

Overlord 1001

Chapter 1001: Hands off the Boss's Wife

Sister-in-law! Yet another sister-in-law! Xia Liuhui swore that this was the term that he never wanted to hear again.

When he met Wu Zhijun, Xiang Shaoyun told him she was a sister-in-law, someone Liang Zhuangmin had taken a liking to. When he met Han Chenfei, she demanded that he address her as sister-in-law as well.

Fine, Xia Liuhui accepted all that. And now, this incredibly beautiful woman was also telling him to address her as sister-in-law? She even personally admitted to being his boss's woman? Suddenly, the world seemed to have lost all color. Love no longer existed.

"Xia Liuhui, what's going on? Do you think I'm lying? I'll have you know that I already had my engagement ceremony with Xiang Shaoyun," emphasized Tuoba Wan'er, who thought that Xia Liuhui was assuming that she was a liar.

After all these years, Tuoba Wan'er was still as beautiful and elegant. Her graceful temperament made her seem like a fairy that had descended from heaven.

"No, no, I believe you," Xia Liuhui hurriedly waved his hands. Inwardly, he cried, The heavens are unfair. Has my boss courted all the beauties in the world?

In the past, Gong Qinyin and Lu Xiaoqing had been looking at Xiang Shaoyun favorably. And now, more remarkable women had fallen for him. Sure, his boss deserved all that, but when even a random beauty on the street was claiming to be his boss's woman, he was dealt a great blow.

Fine, since this was his sister-in-law, he could only suppress his feelings.

"Good. Come, take a walk with me and tell me about your boss's past," said Tuoba Wan'er.

Xia Liuhui couldn't even find an excuse to say no. Thus, he followed her around obediently and started telling her about Xiang Shaoyun's past. The reason why Tuoba Wan'er had been able to meet Xia Liuhui the moment Xiang Shaoyun left was because she had noticed them the moment they had arrived at the Dragon Phoenix City. She had merely been hiding from them.

She had Old Urchin observing the two from the dark and waited until Xiang Shaoyun left before showing herself. She did not dare to show herself before Xiang Shaoyun because she was afraid that he had yet to forgive her.

Back then, she was truly infuriated by the provocations of Yu Caidie, Huang Xiaoyue, Han Chenfei, and the Han sisters. They were accusing him of being a villainous heartbreaker, and because she didn't really know him that well, she had misunderstood him.

After leaving the Dragon Phoenix Academy and carefully thinking about the incident, she realized that she might have mistakenly blamed him. Even so, she did not go back to the academy. After all, she was still slightly angry after seeing just how many women there were around him.

After traveling around for about a year, she returned. But she received the bad news that Xiang Shaoyun had been expelled. She did not know why he was expelled. She felt sad for him, and she longed to see him again. However, she did not know where to even start her search for him. Eventually, she was told to wait at Dragon Phoenix City, as it was likely that she could meet him again there. Thus, she had stayed in the city since then. Finally, he was here.

The moment she saw him, joy and excitement filled her heart. The two years of separation had taught her just how much she liked him. After all, they had gotten along very well during their time at the Holy Hall.

Xia Liuhui basically told her almost everything he knew about Xiang Shaoyun from his time at the Martial Hall Palace and after. Naturally, Xia Liuhui was smart enough to only sing Xiang Shaoyun praises and not mention anything bad about him.

Sure, he might be jealous of his boss, but there was one principle he had to follow: hands off the boss's wife!

Xiang Shaoyun was naturally unaware of Xia Liuhui and Tuoba Wan'er meeting and talking. With Money, Aikai, the turtle, and the toad, he entered the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. With their speed, it did not take them long to reach the strong-ape's territory. There, he saw the strong-ape training the three birds. The three birds rushed over the moment they saw Xiang Shaoyun.

"Boss, you're back!" Vicious Three cried out in excitement.

As for the strong-ape, a look of deep fear appeared in his eyes when he saw the turtle and the toad. He might be a Demon Sovereign, but he was nothing compared to the turtle and the toad.

"Young master, you're here for these kids?" asked the toad as he looked at the strong-ape and the three birds with derision.

"That's right. I have been raising these three," said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed the feathers of the three birds who had grown considerably.

They were now peak Kings, and it wouldn't be long before they became Demon Emperors. Xiang Shaoyun wanted to have them continue training at the mountain range, but after some hesitation, he decided to bring them with him. He would be returning to the Ziling Sect soon. At the time, he could appoint them as the sect guardians.

The turtle immediately smiled and said, "Young master, you have good eyes. These kids obviously have a decent bloodline. They will grow into strong individuals."

The toad sensed something wrong, and he hurriedly agreed, "Yes, yes, the young master really has good eyes."

After witnessing Xiang Shaoyun's freakish strength, the two had finally recognized his potential. He might not be overly strong now, but he would probably surpass them the moment he became a Sovereign. Furthermore, he still had the terrifying wolf guard protecting him in the dark. The two had completely submitted to him and no longer dared to think of disloyalty.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the two. He looked at the strong-ape and said, "Strong-ape, do you want to come with me, or do you prefer to stay?"

After a slight hesitation, the strong-ape said, "I am willing to follow you, master."

The mystic earth essence energy here had been taken by Xiang Shaoyun. If he wanted to keep growing, he had to enter deeper into the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range and kill opponents as strong as him before devouring their demonic cores. However, with his strength, it would be a dream to run rampant at the inner parts of the mountain range.

In that case, it would be much better to follow Xiang Shaoyun. Perhaps he could stumble upon better opportunities that way. After all, there were two powerful Demon Sovereigns by his side. If they decided to offer some guidance, the strong-ape would benefit greatly. That was why he had come to this decision.

Xiang Shaoyun originally planned to grant the strong-ape freedom, so he was surprised to hear that the strong-ape was willing to follow him.

He nodded and said, "Fine. You may follow me. Just call me young master in the future."

He was in need of helpers, and the strong-ape was most certainly a decent helper. Thus, he did not mind accepting the strong-ape as his follower.

Chapter 1002: Don't Run off Randomly in the Future

On his way back to the Dragon Phoenix City, Xiang Shaoyun called out to the wolf guard. He was aware that the wolf guard was probably still protecting him from the dark. Sure enough, the wolf guard appeared the moment he called.

"Lord wolf guard, I am planning to leave the Dragon Phoenix City, so you don't need to follow me anymore. Thank you for your care all this while," said Xiang Shaoyun gratefully.

"Fine. I would have left long ago if it wasn't for the fact that Feng Huosuo and Shadowflash are harboring bad intentions toward you. Then again, it feels good to be able to move around for a bit. I don't get a lot of chances to travel like this," said the wolf guard.

"Ok. Please forward my greetings to my master. Tell him I won't disappoint him. If I have the chance, I will pay him a visit in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun, filled with gratitude.

"I will. Also, I'll return after you leave the Dragon Phoenix City," said the wolf guard with a nod.

"Sure. Thank you," said Xiang Shaoyun as he continued heading toward the Dragon Phoenix City at full speed.

He had to leave as quickly as possible to prevent any mishap from happening. But when he returned to the restaurant where he was supposed to meet Xia Liuhui, he saw a person that he had not seen for a long time. Waves appeared in his heart, but he suppressed his emotions and strode over one step at a time.

But before he could get near, a different person jumped in his way and roared aggressively, "Yooo, look at this heartless kid. You dare show your face here? Do you want this old man to feed you to the dogs?"

The turtle beside Xiang Shaoyun roared unhappily, "Who is this old bastard? Watch your mouth."

"Little turtle, there is no place for you to speak here. Piss off," the other person shouted back.

