

Prodigies 951

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Chapter 951: Mystery of the Dark Blood Black Phoenix

However, Shun Baixuan didn't know Xia Zhi. When he saw the girl step forward, he frowned and dismissively waved his hand. "A girl like you shouldn't interfere in an affair between men. Get out of the way."

He turned toward Lin Xun in displeasure. "How can you still call yourself a demon god? Don't you feel any shame? Letting a girl defend you?"

Lin Xun's expression turned a little strange.

Luo Jia could no longer continue watching and tried to warn Shen Baixuan.

However, Xia Zhi had already moved. Her slender figure strolled forward and suddenly disappeared like a streak of light in the darkness.

"You feel it's humiliating to fight me?"

Her clear voice contained a chilliness that cut into the bone. Xia Zhi had already arrived in front of Shun Baixuan with inconceivable quickness.

"How can a real man like me bully a little girl like you? Hurry up..."

Shun Baixuan appeared annoyed. However, his pupils abruptly shrank mid-way as he released a strange yelp and hastily retreated.

Clang!

A plain purple spear was already thrusting at him and would have pierced his chest if he had not avoided it in time.

"You..." Shun Baixuan was shocked and enraged. He began to realize that something was wrong.

"Do real men only know how to retreat?" Xia Zhi sauntered forward again. From start to end, she was as cold and quiet as the darkness, giving off a haunting aura.

Swish!

The purple spear swept forth. However, the simple strike made Shun Baixuan's expression change again as a horrifying pressure assaulted him. He could not help but squeal again as he was forced to dodge.

The fact that he had been forced to retreat twice in a row made him feel humiliated. His face turned white with frustration and anger as he shouted, "Don't force me or I promise it will get ugly!"

"So what if I force you?"

Xia Zhi stepped forward as she cleanly struck with the purple spear. She appeared calm but gave off an oppressive presence.

"Think I don't dare?!"

Shun Baixuan was furious. He took out a golden battle spear and faced the attack head-on.

Bang!

The two weapons collided with a burst of light and a deafening roar.

Shun Baixuan staggered. He had nearly been sent flying.

His pupils immediately widened, almost unable to believe what was happening. How could this girl possess such a terrifying power?

Xia Zhi struck again without giving him a chance to catch his breath.

The purple spear was fast as lightning while her black robe fluttered around her. She resembled a god that had walked out from the darkness, giving off a cold, stifling pressure.

Unsurprisingly, Shun Baixuan was sent flying with a yelp. He was surprised and felt so vexed that he nearly vomited blood.

How is this possible?

Shun Baixuan had always been very confident and arrogant. He believed that only the small handful of heaven-defying monsters in the Hidden Holy Lands were just barely worthy of competing with him while other experts were not even worth mentioning.

The truth was that he did have the qualifications to back such arrogance. Not only was his talent superb, his bloodline and foundation were also unparalleled. He was regarded as a once-in-a-ten-thousand-year genius of the Shun Clan.

Despite this, a girl was currently one-sidedly thrashing him. He was knocked away again and again, which caused him to start doubting his entire life.

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In the distance, Kou Xing and the others were filled with pity. They felt genuine pity for the brain-damaged fool. He couldn't even beat a girl yet he still dared to challenge Young Master Lin Xun. Wasn't this no different from humiliating himself?

If Shun Baixuan knew their thoughts, he would probably cry for real.

To think the great supreme talent of the Shun Clan was being viewed as a buffoon who was seeking humiliation. It was infuriating, to say the least.

Miss Le was stunned. She had recognized that Shun Baixuan was an extremely formidable expert. Otherwise, she wouldn't have tried to talk him out of it earlier by saying it wouldn't be a real victory since Lin Xun wasn't in a good condition.

However, she never imagined such a turn of events. The girl who suddenly made her appearance was forcing Shun Baixuan to miserably retreat time and time again like a poor rat!

Of course, she didn't feel that Shun Baixuan wasn't living up to his name. All of this only showed that the girl was much stronger than him!

"Could she be the girl who helped Lin Xun slaughter a group of supreme heaven prides at the Dao Lantern Festival?" A certain possibility suddenly dawned upon Miss Le, causing her to inwardly shudder.

It was a famous incident that stirred up the entire West Infinity World. Many tried to speculate the girl's identity and origin, but it remained a complete mystery.

Personally witnessing Shun Baixuan being suppressed made Miss Le realize that the rumors weren't exaggerated at all! The girl was powerful beyond belief!

Luo Jia sighed softly. She had originally wanted to warn Shun Baixuan, but suddenly felt that it wasn't bad for him to be taught a lesson.

Her only worry was that Shun Baixuan would be killed. If so, the consequences would be dire.

It was at this moment that she received a voice-transmission from Lin Xun, "Miss Luo Jia need not worry, I have told her not to take his life."

Luo Jia raised her head and saw Lin Xun looking at her with a smile as if he had read her mind. It made her feel indescribably sullen.

Would she receive such treatment if not for Shun Baixuan? It forced her to be on the back foot and have no choice but to feel grateful for his consideration.

In the distance, Shun Baixuan shrieked like a wailing ghost. His voice contained anger, astonishment, frustration, embarrassment, and several other emotions as if he was a virgin maiden who had been taken advantage of.

He had arrived aggressively only to end up fighting a girl before he could face the main dish, Demon God Lin. If word of this got out, his reputation would be ruined!

Xia Zhi didn't care about any of this. Given her character, she would have probably tried to kill the person who interrupted their conversation if not for Lin Xun's instruction.

Pah!

The purple spear ruthlessly smashed Shun Baixuan's back, sending him hurtling through the air again as he screamed with a distorted expression.

However, he was still a formidable expert. A golden glow steamed from him while he revealed various astonishing dao arts and treasures. Despite being suppressed, he didn't sustain any serious injuries.

Even so, Shun Baixuan still felt incomparable shame. He, the infamous Demon King of Chaos, was currently being trampled on by a girl. If this were to be known, he would become a laughing stock.

"Alas, this is the price to pay for trying to become famous quickly. A mistake results in a thousand regrets!" Kou Xing sighed deeply.

"I tried to advise earlier but he refused to listen. Such a stubborn fool deserves to be taught a lesson."

"I've never seen someone so idiotic!"

Green Face and Scarlet Silk also sighed.

Lin Xun could not help but find their exchange rather comical. Shun Baixuan was indeed unlucky to have offended Xia Zhi out of all people. Wasn't this no different from asking to suffer?

"By the way, what did the two of you come to the Boundary River?" Curious, Lin Xun looked at Luo Jia.

"For an opportunity." Luo Jia didn't conceal anything and told him about the Dark Blood Black Phoenix.

Lin Xun secretly breathed a sigh of relief. He had been a little worried that Luo Jia was after him.

"Dark Blood Black Phoenix? So the rumor is true. It seems that you have awakened your bloodline talent." Miss Le was initially stunned before she fell into thought.

"That's right." Luo Jia nodded. She sent a questioning gaze at Lin Xun, unsure of Miss Le's origins.

"This is Miss Le, and this is Miss Luo Jia..." Lin Xun briefly introduced them to each other.

Upon learning the somewhat sickly-looking yet beautiful lady was from one of the Hidden Holy Lands, Luo Jia's pupils shrank slightly before quickly returning to normal.

On the other side, Miss Le displayed a look of understanding as if her guess of Luo Jia's identity had been confirmed.

"I do know something about the Dark Blood Black Phoenix. It is rumored to have been defeated by a Buddhist Saint expert and was left with only a fragment of its spirit which was sealed in the ruins of an ancient battlefield."

Miss Le slowly said, "I thought it was merely a legend but now realize that it is probably true."

Luo Jia was rather surprised, seemingly not expecting Miss Le to know such a secret.

Lin Xun understood her surprise because he had already experienced Miss Le's incredible wisdom and knowledge.

Miss Le said, "Miss Luo Jia, there is something I'm not sure if I should say about this Dark Blood Black Phoenix matter."

"It would not hurt to hear your thoughts." Luo Jia was also curious about how much Miss Le knew about the Dark Blood Black Phoenix.

"Since you are with Shun Baixuan, will you be borrowing the ancestral weapon of the Shun Clan, the Coiling Dragon Altar Cauldron, to suppress the Dark Blooded Black Phoenix's remnant spirit?"

"Miss Le's intelligence and insight are unmatched. It is impressive that you know so much." Luo Jia's eyes were filled with amazement.

"It's easy to guess. The Coiling Dragon Altar Cauldron is a Saint treasure used by the ancestors of the Shun Clan and that has been sprinkled with the essence blood of the Taiyi Green Dragon. This makes it the perfect item to restrain the Dark Blood Black Phoenix's power."

Miss Le displayed a faint smile. Soon after, her expression became serious again as she continued, "However, in my opinion, this method will instead be counterproductive and make things worse."

Luo Jia was stunned and frowned. "Why do you say this?"

"You understand the nature of the Phoenix Clan better than I do. They are noble and supreme existences that show no respect toward the heavens and earth. Although you might be able to restrain the Dark Blood Black Phoenix remnant spirit by using the Coiling Dragon Altar Cauldron, it would rather die than let you get what you want."

Luo Jia looked as if she had been struck by a bolt of lightning. She fell deep into thought as her expression changed indeterminately.

Lin Xun could not help but inwardly sigh in amazement. Miss Le girl was truly remarkable. It was impossible not to admire her.

"Thanks for your guidance." After a long time, Luo Jia exhaled and earnestly thanked Miss Le with a grateful expression.

"If Miss Luo Jia doesn't mind, I do have a method that might help you solve this conundrum and obtain this great blessing."

These words made Luo Jia's heart shake as she replied, "I will be more than happy to hear it."

Lin Xun quickly turned to walk away. After all, it wasn't appropriate for him to stay and listen to such a secret.

To his surprise, however, Miss Le stopped him and said, "Please stay, your help will be required to obtain the blessing."

"Me?" Lin Xun was taken aback.

Luo Jia was also surprised. Why was Lin Xun involved again?

"Yes." Miss Le nodded in a serious manner. She was obviously not joking.

It was at this moment that a ghost-like wail of misery rang out.

With a loud thud, Shun Baixuan crashed onto the deck of the ship. His limbs were sprawled across the ground while his butt faced the sky. It was a pitiful and embarrassing posture.

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Chapter 952: Earth Treasury Temple

The conversation was interrupted, and everyone's gazes collectively swiveled toward Shun Baixuan.

The extremely arrogant supreme genius from a Saint Clan was in a sorry state. His hair was tousled, his clothes in tatters, and his skin was covered in wounds.

He lay sprawled on the ground, twitching erratically as if suffering from epilepsy. It was a drastic contrast to the insufferable arrogance he had displayed previously.

Even those familiar with Shun Baixuan would probably be afraid to identify with him at this moment.

It was a genuinely pitiful and wretched appearance.

"Alas, the fool ultimately stumbled."

Kou Xing and the others sighed.

Shun Baixuan's twitching immediately intensified due to this statement.

No one could see his expression since he was facing the floor. However, everyone knew that he was feeling extremely embarrassed and didn't dare to show his face.

Miss Le had a strange expression.

The Shun Clan was definitely an ancient clan with a glorious history and had produced more than one Saint expert since the ancient era.

In the four great worlds of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Shun Clan was considered a hegemon-like existence possessing overwhelming power comparable to even the top ancient orthodoxies.

As a descendant of the Shun Clan who was viewed as a genius and given the title Demon King of Chaos, being beaten to such a state would make anyone sigh.

Luo Jia also had an equally strange expression.

She wondered what people would feel if they knew that the infamous Demon King of Chaos was brutalized by a girl today.

"You people are courting death!"

Shun Baixuan roared furiously. It was already horrible being viciously beaten by a girl. Hence, Kou Xing's and the others' scolding remarks were akin to adding salt to the wound, which nearly made him go crazy.

However, Xia Zhi appeared at this moment. Her graceful figure gently landed on the deck as an aura of silent darkness spread.

