from Shaohao was unquestionably remarkable, containing many mysteries related to raising and controlling the god-devourer insects.

"Fellow cultivator, if you don't mind, I would like to give you a pair of those insects," said Lin Xun. Shaohao's gift had surprised and touched him a little.

"No need, this life is completely different from the past. Times have changed, and the era is different. I am the only one remaining in the Astral Imperial Clan. I should cut ties with the previous path and give up on the cause and effect of the past. Only then, when the great age comes, will I be able to ascend the great path that the ancestors of my clan haven't been able to!" Shaohao's voice was incredibly calm and resolute.

Lin Xun also felt a rush of emotions in his body. All the geniuses in the world were accumulating strength and honing their skills for the same thing—the battle of the great age!

Shaohao was no different.

However, he was more mysterious than the geniuses in today's world. He had been silent for an unknown number of years, only to wait for the great age to come!

Lin Xun took a deep breath and said, "My name is Lin Xun. I hope that we will meet again when the great age comes."

"I also look forward to that day."

Shaohao's voice faded into silence, while the silvery white rune symbols all across the sky receded like the tide, gathering towards the Fallen Star Peak and pouring back into the ancient formation. The spectacular and gorgeous scene completely disappeared.

The Constellation Egg that housed Shaohao had long vanished.

"What a remarkable, broad-minded, and ambitious character. He will surely soar to fame when he is born..."

Although Lin Xun only had a brief chat with Shaohao, he had to admit that he was inferior to him in terms of broad-mindedness and vision.

The mysterious young master of the Astral Imperial Clan was destined to create a storm when he was born!

At the same time, it put heavy pressure on Lin Xun.

For the great age, countless geniuses in the world were silently raising their strength. Imaginably, once the true battle for the great dao kicked off, the competition would no doubt be fierce and intense.

The Fallen Star Peak fell silent and still again.

Many cultivators watching in the distance were shocked to find that Lin Xun's ark remained undamaged.

"How could that be?"

"Damn it, what's going on? Did that kid not suffer a calamity?" Many experts huffed bitterly.

Lin Xun and Shaohao's conversation happened via their spirits and only for a brief moment, so no one noticed.

It was only when the Fallen Star Peak withdrew from the ancient formation that they found that Lin Xun was still alive, and they almost went crazy with rage.

The ancient formation's restraining power was terrifying! Why would it just spare that kid?

It was too damn strange!

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#### **Chapter 773: Bold and Heartless**

The fact that Lin Xun was safe and sound angered Withered Vine Old Monster so much that he almost crushed his own teeth, crooked his nose, and charged into mid-air.

"Bastard, if the restraining power of the ancient formation didn't kill you then I will have to personally get rid of you!" His voice was ice-cold.

His sturdy and thick body coiled like the body of a black dragon, filled with two terrifying contrasting powers.

The void quaked and collapsed from the monstrous aura of destruction. This was the power of a half-step king. It could stir the wind and clouds in all directions.

"The old monster seems to hate that kid to the core and wants to eliminate him at all costs!"

Many experts avoided the shockwaves in horror one after another.

"Big Brother Lin Xun is in trouble!" Xia Xiaochong's hands and feet went cold, and her pure and beautiful face was scrunched up with worry.

"It's over for him. Withered Vine Old Monster is enraged. No one can save that kid now. Little lady, let's quickly get away from here together!" The pig monster seemed to have no sense of justice.

He shamelessly and heartlessly wanted to escape and even wanted to bring Xia Xiaochong with him.

It was at that moment when a calm voice rang in his ears, "Okay, run. But don't let me catch you."

The pig monster went stiff and slowly lifted his head. To his shocked horror, the ark that was controlled by Lin Xun flashed under the night sky and miraculously evaded Withered Vine Old Monster's terrifying attack.

Lin Xun appeared unbelievably calm and composed.

But what made the pig monster the most shocked was that a wisp of spirit power shot out from the ark like a tangible substance and locked onto him.

He didn't dare to budge an inch. If he dared to escape, then he would have to face unimaginable consequences!

“Young Master, I was just joking just now. How would I do something so disloyal and despicable? Please don’t misunderstand and distract yourself from dealing with Withered Vine Old Monster!” the pig monster reassured, patting his chest.

“Hmph!” Lin Xun paid no attention to the immoral pig monster and concentrated on the battle.

Boom!

Amidst the crumbling void, Withered Vine Old Monster soared into the air and followed up with another ruthless strike.

His attacks were domineering and violent. Its body swept across the air like a dragon slamming its tail. The void collapsed where it passed and berserk waves of light engulfed the area, tearing the clouds and sky.

All experts were terror-stricken at the sight. Withered Vine Old Monster was undoubtedly strong. He demonstrated that he deserved his reputation as one of the strongest half-step kings.

They all suspect that the old monster was already at the door of the Life Death Stage and one step away from becoming a true king!

Lin Xun steered the Grand Universe Ark with incredible control, narrowly escaping the dangers every single time. It was as though he was navigating through the stormy seas.

That was the magic of the Grand Universe Ark. Without the ancient formation suppressing it anymore, it could evade even the attack of a true Life Death Stage King, let alone Withered Vine Old Monster’s.

“That is definitely an amazing treasure with magical power!”

Many experts couldn’t help but gasp in surprise. Could the kid have managed to escape the attack from the ancient formation by relying on the treasure ship?

With that thought, many people’s eyes blazed covetously.

In mid-air, Withered Vine Old Monster grew increasingly enraged. His face was livid, and his body was erupting with murderous intent.

He had been attacking with all his strength, yet not only did he fail to kill Lin Xun, Lin Xun avoided the attacks again and again. How would he not be infuriated?

Who was he?

The number one monster-beast in Ziniu Mountain, a half-step king, a cultivator who had ruled the area for years. He attached no importance to even ordinary half-step kings.

But now, he had to mobilize all his strength to deal with a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage. If word got out, wouldn’t his reputation be ruined?

“Die!”

As he roared at the top of his voice, black and white qi rushed out from his thick body. One represented the power of life and the other represented the qi of death. They integrated until formed a bizarre arc of black and white light and swept across the sky.

So terrifying.

The experts in the distance madly retreated. Within a radius of a hundred miles, everything except for the Fallen Star Peak was utterly obliterated. The mountains in other areas were crushed and collapsed, and the ancient trees were uprooted and pulverized to smithereens.

The mighty power of a half-step king had been vividly displayed!

However...

Even that earthshaking power failed to kill Lin Xun. He managed to avoid it with the Grand Universe Ark.

"How is that possible?"

All experts were stupefied. Lin Xun had greatly overturned their assumptions. A Heaven Ascension Stage teenager was able to repeatedly avoid the deadly strikes of a half-step king. His ability was beyond their imaginations.

"Could the treasure ship be a saint treasure?" Some cultivators speculated, their hearts shaking. Only that explanation could explain the scene they had witnessed.

"Little trash, I don't believe that I can't kill you!" Withered Vine Old Monster's furious roar was like a rumble of thunder, quaking the nine heavens and causing a grip of fear in the nearby creatures.

He was the most furious he had ever been. His bloodshot eyes were growing redder and redder.

Scenes of destruction were happening in every direction, the sky was splitting in every corner, and dust storms were forming all over the area.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun made a clear whistling sound. "Fellow cultivators, I feel quite guilty for triggering the ancient formation before and sweeping you all into the chaos so I have decided to lure the old thing away so everyone has an opportunity to ascend the mountain. Treat this as my compensation!"

All the experts blinked blankly. Why would that bad kid be so kind?

However, their hearts fluttered. If the Withered Vine Old Monster was gone, they would indeed have the rare opportunity to climb the mountains and perhaps the chance to seize some fortune.

"Everyone, this is a trap! That kid is heartless and bold. His words might seem beautiful, but in truth, he is only saying for Withered Vine Old Monster to hear it!" someone snorted coldly.

Sure enough, Withered Vine Old Monster's darkened at Lin Xun's words.

"Do you think you can lure me away and give the benefits to those guys? How arrogant!" Withered Vine Old Monster bellowed.

As his mouth widened, a black and white spear shot through the air with a swoosh, speeding towards the Grand Universe Ark.

Chi!

The void split apart. The black and white light circulating the spear seemed to possess a terrifying power capable of piercing through all things.

However, Lin Xun had no intention of being entangled with him any longer. Suddenly, he steered the Grand Universe Ark away from everyone.

“Do you think you can run?!” Withered Vine Old Monster was on the verge of going berserk with anger. If he let the kid escape under the gazes of everyone then he, a half-step king, would become a laughingstock of the world.

At the same time, Lin Xun reminded everyone, “You only have one chance! Make good use of it!”

All cultivators’ eyes flashed and their expressions changed. They intently watched Withered Vine Old Monster to see whether he would indeed abandon the Fallen Star Peak and go after Lin Xun.

Withered Vine Old Monster felt his lungs almost rupturing from anger as he deliberated whether it was worth chasing after and killing Lin Xun.

If he went after him, then he was allowing the other experts to take advantage of the opportunity to climb up Fallen Star Peak.

But if he didn’t go after him, how could he vent his anger and hatred?

What to do?

The dilemma was making him go crazy. That kid is too cunning, despicable and shameless. He used the ancient formation to restrain me before and now he tempted the other cultivators to go after the Fallen Star Peak that I am determined to get my hands on!

“Old man, you were very impressive before! What happened now? Come on, let’s change to another location for a duel,” Lin Xun yelled, his voice reeking of provocation.

All the cultivators gasped. That kid is too crazy. He dares to challenge a half-step king! Isn’t he worried at all?

Withered Vine Old Monster erupted with anger. His long and thick torso catapulted into the air and sped after Lin Xun.

“Haha, you listened to me. Not bad, not bad. When I kill you later, I can let you die a dignified death.” Lin Xun’s leisurely voice once again reverberated throughout the area.

But as he spoke, he continued operating the Grand Universe Ark at full speed.

“Die!” Withered Vine Old Monster’s furious voice shook the world as he launched another full-strength attack.

But to Lin Xun’s surprise, Withered Vine Old Monster wasn’t targeting him. The attack was aimed at an expert on the ground.