The turtle wanted to say something when he met the other person's fearsome gaze. He instantly stepped back behind Xiang Shaoyun and thought, Why are there so many experts among the humans? This is too scary.

"How have you been, Old Urchin?" Xiang Shaoyun saluted respectfully.

The person before him was none other than Old Urchin.

"I have been bad. The young lady has been unhappy for the past two years. It is all your fault. Tell me. Are you planning to forget about your promise?" Old Urchin questioned as he pointed at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Old Urchin, it's better for me to talk with Wan'er about this," said Xiang Shaoyun. He did not wish to explain himself too much to Old Urchin as things might get messier the more he explained. As the actual parties involved, it was better for the two of them to talk it out.

Along with the passage of time, he was much more indifferent toward the incident back then. His willpower had grown stronger, and it was now time to face and deal with this issue.

When Old Urchin saw how serious Xiang Shaoyun was, he said, "I warn you, make sure to make the young lady happy. Otherwise, I will teach you a lesson even if you're the holy son-in-law."

He then let Xiang Shaoyun through. Xia Liuhui walked over in large strides. Tuoba Wan'er and Xia Liuhui had long noticed him.

Xia Liuhui rushed over and said, "Boss, have a good chat with sister-in-law. I'll go to the washroom."

He then ran away. He could feel that he shouldn't be present right now.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun, Tuoba Wan'er called out nervously, "H-Holy son-in-law."

With a complicated look on his face, Xiang Shaoyun asked, "When did you come back?"

As the two did not have the chance to get to know each other better, they had lost their trust for each other due to that certain incident. But time had allowed Xiang Shaoyun to look at the same incident with indifference.

As a responsible person, he would still acknowledge her position as his wife. But if she still couldn't believe him, then he did not think that they should continue wasting each other's time. That way, both of them would feel better, and neither would owe the other.

"It has been a while since I returned," said Tuoba Wan'er as she lowered her head.

She felt that Xiang Shaoyun was still angry with her, and she felt terrible. Back then, she was the one who had decided to leave in a fit of anger, and she was the one who had distrusted him.

She was a Soul Foundation Realm expert, but before Xiang Shaoyun, she was like a meek wife. One could say that she really had a gentle disposition. When Xiang Shaoyun looked at how Tuoba Wan'er was behaving and recalled that she was a holy maiden, a sense of pity rose in his heart. He held her hand and pulled her into his embrace.

Tuoba Wan'er trembled slightly, and her face was instantly flushed red. Doing this in public felt way too embarrassing. Her reaction was not surprising. They were currently in a restaurant with a lot of people around them. It certainly looked rather scandalous for a handsome man and a beautiful woman to be displaying their affection so publicly.

Some of them were envious of Xiang Shaoyun and wanted to start cussing. But when they saw the fellows behind Xiang Shaoyun, they shut their mouths and grumbled inwardly, Damn it! Hug to your heart's content at home. Why are you doing this here? This is too immoral! You are obviously bullying us for being single!

"Don't run off randomly in the future, ok?" said Xiang Shaoyun tenderly, completely disregarding the crowd around them.

As a man, he should be generous and let bygones be bygones. If he rejected a fiancée so beautiful, he would only be benefiting a different man in the future. That was not his intention.

"Um," answered Tuoba Wan'er softly, her heart filled with blissfulness.

The two years of separation had taught her of her true feelings for him. Since he was willing to forgive her, it was time to bury the hatchet.

When Xiang Shaoyun was about to let go of Tuoba Wan'er, a furious shout rang out from outside the restaurant, "Bastard! You dare hug my woman? Let go of her, or you will die a terrible death!"

The shout attracted the attention of everyone in the restaurant. Xiang Shaoyun let go of Tuoba Wan'er and looked outside as well. A stern middle-aged man was glaring at him furiously. From the look in his eyes, he seemed like he wanted nothing but to tear Xiang Shaoyun apart.

When Tuoba Wan'er saw the newcomer, loathing appeared in her eyes. She transmitted to Xiang Shaoyun, "He is Di Luoyang, and he claims to be a member of the Di Clan. He has been pestering me ever since I started traveling to Dragon Phoenix City."

"Di Luoyang? Looks like destiny will really make enemies meet. You actually dare to harass my wife? You need to die!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a frown.

Right after he said those words, Di Luoyang walked over with his Sovereign presence pressing down upon Xiang Shaoyun and shouted, "Pretty boy, get over here and kowtow to me. Or else—"

Before he could finish his words, the turtle appeared beside him, grabbed his shoulder, and said, "Where does this fly come from? You dare raise your voice before the young master? Get lost!"

He then threw Di Luoyang away. Before Di Luoyang even knew what was happening, he was sent flying outside the restaurant.

Chapter 1003: Unforgivable Enemies

While Di Luoyang was flying out of the restaurant, someone tried catching him. Unfortunately, that person was also sent flying even though he was rather strong as well.

Di Luoyang felt like his entire body was about to fall apart. He realized that the person who had thrown him was incredibly powerful, much stronger than him and the person he followed. Thus, he started feeling nervous. For some reason, the pretty boy from earlier looked familiar, as though he had seen him somewhere before.

Di Luoyang was helped back on his feet by the people behind him. The person who had tried to catch him asked, "Third young master, are you fine?"

"I'm fine," replied Di Luoyang after heaving a long breath.

It was then that Xiang Shaoyun walked out of the restaurant while holding Tuoba Wan'er's hand. He looked at Di Luoyang and sneered, "Third brother, it has been quite a while. I never imagined that we would see each other again."

Di Luoyang was none other than the third brother of Di Tong and Di Lin. During Xiang Shaoyun's time at the Ziling Sect, he had also addressed Di Luoyang as his third brother. This third brother had left the sect to cultivate when Xiang Shaoyun was about 11 years old. Thus, the two had not gotten the chance to see each other in the subsequent years.

If Tuoba Wan'er hadn't mentioned Di Luoyang's name, Xiang Shaoyun probably wouldn't have recognized who he was.

Di Luoyang raised his head and looked at Xiang Shaoyun. His pupils shrunk as he cursed, "So it's you, little bastard!"

He was aware that his father had snatched Ziling Sect's leadership, and he also knew that three of his younger brothers were cultivating in the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Of the three, Di Lin and Di Shang were killed by Xiang Shaoyun. He had not expected to meet Xiang Shaoyun here.

"Let's leave, third young master," said the old man behind Di Luoyang, fleeing swiftly with Di Luoyang in tow.

If this was a mere misunderstanding, it wouldn't matter much. But since Xiang Shaoyun was actually an enemy and had such powerful people by his side, they might not have a chance to escape if a conflict broke out.

"Toad, get both of them back. I want them alive," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.

He was just about to return to the Ziling Sect, but an enemy had actually delivered himself to him. It saved him a lot of effort.

"Yes, young master," said the toad, finally finding himself useful. After nodding his head, he dashed toward Di Luoyang.

Tuoba Wan'er asked, "Holy son-in-law, you know them?"

"More than that. They are my unforgivable enemies," said Xiang Shaoyun with thick killing intent.

"Can you tell me about them?" Tuoba Wan'er asked as she tightened her grip on Xiang Shaoyun's hand.

She was showing her willingness to share everything with Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sure. I'll tell you everything after catching them," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

He was prepared to take his revenge, and he had a decent number of helpers. It wouldn't be hard to retake the Ziling Sect now, so there was no need to hide anything from Tuoba Wan'er. He was originally confident that the toad could easily capture Di Luoyang and his guardian, but after a while, the toad returned alone. It was quite surprising.

"Young master, I couldn't catch them. They have a Saint with them. If I hadn't run fast enough, they would have captured me," said the toad with a look of shame.