Shun Baixuan immediately turned rigid and played dead on the deck. What else could he do? He was already starting to crumble internally.

Lin Xun and the others were stunned. Soon after, they soundlessly laughed.

Shun Baixuan had clearly been beaten until he became timid. The sight of Xia Zhi was akin to a mouse seeing a cat, instinctively causing him to cower in fear.

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"The Dark Blood Black Phoenix's remnant spirit cannot be subdued, but it might be possible to communicate with it. However, there is a problem that needs to be resolved before that."

"What problem?"

"Breaking the seal!"

In the room on the ship, Lin Xun, Miss Le, Luo Jia, and the others discussed the Dark Blood Black Phoenix.

"Seal?" Luo Jia said, "I've brought along my sect's ultimate treasure, the Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword. It should be sufficient to deal with the seal."

"No." Miss Le shook her head. "It is a seal left by an ancient Buddhist Saint and can't be broken with brute force."

"Not even with the Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword?" Luo Jia frowned.

"Nope." Miss Le went straight to the crux. "Without the method to break it, even a Saint treasure will be powerless."

Lin Xun and Luo Jia were astonished. Neither of them expected the seal to be so incredible.

Luo Jia asked, "So how do we break the seal, Miss Le?"

"It will depend on Young Master Lin." Miss Le's clear eyes glittered with intelligence as she smiled at Lin Xun.

It wasn't just Luo Jia, even Lin Xun himself was stunned.

Before they could ask, Miss Le explained, "I heard that during the Dao Lantern Festival, even the Blue Luan Clan's Four Divisions King Array failed to trap you. Hence, I believe you are extremely adept in the art of runes."

Lin Xun nodded. It wasn't something he needed to hide.

"That was a King-level forbidden array. Although Qing Lian'er could not display its full power, it is not something you can neutralize so effortlessly. As such, I've concluded that you have already attained the level of a rune founder, right?" Miss Le displayed a faint smile.

Lin Xun nodded again as he inwardly sighed in admiration. Her insight was simply god-like. It was incredible how she could discover so many things from a few small clues.

Luo Jia was shaken because it suddenly occurred to her that Demon God Lin was also a rune founder!

"That will make things manageable. The seal left by the ancient Buddhist Saint is a type of alpha divine restriction. Only rune founders and Saint experts will be able to decipher its secrets."

Miss Le continued in an unhurried manner, "When the time comes, we'll need Young Master Lin to break the seal to allow Miss Luo Jia to meet the Dark Blood Black Phoenix remnant spirit."

By this point, Luo Jia finally understood everything and could not help but feel thankful that she had encountered Miss Le. If not, their trip would have likely ended in failure and frustration.

Lin Xun was a little baffled. He wasn't friends with Luo Jia, so there should at least be a reason for him to help, right?

Miss Le smiled and said, "Young Master Lin should not refuse. Miss Luo Jia's goal might be to obtain the Black Phoenix Void Obliteration Art of the Celestial Phoenix Nine Manuals, but it is not the only blessing that can be found at the seal area."

She didn't conceal anything nor did she use voice-transmission, appearing very frank about the matter. "If my understanding of the secret is correct, the sealed area also holds a legacy related to the Buddhist Saint."

Luo Jia's eyes widened in understanding and said, "If that is true, I will happily relinquish this blessing as thanks for the help."

Miss Le smiled and said, "Then I'll have to thank you in advance. Although the blessing is useless to me, if we manage to obtain it, it will be of immeasurable benefit to Young Master Lin's future cultivation."

Lin Xun finally realized why Miss Le was so interested in the matter. It was to obtain a blessing for him!

He could not help but feel a little puzzled but he quickly figured it out after some thought. He had helped her resolve a crisis from the Sacred Fire Sect, so she was probably doing this as repayment.

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Under Luo Jia's lead, the group changed their destination and the ship shifted its course.

Although they encountered several dangerous situations along the way, the group managed to safely avoid them.

The most dangerous encounter was when they came across a stalk of Hell Grass floating in the Boundary River.

It was an omen of terror and death that had all sorts of legends about it since the ancient era.

According to the rumors, the grass was related to the source of death and reincarnation. When it appeared, even Saint experts had no choice but to retreat lest they be touched by its aura!

If not for Miss Le's timely warning, Lin Xun and the others would have probably allowed the dim yellow halo released by the Hell Grass to touch them.

They ultimately managed to narrowly avoid disaster, but their ship was instantly turned to dust and erased from existence!

The bizarre scene made Lin Xun's hair stand on end. The ship had been soundlessly destroyed by a single wisp, making it almost impossible to guard against without prior knowledge.

The incident made Lin Xun more clearly realize the terror of the Boundary River. There were far too many bizarre and unexplainable things within it.

Two days later.

After eating a meal that Lin Xun had meticulously prepared, Xia Zhi fell into a deep sleep and began her fourth cycle of obliteration.

Lin Xun carefully put her into the Nameless Pagoda.

For the past few days, the usually unbearably arrogant Shun Baixuan had been very quiet. He shut himself into his room and refused to step out.

Xia Zhi's beating had left a dark shadow on him which he was still unable to walk out from.

A few more days passed.

About ten days had passed since Lin Xun and his team entered the Boundary River.

The Sacred Fire Sect forces didn't appear again, allowing Miss Le to relax.

"We're here."

Luo Jia's voice sounded outside the ship. When Lin Xun and others walked onto the deck, they saw a huge whirlpool in the distance. The pitch-black whirlpool slowly rotated, emitting power that distorted and collapsed the nearby space.

The atmosphere was eerily silent. Even the usually raging river was still. The only movement in the area was the slowly rotating whirlpool.

Lin Xun and the others felt a little frightened. It felt as if there was a terrifying force hidden deep within the giant whirlpool.

"Back then, the Dark Blood Black Phoenix Saint expert died here and its remnant spirit was sealed in this area."

There was a trace of emotion in Luo Jia's eyes. Misty light sprinkled from the pitch-black phoenix feather in her hand as it seemed to resonate with the humongous whirlpool in the distance.

Evidently, Luo Jia had found this place through the Dark Blood Black Phoenix's true feather. Otherwise, locating such a place in the vast and dangerous Boundary River would be no different from searching for a needle in a haystack.

"Eh? Someone is approaching!"

Lin Xun's pupils shrank as Suanni Qi billowed from him and covered the entire ship. In a flash, they seemed to completely disappear into thin air.

At the same time, a peculiar group suddenly appeared from the other side of the whirlpool.

The group consisted of about a dozen young-looking monks. However, they wore black kasayas with black rosary beads hanging from their necks. Their hands were placed together in front of them as if praying while displaying impassive expressions, making them appear solemn, indifferent, and lonely.

They rode on a black lotus flower which had twenty-four petals. It was shaped like a ship, and black mist overflowed from it and hovered above the river.

The sudden appearance of a black lotus-like ship carrying a group of black-clad monks would be a strange and mysterious sight to anyone.

"Disciples of the Lifeless World's Earth Treasury Temple!"

Miss Le's pupils shrank. "Could the rumor be true? Was the ancient Buddhist Saint who killed the Dark Blood Black Phoenix from the Earth Treasury Temple?"

She seemed surprised and had lost her composure.

Lifeless World?

They were unfamiliar names to Lin Xun and Luo Jia. However, Miss Le's appearance made them keenly aware that the situation had changed!

Was the group of black-clad monks also here for the hidden blessing?

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Chapter 953: Calamity Walker

The black lotus flower emitted a dream-like mist as it hovered above the silent Boundary River. A solemn group of black-clad monks stood atop it, giving off a unique sensation of indifference.

It was a very bizarre scene that would make anyone's heart shiver.

"Doh!"

Upon arriving at the huge whirlpool, a black-clad monk stepped forward and made a cryptic sound.

Boom!

A black bowl soared into the air and released thousands of dark light rays that transformed into Buddha phantasms.

A noise that sounded like Sanskrit chanting faintly echoed.

The slowly rotating whirlpool immediately stopped as if it had been frozen.

"The Arya Bowl of the Earth Treasury Temple! As expected, it's them..." Miss Le was dazed as her expression fluctuated indeterminately. It was clear that she was quite worked up.

A few moments later, the mysterious group of black-clad monks disappeared into the whirlpool.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Who are they?"

By this time, he had withdrawn the Suanni Qi, revealing the ship and everyone on board.

"They are no ordinary people. Whenever they appear, killing and bloodshed will soon follow."

Miss Le took a deep breath and revealed an extraordinary secret.

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The Lifeless World was an extremely famous Buddhist cultivation land in the ancient era that was home to a very unusual Buddhist cultivation faction, the Earth Treasury Temple.

The Earth Treasury Temple was different from all the other Buddhist factions in the world and was also extremely mysterious and ancient.

Monks from the Earth Treasury Temple dressed in black Kasayas, wore black rosary beads, used black scriptures, sat on black prayer mats, and studied the Earth Treasury Arts!

In the ancient era, a Bodhisattva-level great expert of the Earth Treasury Temple once declared a supreme aspiration: 'If I don't go to hell, who will go to hell?' It was a statement that stunned the world and shocked all the Saint experts.

Back then, the monks of the Earth Treasury Temple were also known as 'Calamity Walkers.'

This was because they would appear whenever a catastrophe or turmoil was about to strike!

As a result, it became common knowledge that the appearance of Earth Treasury Temple disciples would soon be followed by disaster.

At this point, Miss Le could not help but sigh. "In short, the Earth Treasury Temple is very mysterious. Its disciples have not been sighted ever since the Ancient Wasteland Domain was broken into the four worlds. Many people suspect that they have already gone extinct.

"I never imagined that after so many years, the Earth Treasury Temple disciples would appear again just as the great age approaches..."

Alarmed, Luo Jia asked, "Doesn't this mean that this unprecedented great age will be accompanied by unprecedented calamity and turmoil?"

"Yes."

Miss Le nodded. This was something that could already be anticipated. What surprised her was that the mysterious Earth Treasury Temple still existed!

It was big news. If the ancient orthodoxies knew, they would not be able to sit still!

The reason was simple. Earth Treasury Temple disciples viewed 'averting calamity' as their mission. Anyone and anything they regarded as evil or foreign would be 'purified' by them!

Identity or faction didn't matter to them. Anyone who was targeted could only be prepared to be 'purified.'

The most frightening part was that the Earth Treasury Temple was unafraid of any faction due to their extremely frightening foundation. Moreover, they would relentlessly attempt to 'purify' all 'evil' even in the face of death.

No one knew how many disciples of the many great factions were targeted by the Earth Treasury Temple disciples and purified in the ancient era.

In fact, even several terrifying Saint stage existences had been purified by the Earth Treasury Bodhisattvas. This showed just how abnormal and crazy of a faction they were.

Miss Le murmured, "The lifeless have no fear, those without self are unafraid. The Earth Treasury's mission is to overcome evil. If we do not enter hell, who will enter hell?"

Lin Xun could tell that Miss Le was exceedingly afraid of the Earth Treasury Temple.

"Why do I feel that the Earth Treasury Temple is the evil one? From what you've said, they are clearly a group of fanatics who use the excuse of 'averting calamity' to purify others," Lin Xun joked.

Miss Le solemnly said, "You must not make such jokes. If they target you, you'll be relentlessly purified even if you're the mighty Demon God Lin."

Lin Xun was unfazed. "If they're really that unreasonable, I will send them to hell before they can purify me."

Miss Le couldn't help but smile. She admired Lin Xun's courage.

"In other words, the Dark Blood Black Phoenix sealed here was killed by a Buddhist Saint from the Earth Treasury Temple?" Luo Jia's heart tightened.

"That seems to be the case."

Miss Le's expression changed slightly as she continued, "We have to act quickly. The Earth Treasury Temple disciples are likely after the same target!"

Omm!

Luo Jia moved the moment she heard this.

She summoned a sword that shone dazzlingly like a glorious sun. The three-foot-long sword gave off a boundless pressure that seemed to be capable of rising through the nine heavens and diving into the depths of the underworld.