It was a savage bird of some kind. It was furtively approaching the Fallen Star Peak, hoping to take the opportunity to be the first to climb up. Clearly, Lin Xun's suggestion had tempted him.

He just never expected Withered Vine Old Monster to give up on catching Lin Xun and come back!

Boom!

Instantly, black and white divine light clashed and intertwined in the area, and the savage bird was slaughtered without a chance to counterattack.

Many experts planning to go up the mountain secretly were scared out of their wits and retreated one after another.

"Do you think I'm an idiot? How would I abandon the great fortune on Fallen Star Peak for a little bastard? Idiots, that little bastard has used you guys without even you realizing! How stupid can you get?" Withered Vine Old Monster reprimanded with a livid face.

It was only then that the cultivators realized that there was no longer any trace of Lin Xun. He had long taken the opportunity to escape!

Everyone's face darkened. As expected the kid hadn't been doing it out of kindness. Instead, he had wanted to use them to stop Withered Vine Old Monster from leaving the Fallen Star Peak!

"Argh!"

Many flushed with rage. They had been tricked and taken advantage of by a junior without them realizing it.

"Hmph!" Withered Vine Old Monster's fury was inexplicably replaced by satisfaction and relief when he saw everyone bowing their heads in embarrassment and shame.

It was the same feeling as dragging a group of people into the water with him. They had all suffered and all lost face so they couldn't laugh at each other.

However...

The thought of Lin Xun sent a vortex of rage into his heart again. In the end, he turned around with seething anger and returned to the Fallen Star Peak.

There was nothing he could do. Lin Xun had fled, and he would never be able to catch up with him. He had no choice but to swallow his hatred.

"Little bastard, don't let me see you again!" He would never forget to get revenge.

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#### **Chapter 774: Insect Command Seal**

Meanwhile, Lin Xun who was on the Grand Universe Ark wasn't the least glad or happy, but rather regretful and bitter.

He had planned to lure the old monster to a remote place and kill him with the No-Nonsense Bow.

But unexpectedly, Withered Vine Old Monster didn't take the bait. Even in rage, he refused to give up on the opportunity on Fallen Star Peak and chased after him.

"Young Master, you are as intelligent as you are brave. Your skills and abilities are incredible. You really opened my eyes today. I have to say that I am impressed. Please take a bow from me!"

The pig monster donned a solemn expression, bowed and saluted. His eyes were gleaming with admiration.

PA!

Lin Xun slapped him on the back of the head, saying coldly, "Don't try to flatter me. Do you think that I don't know you would be happier than anyone else if something happened to me?"

The pig monster grimaced and rubbed the back of his swollen head, looking wronged, "Young Master, you misunderstood. How would I be such a disloyal person?"

"So shameless!"

Even Xia Xiaochong couldn't stand him any longer and rolled her eyes at him. This guy is so immoral. All he was thinking about before was how to escape.

But the pig monster didn't feel a hint of shame. Instead, he sighed heartfully. "Ah, it seems that the little lady has misunderstood me, why don't we talk about it alone?" He looked at Xia Xiaochong hopefully.

Xia Xiaochong jumped back. "I don't want to chat with a pig alone. That's too scary."

This pig monster is so weird and thick-skinned and has no morals. Lin Xun was secretly impressed.

"Xiaochong, there are only three days left before the end of the training. You have to make good use of the remaining time," Lin Xun reminded her.

Startled, Xia Xiaochong's innocent face scrunched up and she cried painfully, "Aiya, I don't want to hunt and kill animals anymore, I'm so tired and I don't like the smell of blood either..."

The pig monster immediately tried to get on her good side by patting his chest and reassuring unwaveringly, "Little lady, I will stay with you. I can serve you tea, massage your tired shoulders and legs, and do anything for you. I am good at everything. I guarantee that you will be satisfied!"

Is he really a monster-beast of the Cyclic Derivation Stage?

Lin Xun was speechless.

But Xia Xiaochong looked disgusted. "You are a monster-beast cultivator yet not only did you not stop me from hunting for your comrades, but you also encouraged me to do so. You are too shameless!"

A righteous expression came to the pig monster's face as he tried to explain himself when Lin Xun kicked him out of the cabin. I can't stand him anymore. He is too shameless!

.....

The darkness of night faded into the first light of dawn. A new day had arrived.

The vast Ziniu Mountain took on a glowing golden hue from the rays of the morning sun, and the overlapping peaks gave off a different kind of vitality.

In one of the valleys, Xia Xiaochong was wielding a silver spear and fighting at close quarters with over a dozen of azure-headed fish monster-beasts in a stream.

Not far away, the pig monster was busy starting a fire and boiling water, planning to cook a few of the fish monster-beasts to fill his stomach.

On a low hill next to the valley sat a tall and handsome figure. Lin Xun looked particularly ethereal silhouetted against the morning sun.

Soon, he woke up from meditation, and his brows wrinkled together.

His cultivation had already reached the pinnacle perfect level of the Heaven Ascension Stage and recently, he could barely suppress the urge to break through into the Cyclic Derivation Stage.

He didn't want that to happen because he walked the absolute apex king path. Even if his cultivation had reached the level of perfection, he still had some shortcomings in his martial arts and comprehension.

For example, he hadn't quite perfected two secret inheritance arts, the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations and the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art.

For example, although he had perfected the water dao ripple that he controlled, he had yet to break the barrier and progress into the higher Dao Meaning.

"I must not waste time and hone my martial arts and refine my water dao ripple power..."

He knew very early on that the power of the great dao could only be truly manifested in the Cyclic Derivation Stage.

At that stage, the stronger the great dao power that a cultivator had grasped, the greater the power they could display in combat!

After pondering for a moment, Lin Xun took out a simple and unadorned silvery-white scroll. It was the Astral Insect Command Art, a gift from Shaohao and also a secret art for specially raising and commanding the god-devourer insects.

Thinking of Shaohao, Lin Xun couldn't help but cast his mind back to his time on the mysterious Fallen Star Peak.

The ancient grand formation imbued with a sacred aura, the Constellation Egg, and the young master of the Astral Imperial Clan housed inside the egg...

All of that was too bizarre to comprehend.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath, quieting his thoughts, and began to explore the Astral Insect Command Art.

Several hours passed while he was unaware.



When noon came, Lin Xun rolled up the secret scroll in his hand, and his black eyes were shining with amazement.

According to the records, the god-devourer insects had an extremely remarkable origin. They were ranked seventh on the Ancient Mysterious Insect List!

Once they transformed into the king stage, they were capable of absorbing the qi of the nine underworlds and devouring the spirits of kings!

In ancient times, a god-devourer insect king had devoured the spirits of countless terrifying creatures across the world. All the powerful experts in the world trembled with fear and blanched with terror at the mere mention of their names.

However, god-devourer insects were extremely rare. They were originally the guardian protectors of the Astral Imperial Clan, but they were almost wiped out in a calamity, and as time passed, they faded into obscurity.

Lin Xun found the nine god-devourer insects from a mysterious and dangerous place called the Treasure Drop Blood Plain.

However, he knew very little about those insects. He had no clue how to raise or use them.

However, he had no doubt that the god-devourer insects were extremely terrifying!

In recent years, they had helped Lin Xun kill many powerful enemies, including Yu Xiaosheng and other saint figures in the Deva Secret Realm.

However, Lin Xun wasn't the one who commanded them. They acted on their own initiative, so much so that Lin Xun had to seal them and suppress them in his mind-sea because he didn't know how to use the insects.

Now that he held the Astral Insect Command Art, he would no longer face the same problem.

"God-devourer insects feed on the spirit. They need to undergo five complete transformations before they can reach the Insect King Stage. Furthermore, every time they transform, their power also undergoes a whole new change..."

Lin Xun mulled over the mysteriousness of the Astral Insect Command Art. "It turns out that it is wrong to seal and suppress them all the time. They must be fed with spirits to promote their transformation and growth."

After a moment, Lin Xun brought out the nine god-devourer insects and folded his hands in a hand seal, forming a strange blood seal to cover them.

It was the Insect Command Seal. Only in this way could he command and use the insects like his own hand!

Buzz!

The nine insects greedily absorbed the secret seal that contained Lin Xun's blood.

At the same time, a ripple of cryptic energy was born between Lin Xun and the god-devourer insects, forming a mysterious connection between them.

Lin Xun suddenly had a strange feeling. The insects seemed to have become his children. Every hint of their emotions, pleasure, anger, sorrow, and joy was reflected in his mind in every detail.

That was the secret of the Insect Command Seal. It helped form a connection between the god-devourer insects and their host and allowed the host to easily summon and use them.

“They are very hungry...”

Quickly, Lin Xun sensed a fluctuation of cold emotion. He raised his brows and took out a piece of intermediate-grade spirit accumulation jade.

The jade belonged to Xia Xiaochong, but Lin Xun decided to borrow it because it was filled with the spirits of savage beasts.

That was the most suitable food for the insects.

Kacha!

It didn’t take long for the nine insects to devour the intermediate-grade spirit accumulation jade. Their black grain-sized bodies glowed like they were emitting a strong life force.

“Sleep...”

Their next fluctuation of emotion caught Lin Xun by surprise, and he couldn’t help smiling. They sleep once they are full. Their needs are not that hard to satisfy.

However, he also knew that the insects’ transformations were unusual, and sleeping was part of the process of growing stronger.

“They are still just larvae now and only in the first stage of transformation. I wonder when they will transform into true insect kings...”

Lin Xun put away the nine god-devourer insects, full of anticipation for the future. If he could cultivate a true god-devourer insect king one day, it would become a powerful weapon that could threaten even the old monsters in the Life Death Stage!

“But there is still a long way to go.”

He shook his head. God-devourer insects fed on spirits, and to transform, they imaginably needed to swallow an immense number of spirits at every transformation.

He started to doubt whether he could meet their needs in the future.

Fortunately, Lin Xun didn’t need to worry about this for now.

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Two days later.

After several hunting sessions, Xia Xiaochong filled an intermediate-grade spirit accumulation orb and transformed it into a spirit accumulation jade.