Immediately after the toad spoke, Di Luoyang returned. This time, he had two other people beside him, an old man and a person in a cloak.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw the old man, his face turned cold as he cursed, It's this old bastard. He is now colluding with the Di Clan?

The old man was none other than Dragon Phoenix Academy's previous generation elder, Situ Mingyu. Xiang Shaoyun noticed Situ Mingyu, but he did not pay the person in the cloak much attention. However, that person seemed to be exhibiting thick hostility, but the hostility vanished soon after.

When Situ Mingyu appeared, Old Urchin appeared before Tuoba Wan'er. He was not about to allow her to be harmed.

"Let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun. When he saw Situ Mingyu, he knew that it would be hard to capture Di Luoyang. Thus, he decided to leave.

"Little bastard, why are you in such a rush? I thought you were feeling very confident earlier?" said Di Luoyang, who obviously did not intend to spare Xiang Shaoyun.

"Go back and tell your old man that in less than half a year, I will return to the Ziling Sect. Tell him to get ready for his death," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Di Luoyang roared furiously, "Little bastard, do you want to die right now?"

"You really think you're qualified to be shouting at me just because you have that old dog by your side?" said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"Little bastard, you think you can disrespect me because the lord gravekeeper has your back? I can kill you as easily as killing an ant!" said Situ Mingyu with a frown. His presence unfurled and pressed down on Xiang Shaoyun.

He was a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator. The gap between his strength and Xiang Shaoyun's strength was incredibly large. It was entirely possible for him to crush Xiang Shaoyun to death with his presence alone.

Fortunately, Old Urchin stepped forth and blocked the presence. He then lazily said, "You, have you asked for my permission before laying your hands on our holy son-in-law?"

Situ Mingyu looked at Old Urchin and said, "This is the Dragon Phoenix Academy's turf."

"And we are the honored guests of your academy," said Old Urchin arrogantly.

Situ Mingyu narrowed his eyes, and when he sensed that there seemed to be other experts hidden around them, he hurriedly withdrew his presence before saying, "If we create trouble in the city, none of us will have a good time. Watch your back."

He then signaled Di Luoyang before leaving. Di Luoyang wanted to say something, but when the cloaked person pulled him, he left unhappily. Only then did Xiang Shaoyun notice the cloaked person. His expression shifted greatly as he thought, Why is it him? This is not possible!

"Holy son-in-law, are you ok?" Tuoba Wan'er asked nervously when she saw that something was wrong with Xiang Shaoyun.

"I'm fine. I might have seen wrongly," said Xiang Shaoyun as he shook his head.

"Do we stay or leave?" Tuoba Wan'er asked.

"Leave immediately," said Xiang Shaoyun unhesitatingly.

He had sensed that the cloaked person was Di Lin. He could not believe that a person who he had personally killed would still be alive. Thus, he had lost his calm for a bit. He found it hard to believe, but he had the feeling there was something going on that he was unaware of.

More importantly, Di Luoyang had obviously gotten in bed with Situ Mingyu. If Situ Mingyu decided to help the Ziling Sect, it would be much harder for him to regain his sect.

Nobody can stop me from regaining the Ziling Sect, vowed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

Chapter 1004: Welcoming the Young Master's Return

With Tuoba Wan'er, Xia Liuhui, and the others, Xia Liuhui left through Dragon Phoenix City's teleportation formation. His first stop was the Bloodsin City, which was basically the headquarters of his current faction. His most trusted helpers were all there, and he needed their participation in what he was about to do.

Of course, he also aimed to forge his soul foundation before returning to the Ziling Sect. If he could, he would have even greater confidence.

The Bloodsin City and Dragon Phoenix City were connected by a special teleportation formation that could only be activated by the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Since Xiang Shaoyun wasn't a disciple of the academy, he was not qualified to use it. Thus, he could only use a regular teleportation formation and move to a different place before heading to the Bloodsin City.

After about half a month of travel, the travel-worn group finally arrived. The Bloodsin City was filled with sin, blood, and darkness. Shunned by many, it was the heaven of criminals.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived, he sensed that the devilish aura in the air had reached an extremely high level. A trace of excitement rose within him out of nowhere, and he was sure his bloodline was the reason.

"So this is the so-called Bloodsin City. What a thick smell of blood," said Tuoba Wan'er with a frown. Evidently, she wasn't used to this kind of environment.

"Why do I feel chilly all of a sudden," said Xia Liuhui as he shrank his neck.

"You're already a seventh-stage Emperor. Where are your guts?" said Xiang Shaoyun. He looked at Tuoba Wan'er and said, "The Bloodsin City is filled with sin and blood, and it's a place where the devils are suppressed. Circulate your energy and adapt yourself. You will feel better in no time."

"Boss, are there really any helpers in a place this chaotic?" asked Xia Liuhui curiously.

"You'll know when we're there," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

The moment they arrived, someone had set his eyes on them. Unfortunately for that person, he had picked the wrong target. When he attempted to rob them, the strong-ape instantly smashed him to mincemeat.

Their high-profiled arrival attracted the Skeleton Gang's attention. Soon, someone arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and greeted deferentially, "Welcome back to the Bloodsin City, young master."

A few years ago, Xiang Shaoyun had gained control of the three leaders of the Skeleton Gang. He had also swallowed the Noxious Blood Gang and unified the turf of the two gangs. Thus, his face was known among the Skeleton Gang members. Even those who had not seen him personally would have memorized his features from his portrait.

"Rise. Where are your leaders?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"The first and second leaders had entered the Devil Devil Domain to temper themselves. Only the third leader remains. This subordinate will take you there now," said the person respectfully.

This subordinate still remembered how stupefied he was when Xiang Shaoyun forcefully declared himself as their young master back then. Ultimately, the capitulation of their three leaders and the assistance of the Ghostface Sect taught him that their young master was not at all an ordinary person.

The group headed to the Skeleton Gang's headquarters. The headquarters was no longer located at the same place. Its new location was now much better, and its size was rather impressive as well. Powerful cultivators could be seen patrolling at all times, and it was obvious the headquarters had strong defenses.

"Reporting, Xiang Shaoyun, the young master, is back!" shouted the subordinate the moment they arrived.

The guards blanked out momentarily before kneeling down. "Welcome back, young master!"

Xia Liuhui was filled with envy when he saw the respect they showed Xiang Shaoyun. He said, "Boss, you're amazing! This isn't an organization left behind by your father, right?"

"The organization my father left behind is the Ziling Sect. This is a tiny organization I managed to build after you and I had separated," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

In the past, organizations like the Skeleton Gang would be considered decent for him. But with his current strength, such organizations became a tad bit too lacking. However, he also believed that Devouring Ghost had also trained them up, so there would definitely be some useful people around.

The group headed into the headquarters, and some people hurriedly rushed out from the inside. They knelt down on one knee and greeted, "Welcome back, young master."

"You may all rise," said Xiang Shaoyun.

It was then that he saw that there were actually some Sovereigns in the Skeleton Gang. He was surprised.

The group entered the headquarters. He first arranged for the people to settle Tuoba Wan'er, Xia Liuhui, and the others down before summoning the Skeleton Gang members over for a meeting.

He was, after all, the true master of the Skeleton Gang. He had been away for a few years, so it was only proper that he showed his face to placate them for his absence over the years. Sitting on the main seat, he listened to the reports of what the gang had gone through in recent years. He then spoke some words of encouragement and took out some treasures to reward those who had contributed to the gang.