An indescribably unyielding and saintly aura unfurled, causing the surrounding air to wail as if bowing to a king.

The Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword!

It was a sword belonging to Luo Jia's master, Miluo Sword Saint Ling Juekong, and possessed power that could shake heaven and the earth!

Swish!

The aura of a Saint spread from the sword, instantly restricting the whirlpool's movement.

"Go!"

Luo Jia took the lead and dashed forth.

Lin Xun, Miss Le, and Shun Baixuan, who had remained silent all this time, closely followed.

Kou Xing and the others stayed behind. They concealed themselves and waited. Their strength was inadequate, and it would only put them at risk if they entered as well.

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Crash~

After entering the whirlpool, it felt as if they were falling through the clouds. Blurry space filled their vision as the noise of shaking space filled their ears.

After some time, a bright light appeared before Lin Xun's eyes. He realized that he was about to arrive at the ruins where the Dark Blood Black Phoenix remnant spirit was sealed.

However, an unexpected event occurred just as he was about to move.

A demon-subduing pestle appeared out of nowhere. It gave off an intimidating, jet-black shine as it whizzed through the air with tremendous force.

The wielder was a black-clad monk. A unique indifference shone from his steely face as if he was one of the legendary fearless Luohans.

"You're seeking death!"

Before Lin Xun could respond, someone else unexpectedly beat him to the punch, brandishing a golden battle spear with unmatched swiftness and ferocity.

It was none other than Shun Baixuan!

With a loud clang, the surprise attack from the black-clad monk was ruthlessly knocked back. The demon-subduing pestle violently buzzed, nearly flying out of his hand.

Shun Baixuan naturally pressed the advantage. A dazzling golden glow exploded from him as terrifying light surged with a swing of his battle spear. The oppressive force seemed capable of sweeping away even the universe itself.

Boom!

The black-clad monk grunted and coughed blood as his body was viciously smashed into the ground.

It was at this moment that Lin Xun and the others were finally able to get a clear view of the bottom of the whirlpool. It was a broken and barren world filled with ruins resembling an abandoned secret realm.

The air was murky and filled with a bloody aura that had not been erased after thousands of years.

"How can you be so shameless?! What kind of baldy learns how to sneak attack?!" In the air, a golden radiance overflowed from Shun Baixuan, making him resemble a god of war.

He had displayed absurd strength that proved he was worthy of being called the Demon King of Chaos. He raised his golden battle spear and manifested thousands of spear shadows that relentlessly assaulted the black-clad monk, causing him to repeatedly cough blood as he knocked away time and time again.

Lin Xun and the others were stunned as their expressions changed subtly.

After being brutalized by the god-like Xia Zhi, Shun Baixuan had become depressed, always appearing silent and listless throughout their journey.

Who could have thought that he would suddenly display such overwhelming power as if he was venting his long-suppressed emotions such as sullenness, humiliation, and anger on the opponent?

"Die!"

Shun Baixuan roared with an almost maniacal expression. The golden spear pierced the monk's chest, lifting him into the air amidst a spray of blood.

The spraying blood failed to extinguish the burning rage within Shun Baixuan. After all, he had suppressed himself for too long.

Since the source of his psychological trauma, Xia Zhi, wasn't present, he finally dared to fearlessly release everything he had bottled up inside.

The unfortunate black-clad monk from the Earth Treasury Temple ended up becoming the tragic victim by meeting him.

Lin Xun and the others did not blame Shun Baixuan for engaging in such indiscriminate killing. The black-clad monk had suddenly rushed out and attacked them without saying a single word. He was clearly very hostile toward them.

Whoosh!

Two more black-clad monks arrived.

They displayed stoic expressions as if they were void of emotion. Even the sight of their dead companion did not affect them in the slightest.

Clang! Clang!

Neither monk said anything as they stormed toward Lin Xun's group. One wielded a blood-colored staff while the other brandished a black pole.

They were austere, grim, and acted without hesitation!

They were completely different from merciful and compassionate Buddhist cultivators and were instead intimidating, unflinching, and swift to commit violence.

Shun Baixuan clearly hadn't had his fill. With a gleeful shout, he rushed forward with his spear.

For a time, chaos descended and explosions ensued.

However, the battle soon came to an end. Shun Baixuan displayed the dominating strength that allowed him to stand far above his peers. His spear brutally crushed the internal organs of the two monks, causing them to die on the spot.

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel that Shun Baixuan was indeed an outlier who wasn't the least bit weaker than Yu Lingkong. If not for Xia Zhi, it would have probably taken some effort to take such an opponent down.

"Bah, what a bunch of losers! None of them can put up a good fight!" Shun Baixuan appeared to be very dissatisfied.

"Save your strength. There will be more fighting later. Let's go." Luo Jia was still somewhat antsy. She was worried that the Earth Treasury Temple disciples would beat her to the prize.

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Chapter 954: Buddhist Temple

Luo Jia took out the Dark Blood Black Phoenix true feather and lightly waved it.

Omm!

A cryptic dao sound responded from an extremely distant place, accompanied by a majestic and heavy sound of a bell.

The group immediately saw a divine black flame burning in the distant sky. It dyed the sky in a layer of deep black as if transforming it into a corner of the eternal night.

Clang!

The bell was a mix between the chime of a morning bell and a warning bell. The sound washed over everyone's minds and bodies, causing Lin Xun and the others to feel as if they had been shocked numb by a deafening noise.

"Incredible!" Lin Xun was inwardly shaken.

Without further ado, the group flew toward the sound and soon saw an ancient Buddhist temple amidst the ruins.

The temple walls were run-down and damaged. Mottled marks left by the passage of countless years could be seen everywhere while a burning black flame floated above the temple.

Clang~

Upon their arrival, the sound of the bell grew increasingly grand and began to resemble a Buddhist chant. Lin Xun's and the others' blood and qi seemed to resonate with the sound, feeling as if they were about to undergo purification.

The gates of the temple were tightly shut. Holy Buddhist light spread from the temple, creating an air of solemnity that made it feel like they were on a sacred land.

"Isn't this the location of the seal? Why is there an ancient Buddhist temple here?" Shun Baixuan was baffled.

"It was probably built by the Saint expert of the Earth Treasury Temple. The Dark Blood Black Phoenix's remnant spirit might be sealed inside." Miss Le was also somewhat uncertain.

Although she knew many secrets, she had not personally witnessed most of them. It was also the first time she had visited these mysterious ruins.

"I can sense it. The Dark Blood Black Phoenix's remnant spirit is inside!" Luo Jia appeared very excited while an extraordinary brilliance shone from her eyes.

"This temple is the seal." Meanwhile, Lin Xun's spirit sense spread and he also perceived something unusual.

The temple was so broken down that it looked like it would collapse at any moment. However, it was covered by an invisible restriction power.

The restriction power's aura was exceedingly alarming and made Lin Xun's heart rate jump as if sensing extreme danger.

Miss Le summoned a string of purple bells and gently shook it, producing strands of purple sound waves. When the sound waves touched the temple doors, blazing Buddhist light suddenly erupted.

The Buddhist light was holy, peaceful, vast, and immeasurable, but was deep black in color. It made people feel uneasy and afraid.

"It's an alpha divine restriction!"

A grave look spread from Miss Le's brows. "To enter, you need to unravel the essence of the restriction. Using brute force will only trigger a horrifying force and result in unimaginable repercussions."

All eyes looked toward Lin Xun because he was a rune founder and the only one among them with high enough proficiency in runes.

"I'll try."

Lin Xun pondered for a moment. He circulated the power of his divine spirit and began to probe and study the mysterious ancient Buddhist temple.

He immediately noticed a difference.

The temple changed under his spirit sense. Radiant Buddhist light covered every inch of the place and gave off an aura akin to the abyss or prison. Although it appeared holy and magnificent, it also hid a terrifying and dreadful danger.

Wisps of restriction power undulations intertwined to create masses of black Buddhist light.

What surprised Lin Xun, however, was that a Buddha phantasm seemed to be seated within each mass of light. Each phantasm displayed various expressions such as smiling, lowering their eyes, displaying a dignified appearance, angrily gazing at the world...

Lin Xun's heart trembled uncontrollably, feeling an oppressive supreme aura that made even his divine spirit feel as if it was about to be frozen.

"Focus!"

Lin Xun immediately circulated the Little Divine Meditation Art and visualized the sun, moon, and stars to dispel oppressive discomfort on his spirit.

When he spread his senses again, the temple looked different again. Every inch of restriction power was imprinted with peculiar, densely-packed, black runes. The mysterious restriction power appeared to be constructed from these runes.

Evidently, he had to decipher the essence of these runes in order to enter the temple!

"Please guard me while I concentrate."

Lin Xun took a deep breath. This was the most terrifying restriction he had encountered so far. It was extremely difficult to comprehend, and he could not afford to be the slightest bit distracted when he studied it.

"Don't worry, with me around, no one will be able to disturb you." Luo Jia displayed strong determination. Her clear eyes flashed fiercely like lightning, flowing with unprecedented majesty.

She needed to rely on Lin Xun to enter and could not afford any accidents to happen.

"Hmph!" Shun Baixuan seemed upset and icily snorted. However, when saw Luo Jia's callous gaze, he ultimately sighed and said, "Fine, I will reluctantly help him this once."

"Be careful of the Earth Treasury Temple disciples," Miss Le cautioned. "They may have already entered the temple, but it is unlikely for all of them to be inside."

"I'm itching for them to show themselves!" Shun Baixuan grew restless as his battle intent surged. After all, he had yet to release all of his pent-up anger.

While they were talking, Lin Xun sat down and entered a state of meditation to focus.

Although he was no stranger to runes, this was the first time he would attempt to unravel a restriction left by a Saint expert. The task made him feel somewhat pressured.

However, his mind was soon emptied of other thoughts as he completely immersed himself in the restriction power undulations covering the temple.

To other cultivators, restrictions were perhaps a mysterious and frightening power. They drew power from the world to change something ordinary into something magical and were filled with unfathomable wonder.

In the eyes of a rune founder like Lin Xun, however, a restriction was merely a type of array constructed from runes.

The more difficult it was to conquer a restriction, the more valuable the learning opportunity for a rune founder.

The act of fully unraveling a restriction was equivalent to obtaining an answer. He would gain all of the restriction's secrets and turn them into nutrients to improve his rune mastery.

.....

Two hours later.

Throughout this period, Lin Xun remained seated on the ground with a straight back. His expression was unchanged and gave off a sensation that he was disconnected from the outside world.

He was like a clay statue of Buddha sitting in front of the ancient Buddhist temple.

Miss Le toyed with the string of purple bells, appearing very calm and relaxed without the slightest hint of impatience.

Meanwhile, Luo Jia remained alert as she vigilantly scanned the surroundings with cold eyes.

The dusky land around the temple seemed silent and peaceful. However, it also gave off a stifling sensation of unexplainable danger.

Shun Baixuan was growing impatient. He was looking forward to the appearance of the Earth Treasury Temple disciples, but there was no sign of them even until now.

"Aren't those baldies called the Calamity Walkers? Why haven't they come to purify me?" Shun Baixuan was clearly displeased.

Miss Le cautioned, "Young Master Shun, please watch your words. The Earth Treasury Temple has immeasurable power. If they brand you as a heretic, you will have to face the danger of being purified for your entire life."

"Humph, I ain't afraid. The battle of the great age is coming. It matters not if it's the Earth Treasury Temple or Heaven Treasury Temple, I will destroy everyone who dares to stand in my way."

Shun Baixuan's face was filled with arrogance and disdain. He wasn't being boastful but honest.

It was impossible to tell whether it was intentional as Miss Le asked, "Didn't you want to borrow Lin Xun's treasures previously? Why have you suddenly changed your mind? "

Sure enough, this was Shun Baixuan's sore spot. His originally proud expression suddenly stiffened as the corners of his lips twitched slightly. Soon after, he expressionlessly said, "You do not need to provoke me. I have never changed my mind about the things I want to do. However, now isn't the right time."

