

Overlord 1011

Chapter 1011: Life Bet

The Gold Congregation Hall was an extremely well-known casino in the Bloodsin City. Numerous games could be found inside, and customers could bet in stakes of numerous sizes. Gambling was Ugly Gambler's second nature, and he had a habit of patronizing the numerous casinos once per month. He would spend several days doing so and would only stop after he was bored of winning.

Naturally, he wouldn't win all the time. He would lose at times, but whenever that happened, the winner would suffer as he would pester the winner endlessly until he won. The only thing praiseworthy about him was his trustworthiness. He would not renege on the occasional loss, and if the other party was the one to renege on the bet, he would pester them endlessly. Even if the other party had a big background, he still wouldn't let it go.

That day, he had won 18 consecutive hands. One could say that he had won so much everyone was hating on him.

"Come on over and play with me. It's boring playing with only the dealer," said Ugly Gambler when he found that nobody was willing to gamble with him. Everyone was only following his bets.

Those doing so all knew how good he was. Following his bets would basically guarantee them wins.

The people from the Gold Congregation Hall felt like crying. There were so many casinos in the Bloodsin City, but this demon seemed to have taken a liking to their casino recently.

In the many casinos, Ugly Gambler was most definitely the most unwanted customer. However, there was nothing they could do to him. The people who heard Ugly Gambler's voice all ran off like they had just heard the voice of a demon, worried that Ugly Gambler would start pestering them.

Ugly Gambler was so furious he started roaring. He wanted to kidnap someone and force them to gamble with him. Then again, that would be quite boring. He was, after all, a self-proclaimed righteous gambler.

"Lord Gambler, I'll play with you," a voice rang out.

Everyone looked in the direction the voice came from, curious as to who was brazen enough to bet against Ugly Gambler. Betting against him was no different than bringing trouble to oneself.

A handsome and heroic young man was walking over with an incomparably beautiful woman by his side. They were akin to a couple descended from the heavens, instantly bringing light to the entire Gold Congregation Hall.

Following behind them were two people who were as ugly as Ugly Gambler. One of them had shifty eyes and a hunched back, as though he was carrying a shell. The other person had blisters all over his face, making him look exceedingly revolting. The four made for an odd group, but they also seemed like they came from an extraordinary background.

When Ugly Gambler saw the newcomers, his pupils constricted. A look of astonishment flashed past his eyes, but the astonishment vanished soon. He laughed heartily, "Haha, kid, you came at the right time. I am itching to play more hands. These cowards don't have the balls to play with me. It's getting boring."

The newcomers were none other than Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er with the toad and the turtle tagging behind them. Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to bring Tuoba Wan'er to such a messy place, but she wanted to see what a casino looked like. Therefore, he had decided to bring her along.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived before Ugly Gambler with Tuoba Wan'er, he cupped his fists and said, "It has been a while, Lord Gambler. This kid is here today to witness your extraordinary gambling skills."

"What do you have in mind?" asked Ugly Gambler with his eyes narrowed.

"Our lives," said Xiang Shaoyun with a firm tone.

A clamor broke out from the gamblers around them.

"Who is this kid? I don't remember seeing him before. He dares to bet his life against Lord Gambler? How courageous."

"That's suicide. Doesn't he know that Lord Gambler is second to none in terms of gambling?"

"In my opinion, this kid came prepared. He wouldn't have been so confident otherwise. This is interesting."

"This kid looks familiar. I feel like I have seen him before, but I can't remember where."

All the people present knew about Ugly Gambler's gambling skills. He would win nine out of ten bets. One could say that he was among the best gamblers in existence. Very few gamblers could compare with him. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was unknown to them. He was also still young, so they doubted that he would be as good as Ugly Gambler.

"Our lives? Haha. Interesting. I like it," said Ugly Gambler as he roared with laughter.

He had always been addicted to gambling, and he had even staked his limbs for a bet. However, this was the first time he had ever gotten a chance to stake his life. Instead of fear, he was filled with excitement.

"Let's start. If I lose, my life is yours to do with as you wish. If I'm lucky enough to win, your life will be mine," said Xiang Shaoyun with a calm smile.

He had gambled before, but that was something he had done for entertainment during his childhood. In truth, he had bad gambling skills. So, was he being overconfident?

"That doesn't seem to favor me, but I agree to the bet," said Ugly Gambler unhesitatingly.