The people there did not know him well, but they could all sense the powerful aura around him. His aura was scarier than even their three leaders, so they naturally didn't show him any disrespect. And when they saw him taking out some emperor-grade treasures to reward them, they were wild with joy.

During his years at the Dragon Phoenix Academy, as the leader of a faction, Xiang Shaoyun naturally knew how to buy the hearts of the masses. To make others work for him, he had to offer sufficient benefits.

After spending a day handling the gang affairs, he sent someone to call Devouring Ghost over. He hoped to learn more about Scarlet Flame Monarch's current condition from Devouring Ghost.

Devouring Ghost rushed over the moment he heard that Xiang Shaoyun was back. He had been staying at the Skeleton Gang's place, but as he needed to take care of Scarlet Flame Monarch, he had subsequently moved to the Ghostface Sect. After all, the Ghostface Sect had better resources to help Scarlet Flame Monarch's recover.

When the two met, they started asking about each other's well-being.

"Devouring Ghost, how is Scarlet Flame?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Second brother has recovered considerably, but it won't be easy for him to make a full recovery. After all, many hidden injuries are still in his body. Without saint-grade materials, it will be hard for him to fully recover," said Devouring Ghost. "However, it is already very good that second brother can see the sun again. It is only a matter of time before he recovers fully."

"You're right. As long as one is still alive, there will be hope. No problem will remain unsolved," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. "This time, I am planning to return to the Ziling Sect. I will be needing your help."

Chapter 1005: This Child Has Finally Grown Up

"I have long prepared myself," replied Devouring Ghost calmly. He then gave Xiang Shaoyun an explanation.

Xiang Shaoyun was told that Green Ghost and the entire Ghostface Sect would be mobilized so long as he required. Green Ghost himself was a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, an expert strong enough to take the Ziling Sect back.

Scarlet Flame Monarch had also absorbed many treasures. Although he hadn't recovered his full strength, he was strong enough to battle regular Saints. With those two helpers, they wouldn't need to fear any trump card the Ziling Sect might have.

Additionally, Devouring Ghost had also grown considerably. He was now a peak fourth-stage Sovereign. With the help of his blood demon, even late-stage Sovereigns would have a hard time against him. Du Xuanhao had also reached the Sovereign Realm. As a Saber Sovereign, he could easily match a second-stage Sovereign in a battle.

The three leaders of the Skeleton Gang had also reached the Soul Foundation Realm, with Celestial Skeleton being a second-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. The gang's overall strength had also increased. New members had been recruited, and after Devouring Ghost's training, they could spare about 200 members to help Xiang Shaoyun retake the Ziling Sect.

Of the 200 members, a quarter of them were Emperors and the rest were Kings. They were all elites among elites who had survived in the Devil Domain, and they were stronger than regular cultivators of the same cultivation level.

Although the Skeleton Gang was still weaker than a tier-7 organization like the Ziling Sect, they could still form a rather formidable army. Including the turtle, toad, strong-ape, Aikai, and Money, Xiang Shaoyun had high chances at winning.

According to what Xiang Shaoyun knew, Di Batian was a Saint. It was unknown what stage he was at, but he was definitely not at the mid stage yet. After all, back then, even Xiang Shaoyun's father, Xiang Yangzhan, was only a fourth-stage Saint. And since Di Batian had always remained obediently subordinate to his father, one could easily guess his cultivation level.

Of course, Di Batian definitely would receive external help. If Situ Mingyu decided to help as well, the battle would turn complicated.

Xiang Shaoyun's group would have to make a proper plan before setting off, and they could not afford a defeat. Xiang Shaoyun's initial plan was to attack the Ziling Sect immediately, but after seeing Di Luoyang with Situ Mingyu, he stopped underestimating his enemy and started planning seriously.

"Will Scarlet Flame be able to leave seclusion at any time?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"He has been nursing his health recently. He should be ready to leave in about half a month," said Devouring Ghost.

"Sure, we'll wait. Also, go ask Green Ghost if he has any top-tier soul foundation forging materials. Forget about ordinary materials. Look for some Demon Saint cores of the gold element as well," said Xiang Shaoyun. But after he was done speaking, he changed his mind and said, "Scratch that. I'll personally pay Green Ghost a visit since it will show my sincerity."

"There is no need. Green Ghost is not daring enough to disobey his master," said Devouring Ghost confidently.

Devouring Ghost was right. He was someone who had educated Green Ghost, and Green Ghost had always viewed him as a father. Even after so many years, Green Ghost still attached great importance to this father figure. Devouring Ghost wouldn't have received so much help from him otherwise.

However, Xiang Shaoyun had his own way of doing things, so he insisted on meeting Green Ghost. There were things that he had to make clear so things wouldn't be awkward for everyone in the future.

In Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, he did not really consider Green Ghost as one of his own. Thus, he would only disregard Green Ghost's feelings if he was actually stronger than Green Ghost.

However, he still needed to visit his Uncle Tang before visiting Green Ghost. It would be impolite not to pay his uncle his respects now that he was here.

The next day, Xiang Shaoyun told Celestial Skeleton to gather all the members and get them ready for his command. He then went to visit Tang Zhan with Tuoba Wan'er.

Along the way, Tuoba Wan'er had a shy look as she asked, "Holy son-in-law, will it be fine for me to be dressed like this? Will this be lacking in manners?"

Xiang Shaoyun did not know whether to laugh or cry. He said, "Wan'er, you are already as beautiful as a fairy. What else do you want?"

He was right. Tuoba Wan'er was beautiful and elegant. Regular women couldn't even compare with her. Whatever she wore, her beauty would still shine through.

Instead of traveling on Old Urchin's shabby donkey carriage, they were seated on a luxurious carriage prepared by the Skeleton Gang. Devouring Ghost was personally driving the carriage, with Old Urchin following them from the dark. Nobody else went with them.

Along the way, there were some fools who tried to harass Tuoba Wan'er, but after Devouring Ghost slapped a few of them into mincemeat, nobody dared to create trouble. Strength was the only law in the Bloodsin City.

Once they arrived at the city hall, Xiang Shaoyun said something to the guard, then waited silently.

A short while later, a butler skipped over and welcomed him, "It's really you, Young Master Xiang. The governor is waiting inside."

The butler was Zhang Sheng, someone Xiang Shaoyun had met before. He knew of the relationship between Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Zhan. He wouldn't have shown Xiang Shaoyun such warmth otherwise.

"I'll have to trouble you to lead the way," said Xiang Shaoyun politely.

Xiang Shaoyun soon reached the main hall. Tang Zhan personally stepped out to welcome him and said, "Kid, why are you suddenly here? Are you slacking on your training?"

"Greetings, Uncle Tang," said Xiang Shaoyun after lightly pulling Tuoba Wan'er.

"Huh? Who is this lady?" Tang Zhan asked with a look of astonishment and appreciation when his gaze landed on Tuoba Wan'er.

"She is my fiancée, Tuoba Wan'er. I brought her here to meet you so you wouldn't blame me for not letting you know about the marriage in the future, Uncle Tang," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Tuoba Wan'er obediently greeted Tang Zhan as well. Tang Zhan rained praises on her with sincere joy on his face. He felt happy on behalf of Xiang Shaoyun, and he lamented inwardly, This child has finally grown up.

He then invited Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er inside. After refreshments were served to everyone, he said, "Shaoyun, you have been growing rapidly. It has only been a few years, yet you have already reached this level. I wonder how Longfei is doing?"

"Don't worry, Uncle Tang. Big Brother Tang is now a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and he is one of the top 100 disciples in the academy," said Xiang Shaoyun honestly.

Tang Zhan was overjoyed. "For real?"