"Hehe." Miss Le displayed a meaningful smile.

"What are you laughing at? Is it that funny?" Shun Baixuan instantly exploded, finding Miss Le's smile abominable. She was clearly mocking him.

Miss Le unhurriedly said, "I am laughing because you were defeated by a girl. Aren't you able to face it? Can it be that you are really afraid?"

"You..." Shun Baixuan's face turned ugly. He was furious.

It was at this moment that he received a voice-transmission from Miss Le. "Get ready, the enemy is coming!"

The ground under Shun Baixuan's feet suddenly burst open as an icy flash shot out.

"Die!" Shun Baixuan wasn't surprised but delighted. While avoiding the attack, he stabbed his golden war spear at the ground.

The ear-piercing collision rang out and that icy flash was shattered by the spear.

Boom!

The spear thrust into the earth, creating a deep hole. The nearby ground rapidly fractured as dirt flew into the air.

With a swish, a black figure rushed out, heading not toward Shun Baixuan but toward Lin Xun.

It was a black-clad monk. He moved as swiftly as the wind while brandishing a crescent-blade shovel.

However, someone was faster than him!

"Chop!" The ready and prepared Luo Jia swung the Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword. Its brilliant blade slashed downward, pulsing with peerless divine might.

Plop!

The black-clad monk could not avoid it and was immediately swallowed by the vast sword qi. His entire body along with his crescent-blade shovel was instantly destroyed by the sword qi!

It was as if he had vanished into thin air, which was a display of the Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword's tyrannical power!

Whoosh!

Meanwhile, several black shadows rushed out from the ground at different locations. Some of them dashed toward Miss Le while others charged at Lin Xun.

Shun Baixuan felt somewhat ashamed that Luo Jia had beaten him to the punch. Hence, there was no way he would miss this opportunity.

"Subdue!"

The Coiling Dragon Altar Cauldron appeared above Shun Baixuan, glowing with divine power that could suppress the entire world. The land trembled at its almighty presence.

Boom!

The cauldron glowed brightly as it loudly rumbled, producing thick and heavy dao light that suppressed the surroundings.

The Coiling Dragon Altar Cauldron was the ancestral relic of the Shun Clan!

In this moment, Shun Baixuan displayed the power akin to a god. It felt as if he could subdue all of time with the cauldron!

Plop plop plop!

The shadows failed to react in time. Their bodies cracked inch by inch before exploding, causing a rain of blood to fall.

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Chapter 955: Eighteen Sons of the Earth Treasury

"They're nothing but a bunch of rats who only know how to hide!"

Shun Baixuan was in high spirits as he laughed at the sky. He believed he was the most dazzling person at this moment.

He had been silently enduring since he was defeated by Xia Zhi, believing it was a great shame that made him unable to proudly raise his head.

He had suppressed these feelings for too long and could no longer tolerate others stealing the limelight. He wanted to use this chance to wash away his shame and regain his pride.

He would show Miss Le that he, Shun Baixuan, wasn't someone who just anyone could ridicule!

How dare they call him a fool, to hell with all of them!

"Noisy!"

"Shut up!"

However, Luo Jia and Miss Le didn't show him any respect and scolded him in unison, "You will be punished if you disturb Lin Xun!"

Shun Baixuan's laughter abruptly stopped. Due to the suddenness, he choked on his breath and nearly fell from the air.

How infuriating!

What is that attitude?

Shun Baixuan's expression turned stormy, feeling extremely sullen. He felt that his dignity had been trampled on.

Miss Le said, "Young Master Shun, I have to apologize."

Shun Baixuan was taken aback, and his expression soon softened. She isn't a bad girl and knows how to acknowledge her mistakes. I can forgive her.

"I provoked you earlier because I wanted to lure out those hidden Earth Treasury Temple disciples. It is clear that it was a success." Miss Le smiled.

"You..." Shun Baixuan suddenly felt crushed and angrily said, "You used me as bait?"

Miss Le asked, "I noticed that you couldn't wait to kill the enemy, so I resorted to this petty trick. Aren't you happy?"

Shun Baixuan nearly vomited blood in anger. Even killing the enemy had all been planned in advance. He was completely being used!

He thought he could use this opportunity to wash away his shame, but it was all a trap!

For the first time, Shun Baixuan felt that he was very unlucky to have come to the Boundary River. He was first beaten up by a girl and now was being made use of like a pawn by Miss Le...why were women so horrible these days!?

It was at this time that Lin Xun, who had been sitting, suddenly got up. His deep black eyes surged with wisps of intimidating light.

Luo Jia asked, "You've succeeded?"

"Let's just say I barely got across the doorstep."

Lin Xun gazed at the tightly shut doors of the Buddhist Temple and muttered, "This restriction is extremely mysterious and extraordinary. It is impossible to fully study its secrets from the outside."

Miss Le mused, "In other words, you'll have to analyze it while advancing?"

"That's right." Lin Xun nodded.

"That's all you've achieved after wasting so much time?"

Shun Baixuan was immediately dissatisfied and reprimanded Lin Xun, "It seems to me that you're not living up to your identity as a rune founder."

Lin Xun grinned and replied, "Feel free to take over if you have the ability."

"I..." Shun Baixuan immediately received a threatening glare from Luo Jia the moment he opened his mouth again. His expression froze before he grunted resentfully and kept quiet.

Miss Le said, "Let's proceed. Although we've killed seven Earth Treasury Temple disciples, all of them were small fries. The powerful experts have probably entered already."

Lin Xun immediately stepped forward to lead the way. With a wave of his sleeve, runes appeared in a flash of light as he rushed in.

Restriction undulations abruptly surged to block his path. Solemn black Buddhist light shone brilliantly, emitting a chilling and terrifying aura.

From this, it could be seen that they would have faced the onslaught of the restriction if they had tried to enter without a plan.

Shun Baixuan was stunned into a rare silence. He could see that the restriction power was extremely terrifying, and it made his scalp turn numb.

"Go!"

Lin Xun summoned the Broken Blade. It revolved around him as a grave look emerged from between his brows.

The others closely followed.

Gurgle~

As Lin Xun advanced, the restriction magically parted like the sea. He had evidently already figured out its secrets and neutralized its killing intent.

The temple doors soundlessly opened, revealing a bright interior. It was as if the temple was bathed in holy Buddhist light.

When the group passed through the temple doors, the scenery before their eyes suddenly changed as if they had entered a mysterious world.

The sky was ink-black as if it was covered by the curtain of the eternal night.

Wisps of Buddhist light drifted in the air, giving the place an ethereal, peaceful, and solemn atmosphere.

At a glance, the surroundings appeared very run-down as well. The walls and tiles were damaged, the grass and trees were withered, and the ground was overgrown with weeds as if it had been abandoned for countless years.

Shen Baixuan suddenly shouted, "It's those baldies!"

An ancient black Buddhist altar-cabinet could be seen deep within the temple.

Five black-clad monks were seated before the altar-cabinet, holding black rosary beads as they chanted something in a low voice.

Lin Xun's and the others' hearts shivered.

The black altar-cabinet was very old, and there didn't appear to be anything special about it. However, it didn't enshrine a Buddha sculpture but a black phoenix!

The black phoenix's wings were withdrawn, its body curled into a ball, and its eyes closed. It appeared to be in a fetal position.

A black haze burned around it with strings of strange, warped runes flickering and flowing within the haze, creating a mystical sight.

"I can feel it. The remnant spirit is slumbering inside it!" Luo Jia was clearly excited and could not wait to rush over.

"Careful!" Lin Xun hurriedly reminded her. The place was covered in densely-packed restrictions, and a single misstep could lead to unpredictable disaster.

"Since ancient times, the phoenix has been said to be immortal because it can be reborn. Hence, it can be predicted that the Dark Blood Black Phoenix planned to undergo the process of rebirth after it was killed all those years ago..." Wisdom surged in Miss Le's clear eyes.

"C'mon, how much time have we wasted already? Cut the crap and let's go kill them!" Murderous intent steamed from Shun Baixuan. He had clearly grown impatient.

This seemed to alert the five black-clad monks. They rose one after another and looked over.

The atmosphere immediately turned tense!

The black-clad monk at the head of the group said, "Fellow Dao Friends, this is a restricted area where a Saint of our Earth Treasury Temple died. Kindly leave at once or you will soon face disaster."

He had fair skin, strong eyebrows, clear eyes, and a polished forehead. His posture was straight like a pine tree while his expression gave off a sensation of heart-palpating indifference.

He gave off a majestic aura akin to the sea and resembled a Luohan standing atop a mountain of corpses and blood who sought to purify all evil.

A single glance made Lin Xun's and the others' hearts shiver. They realized that this young monk was a terrifying individual and would be a formidable foe.

Miss Le suddenly said, "Eighteen beads, it seems that this Dao Friend is one of this generation's eighteen sons of the Earth Treasury Temple?"

As she spoke, she also explained to Lin Xun and the others via voice-transmission.

"Since ancient times, the eighteen sons of the Earth Treasury Temple represent the top eighteen individuals who have forged the Luohan Golden Body. In addition, each of them was bestowed one of the temple's great inheritances.

"The eighteen sons were further divided into three groups, the Six Mind Group, the Six Root Group, and the Six Dust Group.

"Each group consisted of six Luohan experts. Together, they formed the eighteen sons of the Earth Treasury Temple!

"In short, they are the supreme heaven prides of the Earth Treasury Temple and possess unparalleled strength."

After hearing her explanation, Lin Xun and the others better understood the situation and their gazes turned more serious when they looked at the young monk.

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Chapter 956: Buddha Embryo

Meanwhile, the black-clad monk at the head of the group glanced at Miss Le, seemingly a little surprised at her knowledge of the Earth Treasury Temple.

The black-clad monk said, "The lady is right. This little monk's dharma name is Mu Zheng."

His clear eyes were still calm and indifferent. He stood there like a tall and majestic mountain, displaying an extraordinary presence.

"Since the lady knows our origins, please leave immediately." Mu Zheng placed his hands together. Although he appeared to be peaceful, there was a certain firmness in his tone that did not tolerate objection.

"Please leave!"

The other four black-clad monks also placed their hands together. Unlike Mu Zheng, their expressions were sterner and almost cruel, making them appear more intimidating.

"Wow, how arrogant!"

Shun Baixuan displayed an astonished expression. "This is the first time I have seen such domineering monks. If you want us to leave, you'd better defeat me first!"

Rumble!

As he spoke, a golden divine glow surged around him like a raging sea, creating an intimidating pressure.

Despite this, Mu Zheng the monks appeared unfazed. They stared at Shun Baixuan as if he was a fool, making him furious.

"What are you looking at? Don't waste time if you want to fight. I'm not afraid to tell you guys that your companions were massacred by me. However, they were too weak and could not satisfy me."

Unexpectedly, hearing such bad news merely caused Mu Zheng and the monks to frown. Their expressions turned colder, but there was no sign of agitation.

This surprised Lin Xun and the others. The Earth Treasury Temple disciples resembled cold-blooded reptiles. It was scary how they showed no emotion.

"Never mind, let's continue." Mu Zheng withdrew his gaze, turned around, and sat back down again to face the black altar-cabinet. He cycled the black rosary beads with a solemn expression as he chanted something under his breath.

He stopped paying attention to Lin Xun and the others, treating them as if they were invisible.

The other four black-clad monks also did the same. They sat at the four corners of a square with Mu Zheng at the center, and black Buddhist light began to emerge from their bodies.

"You baldies are so arrogant!" Shun Baixuan was upset that he had been ignored and wanted to rush over immediately to kill them.

"You must not!" Lin Xun immediately blocked him.

Rumble!

Shun Baixuan, who was already quite unsatisfied with Lin Xun, refused to listen. Instead, he summoned his golden battle spear and slashed at Mu Zheng and others.