During those two days, Lin Xun didn't just sit around. He patrolled the Ziniu Mountain with Xia Xiaochong, looking for traces of beasts and captured them.

He used that opportunity to also fill up two intermediate-grade spirit accumulation orbs as food for the god-devourer insects.

Additionally, he also found out that spirit accumulation jades were very costly and rare in the major provinces of the West Infinity World, so it was impossible to buy them in bulk.

One day remained until the end of the training. Xia Xiaochong was very glad. She couldn't wait to return to see her master.

Of course, Lin Xun readily agreed to return ahead of schedule. He wanted to ask for directions to the East Victory World, and he was also curious to see what kind of place the Fire Spirit Province was.

After all, even if he was in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, he had only explored the mountains and ancient forests and hadn't experienced the cities that belonged to cultivators.

He had heard very early on that the Ancient Wasteland Domain was different from the lower domain world. It was a prosperous world filled with the legacy and atmosphere of ancient times and where thousands of clans and ancient sects coexisted.

His mind drifted off.

He shook his head and without further delay set off to the Fire Spirit Province!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 775: Flame Capital**

When they decided to leave Ziniu Mountain, the pig monster looked very upset and lonely and wanted to bid Xia Xiaochong farewell with a big hug.

When he spread his arms wide, Lin Xun sent him flying across the air with a kick. Whimpering, he rubbed his buttocks with a grimace. The sadness had completely faded from his face.

"If you don't leave now, I'm going to make you into a stew!" Lin Xun glowered at the pig monster.

"Young Master, people's hearts are made of flesh. We are going to part soon, why are you being so heartless?" the pig monster sighed melancholically.

Lin Xun snorted coldly and then said to Xia Xiaochong, "Go and start a fire. Let's have a good meal first before we leave."

Swoosh!

Before he finished, the pig monster had vanished in a cloud of dust. He bolted with such unbelievable speed that both Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong were left in a daze.

Xia Xiaochong wrinkled her nose and remarked, "That pig is so shameless and lustful, and has no morals and integrity at all. If my master met him, she would definitely castrate him because she detests perverts the most in this world."

Lin Xun nodded in agreement as he listened to Xia Xiaochong's evaluation of the pig monster, but he couldn't help but inhale sharply at the end of the sentence. He became a little hesitant at the prospect of visiting Xia Xiaochong's master in the future.

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Fire Spirit Province.

It was incomparably vast, as huge as a world. Its territory spanned countless mountains and thousands of cities, and it provided residence to tens of millions of living beings.

In addition to the renowned seven major forces, the four sects and three clans, there were also many other forces, clans and groups in the Fire Spirit Province.

The land of one province alone was greater than all the territory of the Ziyao Empire!

But in the West Infinity World, thousands of provinces were bigger than the Fire Spirit Province and many more were more prosperous!

This comparison was enough to show how vast the Ancient Wasteland Domain was, which included the East Victory World, West Infinity World, South Wonder World, and North Dipper World. It could almost be described as boundless.

After all, up to now, even the remarkable figures who had set foot onto the saint path hadn't been able to find out where the borders of the Ancient Wasteland Domain were...

Lin Xun couldn't help marveling when he learned about the vastness of the Ancient Wasteland Domain. He finally understood why the successors from the Heaven Axis Holy Land, Spirit Treasure Holy Land, and Omega Sword Sect exuded a sense of superiority when they came to the lower domain world.

When compared to the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Ziyao Empire was indeed too insignificant and poor.

Lin Xun knew very well that the territory of one Fire Spirit Province was much greater than that of the Ziyao Empire. However, in terms of true power, the Fire Spirit Province couldn't be compared to the Ziyao Empire in many ways.

For example, there were no true Life Death Stage Kings watching over the seven great forces of the Fire Spirit Province.

However, in the empire, the emperor, empress, Heavenly Seer from the stargazing platform and the principal of Qinglu Academy were all terrifying existences with astonishing powers and abilities.

In addition to them, many true Life Death Stage Kings existed among the seven high clans

That fact alone indicated that, although the Ziyao Empire may be located in the lower domain world, a barren land in the cultivation world, it possessed a frightening foundation unknown to outsiders.

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Flame Capital.

The core area of the Fire Spirit Province was a place that countless cultivators yearned to train in, and every day, endless cultivators would come here from all over the Fire Spirit Province.

The reason for that was very simple. The four major sects of the Fire Spirit Province, the Thousand Illusions Sect, the Pine Sword Sect, the Spirit Pearl Sect, and the Twofold Mystery Sect, and the three major clans, the Liu, Wen and Xiao, were all established there.

At the peak of noon, the Flame Capital was bustling with endless streams of people, horses and carriages.

Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong strolled along the spacious and busy streets.

The buildings in Flame Capital all had a bright, fiery-red hue. Looking down from the sky, the whole city resembled a tremendous flame crystal.

Rumor had it that, a long time ago, a chaos fire vein buried deep underground in Flame Capital gave birth to a scarlet flame dragon that achieved the dao one morning and transcended the world. It became known as the Flame Dragon True God to the world.

Of course, it was only a legend so no one could know whether it was true or not, but it was precisely this legend that gave Flame Capital a mysterious cultivation appeal.

“A high-quality, blood-spitting cultivation cave on the Xuekong Mountain is for sale. Inside is an aeth spring, five acres of aeth fields, and a medicine garden. It only costs eight thousand mid-grade aeth essences!”

“Here’s some extremely good news! Ten days from now, the thirty-seventh generation successor of the Twofold Mystery Sect will give a lecture in the Cloud Sun Martial Hall on special invitation. The registration fee is only one hundred low-grade aeth essences!”

“Look, take a look, this is the Ruyi Treasure Pill made using the secret recipe handed down my Azure Sparrow Clan. It only costs nine hundred and ninety-eight low-grade aeth essence! What? You haven’t heard of this before? Fellow cultivator, you are too ill-informed. In ancient times, our family’s Ruyi Treasure Pill was an elixir popular all over the world. Even one can make you stay youthful forever! Hey, fellow cultivator, where are you going in such a hurry? Even if you don’t need it, you should buy one to please your girlfriend. If the price is a problem, I am happy to negotiate...”

All sorts of yelling and hawking rang one after another, echoing through the sky and streets. It was an eye-opening experience for Lin Xun.

He found that among the traders were creatures from unusual races and clans!

A successor of the Sea Horned Beast Clan was selling various elixirs to passing cultivators with a wide smile. With a single horn on his head and his face framed with algae hair, he caught the eye of many passersby.

A group of little blue butterfly girls were fluttering across the street, selling the specialty product of their Blue Butterfly Clan, the hundred aroma fruit honey. The girls were all only the size of a palm and they were each carrying a dainty, coin-sized flower basket.

Not far away, bursts of deep and melodious musical instruments were accompanied by passionate singing.

It was a group of musicians from the Sound Map Clan. They were dressed in animal skin clothes embroidered with patterns such as flowers, birds, insects and fish. Although they were copper-skinned and ugly in appearance, they all looked earnest and peaceful.

They were seen as wanderers in the cultivation world. They entered the dao through music and traveled all over the world to seek the dao.

In addition to them, there were descendants of the Azure Sparrow Clan who were born alchemists, and also descendants of the Cloud Dream Clan who were experts in weaving clothes. It was an eye-opening experience for Lin Xun.

The Ancient Wasteland Domain was known to accommodate tens of thousands of clans and races. That was no exaggeration.

“Brothers, I just found a piece of earth-shaking treasure a few days ago. It is a piece of Sun Root left by a Cyclic Derivation cultivator of the Dragon Elephant Clan! I believe it will produce unbelievable effects if you take it as a supplement! If you want it, I can sell it to you for a very cheap price.” A shifty man snuck over. His mung bean-sized eyes, trimmed mustache, and shell on his back added a unique creepy appearance to him.

He was a descendant of the Wolf Tortoise Clan. He was easy to identify because the clan was well-known in the cultivation world for their grave-digging activities. They were called grave robbers in the cultivation world.

Dragon Elephant Clan?

Sun Root?

Lin Xun furrowed his brows.

But before he could say anything, the man screamed strangely and disappeared into the sea of people without a trace.

Not long after that, the ground quaked, and a group of mighty ten-foot-tall men stormed the street like little hills, causing a panic in the street.

They seemed to be fuming with anger as if they were searching for something.

“Damn it, where did that grave robber go? How dare he dig up my grandfather’s tomb and take my grandfather’s roots? He deserves to die!” bellowed a youngster, his eyes blazing with anger.

Lin Xun hurriedly avoided the area. He recognized the group of giants—they were successors of the Dragon Elephant Clan!

They clearly came to capture the man from the Wolf Tortoise Clan.

He shuddered at the thought that the Sun Root that the other person had been trying to sell him had been taken from the grave of a Dragon Elephant Clan expert!

“Big Brother Lin Xun, I’m going back to see my master now, do you want to come with me?” Xia Xiaochong mumbled with her mouth full. She was chewing on a skewer of grilled snow mutton. Her cheeks were still stuffed, and her small lips were glistening with a sheen of oil when she asked Lin Xun.

“I’ll wait for you here,” Lin Xun answered.

He knew that the training competition held by the four sects and three clans in the Fire Spirit Province had come to an end today.

Now, Xia Xiaochong’s master was likely with the big shots of the four sects and three clans so Lin Xun didn’t think it was a good idea to meet her now.

After all, he had taught Mo Feng and the others from the Spirit Pearl Sect a lesson when he was in Ziniu Mountain. If he went with Xia Xiaochong, there could be unnecessary troubles when he ran into them.

“Okay.” Xia Xiaochong nodded.

The two arranged to meet back up at a certain place. When Xia Xiaochong left, Lin Xun wandered the Flame Capital by himself.

It was his first time in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. He had to familiarize himself with everything as soon as possible and integrate into this world. One had to have a grasp of mundane affairs to understand the world.

“Have you heard? The land of opportunity in the depths of Ziniu Mountain has attracted the attention of more and more powerful experts. I heard that many people from other provinces are also going there.”