"Of course. I wouldn't joke about it. You will know when Big Brother Tang returns in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, I will be happy if he can even be half as excellent as you in the future," said Tang Zhan.

Chapter 1006: Bereaved Royals

Tang Zhan was exceedingly excited to see Xiang Shaoyun. They spent some time catching up before entering the main topic. Xiang Shaoyun told Tang Zhan that he was back to reclaim the Ziling Sect. Basically, he was trying to borrow some manpower from his Uncle Tang.

Xiang Shaoyun was not arrogant enough to believe that he could confidently reclaim the Ziling Sect with the few people he had. He needed more helpers. He also considered rebuilding the Overlord Legion. It would be troublesome to keep asking for the help of others whenever a problem cropped up, as that would only increase the number of favors he owed others.

Tang Zhan was the governor of the Bloodsin City, and one could say that he was the local tyrant. He had a considerable number of men under his command, so he instantly agreed to send some men to help Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shaoyun, remember what I told you. That Di Batian is rather capable. Your father used to trust him fully because Di Batian was also very intelligent in addition to being strong. After running the sect for all these years, Di Batian now has an iron grip over the entire sect. The people there might no longer acknowledge your position. You need to be very careful," reminded Tang Zhan.

"I have thought of that. Anyone getting in my way will simply be killed," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

After cultivating for 10 years, he was no longer the same naive young man—he was now a domineering overlord.

"Um, it's good that you have such determination. The only thing you need to deal with is the Di Clan behind Di Batian. That clan is a huge monster that you absolutely can't neglect," said Tang Zhan. "Based on my investigation in recent years, Di Batian is a member of a hermit clan, the Di Clan. He is probably a bastard child of the family. Due to his low status in the clan, he had decided to leave and build something for himself outside the clan. But he has recently regained contact with the Di Clan for some unknown reason. Now, although the Ziling Sect is nominally his, it is actually under Di Clan's control. You have to take that into consideration."

"Tell me more about this Di Clan," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Di Clan is both a hermit clan and an ancient clan. There are also rumors saying that they are bereaved royals and used to be a powerful imperial clan a long time ago, but they had been forced into seclusion due to their decline. After growing in the shadows, they are now a powerful tier-8 organization with a considerable number of Heaven Battling Realm experts," said Tang Zhan.

Xiang Shaoyun felt his pressure increasing after hearing that. How was he supposed to deal with an organization that powerful?

"However, you don't have to worry too much. The Di Clan's territory is not located in the Celestial King Province. I don't really know where their main base is, though," said Tang Zhan. "You are still young. Although you are strong, how can you stand up against Di Batian? I can help you, but my advice is to wait until you're at the Heaven Battling Realm yourself before thinking about revenge."

Tang Zhan did not know what gave Xiang Shaoyun the confidence, but he did not think that Xiang Shaoyun stood a high chance of success. That was why he was trying hard to persuade Xiang Shaoyun to wait.

Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly, "If possible, I hope you can accompany me to the Ghostface Sect once."

This was a decision he had made after thinking it through. Apart from Devouring Ghost, he also needed someone else to apply additional pressure on Green Ghost, telling him that Xiang Shaoyun had his backers as well.

Tang Zhan raised his brow and said, "Kid, don't tell me you know that Green Ghost fellow."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "I know him by accident. I can't tell you the exact story. I only hope that you can come with me and show your face. I will have my way of borrowing their strength."

"If you can secure Green Ghost's help, you will have at least a 70 percent chance of succeeding," said Tang Zhan after some thought.

It was obvious he had high confidence in Green Ghost. In fact, he was even slightly fearful of him. Several large organizations monopolized the power in the Bloodsin City. As the governor, Tang Zhan was supposed to be the local tyrant. However, he knew that the true local tyrant was the Ghostface Sect. They had been operating in the city for nearly 10,000 years. On the other hand, the position of the city governor would change hands every now and then. There was most definitely a secret about the sect that nobody knew.

Tang Zhan agreed to Xiang Shaoyun's request. Xiang Shaoyun did not forget to ask Tang Zhan for top-tier soul foundation forging materials. Unfortunately, Tang Zhan did not have any despite his wealth, and he only had mid-tier materials. Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat disappointed, but he also knew that top-tier materials were exceedingly rare. If they could be easily found, they wouldn't be top-tier materials.

They then headed for the Ghostface Sect. Tang Zhan was traveling in a low-profile manner and was seated in the same carriage Xiang Shaoyun was in. Devouring Ghost was still acting as the driver. Nobody knew that the governor was heading toward the Ghostface Sect.

When they arrived at the sect, Devouring Ghost did not even need to show any tokens as proof of identity. When the guards saw him, they immediately saluted him and moved out of the way.

Devouring Ghost was the grand sect master, and the people here were familiar with him. Nobody would dare to get in his way. He accompanied Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Zhan, and Tuoba Wan'er all the way to the main hall. Along the way, Tuoba Wan'er grew even more confused as to what was going on, but she suppressed her doubt. She knew that Xiang Shaoyun would give her a proper explanation later.

In recent years, Green Ghost had remained in the sect. Thus, he was able to come out the moment Xiang Shaoyun arrived. In truth, he was still doubtful that Xiang Shaoyun was the reincarnation of Xiang Dingtian. In fact, he inwardly viewed Xiang Shaoyun with disregard. If it wasn't for his master, he wouldn't have bothered to meet Xiang Shaoyun. After all, the gap between the two in terms of strength was too wide.

But when he finally saw Xiang Shaoyun, astonishment filled his eyes. The governor was actually standing beside Xiang Shaoyun. Although he had firmly established a foothold in the city, he had always maintained a low-profile. Thus, a conflict had never erupted between him and the city hall. He was confused as to why the governor had come.

"Green Ghost, the young master and governor are here to visit," said Devouring Ghost nonchalantly.

"You grace us with your presence, governor," said Green Ghost. He was obviously showing Tang Zhan sufficient respect, but he was also disregarding Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hehe, Shaoyun just returned from the Dragon Phoenix Academy. He mentioned visiting you, and I got curious, so I followed along as well. I was hoping to build a friendship with the great sect master of the Ghostface Sect. I hope you won't mind my visit, sect master."

Green Ghost had initially thought that Tang Zhan was either here for him or under Devouring Ghost's invitation. Thus, he was surprised to learn that Tang Zhan was actually here because of Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 1007: Green Ghost's Indignation

"Your relationship with Young Master Xiang is...?" Green Ghost asked doubtfully.

Tang Zhan replied with a smile, "He's my nephew."

"Nephew?" Green Ghost was still doubtful.

He knew almost everything about the past events involving Xiang Shaoyun in the Bloodsin City. He had never heard of Xiang Shaoyun's relationship with Tang Zhan. Hearing about it now caused his imagination to run wild.

Shortly after, he recovered from his shock and smiled as he said, "I am pretty close with Young Master Xiang as well. In the future, the Ghostface Sect will rely on your care, governor."

Green Ghost could put on airs when facing any other people but not Tang Zhan. After all, they were both based in the same city. It would naturally be better if there was some sort of cooperative relationship between them.

"Haha, you're too polite, Sect Master Green. Everyone knows that the Ghostface Sect has been standing tall in the Bloodsin City for 10,000 years. The city hall is the one needing your care," said Tang Zhan with a chortle.

As Xiang Shaoyun listened to their conversation, he could sense that the two were probing each other. Inwardly, he thought, Bringing Uncle Tang here is the right choice. Otherwise, Green Ghost definitely wouldn't have been so polite even with Devouring Ghost here. He is, after all, someone who has lived an incredibly long life.