A sharp golden spear shadow zipped through the air with astonishing power.

Before they could approach, however, the restrictions heaved and unleashed a terrifying suppression power.

With a loud bang, the spear shadow exploded while Shun Baixuan was blown away.

"Doh!" At this critical moment, a strange sound burst from Lin Xun's tongue as he waved his sleeve. The air was immediately filled with brightly shining runes that swiftly dissolved the Buddhist light restriction.

Meanwhile, Luo Jia reached out, grabbed Shun Baixuan, and pulled him back.

"Damn, these bloody restrictions are way too terrifying." Shun Baixuan was drenched in cold sweat, and his expression had turned ugly. Just earlier, he had felt a suffocating sensation as if he was about to be suppressed to death.

It made him realize the terror of the restriction, and he no longer dared to act rashly.

"I won't save you if you act recklessly again." Lin Xun frowned as he shot a glance at Shun Baixuan.

It felt unpleasant to be reprimanded, but Shun Baixuan couldn't retort since he had been saved by Lin Xun earlier.

He inwardly cursed in frustration. Why are you so angry? I'll find an opportunity to save you in the future and let you have a taste of being scolded as well!

"Lin Xun, we have to hurry. They are trying to subdue the Dark Blood Black Phoenix in the altar-cabinet, and we won't be able to achieve our goal once they succeed."

Miss Le had a grave expression.

Mu Zheng and the others didn't even care about the lives of their companions. It was easy to imagine how determined they were to obtain the object inside the black altar-cabinet.

It was a bad situation.

According to Luo Jia, the Dark Blood Black Phoenix's remnant spirit was sleeping inside the black altar-cabinet. It would be terrible if the Earth Treasury Temple disciples managed to obtain it before them.

Lin Xun nodded. He also realized the severity of the situation.

Whoosh~

He took a deep breath and made a decision. With a wave of his sleeve, bronze array flags flew out and disappeared into various locations.

These were the array flags of the Four Divisions King Array. Lin Xun was attempting to break the array with another array so they could advance as quickly as possible.

However, there was a downside to this method. The array flags would be damaged while breaking the array, which was why Lin Xun had been reluctant to use them in the beginning.

However, these concerns were no longer important. The array flags could be remade. If he allowed the opponent to seize the prize first, all of their efforts would go to waste.

Boom~

The array flags swiftly revealed their magic. They spread out and formed a rune array that clashed against the alpha divine restrictions with a loud boom.

"Go!"

Lin Xun proceeded forward to lead the way.

However, a shocking scene occurred soon after.

The restriction power covering the entire temple seemed to fully awaken, producing a burst of Buddhist light that soared into the sky.

The blazing light was magnificent but as black as the eternal night. It gave off a frightening and suffocating aura.

At the same time, the sound of a bell echoed as if in warning. It also resembled the chanting of the sutras and shrouded the area in an indescribable aura of solemnness.

Lin Xun's heart shuddered. This wasn't caused by his attempt to break through the restrictions.

"It's them!"

Lin Xun and the others quickly noticed astonishing images emerging from Mu Zheng and other Earth Treasury Temple disciples.

A mysterious illusory scripture appeared above Mu Zheng and sprinkled strings of strange characters that looked as if they were made from black jade. Buddhist light overflowed from the characters and enveloped the altar-cabinet.

As for the other four black-clad monks, four different objects appeared above them.

A Vajra branded with the symbol of a black lotus.

A black lamp inscribed with strange Buddhist runes.

A Bodhi tree that seemed to be made of bronze and jade.

A Buddhist jade that was as round as the full moon.

These illusory images released Buddhist light together with the Buddhist scripture above Mu Zheng's head, and enveloped the altar-cabinet.

They were clearly reaching the final stage of capturing the object!

A burst of incomparably terrifying Buddhist light burst from the originally silent altar-cabinet, brightening the surroundings.

Meanwhile, densely-packed runes surged from the curled up black phoenix within it and turned into black flames as if it was awakening from a deep sleep.

This series of shocking events triggered the restriction power covering the temple, causing violent fluctuations!

Shun Baixuan cursed, "These damn baldies are crazy!"

"What do we do?" Luo Jia failed to keep her composure.

"We'll charge through!"

Lin Xun gritted his teeth. The fully activated restrictions multiplied the pressure on him, leaving him no choice but to channel all his power into breaking through the array.

Upon arriving at the area where the altar-cabinet was located, they were immediately greeted by cries of alarm.

Mu Zheng and the monks staggered backward as if they had been struck by lightning while their expressions fluctuated indeterminately.

At the same time, a glowing shadow charged out from the altar-cabinet and disappeared deeper into the temple in the blink of an eye.

The altar-cabinet was empty. There was no sign of the Dark Blood Black Phoenix.

Lin Xun and the others were stunned. The sudden developments caught them by surprise.

"Abominable! We were just one last step away!" A black-clad monk gnashed his teeth, unhappy with the outcome.

"This Buddha embryo not only contains the power left by Ancestor-Master Duji but also the Dark Blood Black Phoenix's Saint Life-blood. It is an incredibly mystical Buddha embryo that has never appeared before, and we should not be overly forceful when dealing with it."

Mu Zheng was unfazed. "Fortunately, it cannot escape from this place. There is still a chance to bring it back to the sect."

"Eh?" At this point, Mu Zheng's face changed slightly. He had been so focused on subduing the target that he failed to notice the arrival of Lin Xun and the others.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun and others displayed various expressions while inwardly shaken. A Buddha embryo containing the Dark Blood Black Phoenix Saint Life-blood?

What kind of mystical existence was this?

Only Miss Le seemed to have some understanding as she involuntarily muttered, "The rumors are true. After defeating the Dark Blood Black Phoenix, the Earth Treasury Temple's Saint Monk Duji didn't leave but instead used a special method to make an exchange with the Dark Blood Black Phoenix. The two of them used some kind of forbidden art with the intent of creating a new lifeform! "

"That new lifeform was probably the thing that was enshrined and nurtured in the black altar-cabinet!"

Lin Xun and the others immediately lost their composure, realizing that Mu Zheng's and the other monks' true goal was to subdue the lifeform conceived by the Buddhist Saint Monk and the Dark Blood Black Phoenix which they called the Buddha embryo!

"Junior brothers, I'll leave this place to you guys." With an indifferent expression, Mu Zheng glanced at Lin Xun and the others before rushing deeper into the temple.

At the same time, the four black-clad monks stepped forward and blocked Lin Xun's group with emotionless faces.

Miss Le currently looked even more anxious than Luo Jia. There was no trace of her previous composure as she hurriedly said, "Lin Xun, you go after Mu Zheng while the rest of us deal with these guys. You must hurry. The Buddha embryo hides a great secret that Mu Zheng must not be allowed to obtain!"

"Okay!"

Lin Xun took a deep breath and moved.

Rumble!

The four black-clad monks immediately attacked Lin Xun. Each of them displayed dreadful power. They were clearly several times more powerful than the black-clad monks killed by Lin Xun's group earlier.

These four were undoubtedly top experts in the Earth Treasury Temple. Even if they weren't as strong as Mu Zheng, it wasn't a big gap.

"Baldies! I'm your opponent!" Shun Baixuan released a thunderous roar. He had been itching to fight for a while and immediately pounced as golden light flared from him.

Clang!

At the same time, Luo Jia also took action and immediately brought out the Demon Purging Absolute Heavenly Sword.

A battle swiftly broke out. Lin Xun didn't waste time and activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step, leaving them behind as he rushed deeper into the temple at an unbelievable speed.

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Chapter 957: The Presence of A Great Terror

Lin Xun, Luo Jia, and Shun Baixuan immediately realized the urgency and severity of the situation from Miss Le's attitude.

Therefore, no one showed any hesitation or tardiness the moment the battle began.

Swish!

Lin Xun seemed to flicker through space as he rushed forward. The mysterious temple depths were filled with dark winding paths that appeared to have no end.

Moreover, there was restriction power everywhere, forcing Lin Xun to be cautious and careful as he advanced.

The scenery began to change as he progressed deeper into the temple.

The ground was littered with traces of battle such as claw marks, palm imprints, and ashes.

There were shocking scenes of devastation everywhere.

A great battle must have occurred here in the ancient era, leaving traces that even countless years were unable to erase.

Soon after, Lin Xun came across a stand of old and mottled bells. However, it was broken and stained with traces of golden blood.

These blood stains had clearly dried countless years ago. However, merely looking at them caused Lin Xun to feel a pounding divine aura. It felt like the abyss, and it squeezed his soul until it throbbed in agony as if about to collapse.

The blood of a Saint?

How else could such a terrifying aura remain after countless years?

Lin Xun's heart shuddered. He hurriedly circulated the Little Divine Meditation Art and did not dare to look again.

The atmosphere started to become different. It felt as if there was a haunting and unsettling pressure in the air.

Boom!

Lightning flashed as sparks appeared and intertwined. It was the boundless restriction power filled with the aura of destruction.

Although Lin Xun had been sufficiently careful, the lightning still managed to graze his body. His shoulder was torn open, leaving a bloody wound containing wisps of cryptic destructive power that spread at an alarming rate.

Lin Xun immediately circulated the Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer Dao and managed to erase the cryptic destructive power.

"The restriction power is getting stronger and stronger..." Lin Xun had a grave expression. He felt a life-threatening danger.

Omm!

Hence, he immediately summoned the Nameless Pagoda. The pagoda forged of Genesium looked as if it was made from glass. A golden divine glow radiated from it, surrounding and protecting Lin Xun.

Meanwhile, the glittering snow-white Broken Blade flew out. Illusory light flowed along the blade, ready to act at any moment.

After making these preparations, Lin Xun felt a little safer and continued on.

Along the way, restriction power would occasionally ripple and ink-black Buddhist light would assault him. It was a heart-palpitating experience to be struck by darkness akin to the eternal night.

Even with his rune founder capabilities, Lin Xun was unable to fully neutralize the attacks. The power was just far too terrifying, and he could only avoid or fight back with force.

Thankfully, he had the mystical Nameless Pagoda. Its protective golden divine light defended Lin Xun against many fatal attacks. Without it, it would have been impossible to progress at all.

It was not long before Lin Xun finally found Mu Zheng, one of the eighteen sons of the Earth Treasury Temple.

Dressed in a black kasaya, his figure gave off a stalwart, mountain-like presence. Brilliant Buddhist light surged around him while he carried a black alms bowl in his hand.

The alms bowl seemed to be a mystical artifact. Black Buddhist light drifted from it and transformed into Buddha phantasms. The phantasms guarded Mu Zheng as a chanting-like noise spread from the bowl.

The Arya Bowl!

It was the treasure that had been used in front of the whirlpool and allowed the Earth Treasury Temple group to enter the ruins.

According to Miss Le, the Arya Bowl was a famous Buddhist Saint treasure of the Earth Treasury Temple with a long history.

An illusory Buddhist scripture floated above Mu Zheng's head, releasing strings of strange characters that seemed to be cast from black gold. The characters shone brightly and helped him neutralize the restriction power in his path.

"Oh?" As if sensing Lin Xun's gaze, Mu Zheng turned his head.

His eyes narrowed slightly at the sight of Lin Xun as a chilling coldness spread from between his brows.

His eyes soon widened in shock when he noticed the Nameless Pagoda above Lin Xun's head, and his expression turned grave.

In the end, Mu Zheng withdrew his gaze, turned back, and continued advancing. He quickened his pace, seemingly unwilling to waste any more time here.

However, Lin Xun had already sensed the murderous intent from Mu Zheng's earlier expression!

"A practitioner of Buddhism, yet so indifferent and emotionless. The Earth Treasury Temple disciples are indeed completely different from normal Buddhist cultivators..." Lin Xun frowned.

He quickly cast aside these thoughts and pressed forward.

It was like an unspoken competition. Mu Zheng and Lin Xun employed all means to advance, seeking to reach the end of the temple!