At this time, someone walked out from the rear court of the casino. A sweet voice rang out, "Allow this hall master to house this bet. What do you think?"

The newcomer was an incomparably beautiful woman. She was dressed seductively, and as she sauntered forth, she exuded a boundless charm. This woman was none other than the deputy hall master of the Gold Congregation Hall, Liu Yezi. She was the hall master's woman.

All the men gulped and stared at her with their eyes wide. She gave them an intense desire to conquer her.

In truth, she was actually a thorny rose. A regular man would not be able to lay even a finger on her. She enjoyed seducing all the men around her, and the hall master never said anything as though he trusted her fully. One could even say that he would indulge in her every desire.

Even Xiang Shaoyun felt heat rising in his body when he laid eyes on her. Fortunately, he had strong willpower and was able to quickly suppress the heat.

"This woman cultivates a charm technique," transmitted Tuoba Wan'er. She gripped his hand tightly, trying to wake him up.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and replied, "Noted. With you by my side, she is but a side character."

His words were not an exaggeration. Liu Yezi might be pretty, but something about her felt tainted. For someone like Xiang Shaoyun who was used to seeing numerous beauties, there was nothing special about her apart from her figure.

A sense of bliss covered Tuoba Wan'er's heart as she asked herself, Is this how it feels to like someone?

Her being with Xiang Shaoyun was something that had happened by pure coincidence. And now, she was gradually falling for him.

"Now that we have a host, how do you want to bet, kid? Dice? Or something else?" asked Ugly Gambler.

"That's boring. How about a guessing game?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a smirk.

Chapter 1012: The Weather Is So Hot

"Guessing game?" Ugly Gambler muttered in doubt. He then laughed and said, "That's what kids play. Just one round will be boring. How about doing three rounds? You will be asking one question, I will ask the other, and this beautiful lady will ask the final question."

Ugly Gambler did not want to give Xiang Shaoyun the full initiative. He might be confident with himself, but he loved having the initiative as well. Initiative would always give one the advantage. That was one of the most important things to take note of for a gambler.

Xiang Shaoyun's expression changed slightly as he asked, "Are you afraid, Lord Gambler? Let's end it with a single round. What's the point of making it too complicated?"

"No. As a professional gambler, I pursue the fun of gambling. Where's the fun if we end it so quickly? We'll be doing three rounds," said Ugly Gambler. "Kid, we are betting with our lives at stake. This is no joke. Don't bother negotiating."

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't say anything to that. He could only nod in agreement.

"That's more like it. You'll go first," said Ugly Gambler with a smug smile.

"What will your question be, young brother?" asked Liu Yezi as she winked mischievously.

Her eyes were practically spewing fire as she gazed at Xiang Shaoyun with passion, completely disregarding Tuoba Wan'er. This was her very first time meeting a young man with such looks and temperament, and she longed intensely to make him hers.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at Liu Yezi and smirked, "Let's guess the color of your undergarment. What about that?"

Liu Yezi blushed slightly and said with a seductive tone, "You're a naughty boy."

The people around them were filled with admiration for Xiang Shaoyun's courage. He was actually teasing the deputy hall master. However, that would be an excellent question if they were to get a glimpse at Liu Yezi's undergarment from it.

Ugly Gambler asked, "Are you sure? The two of you aren't in an affair, right?"

"Hehe, Lord Gambler, I'm more interested in having an affair with you instead," said Liu Yezi with a bright smile.

"If you really want it, I'll grant your wish tonight," offered Ugly Gambler with a perverted smile. He was definitely no gentleman.

"I dare not," Liu Yezi hurriedly said. Inwardly, she cursed, Even if I do it with a beggar, I won't want to have anything to do with an ugly bastard like you.

"What do you think, Lord Gambler?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as his face turned serious.

A complicated look flashed past Ugly Gambler's face as he stared at Xiang Shaoyun. He gave it some thought and then asked, "You sure you're not having an affair with her? Why would you ask that question otherwise?"

"Hehe, if that's what you think, Lord Gambler, we can change the question," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

Ugly Gambler hesitated for a bit before answering, "Since you are the one in charge of this round, we'll go with your question."

"Sure. Since I came up with the question, you may go first," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"That's not fair. We will be bickering endlessly if you decide to give the same answer as me. Why don't we both write our answers down and have Lady Liu be the judge," said Ugly Gambler.