Next, Green Ghost had his people serving Tang Zhan and Xiang Shaoyun with some liquor and food. During the banquet, Devouring Ghost was becoming increasingly cold as he could sense the disregard Green Ghost was showing Xiang Shaoyun, and he was unhappy to see that.

During the banquet, Xiang Shaoyun remained silent. He did not request any help, nor did he mention Lady Shura. When the banquet ended, he left with Tang Zhan.

Devouring Ghost waited until Tang Zhan and Xiang Shaoyun were gone before snapping, "Little Green, looks like after growing your own wings, you are now capable of disregarding your own master."

Green Ghost anxiously replied, "What are you saying, master? This disciple has always viewed you as a second parent!"

"That's what you say, but what is your attitude when my young master is around?" questioned Devouring Ghost.

"I showed him no disrespect!" denied Green Ghost, speaking somewhat disingenuously.

"Haha, looks like you really think you can lie to your master's face because my cultivation is below yours now. Fine, I'll leave with your martial uncle. From today onward, there is no longer any relationship between us. We will walk our separate paths," said Devouring Ghost furiously. He then turned to leave the main hall.

Green Ghost hurriedly said, "Master, please calm down and listen to me. I don't know why you're so sure that Xiang Shaoyun is Lord Xiang Dingtian, but I don't think that's the case."

Before he could finish, Devouring Ghost interrupted him, "Enough. Do you think both me and your martial uncle are blind? It is not your place to decide if he is our master. You are merely unwilling to submit to him and can't let go of your position as the sect master. You really think the young master would covet this tiny sect of yours? How foolish!"

After saying all that, Devouring Ghost left without waiting for a reply. He headed straight for Scarlet Flame Monarch's place. Green Ghost watched on with a complicated expression, not knowing what to say.

It was true that the Ghostface Sect was an organization he had painstakingly built over a period of 10,000 years. It had grown sufficiently, and he only needed a good opportunity to rise to become the city's strongest organization. With Devouring Ghost and Scarlet Flame Monarch by his side, he had become even more confident in doing so. Thus, he was definitely unwilling to hand away his sect to someone else.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to the city hall and had a short chat with Tang Zhan. He then returned to the Skeleton Gang. Along the way, many thoughts crossed his mind. He was now sure that he definitely wouldn't be able to borrow Ghostface Sect's strength. He had innocently believed that with Devouring Ghost around, Green Ghost would fall in line. Alas, that was merely wishful thinking on his part.

"It is always the best to rely on oneself. Looks like I was too innocent," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he took in a deep breath.

Tuoba Wan'er nestled against his chest and said softly, "Do you want to talk with me? I might be able to get the Holy Hall to give you some help."

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun recall that he still had a beauty by his side. He wrapped his arms around her and told her about Ziling Sect. He told her the full story, hiding nothing from her.

After Tuoba Wan'er listened to the whole story, she said, "Holy son-in-law, we can return to the Holy Hall and have the hall deploy an army to help you."

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head, "I want to reclaim what's mine with my own hands. I understand your intentions, but I don't need the help."

"Even so, I want to go with you," said Tuoba Wan'er seriously as she gazed at him with her luminous eyes.

Tuoba Wan'er was extremely intelligent. She knew what Xiang Shaoyun wanted, so she did not insist on getting the Holy Hall involved. She decided to support his choice instead. Xiang Shaoyun was touched, and he felt his love toward her deepen. He couldn't help but land a peck on her tender cheek.

Instantly, her face turned bright red, and she buried her head in his embrace. He lightly stroked her hair and enjoyed the rare moment of peace with her as the carriage brought them back to the Skeleton Gang.

When they arrived, Tuoba Wan'er pulled at his sleeve and said, "You may come to my room tonight."

She then skipped away, not daring to look at him anymore.

A blissful smile formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face as his mood improved considerably. Inwardly, he thought, What an amazing Wan'er.

However, he did not go looking for Tuoba Wan'er that night. Rather, he opted to cultivate in seclusion. In any case, the Skeleton Gang would take some time to gather all their members. He could not afford to waste any time. Only when he himself was strong enough would he be able to deal with anything that might happen.

After the end of the competition between the four academies, he had been too busy to go through his gains during the competition. Now that he had some time, he had decided to rearrange them.

Among his many gains, he was most interested in the dao of yin and yang. He was also interested in the dao of five elements. The two were most definitely among the strongest powers one could muster in the path of cultivation.

The dao of yin and yang had been learned from Devil Concubine, but that was something he had forcefully imitated. His comprehension was incomplete, so he needed some time to deepen his comprehension to further increase his combat strength. There was no need to mention the five elements' prowess. If he could grasp the five elements, it would be greatly beneficial in perfecting his cultivation of nine powers.

Chapter 1008: Yin Yang Five Elements

The Desolation mantra was wide-ranging and profound. It contained the truth of the world and was all-encompassing and enlightenment-provoking. Each time Xiang Shaoyun meditated over it, he would have great gains. This time was no exception, and he made great gains, especially on the dao of yin and yang and the five elements.

The primal chaos begets the five elements, while the two extremities begets the yin and yang. That sentence contained the profundities of the great dao. What one could comprehend from that sentence would depend on one's comprehension ability.

When Xiang Shaoyun first learned the Desolation mantra, he did not have the Light of Wisdom. Now that he had the Light of Wisdom, his comprehension was far beyond an ordinary person's. That was why he had been able to learn and create the Yin Yang Shield in the middle of a battle against Dugu Qiubai.

Now that he had the time to sit down and focus on cultivation, he naturally had even greater gains. His experience with the Desolation mantra was enriched while his comprehension on the powers of yin and yang deepened. He felt himself in a state of enlightenment, and the things he couldn't understand previously started unraveling in his head.

The two extremities beget yin and yang. One extremity begets yin, the other extremity begets yang. As yin and yang interweaved, even time is reversed.

As Xiang Shaoyun meditated on the Desolation mantra and circulated the powers of yin and yang, inspiration suddenly struck him, and it allowed him to comprehend the profundities of yin and yang.

The Light of Wisdom continued shining brightly on his head, lighting up the entire cultivation room. Numerous abstruse runes floated in the air, presenting a mystical and profound scene.

At the same time, a clump of black energy floated out and fused with the bright clump of energy. Slowly, the two transformed into a circular Yin Yang Diagram that could also be known as the Tai Chi Diagram. In this state, the yin and yang were separated, yet they were also smoothly flowing into each other.

As the powers of yin and yang rotated into each other, changes started occurring to their surroundings. Unfortunately, even with the Light of Wisdom, Xiang Shaoyun still couldn't fully comprehend the changes occurring.

Along with the passage of time, Xiang Shaoyun slowly discovered the offensive prowess of the Yin Yang Diagram.

Yang as the heaven, yin as the earth. Heaven and earth united, peerless and unrivaled.

The dao of yin and yang focused on the fusion of hardness and softness, and it was somewhat similar to the profundity of water. It could be as ferocious as a deluge, and it could also be endless and gentle. It was unpredictable and held boundless might.

"No wonder Devouring Ghost is cultivating the dao of yin and yang with his new body. He clearly knows that the powers of yin and yang are among the strongest powers one can cultivate. In fact, the powers of yin and yang is comparable to the power of primal chaos," muttered Xiang Shaoyun after personally experiencing the might of yin and yang.

After deepening his comprehension of the profundities of yin and yang, he stopped. It would take a long time for him to fully comprehend the two powers, so he was better off stopping and shifting his focus to the power of primal chaos instead.

Everyone knew that the primal chaos could be divided into the five elements, but nobody knew how to turn the five elements back into the primal chaos. Only by fusing the five elements back into the primal chaos energy would one be able to fully display the might of the five elements. Dugu Qiubai was a perfect example of that.