Lin Xun pondered as he moved. The temple had appeared dilapidated and wasn't that large from the outside, however, it seemed to contain a world of its own.

The restriction power covering it could be described as the work of the gods. It was beyond amazing and even made Lin Xun a little mesmerized.

In fact, he strongly suspected that his level of rune mastery would rapidly evolve if he managed to learn all of its secrets!

"Miss Le was wrong. Having a good understanding of runes isn't enough to enter this place. You also need the protection of a Saint treasure. Without them, even King stage old monsters would be hard-pressed to advance and not dare to step into this lake of lightning or they would only be walking toward certain death!"

By this point, Lin Xun came to the conclusion that the temple was most likely covered in a Saint array!

However, it was a damaged array that had been abandoned for countless years and had lost its power source.

Otherwise, even with the Nameless Pagoda's protection, he would have died long ago, and it would have been impossible to reach this point.

An incense stick of time later, Lin Xun finally reached the end of the temple.

It was a zone without restriction power. Instead, Buddhist lamps hovered in the air, bathing the area in a sacred and solemn atmosphere.

"That's..."

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. There was a flawless white lotus seat at the very end of the zone.

There was a figure on the seat who gave off endless light that was both blinding and beautiful, making it resemble a Buddha or Bodhisattva!

The bright light made it impossible for Lin Xun to get a clear look. However, he felt an indescribable light from the figure. It enveloped the area with its divine power, making him feel the impulse to kneel and worship it.

Mu Zheng was also present. Black Buddhist light spread from the Arya Bowl in his hand, causing Buddha phantasms to emerge one after another. It formed a stark contrast to the figure seated on the white lotus seat.

Black and white faced each other like yin and yang, creating a strong visual impact.

Mu Zheng seemed to discover something that made him involuntarily mutter, "This..."

At the same time, Lin Xun finally got a clearer look and realized there was another person beside the Buddha-like figure on the white lotus seat.

It was a woman bathed in divine flames with black hair draped across her shoulders like a waterfall. She was standing in front of the Buddha-like figure as if risking her life to protect him.

Their bodies were almost glued together.

The Buddha-like figure had a frown as he angrily glared into the distance.

The woman's eyes were lowered, her expression tinged with anxiety and determination.

There was another figure near the two of them that was covered in a layer of peculiar golden light. The figure looked thin, but gave off a sensation of being infinitely tall as if it had compacted itself to fit in the world. An oppressive pressure spread from it as if it was the sole overlord of heaven and earth.

The most chilling part was that the mysterious golden figure was holding a crescent-blade halberd that pierced the white jade seat, the woman's chest, and the Buddha-like figure's heart!

It was a fatal blow, and it was a sight that would make anyone despair and be overwhelmed by fear!

Lin Xun's scalp tingled. Suddenly, he seemed to see a scene from the past where a golden figure descended from the sky and arrived at the temple.

An earth-shaking battle quickly ensued. The Buddha-like figure brimmed with anger as he harnessed the white lotus seat's power against the enemy, causing Buddhist light to illuminate the nine heavens and ten lands.

However, it wasn't enough against the halberd-wielding golden figure.

At the critical moment, a woman appeared and risked her life to block an attack for the Buddha-like figure. However, she underestimated the dreadful might of the enemy. With a single thrust, the halberd shattered the lotus seat's defenses, killed the woman, and pierced the Buddha-like figure's heart.

In the face of death, the woman appeared anxious and helpless, while the Buddha-like figure displayed sadness, anger, and resentment.

Lin Xun suddenly found himself drenched in cold sweat. Although he managed to catch a glimpse of the truth, he could not help but feel an unrealistic sensation.

Moreover, the area was pervaded by a terrifying killing intent. It was the residual killing intent of a Saint expert that had yet to fade after countless years!

If not for the Nameless Pagoda, Lin Xun's spirit would have shattered, resulting in his death.

Meanwhile, Mu Zheng was also in a rather sorry state. He seemed to be frozen there with a strained expression while his hands and feet trembled uncontrollably.

If not for the protection of the Arya Bowl, he would have reached his limit long ago.

Clang!

A sound resembling a warning bell rang out. The overwhelming killing intent and pressure vanished, returning the sacred and solemn atmosphere.

When they looked again, the Buddha-like figure and the woman were gone. The golden figure was also nowhere to be found.

It was as if they never existed, and everything had merely been a dream.

"So Ancestor-Teacher Duji was killed by someone...however...why did that Black Phoenix Saint Queen...why did she give up her life to help him..."

Mu Zheng mumbled to himself, unable to understand. His brows were tightly furrowed together. "Didn't the elders in the clan say that they were mortal enemies...why..."

As expected!

Lin Xun couldn't remain calm when he heard this. He had some conjectures but he wasn't certain before.

However, he had no choice but to believe them now.

The Buddha and the woman who appeared on the white lotus seat were the Earth Treasury Temple Saint Monk, Duji, and the Dark Blood Black Phoenix Saint expert!

However, wasn't it rumored that Duji killed the Dark Blood Black Phoenix and sealed her away? So why had they died alongside each other?

Could the rumors be wrong?

Lin Xun realized that even the secrets Miss Le knew were probably incorrect and vastly different from the truth!

If this was true, however, who was the golden figure that killed them?

Two almighty Saint-level experts were simultaneously killed by a single blow...it was simply inconceivable...

The more Lin Xun thought about it, the more frightened he felt as a chill rapidly filled his body.

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Chapter 958: Universal Mercy and Succor Art

Saint!

In Lin Xun's eyes, Saints were akin to gods. They possessed divine abilities, almost infinite lifespans, and were existences that stood above the sky.

The Saint stage was the cultivation realm countless cultivators dreamed of reaching. Since ancient times, countless unrivaled experts had failed to attain this dream and could only wallow in regret until the end of their lives.

It was overly sublime and akin to a legend. From the beginning of time, only a small group of people had reached this stage.

However, this didn't stop countless cultivators from continuing to seek it and claw their way closer to this near-impossible goal.

Hence, how could anyone not be shocked to find out that two mighty Saint experts from the ancient era had been killed by a single thrust of a halberd in a dilapidated Buddhist temple?

One was Saint Monk Duji from the Earth Treasury Temple while the other was Black Phoenix Saint Queen. The fact that both of these supreme powerhouses had been killed was far too frightening to fathom.

Lin Xun couldn't imagine what kind of terrifying cultivation realm the golden figure had reached to be capable of such a feat.

His entire body turned cold at the realization that there must be some kind of great secret hidden in the temple for the two Saint experts to have incurred such divine wrath.

Meanwhile, Mu Zheng's expression fluctuated indeterminately. He was clearly greatly shaken by the earlier scenes.

"Eh?"

However, the two of them soon awakened from their thoughts as their gazes turned toward the jade-white lotus seat.

At some unknown time, a charred, wilted root had appeared on the lotus seat. It looked as if it was on the verge of turning to ashes and was very unremarkable.

Despite this, Lin Xun and Mu Zheng immediately realized that it was a priceless treasure.

Why else would it have appeared on the lotus seat?

Swish!

Mu Zheng immediately moved. His stalwart figure was lightning-quick as he rushed toward the white lotus seat. An illusory hand imprint swirling with black Buddhist light emerged from his outstretched out and swiped downward.

However, Lin Xun was faster. The Hornless Ice Dragon Step was pushed to the limit, allowing him to arrive first despite moving later. His figure seemed to transform into a streak of light as a ray of wonder-gold dao light swept out from the Nameless Pagoda.

The wonder-gold dao light not only boasted an incredible suppression effect but had also never failed at collecting any item before.

Mu Zheng's expression changed slightly as he bellowed, "Stand down!"

He summoned the Arya Bowl in an attempt to block the wonder-gold dao light. Meanwhile, his hand formed a Buddha seal and he struck at Lin Xun with oppressive force.

He clearly couldn't tolerate Lin Xun snatching away wilted and charred tree root.

"Hmph!"

Lin Xun icily snorted. Peerless sharpness sprinkled from the long-prepared Broken Blade as it met the attack head-on.

A battle immediately ensued!

There was no need for a reason when in front of a treasure. It alone was sufficient to trigger a duel to the death.

In order to obtain it, Lin Xun and Mu Zheng immediately brought out their most powerful cards.

Boom!

Lin Xun stepped through the air as the Broken Blade displayed the wonderful essence of the Heavenly Yuan Six Slashes. It was an uncompromising, ruthless, and decisive stance resembling an arrogant demon god.

If it were Li Qinghuan, Mu Jianting, or other supreme heaven prides facing the attack, they would be in grave danger.

Unexpectedly, however, Mu Zheng was abnormally strong and directly withstood the onslaught.

As one of the eighteen sons of the Earth Treasury Temple, he wasn't lacking in any way and could be described as a peerless powerhouse.

His expression remained calm in the face of Lin Xun's assault as a burst of black Buddhist light erupted from his sturdy, mountain-like body. His movements were as swift as lightning, making him resemble a raging Luohan with the power to subdue dragons and tigers.

Boom!

With each rotation of the eighteen prayer beads in his hand, Buddha seals formed from black immortal-gold were created one after another. They struck with unmatched power, forcibly neutralizing the Broken Blade's attacks with loud rumbles.

Meanwhile, the two Saint treasures owned by each of them also faced off.

Thousands of golden dao light rays flowed from the Nameless Pagoda, possessing the power to suppress heaven and earth. The surrounding space was pressured so hard that it began to crumble with loud booms.

However, the Arya bowl was equally impressive. Buddha phantasms floated out from it and chanted the sutras while releasing endless light that made the surrounding world change color.

The two supreme treasures held each other in check, unable to gain an edge on the other.

"This monk is extraordinary!"

Lin Xun's heart shivered in awe as his movements grew increasingly ferocious. He seemed to burn like a raging fire in a furnace as his power climbed to the peak.

"Dao Friend, given your ability, you can be considered one of the top experts among the young generation of this era. If you foolishly refuse to withdraw, you will be destined to perish today." Mu Zheng frowned. Although his tone was calm, it contained a clear threat.

He grew increasingly powerful as his black kasaya violently flapped around him, making him resemble a dignified fighting Buddha ready to take on the world.

Lin Xun coldly replied, "Monk, I also warn you. There is no grudge between us, but if you continue to be stubborn, you'll force me to execute you!"

He activated Yazi's Rage, causing his power to abruptly jump as he grasped the Broken Blade like a demon god descending upon the world..

His aura alone made the surrounding air wail in agony.

"Dao Friend has such a heavy, murderous impulse. If you don't learn how to restrain it, you will be destined to fall onto the demonic path and become a heretic who will wreak havoc on the world."

Mu Zheng was neither sad, nor happy, or afraid as his voice chimed like a giant bell, "Buddha says that if I do not enter hell, who will enter hell? Today, this little monk will purify you!"

Boom!

The string of prayer beads in his hand glowed. The light condensed into black lotus flowers that fluttered and fell in the air.

Every black lotus flower was filled with bright Buddha light that released the mystical, magnificent, and vast power of purification.

Meanwhile, Mu Zheng's expression became as compassionate as a Buddha's. He began chanting as the black scripture above him flipped open and strings of Buddhist text drifted out.

It was the Earth Treasury Temple's inheritance secret art, the Universal Mercy and Succor Art!

It could suppress all enemies, eliminate calamity, and purify evil like a Buddha descending upon the world and subduing all manner of demons and fiends!

As Mu Zheng chanted, the Buddha phantasms emerged from falling black lotus flowers and released boundless Buddhist light.

However, it was a Buddhist light that was as black as the eternal night!

In the blink of an eye, Lin Xun found himself under tremendous pressure.

This was the first time he was facing a Buddhist cultivator. The other party's display of dao arts and power were very different from normal cultivators. It was mystical, frightening, and unimaginably powerful.

Moreover, Mu Zheng was no ordinary individual. His combat power was simply overwhelming and comparable to the likes of Yu Lingkong and Ji Xingyao!

"Slash!"