"Sure," Xiang Shaoyun agreed confidently.

Liu Yezi then had someone bring some writing tools over and hand them over to Xiang Shaoyun and Ugly Gambler. Xiang Shaoyun wrote his answer down in a carefree manner, while Ugly Gambler kept looking at Liu Yezi. He was looking at her so much she started shivering before he finally wrote his answer.

"If you're done, hand it over. We'll let everyone witness this," said Liu Yezi.

Xiang Shaoyun's paper had "green" written on it, while Ugly Gambler's paper had "red" written on it. The two had obviously given wrong answers. At this time, the people around them tensed up. They all focused on Liu Yezi, as though they would wish for nothing more than to rip her clothes off and see what undergarment she had in there.

Liu Yezi might have the reputation of being a lustful person, but even she would blush when so many men were staring at her. She couldn't help looking at Xiang Shaoyun and asked openly,

"Young brother, did you peep on me while I was showering yesterday? How would you know the color otherwise?" She was basically saying that Xiang Shaoyun got the answer right.

Xiang Shaoyun felt a sharp pain in his waist. He laughed dryly and said, "Of course not. That was a lucky guess."

Ugly Gambler said, "Take off your clothes, or I won't believe this."

"So be it. You think I would be scared?" said Liu Yezi boldly as she pulled her clothes down.

However, she only revealed her shoulder, showing her tender and fair skin and half the peak on her chest. The men around her started bleeding from their noses at what they saw. The weather is so hot. That was the thought in their minds. As she pulled her clothes down, her green undergarment was revealed.

"You two were really sleeping with each other!" Ugly Gambler concluded.

"Young brother, why don't we sleep together tonight?" offered Liu Yezi with a seductive tone after pulling her clothes back up.

The same sharp pain assaulted Xiang Shaoyun's waist again.

He smiled helplessly and shifted the topic, "I win this round. Lord Gambler, you may start the next round."

Ugly Gambler did not bicker about it. He said, "Fine. You win this round. For the second round, I propose we have a game of dominoes. I will let you witness the prowess of the saint of gamblers."

Just as Ugly Gambler was about to display his skill in excitement, Xiang Shaoyun shamelessly said, "I surrender."

Ugly Gambler and all the surrounding people were completely dumbstruck.

Brother, you're betting with your life! How can you surrender so easily? It's not like the one with the better gambling skill is guaranteed to win in a game of dominoes. Luck plays a role as well.

Ugly Gambler might be a gambling addict, but what he enjoyed most was the process. Xiang Shaoyun's sudden surrender drove him mad. However, there was nothing he could do as it wasn't like surrendering was prohibited.

"Kid, be very careful. One more loss and your life is mine," warned Ugly Gambler sternly.

Xiang Shaoyun shrugged and said, "Of course I'll be careful. I was never good at dominoes. We might as well not waste any time. Lady Liu, please proceed with the third round."

Just as Liu Yezi was about to speak, Ugly Gambler interrupted, "Hold on. The two of you are in an affair. She can't be the one providing the third question. Make someone else do it."

"If that's what you think, why don't we have a game of count and check? That is a very common game, and I believe you would be confident in yourself as well," proposed Xiang Shaoyun after he gave it some thought.

A smile formed on Ugly Gambler's face as he said, "Your first question involved guessing, and you're trying to do the same now? I'm not stupid. Let's do a dice throw instead."

Chapter 1013: Red Dot

Dice throw was a common gambling game. Generally speaking, the one with the higher roll would be the winner. But this time, Ugly Gambler requested to reverse it and have the one with the lower roll be the winner instead. That was not something completely new, but it was rarely done in that manner. One could see just how confident Ugly Gambler was in his gambling skill.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned before answering, "Sure."

He was here mostly to subdue Ugly Gambler. He had thought that he could obtain victory in one go using his Nether Soul Domain, but Ugly Gambler was too crafty. All that happened here had gone beyond his expectation. Even so, he was still as confident as ever in securing a victory.

"Good. Lady Liu, please bring over a set of dice. Don't even think of trying to trick me with some modified dice, or I'll tear this casino apart," said Ugly Gambler.

Liu Yezi did not dare to slight him and hurriedly took out the best dice of the casino. Ugly Gambler weighed the dice with his hand before handing them to Xiang Shaoyun. However, Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "I believe in your integrity when it comes to gambling. You'll have the first go."