“In half a year, the Dao Lantern Festival will kick off on Cangwu Mountain. This lantern festival is said to be an unprecedentedly grand event and will attract many top talents and geniuses in the West Infinity World. Unfortunately, we are far from being qualified to participate.”

“Argh! Just now, Fang Linhan, the successor of Eight Extremes Blade Temple, once again had ten consecutive wins in the martial arena! He even arrogantly said that no one among the younger generation of cultivators in the Fire Spirit Province is worthy to fight against him!”

Although Lin Xun was wandering the street, a lot of news and rumors caught his attention, almost all of which were recent sensational incidents in the Fire Spirit Province.

He listened with great enjoyment. It wasn’t until several hours later that he returned along the street and came to an inn.

This was where he and Xia Xiaochong agreed to meet up.

However, the moment he stepped inside, he heard another racket.

“So what if he is a successor of the Eight Extremes Blade Temple?! How dare he underestimate the younger generation of cultivators in the Fire Spirit Province! Fang Linhan, if you have the guts then come out and fight me right now?!”

### The Prodigies War

#### **Chapter 776: A Sudden Invitation to Battle**

Lin Xun looked up and saw a young man with a scarlet sword strapped to his back standing in the center of the hall on the first floor of the inn.

The young man was followed by a group of subordinates.

It was the subordinates who caused the racket

Their gazes were all fixed on the closed door of a room on the second floor of the inn. It seemed that Fang Linhan from the Eight Extremes Blade Temple was inside.

“It’s Liu Zaiwen, a young cultivator of the Liu clan! He actually personally came to challenge Fang Linhan himself!”

An uproar broke out in the inn when someone recognized the sword-wielding youngster.

The Liu Clan was part of the Four Sects and Three Clans in the Fire Spirit Province and had a long history and great influence in the entire province.

It had cultivated generations after generations of talented people. For example, Liu Zaiwen was one of the top figures of the younger generation in the Liu Clan, and he was considered a rising star in Flame Capital.

“A good show is going to start soon.”

Many onlookers were filled with excitement and anticipation.

When Lin Xun was strolling the streets, he heard many things about Fang Linhan.

The successor of the Eight Extremes Blade Temple was from the Mystery Water Province in the West Infinity World. At a young age, he had already demonstrated his cultivation prowess, talent and foundation.

Just a month ago, he took part in a duel in the Flame Capital martial arena.

He overpoweringly defeated hundreds of young experts from different forces, overcoming all the battles thrown his way. He won hundreds of duels in total and had never been defeated once!

His feat quickly caused a sensation in Flame Capital and sparked a lot of uproars. Almost no one in the younger generation of the Fire Spirit Province hadn’t heard the name Fang Linhan.

The Eight Extremes Blade Temple, a sect that wasn’t particularly well-known in the Mystery Water Province, rose to fame because of Fang Linhan.

However, Fang Linhan was still an outsider to the young cultivators of the Fire Spirit Province.



The more dazzling his achievements were, the more incompetent they made the younger generation of cultivators in the Fire Spirit Province. So much so that they regarded it as a matter of shame.

For example, almost everything that Lin Xun heard about Fang Linhan was filled with prejudice and hostility.

However, that only made Lin Xun more impressed with Fang Linhan. The fact that he had the courage to come to the Fire Spirit Province alone and challenge the younger generation of cultivators on stage in the prosperous Flame Capital was already impressive. It wasn't something that ordinary people could do.

"Fang Linhan, are you scared? Quickly get out here!"

"What? Are you scared to fight now after learning that my young master has come?"

"Weren't you very arrogant? Didn't you say that no one in the younger generation of the Fire Spirit Province is worthy of fighting against you? Why don't you have the guts to leave the room now?"

The Liu Clan subordinates clamored again, their voices full of provocation.

After a long moment, a leisurely voice sounded from the closed door, "Is a group of trash worthy of telling me to come out? Quickly get lost, don't disturb my rest."

Everyone erupted with rage.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was a little taken aback. Based on Fang Linhan's tone of voice, he seemed very arrogant and overbearing.

"How dare you call us trash?!" fumed the Liu Clan subordinates.

Even Liu Zaiwen, who had been waiting quietly, couldn't help scrunching his brows.

A chilling look flashed across his eyes, and he waved his hand, motioning the subordinates to stop yelling. He raised his head and looked at the closed door. "Fang Linhan, if you are afraid, I will leave now. If you dare to fight me, then come out now and stop wasting everyone's time."

"Afraid?" Fang Linhan howled with laughter in the room. "Come to the Flame Capital martial arena tomorrow and if I can't defeat you within three blade strikes, I will destroy my own cultivation base!" This was all said in a straightforward and contemptuous manner..

Si!

Audible gasps rang out in rapid succession in the hall. Fang Linhan wasn't only arrogant, but he also considered everyone else beneath him. He treated Liu Zaiwen as a nobody!

He implied that, given Liu Zaiwen's ability, he couldn't possibly block three of his blade strikes!

So arrogant!

Many onlookers couldn't stand and watch any longer. It was too infuriating to watch an outsider act so arrogantly and disregard them just because he had a little achievement.

Liu Zaiwen's face grew increasingly dark, and his eyes almost shot out rays of cold light. He was no doubt infuriated.

Clang!

A scarlet sword flew out from behind him like a fire dragon, emitting blinding divine flames.

"You don't need to wait. I am going to make you destroy your own cultivation base now!" As his ice-cold voice rang out, he reached to grab the scarlet sword and, with a flash, charged towards the second floor of the inn. A beam of blinding light shot out from the tip of the sword, attempting to tear the door down.

He wanted to force Fang Linhan out to fight!

Everyone cheered in the hall, thinking that Liu Zaiwen's majestic move lived up to the reputation of the cultivation world of the Fire Spirit Province.

But the joy didn't last too long. "How ridiculous. An ant is trying to shake the tree." The door creaked open and a disdainful and arrogant voice came out.

Almost at the same time, a ray of blade light streaked across the air like a lightning erupted from the ground, accompanied by the rumble of thunder.

Many people felt a stinging pain in their eyes. Their minds shook and their visions started to blur.

Boom!

Following a deafening collision, wood chips hurled across the air, the railings crumbled down, and a thunderstorm raged through the hall, turning some pieces of furniture into dust.

A defense array had been set up in the inn, yet it shockingly still couldn't withstand and neutralize the destructive power of the blow.

Then, everyone saw Liu Zaiwen get propelled across midair. He charged towards the door quickly, but he came back even faster. The blow directly blasted him to the ground and smashed a huge pit into the floor of the hall.

Everyone was petrified.

The subordinates of the Liu Clan were even more dumbstruck.

Pu!

Liu Zaiwen coughed up blood, trembling all over. His chest was sunken in, and more than half of his muscles and bones had snapped. The terrifying light ripped through his clothes and scorched his body.

With a clang, his scarlet sword flew back and inserted itself into the floor at an angle in front of him, whimpering and trembling.

Everyone blinked blankly. Liu Zaiwen is one of the top figures in the younger generation of the Liu Clan!

But he was defeated in just one blow?

Many people couldn't accept this fact.

Not only that, no one saw how Liu Zaiwen lost!

"The difference in strength is too huge..."

Lin Xun couldn't help shaking his head. He had captured every little detail of the battle.

He didn't doubt that Fang Linhan had the ability and strength to act so arrogantly. But Liu Zaiwen had no self-awareness. Before he knew anything about Fang Linhan's background, he stormed up there to challenge him and that led to his tragic defeat.

Of course, Lin Xun was just a passerby, so he wouldn't feel anything for Liu Zaiwen.

He was just surprised about Fang Linhan's strength. He was indeed a peerless genius of the younger generation.

He was only at the Heaven Ascension Stage, yet he already possessed extremely unbelievable martial arts power. In particular, his blade art was powerful and domineering, and it had to be an amazing secret inheritance art.

"You failed to block a single attack of mine, yet you think you can challenge me. If I am arrogant, I don't know what you are!" Following the voice, a figure leisurely strolled out of the room on the second floor with his hands behind his back. He leaned forward on the railing and peered down on everyone, eyes glowing with a menacing light.

He had long, thick hair draping loosely down his tall and slender figure, framing his bewitchingly charming and arrogant face.

He pursed his lips slightly in a perfect arc that looked like a blade. He was oozing superiority all over his body.

It wasn't arrogance, but instead an aura that exuded from deep within. Only those with absolute confidence in their strength would have such an amazing bearing.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and secretly exclaimed, "This person is indeed extraordinary."

Yue Jianming, the successor of the Thousand Illusions Sect, had already amazed him a few days ago.

And Fang Linhan was just as amazing as Yue Jianming in terms of bearing!

In the few days he spent in the Fire Spirit Province, he encountered two extremely talented people with completely different bearings and aura, but both were regarded as peerless geniuses. How could he not marvel?

The Ancient Wasteland Domain was indeed filled with hidden dragons!

"Take that blade strike as a warning. I am a born lunatic, but I also have self-awareness. Unlike you guys!" Fang Linhan's indifferent voice showed a unique aloofness.

The inn fell utterly silent, while the Fire Spirit Province cultivators' expressions morphed indefinitely. They all felt utterly humiliated, ashamed and furious at being reprimanded by an outsider like Fang Linhan.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, Fang Linhan seemed to sense something when he caught sight of Lin Xun among the crowd. The corners of his thin lips curled upwards in a surprised smile.

His eyes glowed with great interest as he looked at Lin Xun. "Friend, are you interested in going to the Flame Capital martial arena tomorrow to fight with me?"

His eyes were blazing with the joy of finding a worthy opponent—It was undisguised and very direct.

Everyone turned their heads to Lin Xun all at once, frowning in bewilderment. They never imagined that Fang Linhan would take the initiative to invite someone to fight with him!

It was too rare.

After all, Fang Linhan attached no importance to even Liu Zaiwen and was reluctant to show up to take his challenge.

The situation was completely different!

Could the handsome youngster be a peerless genius? But he looked very unfamiliar. What sect or clan did he belong to?

Everyone curiously studied Lin Xun.

Even Lin Xun himself didn't expect Fang Linhan to ask him for a battle so directly. He was a little stumped for words.