Lin Xun loudly shouted as dao light surged from him. Blade qi shot from the Broken Blade like a barrage of ten thousand arrows, releasing blinding light as they entwined.

Plop!

A black lotus flower exploded. Unexpectedly, the petals didn't dissipate but instead coalesced into the Buddhist characters that pulsed with the light of purification as they floated in the air.

Plop plop plop!

With each black lotus flower that exploded, more and more purifying Buddhist text appeared. They were densely packed together, unable to be scattered or dispelled. It was an extremely bizarre phenomenon.

Lin Xun realized that the situation was taking a turn for the worst. Although he was strong, he lacked experience in fighting Buddhist experts and knew nothing about the power they wielded.

For example, the bizarre Buddhist text was made from mystical Buddhist dao power and could not be destroyed because it appeared incorporeal.

Mu Zheng continued to chant. His chanting echoed across the area like a morning bell or evening drum.

He had a solemn look on his face while he was covered in sacred, deep-black Buddhist light. It made him resemble an unshakable divine mountain suppressing the entirety of hell.

Black lotus flowers surged from the prayer beads like a tide. They drifted down in the air, each containing a Buddha phantasm. It was an astounding scene that would intimidate anyone.

This was the Universal Mercy and Succor Art. It was one of the supreme Buddhist arts of the Earth Treasury Temple that possessed the power to suppress all evil.

However, Mu Zheng's expression turned grave as time passed. Although the Universal Mercy and Succor Art was powerful, it was also extremely power consuming.

He had originally thought that he would be able to suppress Lin Xun in a flash and purify him. It never occurred to him that the other party would still be going strong at this juncture!

"His foundations are terrifying! Could he be an unrivaled monster nurtured by one of the Hidden Holy Lands?" Mu Zheng was inwardly shaken.

He immediately circulated his power to the limit as the prayer beads' rotation and chanting became faster and faster like a torrential rainstorm or powerful army that filled the entire area with dreadful killing intent.

Black lotuses containing Buddha phantasms drifted in the air. It was a scene that should have been sacred and solemn like a holy miracle. However, deadly killing intent spread from them instead, causing the world to change color.

"The purification power is really difficult to deal with!"

Lin Xun frowned. He felt a heavy pressure and was unable to break free. The black lotuses seemed endless as they loomed toward him, making it impossible to dodge.

Moreover, even if he shattered them, the lotuses did not disappear but turned into Buddhist characters filled with purification qi.

Buddhist characters seemingly cast from black immortal-gold spread out as far as the eye could see. There were already more than several hundred of them as they floated everywhere like a scripture written in the air.

To Lin Xun, the black lotuses were not frightening. Instead, he felt genuinely threatened by the unbreakable Buddhist texts!

"It's time to end it!"

Suddenly, divine light blossomed in Mu Zheng's eyes as his aura grew scarily oppressive. "Purify everything so the world will be free of demons!"

Boom!

As if responding to his voice, the Buddhist characters suddenly converged and took the form of a Buddhist sutra as it descended toward Lin Xun with crushing power.

The characters within the sutra released the blinding light of purification which instantly engulfed Lin Xun.

It was impossible to avoid or resist. All attacks were ineffective and unable to destroy the divine sutra!

Mu Zheng put his hands together and uttered a single word. It was the strongest strike of the Universal Mercy and Succor Art, Purifying All Heavens!

If executed by a Saint Monk, it could instantly purify all living things in a large city!

Mu Zheng knew that although Lin Xun had the qualifications of the supreme, he didn't understand the purifying power's terror and was doomed to lose his life.

He shifted his gaze to where the Nameless Pagoda was tangoing with the Arya Bowl amidst bursts of sacred light.

In the end, Mu Zheng restrained his desire and strode toward the white lotus seat.

The Nameless Pagoda was a Saint treasure, so Mu Zheng couldn't help but be tempted. However, he knew that the treasure would ultimately fall into his hands when Lin Xun died.

The immediate priority was to retrieve the wilted tree root from the white lotus seat.

If he was correct, it was likely the legendary Bodhi root!

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Chapter 959: Blessing and Disaster

Black Buddhist characters rapidly engulfed Lin Xun's surroundings.

The purifying power released by the Buddhist characters soaked into his skin and rushed inside his body. The terrifying purification power made him feel as if he was burning from the inside.

This was the purifying power of the Universal Mercy and Succor Art!

Lin Xun finally experienced the terror of such power. However, he didn't panic because the Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer automatically began to circulate.

Cshhh~

It instantly swept away the mysterious and terrifying black Buddhist characters like a tornado scattering the clouds, making it impossible for the purification power to invade Lin Xun again.

It was clear that the dao power level of the purification power could not compare to the Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer.

A glimmer of comprehension dawned upon Lin Xun.

The reason he had been suppressed previously was entirely because he lacked an understanding of the Buddhist sect's powers. Hence, it had caught him off-guard.

Now, he was no longer afraid!

.....

The Bodhi root was a first-class divine item in the eyes of Buddhist cultivators. It was wondrous beyond expression, possessed unimaginable functions, and harbored the core secrets of the world's dao.

A Bodhi tree was known to have existed in the ancient era. Each of its branches and leaves could transform into an entire world, making it akin to three thousand worlds on its own!

From what Mu Zheng knew, in the ancient era, an expert from the Earth Treasury Temple comprehended a supreme truth known as the Mahayana Kaya Dao from a single Bodhi leaf. He instantly gained enlightenment with a smile and thus reached the Saint stage!

If the wilted root had any relation to the Bodhi tree, its value would be beyond astonishing.

As a Buddhist cultivator, Mu Zheng was immediately able to perceive the unique aura of the root. Hence, he was unable to keep his cool and was soon flooded by intense desire.

Hence, he ignored Lin Xun and the Nameless Pagoda. Instead, he set his sights on the root.

Swish!

He moved without hesitation, determined to obtain his prize.

"Monk, you're too eager!" However, an icy voice rang out as a glittering, snow-white blade shot forth.

Fast!

Too fast!

Mu Zheng, who was solely focused on the root, was caught by surprise.

Plop!

Peerless blade qi swept forth with a flash of icy light. Blood sprayed into the air as Mu Zheng's right arm, which was reaching for the root, was sliced off.

It had to be acknowledged that Mu Zheng was extremely formidable. In this critical moment, he jerked himself back in an attempt to avoid the attack. Although he lost an arm, he narrowly succeeded in preserving his life.

If it was anyone else, they would probably have been killed right there and then.

"You..." Mu Zheng's face twitched in pain.

However, he was more shocked to see that Lin Xun was completely fine after being struck by the power of 'Purifying All Heavens!'

It made him almost unable to believe his eyes.

That was his most powerful killing move. Mu Zheng believed that even in the entire Ancient Wasteland Domain, including the supreme talents in the Hidden Holy Lands, anyone who received it would be killed.

However...the attack had clearly failed!

"Monk, you can't eat hot tofu if you rush." Lin Xun stood in front of the white lotus seat with an ice-cold expression, his straight figure blocking the way like a mountain.

"How did you do it?" Mu Zheng's expression fluctuated indeterminately. The indifference and composure he had maintained since the beginning was finally broken at this moment.

He retrieved the Arya Bowl and used it to guard himself.

It was because Lin Xun's strength had completely surpassed his expectations.

"How naive. Do you think I will tell you?"

Lin Xun displayed a bright smile. He didn't immediately go on the offensive either and instead retrieved the Nameless Pagoda.

Mu Zheng quickly regained his composure and stopped the bleeding of his arm. His eyes flashed fiercely as he stared at Lin Xun. "According to the ancient records of the Earth Treasury Temple, someone like you can be viewed as a heretic that must be exterminated."

Heretic!

Lin Xun's black eyes narrowed as he sneered, "I've also heard of how the Earth Treasury Temple boasts of being Calamity Walkers whose mission is to eradicate heretics from the world. Anyone who is targeted by you guys will be relentlessly hunted down.

"However, I didn't expect that this is how you define heresy. Heh, so is this how your Earth Treasury Temple operates? Isn't it far too shameless?"

There was unconcealed mockery and disdain in his words.

Mu Zheng was unfazed. He declared, "Since ancient times, the Earth Treasury Temple has lived in hell while we direct our hearts toward the light. It is inevitable that most of the world will not understand us. Whether we're shameless or not will not change the fact that you are a heretic."

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. What an eye-opening way to throw dirty water. This was clearly pinning a crime on him without any justification!

Suddenly, Mu Zheng seemed to sense something and roared in anger, "You dare?!"

Lin Xun grinned and replied, "What wouldn't I? Since you're stalling, I'll gladly stall with you. What's wrong with that?"

He was already moving while he spoke. He rushed onto the white lotus seat and waved his sleeve in an attempt to collect the root.

His movements were extremely fast and clearly planned in advance.

By the time Mu Zheng sensed that something was wrong, Lin Xun was already on the white lotus seat.

"You're asking for death!"

Mu Zheng was enraged. Black Buddhist light violently burst from him as he stormed toward Lin Xun like an angry Buddha.

Boom!

However, before he could approach, a Saint ripple suddenly spread from the white lotus seat and knocked him away.

Due to the strong and sudden impact, Mu Zheng started to see stars and coughed out a mouthful of blood.

However, none of this could erase the dismay and shock in his heart.

"How is this possible...I am a disciple of the Earth Treasury Temple. Why is the relic left by Ancestor-Teacher Duji hostile to me instead!"

The white lotus seat glowed brightly, pulsing with an unfathomable and sacred aura.

On the lotus seat, Lin Xun had already successfully retrieved the root. It made Mu Zheng feel even worse as his complexion turned ashen.

Just a single step more and this horrible result could have been avoided. It was a tremendous blow to him.

However, his expression soon changed because he noticed something strong. Why did Lin Xun seem to be in more pain than him?

On the white lotus seat, Lin Xun was shaking. Even his lips were trembling, making it look as if he had been struck by lightning.

Moreover, thin strands of golden light were spreading on his body as if his skin was being torn inch by inch. It was a bizarre and gruesome sight.

"This aura..."

Mu Zheng suddenly recalled the ruler-like golden figure he had seen whose halberd had pierced the white lotus seat, Black Phoenix Saint Queen, and Ancestor-Teacher Duji.

The aura from the fine golden light was the same as the golden figure's. They obviously originated from the same source!

An odd mix of emotions immediately surfaced on Mu Zheng's face. There was gladness, fear, and an indescribable ridicule.

He finally understood!

Even if the wilted root was a Bodhi root, it must have also suffered a terrible blow from the golden figure, resulting in its current wilted and damaged appearance.

Although the root wasn't fully destroyed, it contained remnant wisps of the golden figure's fighting aura!

In short, Lin Xun might have appeared to obtain the blessing, but its true face was actually a disaster!

"Misfortune will strike when the time is not right. The cycle of karma is truly unfathomable!"

Mu Zheng laughed as all his negative feelings were swept away. He rejoiced that he had not been the first to seize the root.

He stood outside the white lotus seat and began to repair his arm as he silently waited.

Once Lin Xun succumbed, he would immediately rush in and seize the root.

By that time, the mysterious golden power in the root would have been consumed by Lin Xun, leaving Mu Zheng with the true Bodhi root!

Although it might be badly damaged, there would be a way to revive it as long as he managed to bring it back to the sect.

The more he thought about it the more relaxed he became. It felt as if even the heavens were favoring him.

.....

Lin Xun was indeed in agony at this moment.

Wisps of extremely uncompromising and tyrannical golden power were rampaging in his body. It was filled with a boundless aura of destruction that he was unable to withstand, resulting in his body being destroyed at an alarming rate.

"Damnit, it's that guy!"

Lin Xun was flustered. He thought he had finally gained the upper hand and never imagined that it was instead a disaster.

Additionally, he realized the source of the golden power, which made him increasingly aware of the severity of the situation.

In the ancient era, the halberd-wielding golden figure had killed two Saint experts. It was easy to imagine how terrifying of an existence that was.