"Sure. Open your eyes wide," said Ugly Gambler without any hesitation. He tossed the dice into the air, and a dice cup appeared in his hand. In a flash, he caught the dice inside it before slamming the dice cup onto the table.

There were no flashy actions, but his movements were extremely smooth. This was the display of one whose skills had returned from complexity to simplicity.

Everyone focused on the dice, and when they were revealed, six red dots appeared before everyone.

Six ones!

Everyone felt a sense of veneration for Ugly Gambler when they saw the result. They were all gambling addicts, and they longed greatly for great gambling skills.

A smile that was uglier than a crying face appeared on Ugly Gambler's face as he said, "Hehe, it's your turn, kid."

Tuoba Wan'er looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked anxiously, "Holy son-in-law, will you be fine? Why don't we stop here?"

Xiang Shaoyun gently patted the back of her hand and said, "Since I dared to come, I have the absolute confidence to win. Trust me."

He stepped forth, grabbed the dice, tossed them in the dice cup, and started shaking the cup casually. There was nothing special about his movements. In fact, he looked like someone who had never rolled a die in his life. Could someone like this prevail over Ugly Gambler?

One of the onlookers couldn't help but say, "If he could roll six ones like Lord Gambler as well, I'll eat the dice and the dice cup."

"What if he really can get a roll smaller than Lord Gambler?" someone asked.

"Six ones is the smallest possible roll. How can he get a smaller roll?" replied the first person. "If he can really win, I will eat the table."

By the time that person was done speaking, Xiang Shaoyun had already stopped shaking the dice cup. However, he did not open it up immediately.

"Stop struggling. Open it up. You are going to lose," said Ugly Gambler with a smile.

He had been listening closely to the sound of the dice when Xiang Shaoyun was shaking the dice cup, and he could see that Xiang Shaoyun was basically shaking it randomly like a regular person. It was basically impossible for him to get the same rolls on all six dice at the same time, let alone six ones. Victory was basically all but guaranteed now.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything. Rather, he sent his senses creeping into the dice cup. He found that his rolls were really all over the place, and in total, he rolled for over 20 points. How could he compare with six ones?

How am I supposed to win with this? thought Xiang Shaoyun gloomily.

At this time, the people around them started urging Xiang Shaoyun to reveal his dice, but he remained unmoving.

Liu Yezi said, "Young brother, you have to show your roll soon, or you will be disqualified."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. He stayed silent and kept his senses on the dice, then started manipulating them. With his soul power at the level comparable to a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, he could easily move the dice inside the cup.

Stack! Xiang Shaoyun roared inwardly and caused all six dice to stack over each other.

The six dice formed a pillar, with a red dot at the very top. That was an inconceivable scene. Ugly Gambler could sense some movement inside the cup, but he did not know what Xiang Shaoyun was doing. A person's strength would be irrelevant if one did not have the skills to see through the cup clearly.

Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief. His Nether Soul Domain granted him an incredible advantage in terms of senses. Not even Ugly Gambler was his match in this respect.

"I'm opening up," said Xiang Shaoyun as he lifted the cup.

Six stacked dice appeared before everyone. The topmost die revealed one point, while the rolls of the other dice were unknown as they were stacked underneath. Everyone was stunned. From what everyone was seeing, Xiang Shaoyun had only gotten one point which was most definitely lower than Ugly Gambler's roll. But would this count?

The person who claimed that he would eat the table instantly fainted. Ugly Gambler had an expression of disbelief. Stacking dice was one of the highest tier techniques in terms of gambling, and it was not something an ordinary person could accomplish. Only an absolute expert gambler would be able to exercise such fine control on one's dice.

He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be such a formidable opponent. And now, it would seem like he had been defeated.

After a momentary stun, Liu Yezi winked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young brother, you have formidable gambling skills. This is the legendary one red dot. You actually did it. You win this round."

Xiang Shaoyun ignored Liu Yezi and looked at Ugly Gambler as he said, "Lord Gambler, your life is mine from now on."

Ugly Gambler looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "How did you do that?"

"I don't know. I got lucky, I guess," said Xiang Shaoyun innocently.

"Haha. I have been gambling over 1,000 years, but for me to suffer such a defeat today, what an irony!" Ugly Gambler roared with laughter. Before he stopped laughing, his hand shot out toward Xiang Shaoyun at the speed of lightning.