Soon, he shook his head. "Let's talk about it again if there's an opportunity."

As he was speaking, he walked away to the room he had just reserved. He had just arrived in Flame Capital and knew little about the situation in the city. How would he be interested in dueling with a born lunatic?

No one expected his answer. They all looked dumbfounded. That guy...declined so nonchalantly? Is he afraid?

"It doesn't matter. I'll wait for you." Fang Linhan smiled.

His curled lips coupled with his wild and unruly demeanor gave him a strange demonic charm.

Even based on appearance and aura alone, Fang Linhan was undoubtedly an extremely remarkable man.

Even if he was thrown into a crowd of people, his brilliance couldn't be concealed, and he would still be one of the most eye-catching individuals there.

However, he didn't seem to mind when his challenge was refused. His reaction and lack of arrogance baffled the other cultivators.

## The Prodigies War

### **Chapter 777: Nine-Headed golden Flood-Dragon**

Who is that youngster?

All the cultivators in the inn knew that the youngster couldn't be an ordinary person if Fang Linhan took the initiative to challenge him to a duel.

Additionally, they had a feeling that he was unfathomable given his calm and nonchalant attitude when he faced Fang Linhan.

"Go and investigate who the hell that guy is!"

Very quickly, the cultivators left the inn in a hurry. Firstly, they were eager to find out Lin Xun's background as soon as possible.

Secondly, they didn't want to stay a second longer. Fang Linhan was so arrogant that he had scolded them without restraint just now. If they stayed any longer, it would be no different from wanting to be verbally slapped.

Fang Linhan paid no attention to the cultivators who left with their tails between their legs, but he shifted his gaze to the room where Lin Xun stayed.

"Interesting, besides Yue Jianming, there is finally another worthy opponent in the Fire Spirit Province..."

His eyes were shining with a gleaming radiance. He only retracted his gaze after a long while, smiling, and then he turned around and headed to his own room.

.....

Kacha!

A series of cracking noises sounded in Lin Xun's room. Nine grain-sized, jet-black god-devourer insects were happily feasting on something.

Within seconds, two pieces of mid-grade spirit accumulation jade were devoured in Lin Xun's hand.

"Hungry..."

The nine insects produced a wave of emotion to tell him they were not full yet.

Lin Xun felt a headache coming. Although these little guys are only the size of a grain of rice, their appetite is terrifying. In just a few days, they have already devoured three pieces of mid-grade spirit accumulation jade.

It should be mentioned that a piece of mid-grade spirit accumulation jade contained three hundred to five hundred spirits!

In other words, three hundred to five hundred Spirit Sea level beasts and above had to be slaughtered to produce a piece of mid-grade spirit accumulation jade!

However, it only took seconds for the god-devourer insects to devour one piece, and they still weren't full after that...

How would Lin Xun's head not ache?

When he wandered around the Flame Capital, he also inquired about and found that, unlike in the lower domain world, cultivators in the Ancient Wasteland Domain used aeth essence as a currency.

Ten high-grade aeth crystals were equivalent to one low-grade aeth essence.

One hundred low-grade aeth essences were equivalent to one mid-grade aeth essence.

One hundred mid-grade aeth essences were equivalent to one high-grade aeth essence.

The market price of one filled low-grade spirit accumulation jade was around one hundred low-grade aeth essences or one mid-grade aeth essence.

The price might not seem high, but if it was converted into high-grade aeth crystals, one low-grade spirit accumulation jade was equivalent to one thousand high-grade aeth crystals!

One thousand high-grade aeth crystals were enough to last Lin Xun one month for his cultivation needs. But that amount was equivalent to one hundred low-grade aeth essences or one low-grade spirit accumulation jade...

That comparison demonstrated the astonishing cost and value of spirit accumulation jade in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

But that was only the value of a low-grade spirit accumulation jade.

A single mid-grade spirit accumulation jade cost ten mid-grade aeth essences!

This was equivalent to one thousand low-grade aeth essences!

Lin Xun's face turned overcast at the thought of the nine god-devourer insects demolishing three mid-grade spirit accumulation jades in the past few days.

The investment they needed was too terrifying!

"It's no wonder that god-devourer insects were also extremely rare in ancient times. Not just anyone would be able to afford to raise them..." sighed Lin Xun.

He had brought a huge amount of high-grade aeth crystals to the Ancient Wasteland Domain with him. These were all stored inside the Nameless Pagoda.

However, he found that even if he exchanged them all, he would at most receive five hundred low-grade aeth essences or five mid-grade aeth essences...

His wealth would only get him half a piece of mid-grade spirit accumulation jade!

The more he thought about it, the more depressed he felt. They are just blood-sucking leeches!

"I need to hurry up and make money!"

After a long moment, he gritted his teeth and made a decision.

This wasn't only to raise the god-devourer spirits, but to also make it easier for him to progress in the cultivation world of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Most importantly, aeth essence wasn't just a currency.

It was a natural aeth material rich in pure aeth power. They were much more precious than high-grade aeth crystals and a necessity for Heaven Ascension and Cyclic Derivation cultivators in their daily training.

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Early next morning, Lin Xun finished his meditation and went down to the first floor of the inn for a pot of tea.

He was a little puzzled as to why Xia Xiaochong hadn't come back to find him. The training competition held by the four sects and three clans should have ended yesterday. Could something have happened to her?

"Young master, I am Ma Xingkong. I am now working for the Xiao Clan of the Fire Spirit Province. Can I ask for your name?" A middle-aged man suddenly went over to greet Lin Xun with a smile.

Lin Xun smiled and stated, "Lin Xun."

As he answered, he noticed that several cultivators on the first floor of the inn were, whether intentionally or not, sizing him up.

"Oh, Young Master Lin." Ma Xingkong sat down opposite him and said thoughtfully, "Young Master Lin, I'll be honest with you, I was ordered to come here to ask you whether you are interested in a duel with Fang Linhan?"

Lin Xun wasn't taken aback. "Why did you come to find me all of a sudden?"

Ma Xingkong glanced around at first before he answered, "Young Master, we already know what happened in the inn yesterday. I heard that Fang Linhan challenged you, but you refused."

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun's face. "Indeed." He nodded.

Ma Xingkong continued bluntly, "Young master, if you take the challenge and duel with Fang Linhan, regardless of the outcome of the battle, the Xiao Clan will reward you with one thousand low-grade aeth essences. But if you defeat Fang Linhan..." He gestured with his hand. "The Xiao Clan is willing to reward Young Master with one hundred mid-grade aeth essences!"

Lin Xun gasped inwardly. Having recently learned about the value of aeth essence, he knew that one hundred mid-grade aeth essences were a very juicy reward!

"Of course..." Ma Xingkong continued, wearing a smile, "The Xiao Clan has a little request. If you agree, please fight Fang Linhan under the name of the Xiao Clan."

The Xiao Clan wanted to use Lin Xun as a weapon to deal with Fang Linhan!

"Sorry, I have other affairs so I can't help out," Lin Xun directly refused. Although he was short of money, he didn't want to be used as a knife for others.

Ma Xingkong stared at him blankly. Clearly, he didn't expect Lin Xun to refuse so bluntly.

“Why don’t you think about it again? If you think the reward is not enough, we can negotiate further. Young Master, you must also know that our Xiao Clan is one of the four sects and three clans in the Fire Spirit Province. Given our incomparably solid foundation, I believe you won’t be disappointed with the reward.”

Lin Xun smiled and shook his head. “If money can buy a chance of winning, then the other forces would have already done so.”

Ma Xingkong sighed, got up, bid farewell and left.

However, to Lin Xun’s annoyance, as soon as Ma Xingkong stepped out of the inn, other cultivators came to chat with him one after another.

Just like Ma Xingkong, they represented different forces in the Fire Spirit Province and wanted to ask him to fight Fang Linhan in their name with promises and offers of extremely attractive rewards.

Lin Xun declined all their offers without thinking.

“Would you like a drink?” Suddenly, a tall and slender figure casually sat down opposite Lin Xun with a jug of wine and a cup.

His thick black hair flowed loosely down his black robe, and his slightly parted thin lips added to the crazed expression on his face. It was Fang Linhan, the successor of Eight Extremes Blade Temple.

“Thank you.” Lin Xun casually raised his cup and finished it in one gulp.

Fang Linhan smiled and poured him another cup. “Outwardly, you look no different from other people, but in my eyes, you are different from others. Whenever you have time, you can come to find me in the Flame Capital martial arena.” He rose to his feet and strode out of the inn with a jug of wine in his hand.

His mighty figure and majestic stride gave him an arrogant and conceited air.

“By the way, I will only stay here for another half a month at most.” Fang Linhan suddenly turned around and reminded Lin Xun.

Lin Xun only responded with a slight nod.

Fang Linhan smiled, turned around and walked out of the inn, disappearing into the sea of people.

“Let’s go. Let’s go take a look!”

“That guy is as arrogant as ever. I bet he is going to the Flame Capital martial arena to show off again!”

Cultivators hurriedly left the inn one after another.

From their conversations, Lin Xun learned that, ever since Fang Linhan had come to Flame Capital, he would duel against the younger generation of experts every morning in the Flame Capital martial arena. He wouldn’t leave the arena until dusk.

“Honing your own great dao with battles...you are indeed a battle lunatic...”

Lin Xun appeared pensive.



After waiting for several hours, he still saw no signs of Xia Xiaochong. He frowned. It's no use to continue waiting.

He decided to find out by himself.

However, as soon as he walked out of the inn, exclamations spread throughout the street, followed by passers-by looking up to the sky.

Suddenly, a long and huge shadow was cast from the sky, like a blanket of thick black clouds. In truth, it was a fierce beast that blotted out the light of the sky with its tremendous body!

It had nine dragon heads and its huge body resembled a winding mountain, emitting a brilliant golden glow like it was crafted from gold.

A nine-headed golden flood-dragon!

A terrifying creature with a terrifying reputation in ancient times.

Rumor had it that each of its nine heads had mastered a different innate secret art, allowing it to manipulate thunder, lightning, wind and rain, maneuver in the sky and escape into the ground, and wield supernatural powers!