Of course, Dugu Qiubai had yet to fully comprehend the profundity of primal chaos. Otherwise, Xiang Shaoyun would stand no chance against him.

The five elements reinforced and countered each other. Gold reinforced water, water reinforced wood, wood reinforced flame, flame reinforced earth, and earth reinforced gold. Additionally, gold countered wood, wood countered earth, earth countered water, water countered flame, and flame countered gold. This was the concept of the great dao, and this was how all living beings came into existence, how all living beings gained sentience.

Those were the elements required by all life. If even one of them went missing, balance would be lost, and the ecosystem of the world would collapse.

One could say that the existence of all living beings could not be separated from the five elements. Even in areas where one of the elements was prominent, there would still be traces of the other four elements around. Only when the five elements were present would sentient beings exist.

All cultivators were familiar with the concept of the five elements reinforcing and countering each other, but comprehending this concept was not something one could easily do.

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't even hoping to fully comprehend the five elements. Rather, he only wanted to learn more about the fusion of the five so he could better utilize the concept of fusing different powers.

He started meditating on his fight with Dugu Qiubai. The Primal Chaos Physique played a great role in helping Dugu Qiubai fuse the five elements and combine the prowess of multiple stars, but the many dual or triple elemental battle techniques that he knew had also helped him easily utilize multiple elements at the same time.

Since Xiang Shaoyun did not know those battle techniques, he could only make use of his comprehension of the profundities of the different powers to fuse them.

The profundity of gold was exceedingly sharp, capable of penetrating all defenses.

The profundity of wood worked in accordance with the concept of revival and was filled with life.

The profundity of earth was thick and heavy, capable of carrying all living beings.

The profundity of water was continuous and unending, hard and soft at the same time.

The profundity of flame was destructive and unstoppable.

The concepts of all these powers revolved in Xiang Shaoyun's head, further deepening his comprehension.

A divine five-colored radiance started shining from his body, making him look like a peacock spreading its tail. The divine radiance interweaved and flowed endlessly, creating a scene that was exceptionally beautiful in the cultivation room.

Some sort of resonance formed between the five powers. They seemed to have fused, yet they also seemed to restrict each other at the same time. Thus, they were unable to form the true primal chaos energy.

Everyone knew the theory of the five elements in concept, but to actually attempt the fusion would be incredibly hard. After many attempts, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have comprehended something. However, he was still missing something crucial, so he stopped trying.

"I still lack comprehension on the five elements. It is impossible to forcefully fuse them with my current comprehension. I need to start with two elements and slowly learn from there. That might be better," muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

After giving it a thought, he selected flame and gold, two powers that countered each other. After all, among the five elements, they were the two powers he utilized more in battle. Thus, it would probably be easier for him to fuse them.

Unfortunately, these two powers did not reinforce each other. It would be much harder to fuse them. But since he had decided to try it, he would stick to his decision.

A clump of gold energy floated out of his hand. A clump of flame energy floated out of his other hand. As he sensed the differences of the two, he started bringing the two together. The gold was countered by the flame and started dispersing. Eventually, only the flame remained.

"What does it mean for a power to counter the other? Does that mean that only one of the two can remain in the end?" Xiang Shaoyun questioned himself and started meditating on the new questions in his head.

At this time, he recalled the Desolation mantra. He tried using the mantra to comprehend what "counter" meant exactly.

Chapter 1009: Golden Fury, Flamewater Discordance

The Desolation mantra was something the gravekeeper elder had taught Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun had subsequently improved the mantra in the goldmen territory. However, he only had the first half of the mantra. The second half was still missing.

Even so, the mantra still lived up to its status as a mysterious technique from ancient times. It contained the concepts of the great dao. Each time one meditated on it, one would obtain great gains. That was especially true when one was trying to comprehend the profundities of powers, where the mantra would greatly aid the comprehension process.

With the mantra, Xiang Shaoyun was able to slowly comprehend the dao of countering.

The dao of countering dictated that when two powers of equal strength coexisted, one would eliminate the other. The power that would be created during the process of elimination was what he should seek. The seed of the elimination would be the representative of the dao of countering that had arisen from the two powers.

How should one comprehend the elimination process, and how should one locate the seed of elimination? That would rely on one's comprehension capability. Using both the Light of Wisdom and the Desolation mantra, Xiang Shaoyun's comprehension of the dao of countering increased at an unimaginable speed.

After an indeterminate period of time, he was able to understand the subtle relationship between the powers of gold and flame, comprehending the changes that would occur between two powers that countered each other.

The flame countered the gold, while the gold would transform into liquid. The liquid that would result from this process would contain the profundities of both powers. If one could grasp the power of the liquid, one would be able to fully grasp the powers of gold and flame.

Xiang Shaoyun manipulated the two powers and had them endlessly collide with each other. He tried to stimulate the appearance of the power of elimination. Gradually, he started seeing results.

He formed a fist using the Unrivaled Sky Crushing Punch. The fist was powered not only by gold energy but also by flame energy. Both energies were fused together, with the flame energy taking the dominant position as it melted the gold energy. The instant the gold energy melted, Xiang Shaoyun tried controlling the elimination power. However, the resulting effect was greatly disappointing since it was far weaker than using only a single power. His mood fell.

After many failures, he thought of a different method. Perhaps he shouldn't create the elimination power externally. Instead, he should finish the fusion process within his body. Perhaps that would help him bring out the true might of the two powers. However, doing so would be extremely dangerous. Any carelessness would result in an explosion within his body that could kill him.

As Xiang Shaoyun had always been a stubborn person, he decided to try it anyway. Two clumps of energy were drawn out of his stars, and the two started fusing.

The same thing repeated itself as he failed many times. His body suffered some backlash from the failures, but he had only drawn a tiny amount of energy for this experiment. Therefore, he could withstand the backlashes even though they were still causing him endless discomfort.

After failing for an unknown number of times, Xiang Shaoyun finally successfully created a mutated energy that resulted from the flame countering the gold. The energy existed in a liquid form and was reddish-gold in color. The liquid shared the attributes of both flame and gold and was much scarier than the two, capable of much greater destruction.

After Xiang Shaoyun increased his proficiency in manipulating the new energy, he started increasing the volume in which he was fusing flame and gold. Slowly, he grew more and more proficient.

Xiang Shaoyun named the new energy golden fury. This energy was akin to a golden liquid that would appear after melting gold in flame. Its temperature was incredibly high and could not be underestimated.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun used the Unrivaled Sky Crushing Punch. The golden fury energy surged out like a raging tide and inferno that instantly destroyed everything in its path.

This was merely something he had created out of regular gold and flame energies. If he used Yun Flame and flux goldthorn energy instead, the fusion would be even more destructive.

With the golden fury energy in the bag, he started researching the interactions of the other powers. He eventually tried fusing the powers of water and flame. The fusion resulted in something that worked similarly with the powers of yin and yang, and he named it flamewater discordance.

Water as yin, and flame as yang. Xiang Shaoyun had long comprehended the dao of yin and yang, but the powers of water and flame were different from yin and yang. He was unable to replicate what he did with the Yin Yang Diagram. When the pinnacle of the coldness of water fused with the pinnacle of the hotness of flame, it became the flamewater discordance energy that was comparable in might with the golden fury energy.

From the start of the cultivation session until now, only half a month had passed. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun possessed a freakish comprehension capability for him to go from comprehending the powers of yin and yang to comprehending the interactions of five elements in such a short period of time.

Anyone would find this hard to believe. But if they knew that Xiang Shaoyun actually had the Light of Wisdom, they wouldn't be as surprised.