Although the remnant traces of golden power in the root was minimal, it was not something the likes of Lin Xun could withstand.

"Remember it! "

"You must not forget..."

While Lin Xun was in pain, two different voices sounded in his head.

One voice was dignified, solemn, and almost deafening like the booming sound of the great dao.

The other voice seemed anxious while tinkling beautifully like gold. It sounded uniquely magnetic and akin to the singing of an immortal phoenix.

In an instant, the figures of Saint Duji and the Black Phoenix Saint Queen pierced by a halberd appeared in Lin Xun's mind.

Before dying, the former was enraged as he furiously stared at the distance while the latter lowered her eyes in anxiety, unwilling to accept what had happened.

Lin Xun's heart shuddered. Were they telling him to remember the golden power?

Boom!

At the same time, a stream of mysterious life energy suddenly emerged from the root in his hand and rushed into his body.

In addition, specks of illusory sacred green light appeared on the wilted surface of the root as if trying to revive it.

What's going on?

Before Lin Xun could figure it out, a loud boom shook his mind and the world seemed to sway around him.

He suddenly found himself in front of an ancient tree. Its branches reached into the sky, and its green leaves looked as if they were carved from jade. A green haze drifted from the tree, dyeing the land in a sacred atmosphere.

A simple-looking monk with a delicate and handsome appearance was seated under the tree. He was deeply focused while his figure was bathed in the sacred Buddhist light as if he was a legendary Bodhisattva.

There was a slim figure standing beside him with her head lowered as if saying something to him. Her fine black hair was pulled back, revealing the side view of her beautiful face.

Sacred light also sprinkled from her. It took the shape of a life-like black phoenix and perched itself on a branch as it nestled its feathers.

Lin Xun froze. The scene before him was peaceful and sacred like the holy land of immortals spoken of in legend!

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Chapter 960: Saints Writing a Scripture

The ancient tree swayed as its green leaves scattered a green haze onto the surroundings.

A divine aura spread from the tree while a life-like black phoenix perched on one of its branches leisurely combed its gorgeous, fire-like feathers.

Under the ancient tree, a monk interpreted the dao while a woman lowered her head and conversed with him.

Both of them were bathed in sacred dao light, making them appear as transcendent as immortals in a dream.

Lin Xun stood in a trance some distance away. It felt as if time had been rewound to the ancient era, and he was seeing a scene occurring on a divine land.

Lin Xun was certain that the monk with a delicate and handsome appearance and the stunningly beautiful woman were Saint Monk Duji and the Black Phoenix Saint Queen.

Moreover, the giant ancient tree overflowing with green haze was likely the Bodhi Tree!

Lin Xun found himself gradually being immersed in the sound of sutra chanting and was unable to think about anything else.

"The only way to surpass the Universal Mercy and Succor Art is to combine the essence of the Great Earth Treasury Scripture and the Silent Annihilation Art. If successful, the result might be a scripture that transcends all previous arts."

"Then starting today, I will interpret the dao with you. If we can achieve our wish, I will not regret it even if I die nine times."

"That will be a great blessing!"

Duji and the Black Phoenix Saint Queen talked under the Bodhi tree. Each word and sentence rang out like the morning bell or the evening drum, emitting the mysteries of the great dao.

Flowers blossomed and fell as the years changed.

The two were oblivious to the passage of time. They interpreted the dao together, sharing and elaborating on their respective comprehension and perspectives.

The divine sound of the dao echoed around them, making the atmosphere grow increasingly sacred and tranquil.

The Bodhi Tree swayed as if also listening to the great truth of the dao, gradually learning the two Saints' dao and arts.

At some unknown time, Lin Xun found himself seated on the ground. His mind was still in a daze and his consciousness was muddled while the profound truth of the dao surged in his head.

He forgot the passage of time, the sky, the land, and himself.

Lin Xun didn't even know what he was comprehending. As the saying went "It is impossible to clearly describe the true meaning of anything."

The years passed, and several springs and autumns went by in a snap of the fingers.

The Bodhi Tree grew increasingly tall and strong. Its trunk rose into the heavens as its branches and densely packed leaves spread across the sky, sprinkling luminous green haze.

Under the tree, the monk and the woman still talked occasionally. However, they were becoming increasingly taciturn.

They had clearly reached a critical juncture and were using great willpower and wisdom to derive a completely new dao.

The only time they would communicate with each other was when they gained new inspiration or comprehension.

Lin Xun was unaware of all this. His mind and body were in a peculiar state resembling the 'formless mass of chaos' as he was being flooded by the profound truth of the dao.

.....

It was an enlightening experience that crossed the boundaries of time and was marvelous beyond description.

It was like time traveling to the ancient era and listening to two Saints interpreting the dao and creating a new art, an event that was inconceivably impossible.

Unfortunately, the profound truth Lin Xun heard was limited to his cultivation level. He could only understand the dao truths below the King stage.

On the other hand, the dao expounded by the two Saints had long since reached the realm above the Saint stage!

However, Lin Xun was oblivious to this. He was in a state of complete immersion absent of all thoughts and the senses...because all six of his senses were engulfed by the profound truth of the dao.

.....

An unknown amount of time passed. It might be an entire cycle of the mortal world or perhaps only a split second. In his trance, Lin Xun felt something and suddenly snapped awake.

Under the Bodhi Tree, Duji's beard and hair were snow-white. He looked old, every inch of his skin appearing wrinkly like withered bark. It seemed as if he was about to pass away.

The Black Phoenix Saint Queen also appeared thin and emaciated. Her youthful beauty was gone, and frost hung from her temples. Her gorgeous and holy appearance now gave off a sensation of a flickering candle that would be blown out at any moment.

The sight caused unexplainable emotions to rise in Lin Xun's heart. He was also indescribably shaken. The merciless and sorrowful nature of time was embodied to the fullest in this very moment.

However, the eyes of Duji and the Saint Queen were as bright as the starry sky, clear, and seemed to contain infinite depth. They looked at each other and revealed perfectly satisfied smiles.

Behind them, the Bodhi Tree's branches, leaves, and bark were falling off. The tree seemed barren and dull as if it was about to decay.

However, it was still strong and seemed capable of supporting the heavens as it stood under the sky.

"After ten thousand years of derivation, the scripture you and I created has finally been completed today. From now on, this wonderful art will transcend the Great Earth Treasury Scripture and is destined to shine brightly for all of time." Duji's clear eyes were tinged with joy and satisfaction.

"This scripture combines the essences of the Great Earth Treasury Scripture and my clan's Silent Annihilation Art. It can indeed be called a masterpiece that transcends the past and the present will inherit the future."

At this point, the Saint Queen's tone suddenly changed, "However, once this scripture is released, it will definitely shake the heritage of the Earth Treasury Temple. Aren't you worried that you will be regarded as a heretic?"

She continued, "You should understand that the Earth Treasury Temple's roots and foundation were built from the Great Earth Treasury Scripture. The scripture you created has transcended the Great Earth Treasury Scripture and is completely different from it. Once it is released to the world, even a high status Saint Monk like you is destined to be regarded as a rebel and a heretic by the Earth Treasury Temple."

Duji smiled faintly. His voice was calm and contained a strong sense of determination as he replied, "If I am a demon, I will convert all Buddhas in the world into demons."

The Saint Queen's pupils shrank.

Subsequently, Duji said, "If I am a Buddha, there will be no demons in the world!"

The Saint Queen was utterly stunned.

In the distance, Lin Xun was also shaken like never before. These words were simply domineering to the extreme. It transcended all laws and displayed an attitude of the sole supreme!

It was unbelievable that such words had come from the mouth of a Saint Monk. If this was known, it would draw endless criticism and dispute!

"It turns out that you have already gained enlightenment long ago and saw a higher realm..." A rare trace of emotion appeared on the Saint Queen's face.

Duji chuckled and said, "The time has come, let's begin."

"Okay."

The two immediately rose to their feet and looked up to face the sky. Their expressions turned proud, and transcendent divine light surged around them.

Their original aged faces, dried, withered skin, and snow-white hair...began to shine as a layer of sacred light covered them.

In the blink of an eye, they regained their previous appearances!

Duji put his hands together as a mighty dao sound left his lips. The surrounding world resonated as dao flowers appeared in the air, and droplets of light rained from the sky.

The Saint Queen began to write in the air with her finger. Characters that gleamed with divine light flowed from her fingertip, lining up to create a divine and eternal scripture.

The dao sound and the dao characters reflected on each other as they resonated with the world.

Heavenly flowers scattered from the sky while golden light gushed from the land.

Brilliant light gorgeously shone in the air as the sound of sutra chanting and the cries of a phoenix occasionally echoed across the nine heavens, presenting a grand and immeasurable phenomenon.

Lin Xun was rooted to the spot in shock, unable to believe his eyes.

The Saints were writing a scripture!

He recalled several old legends. In the ancient era, if a Saint managed to establish a new dao and create a scripture, a grand phenomenon would descend from the sky. It represented an unrivaled merit and an eternal achievement that would leave its mark across all of time!

Lin Xun had originally thought it was merely a made-up story, but he believed it now.

Amidst the divine light, Duji smiled and said, "Since this scripture we created transcends the Great Earth Treasury Scripture and the Black Phoenix Silent Annihilation Art, how about calling it the Treasury Silent Scripture?"

In this moment, he resembled a Buddha overlooking all of life.

"It's lacking in aspiration. The scripture we created will more than astonish the past, present, and future. It should be complemented by the word 'great' in order to reflect its great profoundness and meaning."

The Saint Queen's graceful figure was also bathed in the mist of divine light, giving her a dreamy charm.

"The Great Treasury Silent Scripture? Excellent!" Duji laughed heartily.

Lin Xun was unable to remain composed. He finally realized that the two Saint experts had sat under the Bodhi Tree and interpreted the dao for countless seasons in order to create a Saint scripture!

Rumble!

At this moment, something unexpected occurred.

Above the sky, space began to fracture and shatter, revealing a giant crack. Meanwhile, a spear shadow filled with supreme majesty flew out from the crack!

Clang!

The spear shadow vibrated loudly, causing heaven and earth to rumble as an indescribable killing aura spread and wove together into a supreme force.

In an instant, the flowers in the sky burst to pieces, the golden light from the ground was scattered, the bright divine light was dissolved, and peace was torn apart...

It was a sign of the world falling to destruction!

"It came after all..." Duji was surprisingly calm as if he had already anticipated this would happen.

"It was destined to come the moment we took this step. That is how it has always been. Since we have fulfilled our long-cherished wish, let us give our all and fight!" The Saint Queen's deep eyes were clear as terrifying battle intent pulsed from her.

"As you once said, there are no regrets even if I die nine times!" Duji put his hands together as his clothes flapped around him.

The two figures rushed into the sky.

On the ground, the Bodhi Tree swayed violently as if sobbing...

It all happened too abruptly and quickly, leaving Lin Xun still frozen in shock. He never imagined that disaster would descend just like that.

He raised his eyes to look at the sky where Saint aura surged like a raging sea while shining radiantly, making it impossible to see what was happening.

However, Lin Xun knew that this was a killing calamity directed at the two Saints!

It might be because they had taken a forbidden step or because they had created a scripture that touched the taboo, thus inviting this great calamity.

"It was destined the moment we took that step. That is how it always has been.....the meaning of these words is too terrifying to imagine..." Chills shot up Lin Xun's body.

"It's him!" Lin Xun soon stiffened when he saw a golden figure emerge from the giant crack in the sky. It was as if the sole overlord of the world was descending upon the realm, shocking the nine heavens and the ten lands.

Boom!

Lin Xun's mind loudly buzzed as the scene before his eyes faded like bubbles...

He tried to open his eyes, but he could no longer see anything. He seemed to have fallen into a whirlpool, feeling as if everything was spinning wildly around him.

Amidst the murkiness, Lin Xun seemed to hear the voices of Duji and the Saint Queen again.

"Remember it!"

"Never forget..."