However, such a mythical creature was being used as a means of transportation! A divine palace was standing upright on its back!

The palace was glowing with divine brilliance. It looked spectacular and grand even if it was hundreds of feet away and high up in the sky.

A group of young men and women were standing in front of the sacred palace, chatting and laughing happily. They were all stunning with an extraordinary demeanor and appearance like a group of disciples of a celestial sect!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 778: Longevity Palace**

The ancient nine-headed golden flood-dragon was carrying a sacred palace across the vast blue sky!

The spectacular and rare sight attracted and stunned countless cultivators of the city.

"That's the nine-headed golden flood-dragon, a creature that is terrifying as soon as it's born. Its imposing bearing is likely on par with a half-step king, but it is serving as a means of transportation..."

Many cultivators marveled, still in disbelief that they witnessed such a miracle.

"Who are those young men and women? All of them are like celestial beings. They have an extraordinary aura and don't seem like ordinary people."

Some people noticed the group of young men and women standing in front of the sacred palace, and each of their appearances was as dazzling as a star.

“Not just any sect or clan can control the nine-headed golden flood-dragon to make it willingly carry a palace. I wonder which ancient sect they come from. Why have I never heard of it before? Is there a sect or clan like that in the West Infinity World?” All the cultivators looked perplexed.

They had never seen such a scene before, nor had they ever even heard of a terrifying creature such as the nine-headed golden flood-dragon acting as a means of transportation for humans.

Too unbelievable!

“There’s no need to guess, they are not cultivators from the West Infinity World. If my guess is correct, they should be from an ancient sect of the South Wonder World that has a history of one hundred thousand years—the Longevity Land!” exclaimed an old man emotionally, sparking a commotion in the nearby crowd.

Even Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. It was very unusual for a sect to dare to use the word longevity in its name.

“The nine-headed golden flood-dragon is a terrifying creature with the potential to become an ancestor and a Saint. Only very few ancient sects in the entire South Wonder World could subdue it and Longevity Land is one of the few.”

The old man’s eyes seemed to be filled with nostalgia as he exclaimed, “Look at the palace on its back. It’s called the Longevity Palace. Standing ninety-nine feet tall, the entire body is constructed from mysterious materials and is imbued with the sacred qi of the great dao. It is a Saint Treasure, and there is only one of them in the whole world!”

Longevity Palace!

Saint Treasure!

The nearby cultivators erupted in a commotion, their eyes wide with amazement and shock.

In the Ancient Wasteland Domain, Saints were one of a kind like the sun and the moon. They could illuminate all heavens and possess heaven-shaking powers. In normal times, it was impossible to catch a glimpse of them.

However, Saint Treasures were even rarer. They were also known as the ultimate saint weapon due to the fact that they possessed intelligence and spirit as well as unimaginable powers that allowed them to effortlessly kill Life Death Stage Kings!

Now, a nine-headed golden flood-dragon was carrying a Saint Treasure and a group of stunningly beautiful young men and women were standing in front of the treasure. It would be difficult for even a Life Death Stage King to remain calm if they saw the spectacle.

It was a pity that the nine-headed golden flood-dragon quickly disappeared into the blue sky, but that awakened the passersby on the street from their shocked states.

“I remembered that a while ago there were rumors that a peerless figure from the South Wonder World would come to the West Infinity World to visit the saintess of the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms. If that’s the case, would that peerless figure be from the Longevity Land?” Someone’s exclamation set off an uproar.

It was very likely to be true. After all, they traveled in a Saint Treasure and on a nine-headed golden flood-dragon. That fact alone indicated that there had to be a very special existence among the people of the Longevity Land!

“Longevity Land, Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms...”

Lin Xun’s emotions were also churning like the sea. It was impossible to witness such a scene in the lower domain world.

But he was most amazed by the incredible foundation of the Ancient Wasteland Domain. He would never randomly see an incomparably brilliant person in the lower domain world.

However, after a moment of being moved, he scrunched his brows.

He vaguely saw a familiar figure among the young men and women on the nine-headed golden flood-dragon.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t be certain because of the distance.

“If it’s really her, then does that mean that after she left the empire, she went to train in the Longevity Land in the South Wonder World?”

“Given the talent she showed in Blood Kill Camp back then, she is undoubtedly qualified to join that kind of sacred place.”

The image of a gorgeous and elegant maiden emerged in his mind.

“Big Brother Lin Xun!” A clear and pleasant voice snapped him awake.

Lin Xun raised his eyes and saw Xia Xiaochong running towards him from a distance. She looked like an energetic butterfly with her light footsteps and petite figure.

Lin Xun had planned to search for her himself, but she showed up just as he left the inn.

“Big Brother Lin Xun, did you see that huge flood-dragon just now? It’s so bizarre! It has nine heads! There is also that palace that is as beautiful as a celestial being’s residence. My life would be worth living if I can sit inside it for a while.” Xia Xiaochong gasped in wonder, her innocent face filled with amazement.

PA!

Lin Xun knocked on her forehead, grumbling, “You made me wait until now, but not only do you not feel guilty about it, you also still have the time to pay attention to those things. Are you heartless?”

Xia Xiaochong grabbed Lin Xun’s arm affectionately, blinked her huge eyes and giggled, “Hey, aren’t I here now? Oh by the way, my master said that she will come to see you in ten days and told you to wait.”

Lin Xun immediately lowered his brows in an annoyed frown. Xia Xiaochong’s master seems quite haughty. We have never met him before yet she is telling me to wait for her for ten days.

He only previously wanted to meet Xia Xiaochong's master to find some directions to get to the East Victory World. But now that he had arrived in Flame Capital, he realized that he could find out by himself. There was no longer a need for him to meet Xia Xiaochong's master.

He only waited because he had made a promise to Xia Xiaochong. Let alone would he break a promise, it would affect his credibility.

"If your master has something important to do, then I'm fine with not meeting her. Why do I have to wait?" Lin Xun asked.

"Uh, my master said that if you really want to go to the East Victory World, just wait here patiently," Xia Xiaochong said nonchalantly.

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows, "Does your master think that I can't get to the East Victory World without her help?"

Xia Xiaochong was indeed a simple and pure girl. Not only did she not notice Lin Xun's irritated tone of voice, but she also nodded quickly and responded casually, "Ah, you guessed right, that's what my master thinks. She said that it's not that easy to cross a world."

Lin Xun frowned. Could there be something more complicated to travel from the West Infinity World to the East Victory World?

In the end, Lin Xun decided to wait patiently for ten days.

He felt that Xia Xiaochong's master wouldn't deliberately make a fool of him. There had to be a reason for that.

"Big Brother Lin Xun, do you want me to take you shopping? I haven't been in the Flame Capital in a long time. Since my master isn't around, let's have fun. Otherwise, I don't know when I will be able to come out to play again when I return to the sect." Xia Xiaochong stared at Lin Xun with hopeful eyes.

With nothing to do, Lin Xun readily agreed and Xia Xiaochong jumped up and cheered like a little kid.

Lin Xun chuckled. This girl has such a childlike innocence. She is as pure as a piece of white paper and can't hide her emotions.

Having said that, he really liked Xia Xiaochong's simple-minded personality because he felt the most carefree and relaxed when he was with her.

"Oh right, what were the results of the sect training?" asked Lin Xun.

"Of course, Senior Brother Yue Jianming from the Thousand Illusions Sect got first place like expected. Senior Sister Shui Xiu from the Pine Sword Sect was second place and Senior Sister Wen Ruyu from the Wen Clan was ranked third..." Xia Xiaochong counted on her fingers as she said to Lin Xun in a clear voice. "But the funniest thing is the ranking of the successors of the Spirit Pearl Sect. They had always been in the top three, but this time, almost all of them were at the bottom of the rankings."

"When the ranking was announced, one of the Spirit Pearl Sect elders was twitching with anger while Mo Feng and the others all hung their heads in shame. I tried so hard not to laugh that my stomach hurts now."

A beam of happiness spread over her innocent face.

Lin Xun also couldn't help laughing. Mo Feng and the others deserve it for angering me. Ranking last place is the best punishment for them.

"What about you then?" asked Lin Xun.

"I was ranked fifty-ninth place." Xia Xiaochong raised her little face proudly.

"Is this something to be proud of?"

"Isn't it something to be proud of?" Xia Xiaochong asked back.

"Does it make sense to be so proud?" Lin Xun was a little lost for words.

"Does it not?" Xia Xiaochong frowned with the most serious expression.

The girl's disagreeing face made Lin Xun wrinkle his forehead. Just over one hundred people participated in the training competition, but she was ranked fifty-ninth. Does...does it make sense for her to be so proud?

Lin Xun decided to bring the proud girl back to reality. "If I were your master, I would have expelled you from the sect on the spot. You were ranked so low yet you don't feel ashamed, but instead feel extremely proud. You are no different from the shameless pig monster."

Xia Xiaochong snarled, "Let's see you do it then!"

"What? Do you think I can't?"

Lin Xun grinned and stated, "Let me tell you that in those kinds of training competitions, I can easily take first place!"

"Stop bluffing!"

Xia Xiaochong rolled her eyes. "Do you think Senior Brother Yue Jianming doesn't exist? Do you think that Senior Sister Shui Xiu doesn't exist? Do you also think that Senior Sister Wen Ruyu doesn't exist? You said that I am as shameless as the pig monster, but it seems like you are worse!"

Lin Xun seldom cared about being looked down on by other people.

After all, there were too many narrow-minded and ignorant people in the world.

But he couldn't stand being looked down on by the pure and simple-minded girl, especially when she compared him to Yue Jianming!

As Lin Xun recalled the fanatical admiration that Xia Xiaochong showed for Yue Jianming when they were in Ziniu Mountain a few days ago and how she compared him to Yue Jianming, he became more and more gloomy.

"Let's go, I'll open your eyes and make you know why you are ignorant and why you can't judge a person by their appearance!" His eyes brightened and he grabbed Xia Xiaochong's arm to take her somewhere.

## The Prodigies War

### **Chapter 779: Tough Till The End**

The streets were packed like a river of people. Everyone was flowing smoothly past one another like drops of water.