When Xiang Shaoyun left seclusion, his temperament had changed. This change did not originate from his physical looks. Rather, it came from the domineering sensation he gave to all around him.

When the Skeleton Gang members saw him, they couldn't help but exclaim inwardly about how domineering he was. That was understandable. After emerging as the champion of the four academies' competition, Xiang Shaoyun had become the number one cultivator under the Sovereign Realm. Now that he had comprehended two new powers, his strength had reached an unfathomable level. Even a fifth-stage Sovereign would be easily defeated.

During this time, a majority of the Skeleton Gang members that were training in the Devil Domain had returned. The two leaders had also returned, bringing with them a large number of Emperors. Apart from that, Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun had also returned. The two were in peak condition, and they were now peak second-stage Sovereigns. One ought to admit that they had not been wasting their time. During the past few years, they had cultivated hard and advanced repeatedly.

"Greetings, young master," the two greeted Xiang Shaoyun deferentially when they saw him.

Their respect for him came from the depths of their hearts, and they weren't merely acting subservient to him just because he had helped them in the past.

"Big Brother Du, Big Brother Han, seems like both of you have been advancing rapidly," praised Xiang Shaoyun.

"Our speed can't even be compared to yours," said the two in a uniform manner.

They had indeed grown considerably, but when they saw Xiang Shaoyun, they realized just how slow they were compared to him. Back then, he was only a seventh-stage King when he joined the Dragon Phoenix Academy. But now, he was already a peak Emperor. That was a terrifying speed of advancement.

Chapter 1010: Ready for the Journey

All the Skeleton Gang members had returned, and Devouring Ghost had also come with Scarlet Flame Monarch. Xiang Shaoyun found that Scarlet Flame Monarch was now in much better shape. He had recovered a lot of his vitality, and his slightly crooked figure looked much more imposing than before.

However, the passage of time and the torture he once suffered could not be hidden from his aged face. The appearance of someone like Scarlet Flame Monarch caused the Skeleton Gang members to panic.

As Scarlet Flame Monarch was still recovering, he still couldn't fully restrain his presence as a Heaven Battling Realm expert. Thus, the people present started suffocating when he appeared.

When Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun sensed the pressure emanated by Scarlet Flame Monarch, they exclaimed inwardly, This fellow is extremely strong!

As they were now Sovereigns, their senses had naturally become much sharper. If it wasn't for the fact that this person was brought here by Devouring Ghost, they would have asked Xiang Shaoyun to flee immediately at the sight of such an expert.

Such a mighty expert came before Xiang Shaoyun, knelt down, and said, "Scarlet Flame greets the young master."

Everyone was shocked speechless. They had always known that Xiang Shaoyun probably had a powerful background, but they had never imagined that he would be able to make a super expert kneel and bow before him.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly stepped forth and said, "Don't bother doing this in the future. There is no need for such formalities between us."

"Yes, young master," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a nod. He then stood beside Xiang Shaoyun, taking his position as the guard.

Xiang Shaoyun sat down on his seat, scanned the people present, and said, "A thousand days the country nurtures its soldiers all for one day's battle. I am gathering everyone here today because the time where I require your service has arrived. All of you are to come with me and take over a tier-7 organization. You are coming even if you're unwilling. If we succeed, you will be rewarded based on your contributions. If we fail, just consider this as you guys giving your lives to me."

He then had Celestial Skeleton organize the people. The strongest ones were picked out and given better equipment. They were also paid outright with some of the spirit crystals they were supposed to receive from the mission. These rewards served as a last minute encouragement to make them fight harder during the battle.

The group was split into over 10 different groups. A commander was appointed for each group, and everyone was given orders to head toward the Ziling Sect before hiding near it. Essentially, the entire army had been broken into pieces.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived, they would be able to join the battle with a single wave of his arm, catching the Ziling Sect by complete surprise. It was a pity that Xiang Shaoyun still believed that his people were still quite weak. He still lacked Sovereigns.

"Young master, Green Ghost has gotten really impudent nowadays. He refuses to listen to even me. I am sorry, young master. When I recover my strength in the future, I will personally take care of that traitor," said Devouring Ghost with a look of shame.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "Green Ghost is already used to being a sect master. He is naturally unwilling to follow the lead of a nobody like me. I understand that. I had thought that

Uncle Tang would be able to help put him in his place, but he is surprisingly stubborn. It doesn't matter. He will come to regret this in the future."

Scarlet Flame Monarch said, "Each person has his own ambition. It has been 10,000 years. It is already surprising that he still maintains his respect for you. Forget him. Don't blame yourself."

Devouring Ghost nodded and stopped talking. However, the killing intent in his heart did not reduce one bit. He was Devouring Ghost, a person whose name would cause many to tremble in fear. After going through many tribulations, his temper had been tempered considerably. However, at his very core, he was still the same Devouring Ghost. He would not tolerate anyone showing his master scorn, even if that person was his disciple.

Before Xiang Shaoyun's departure, Tang Zhan personally came to the Skeleton Gang with 20 Soul Foundation Realm experts. One of them was a peak Soul Foundation Realm expert, a controller of eight Devil Sovereign puppets. One could say that Tang Zhan had given Xiang Shaoyun great assistance.

Xiang Shaoyun was greatly moved. With this, he no longer lacked Sovereigns. He still felt that he needed more, but he was happy enough with what he had right now.

"Thank you, Uncle Tang," said Xiang Shaoyun gratefully.

"You're calling me uncle. It is only proper that I do something for you. It's a pity that I can't be there in person. Many changes have occurred at the Devil Domain in recent years, so I can't abandon my post. I also can't move any Heaven Battling Realm experts from here either. You need to be careful," said Tang Zhan. "In truth, if you wait for 100 years, you will most definitely become a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator with your talent. It won't be too late to gather your strength and take your revenge then. Why are you rushing it?"

Tang Zhan's words were reasonable. With Xiang Shaoyun's talent, it was only a matter of time before he reached the Heaven Battling Realm.

"You're right, Uncle Tang. However, I can't wait that long. Someone like Di Batian is not worth 100 years of my time either. I will definitely take his head and appease the souls of Ziling Sect's loyal followers," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

When Tang Zhan saw that Xiang Shaoyun was determined, he stopped persuading. He could only pray for victory.

Yangzhan has an excellent son, lamented Tang Zhan inwardly.

Xiang Shaoyun made a new arrangement for the reinforcements from Tang Zhan the moment he received them. Scarlet Flame Monarch was made to lead the group. After 10,000 years of imprisonment, Scarlet Flame Monarch had largely been forgotten. Only those who knew him well back then would be able to recognize him now. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was not worried that he would catch the attention of those top organizations.

More importantly, Scarlet Flame Monarch was strong enough to keep these helpers submissive. It was much better to have Scarlet Flame Monarch lead them than to keep them by his side.

Xiang Shaoyun was about to head straight for Cloud Margin City's Xia Hamlet when he suddenly recalled a few people. He muttered, "I almost forgot those old friends. It's about time I go pay them a visit."

He then gave the order to search the city for the Seven Villains. Back then, he had suffered in their hands. Now, it was time for him to not only take his revenge but to make them work for him as well.

After all, the forces at Xiang Shaoyun's disposal had exceeded the might of the Seven Villains. He was confident he could capture them. After about half a day, Ugly Gambler was discovered. He was having the time of his life in a certain casino. And thus, Xiang Shaoyun went over with the turtle and the toad.

"Ugly Gambler, Yao Jiaojiao, and Smiling Monk. These three once gave me a hard time. If they refuse to submit, I will be sure to teach them a lesson they will never forget," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.