In an area not too far away was a huge but rugged building with several five-colored banner flags lined up in front of it.

The writing on the banners caught Lin Xun's attention.

"Silver Pheasant Martial Arena! Double the prize money! Unique duel rules! Only true experts can survive the arena here!"

"Friend, the battle of the great age is coming. Are you anxious to rise to the top and become a renowned genius who receives the attention of countless people? Then quickly come here, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena will provide you with a stage to make your name spread!"

"Breaking news, Cheng Lixue, a young man from a small border town in Fire Spirit Province, has consecutively won thirty-nine battles in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and obtained a total of three thousand nine hundred low-grade aeth essences!

"Cheng Lixue's outstanding performance has already caught the eye of an elder of the Pine Sword Sect! Without accident, Cheng Lixue will soon become a successor of the Pine Sword Sect! Unquestionably, the boy who was previously a nobody is about to rise!"

"My friend, if you're tempted then why don't you take action? Whether you are seeking fame or fortune, our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena can satisfy your desires!"

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The colorful and enticing words on the banners attracted flocks of young men and women to the building called Silver Pheasant Martial Arena. It looked incredibly lively inside.

Lin Xun also dragged Xia Xiaochong there.

The martial arena was a place where cultivators could challenge others in the arena or be challenged.

For cultivators, challenges not only allowed them to hone their martial arts and skills with other cultivators and strengthen their bodies, but they could also receive aeth essences as rewards.

It might even be a stage for one to make a name for themselves!

If one performed outstandingly, one could likely catch the attention of major sects and clans and be accepted as an official disciple.

The arena undoubtedly was irresistible to some youngsters from ordinary backgrounds who were yearning to change their destinies.

After all, not just anyone in this world was qualified to practice in the major sects and clans.

However, Lin Xun only had a very simple purpose for coming here—to curb Xia Xiaochong’s pride and make her realize that she had been too ignorant and that she shouldn’t judge a person by their appearance.

But more importantly, he wanted to make some money!

After realizing that he could barely afford to feed the god-devourer insects, he had to shift his focus of attention to making money.

The martial arena was a pleasant surprise to Lin Xun.

There, not only could he hone his martial arts, but he could also earn money in the meantime. It seemed like a place specially prepared for him!

“Young Master, are you here to watch the battles or duel on the stage?” A young servant enthusiastically greeted him as soon as he approached the entrance of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

The servant boy strutted over with a pointy nose, sunken cheeks, and a gleaming silvery feather tail.

He was a descendant of the Silver Pheasant Clan.

The silver pheasant could be regarded as an ancient species. Its appearance was similar to a big silver rooster, but it had innate business talents despite its mediocre fighting abilities.

“Duel on the stage.” Lin Xun’s casual response made the servant boy’s eyes light up.

He enthusiastically led Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong into the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

It was another world inside the arena. It was a huge space arranged with several tremendous arenas, and each arena was equipped with strong defense rune arrays.

The arenas were enclosed by the audience on all sides.

When Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong came into the hall, they felt waves of thunderous sounds rushing towards them.

In the martial arts hall, fierce duels were taking place in each of the arenas. Dazzling lights beamed in all directions and secret arts flooded the area, creating gorgeous spectacles.

The audience was filled with a sea of people from a variety of different clans, sects and backgrounds. But everyone was cheering excitedly or shouting. Some were showing their support to the contestant they favored while some were upset that their favorite contestant had been defeated.

Some gloated at other people’s misfortune, and some cursed in rage.

“It’s so lively here!” Xia Xiaochong exclaimed.

“Our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena can accommodate tens of thousands of spectators at once. In terms of scale, it is definitely one of the best in Flame Capital,” stated the servant boy proudly.

As he introduced the arena to Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong, he brought them to the registration office of the martial arena.

“Young master, there are three types of duel arenas in our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.”

“The first is a duel with someone of the same cultivation stage. The winner of that will receive double rewards.”

“The second type is a duel against someone of a higher cultivation stage. Among the two contestants, the one with a lower cultivation level will receive four times the reward if they win. If the winner is the one with the higher cultivation level then the reward will not be doubled.”

“The third type is an arena with no rules. There is no restriction on age, cultivation, method, and abilities...In short, it is a life and death battle with no rules.”

“The winner of those duels will receive five times the reward, but a life and death contract has to be signed beforehand. Also, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena will not take responsibility for any deaths.”

The servant boy suddenly asked, “Then, which type of duel is the young master going to choose?”

“The first one,” Lin Xun replied without thinking.

The second type of duel would be too flashy. He didn’t come to show off, so it was better to keep a low profile.

And the third duel without rules could be too dangerous. If he were to face an old monster who didn’t like to play the usual cards then he would be doomed.

He only came to hone his martial arts and earn some aeth essence. There was no need to take such huge risks.

A tinge of disappointment came to the boy’s face. This was the most conservative type of duel, but it also meant that the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena wouldn’t benefit much from it.

However, the boy still helped Lin Xun register and then presented him with a nameplate.

The nameplate allowed him to collect rewards after the duel.

“Young Master, do you want to go on the stage and fight now?” the boy asked.

Lin Xun nodded.

The servant boy said enthusiastically, “Okay, please pay the fee of one hundred low-grade aeth essence or one mid-grade aeth essence first.”

“Oh, there’s a fee?” Lin Xun was baffled.

The boy almost rolled his eyes. He instantly knew that it was the youngster’s first time participating in a martial arena duel.

Perhaps, it is his first time in Flame Capital!

After all, the rules of arena duels are common sense to everyone and even the little kids in the city know them.



“Young master, this fee acts as a stake. If you lose the battle, the aeth essence will become your opponent’s reward, and our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena will also take ten percent of it as commission. If you don’t understand the rules, you can observe in the audience first before you decide whether to go on stage for a duel or not,” explained the boy with a very disinterested attitude, feeling even more disappointed in his heart. He had a feeling that it was impossible to earn much commission from Lin Xun.

“There’s a commission?” Lin Xun asked.

The servant boy nodded unenthusiastically. His attitude grew increasingly cold and indifferent.

How would Lin Xun not notice that? But he didn’t bother to contest and just paid the fee. He took out a mid-grade aeth essence that he had just exchanged and handed it to the boy.

Then, he took the nameplate and left with Xia Xiaochong, heading towards the duel area.

But he only took a few steps when he heard the servant boy’s disdainful complaint from behind him. “Hmph, another guy from some remote place. He doesn’t know anything yet he dared to come here. He is going to cry when he’s defeated!”

Lin Xun’s face darkened. The duel hadn’t started, but he was already being looked down upon!

“Haha, Big Brother Lin Xun, that guy is looking down on you.” Xia Xiaochong giggled heartlessly.

“Don’t worry, he will regret it!” he said expressionlessly.

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On the 19th arena in the same cultivation stage duel area.

Lin Xun was waiting quietly. It would be his turn to fight soon.

The atmosphere on this side of the duel arena seemed very quiet and cold when compared to the other areas that were packed with people and constantly erupting with cheers.

Most of the audience’s gazes were fixed on the duels in other areas.

After all, the audience had paid to watch the battles, and the duels between cultivators of the same cultivation stage were far less exciting than the other two types of duels.

Before long, it was Lin Xun’s turn to fight on stage.

The servant boy came over again. He was the one who welcomed Lin Xun, so, according to the rules, he had to take care of him till the end. But his attitude wasn’t particularly good. He looked very bored as he stood there.

He no longer expected to earn a commission from Lin Xun. He only hoped that Lin Xun would quickly lose so that he could serve other customers.

“Ah!” His eyes widened.

He recognized the opponent who was about to face Lin Xun.

He immediately rejoiced, Haha, the fiery-tempered guy from the Wild Bull Clan is here again. It doesn't look good for the kid!

"Little Miss, the situation doesn't look good. The young master's opponent is from the Wild Bull Clan. His name is Niu Ben. He is a formidable opponent due to his violent and brutal fighting style. The experts who have faced him before have either been seriously injured or are on the verge of dying. It's not uncommon to see some with missing limbs,"

The servant boy's eyes gleamed, and he whispered to Xia Xiaochong, "I might be able to help by asking Niu Ben to go easy on the young master. After all, the young master is considered handsome, if his face is ruined or if he's crippled, that would be bad."

He was taking the opportunity to ask for benefits.

But although Xia Xiaochong was a bit naive, she was not stupid. Blinking her big clear eyes, she said, "Really? That's great. Big Brother Lin Xun is too proud, and he said that I'm too ignorant. This can wake him up to reality."

The servant stared at her blankly for a moment, sympathizing with Lin Xun. It seems that this guy isn't only poor and ignorant, but also very unpopular with girls.

"Niu Ben, free yourself and have fun with this young master!" the servant boy yelled maliciously.

He didn't want to waste any more time. He only hoped that Lin Xun would quickly lose and leave.

In the arena, a mighty man standing tall like an iron tower grinned. He studied Lin Xun who was opposite him with a menacing look. "Don't worry, I won't leave the arena today if I don't trample the little pretty boy!"

He was Niu Ben from the Wild Bull Clan. Despite being only at the Heaven Ascension Stage, he possessed supernatural strengths and also a loud voice.

Lin Xun smiled half-heartedly. "Then let's play for a while."

"Hahaha, it's more fun to play with an unyielding and tough character. I hope you will act tough till the end and not ruin the good fun!" Niu Ben laughed like a rumble of thunder.

The corners of Lin Xun's lips twitched, and his forehead wrinkled. What does he mean by acting tough till the end? What does he mean by ruining the good fun?

Some cultivators burst into mocking and strange laughter.

They've misunderstood!

Worst of all, Xia Xiaochong waved her little fist and cried out in a crisp voice, "Big Brother Lin Xun, you must act tough till the end!"

That damn girl, why is she joining in with them?!

Infuriated, Lin Xun cast a hostile look at Niu Ben. He decided to teach the culprit a lesson that he would never forget.

He said unwaveringly, "Let's fight!"

"Hey, the little pretty boy can't wait to be trampled. Fine, I'm also itching to fight. I also can't wait to have a good time!" Niu Ben roared with laughter as he stepped into the arena. With an ear-splitting boom, images of his mighty body appeared as he violently charged at Lin Xun.

### The Prodigies War

#### **Chapter 780: Admit Defeat Or Not**

Boom!

Niu Ben's mighty body glowed brightly, projecting the image of a wild bull behind him. It had its head facing the starry sky as it stood atop the mountains and valleys. His roar seemed capable of smashing the universe.

He was from the Wild Bull Clan, born with supernatural strength and the ability to operate innate secret arts. Additionally, he had a domineering and violent aura around him that astonished the people.

"It's over for the kid!" The servant boy's eyes were filled with sympathy.

Niu Ben was a regular of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and had trampled expert after expert with his brutal means and terrifying strength.

Anyone selected as his opponent was seen as unlucky because not only would they be defeated but also be beaten until they were half-dead with broken limbs. The outcome of the battle would be tragic.

The servant was certain that Niu Ben's previous opponents would have been dead if not for the rule of prohibiting killing.

However, the poor youngster who wasn't popular with girls would soon become another of his victims...

The only thing he found strange was that the pure girl who came with the youngster also donned a look of pity and couldn't bear to watch any longer.

But the pity was towards Niu Ben...

"The girl looks pretty, but she wouldn't be so dim-witted, right?" asked the servant boy in puzzlement.

Boom!

Almost at once, the servant boy's ears were deafened by an earthshaking collision that shook the arena. Soon after that, he saw gold sparks fly before his eyes before he stumbled and fell.

"Damn it, why does Niu Ben always cause such a huge scene as soon as he steps onto the arena? Does he plan to destroy that boy in one blow?" the servant boy complained to himself. But he was filled with excitement and anticipation. He quickly shifted his gaze to the arena.

He wanted to see the tragic end of the youngster.

"Er, this...this..."

The scene in the arena almost made his eyeballs roll out of their sockets. His face became so red and flabbergasted like a duck being strangled by the neck.

In the arena, Niu Ben's mighty body tumbled down the edge of the arena like a collapsed iron tower.

He gasped with pain.

His chest was stamped with a handprint through his torn clothes. His skin was swollen and red with the outline of five fingers and palm like it had been stamped with a red-hot piece of iron.

Everyone's jaw dropped.

Moments ago, they had been laughing mockingly, thinking that Lin Xun was about to be trampled. Unexpectedly, Niu Ben was the one sent flying off the arena.

Moreover, he was sent flying by a casual palm strike from the youngster!

Unbelievable! Niu Ben looked so fierce and mighty with an overbearing aura that struck terror into people's hearts.

But he tumbled to the ground in embarrassment, screaming in pain. No one could believe their eyes.

"Ah, I wanted someone to curb Big Brother Lin Xun's arrogance, but he is going to be even more smug now. What to do..." Xia Xiaochong sighed, looking troubled, "I can only blame that bull. He was so aggressive and fierce before, but now he looks so weak."

The servant boy almost coughed up blood.

It turns out...that the girl revealed a look of pity because she clearly knew that Niu Ben wouldn't stand a chance!

"This is so satisfying! I finally found a rock-hard opponent! This is fantastic! This is so refreshing!"

Niu Ben sprang up on the arena with a somersault. Instead of being frustrated and furious, he looked delighted and excited, chuckling endlessly.

Rock hard...

The stupid big-mouth bull actually described me as that...

The corners of Lin Xun's lips twitched unconsciously, and deep in his eyes, cold, dangerous intent gleamed for an instant.

Boom!

Niu Ben charged forward once again like a mountain shifting. His imposing aura grew fiercer and fiercer while black lights circulated his body and waves of frightening qi burst forth.

The space shattered, and the arena was thrown into chaos. If not for the protection of the defense rune array, the hall would have taken on severe damages.

Even so, some cultivators in the distance were still terror-stricken. So strong! The Wild Bull Clan indeed possesses supernatural strength!

Bang!

However, everyone's vision blurred for a second as a deafening crash rang in their ears. Before they knew it, Niu Ben was propelled across the air once again with a palm strike.

The blow felled him, causing the entire arena to shake. He fell face down like a toad, blood trickling down his mouth and nose, and his chest had almost collapsed from the blow.

Even the sight of it sent a sensation of pain spreading through one's body.

Everyone was paralyzed with shock, realizing that the youngster was actually a hidden master!

They knew how powerful Niu Ben was and knew that he had mastered ancient secret arts inherited from the Wild Bull Clan. Any other Heaven Ascension cultivator would have knelt and admitted defeat long ago if they were to face him.

But Niu Ben seemed very incompetent in front of the youngster.

He had been hurled across the air twice in a row with one palm strike.

All of a sudden, everyone's gaze changed when they looked at Lin Xun.

"Is that strong enough?"

Lin Xun was still standing tall and straight as always, and he seemed to have not moved an inch in the arena.

Niu Ben wiped the blood stains on the corners of his lips with the back of his hand, grinning. "It's not enough, come again!"

Boom!

He launched another attack, bringing out a treasure weapon. It was a giant copper fork. It dazzled everyone's eyes as it swept across the sky and poured out a wave of divine brilliance like a waterfall.

The attack surprised Lin Xun a little. Other Heaven Ascension experts wouldn't have been able to rise again after being so badly wounded from the two blows. However, Niu Ben was still alive and energetic and ferocious as ever.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and mobilized some of his real strength this time. If he couldn't completely subdue the bull this time, he would no doubt be ridiculed by Xia Xiaochong.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Niu Ben launched relentless attacks again and again, but Lin Xun knocked him to the ground every time in the most direct way, stunning the audience.

It was hard to remain calm in the face of the repeated clash.

Niu Ben gasped for breath. His clothes were torn, his muscles and bones were wounded in many places, and he looked the most tragic, but his eyes were brighter and his fighting spirit was burning like a furnace.

He madly charged forward with a violent and tyrannical aura like an enraged ancient bull as he swung his giant copper fork across the air.

Whereas Lin Xun was flawless and unwounded. His robe fluttering around him added to his calm, elegant and ethereal air.

There was a stark contrast between the two as they stood facing each other in the arena.

“Do you admit defeat now?”

Niu Ben was beaten to the floor once again, twitching violently. Some people couldn’t bear to watch him any longer.

He looked incredibly miserable. But even so, he still grinned and chuckled, “I finally met an opponent like you! How would I admit defeat so easily? Come again!”

Lin Xun couldn’t help feeling a sense of admiration. This guy’s fighting power may not be at the top of the Heaven Ascension Stage, but his ability to take a beating is unparalleled!

However, Niu Ben was still defeated in the end. He was beaten so badly that he couldn’t force himself up no matter how he struggled. Not a single inch of his body was unwounded.

“I won’t fight anymore today. I’ll come back again when I recover,” stated Niu Ben as he gasped for breath, but his eyes were still full of fighting spirit.

If hadn’t lost the strength to fight, he undoubtedly would continue to fight.

“Do you admit defeat now?” asked Lin Xun.

Niu Ben tottered up from the ground, grinning and shaking his head. “No.”

As he limped off the arena, the nearby cultivators’ faces glowed with admiration.

No matter what, Niu Ben fought till his strength was exhausted. It was very admirable that his fighting spirit was never depleted and he never admitted defeat.

“Right.” Suddenly, Niu Ben, who had stepped off the arena, turned around and looked at Lin Xun with a blazing gaze. “Although I don’t admit defeat, I have to say that you are indeed rock hard!”

Lin Xun’s face darkened. He almost stormed over to him and tore off his mouth. Can’t he speak like a normal person?!

On the other side of the arena, the servant boy’s face was overcast and dumbstruck. The battle had ended, but the result was beyond his expectation.

That’s the fierce Niu Ben from the Wild Bull Clan!

How would he admit defeat?

“Damn it, I made a mistake...” The servant boy regretted his previous disrespectful attitude towards Lin Xun so much that he wanted to slap himself hard.

He isn’t a poor nobody from the remote countryside, but a hidden powerful master!

He is equally as strong as the successors from the Four Sects and Three Clans!

A lot of whispering broke out around the arena. The battle made them realize that the unfamiliar-looking boy was a powerful expert, and it piqued their curiosity.

"Young Master, I was too ignorant before but I hope you won't keep this in mind and forgive my mistakes." The servant boy rushed over to the arena, putting on an ingratiating smile that was brighter than a blooming chrysanthemum. He desperately tried to make amends, hoping for Lin Xun's forgiveness.

"Pah! That guy has no backbone. This isn't what he said moments ago." Xia Xiaochong spat out contemptuously.

"I'm dueling on the stage right now. I'll talk about other things later," Lin Xun snapped, shooting a glare at the servant.

The servant boy's smile froze on his face. He felt his heart bleed knowing that the young master had no intention of forgiving him.

He took a deep breath and decided to use all means to make amends. His attitude became more and more humble as he said, "Young Master, according to the rules, if you continue to stay in the arena, other cultivators can challenge you. Before that, you have a quarter of an hour of resting time..."

Before he could finish, Lin Xun interrupted him, "There is no need to rest. Arrange for another opponent, I am in a hurry."

"In a hurry?" The servant boy was stunned for a moment.

It was the first time he had heard such a unique reason to fight.

However, he didn't dare to question Lin Xun again. He nodded his head frantically like a pecking chicken and quickly went off to arrange another opponent for Lin Xun.

Of course, Lin Xun was not in a hurry; he only wanted to earn as much aeth essence as possible within the time limit.

"I will receive double the reward for defeating Niu Ben, which is two hundred low-grade aeth essence. Then, after paying the ten percent fee to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena, I will have one hundred and eighty low-grade aeth essence left."

"If I make good use of time and if all the following opponents I face are around the same strength as Niu Ben, I should be able to fight ten battles in an hour. If I do well, I should get around one thousand eight hundred low-grade aeth essence in the end..."

Lin Xun formulated a plan. His eyes were alighted with joy, satisfied with his plan.

This Silver Pheasant Martial Arena was indeed a good place where he could not only hone his martial arts but also earn a generous reward!

The only thing that irritated him was the ridiculous fees charged by the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.