He was a late-stage Sovereign. His strength was not to be underestimated. With Xiang Shaoyun's reaction, how would he be able to avoid it? Then again, one should not forget about the turtle and the toad beside Xiang Shaoyun. They were here to protect him, and if they failed in their task, it would be utterly embarrassing for them since they were Demon Sovereigns.

Both the turtle and the toad sallied forth and blocked the attack before reaching out for Ugly Gambler.

Chapter 1014: Poison Physician Du Wusheng

Ugly Gambler's attack was, in fact, a feint. When he saw the turtle and the toad moving, he instantly shot backward and charged into the wall, trying to escape the casino. From the moment Xiang Shaoyun had appeared, Ugly Gambler already knew that he had come bearing ill intentions. If he was going to flee, it was now or never.

"Seize him," commanded Xiang Shaoyun.

The turtle shouted, "This ugly bastard won't be able to escape."

"If I allow this ugly bastard to escape, I might as well kill myself," said the toad as he gave chase.

The two Demon Sovereigns were terrifyingly strong. With both of them focused on the Ugly Gambler, they wouldn't allow him to escape. As one of the Seven Villains, Ugly Gambler could do as he wished in Bloodsin City. He was naturally not a pushover. The Heaven Breaking Shears appeared in his hands as he attacked the two Demon Sovereigns.

The Heaven Breaking Shears were akin to a pseudo saint weapon. They were incredibly powerful and could threaten the two Demon Sovereigns.

"Turtle, block it," shouted the toad.

"Why me, bastard?" shouted the turtle resentfully. Even so, he still manifested a tough shell and blocked the Heaven Breaking Shears.

The toad took the chance to leap into the air before sending an overbearing attack crushing down toward Ugly Gambler. The gap between Ugly Gambler and the toad was still quite large, so Ugly Gambler was completely incapable of stopping the attack. He was instantly stomped onto the ground.

Bang!

A loud sound rang out, and a crater appeared on the ground. Ugly Gambler would not allow himself to be captured without any struggle. A terrifying burst of power erupted from him as he tried to push the toad away. At the same time, he also released a clump of poisonous mist, trying to poison the toad to death.

Unfortunately for him, the toad was a poison expert. Ugly Gambler's poison was instantly swallowed, and his burst of energy was shattered. He couldn't give the toad any trouble.

One ought to know that both the toad and the turtle were extremely rare mutated demonic beasts. They were also peak Demon Sovereigns that were only a step away from becoming Demon Saints. Ugly Gambler might be strong, but he was not strong enough for them. He coughed up a large amount of blood and was completely helpless.

"Young master, we got him," reported the toad.

At that moment, the turtle charged over and knocked the toad aside before sitting down on Ugly Gambler, causing him to cough up more blood. He was practically on the verge of death.

"Young master, I'm the one who caught him," said the turtle shamelessly.

Xiang Shaoyun walked over with Tuoba Wan'er and said, "Well done."

The other people in the casino were completely dumbstruck. They were about to flee in fear of getting hit by a random stray attack from the battle that was about to start. But before they could even start fleeing, the battle had ended. One should not forget that Ugly Gambler was one of the Seven Villains.

He had very few opponents in Bloodsin City. The Seven Villains would usually operate independently, but they would always work together against external enemies. From how Ugly Gambler was captured before he could even flee, it was obvious how strong his opponents this time were.

The people present did not dare to linger around and hurriedly scattered. Things would get troublesome if they somehow got tangled in this.

As for Liu Yezi, there was nothing she could do. After all, the entire incident had happened in her casino. There was no way the Gold Congregation Hall could completely dissociate itself from the incident. She could only hope that Xiang Shaoyun and the Seven Villains wouldn't involve the casino in the conflict.

"You bastard turtle," cursed the toad furiously.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand at the toad and looked at Ugly Gambler before saying, "Lord Gambler, if you agree to a bet, you must accept losing as well. What you did just there dropped all your trustworthiness."

Ugly Gambler met Xiang Shaoyun's eyes and replied calmly, "Winner takes all. Do whatever you want."

"Don't worry. I won't be killing you. I only want your allegiance," said Xiang Shaoyun. He looked at the turtle and said, "Take him back."

He said nothing more to Ugly Gambler and left with Tuoba Wan'er. He had thought that Ugly Gambler would be a man of his word when it involved gambling, but it turned out that Ugly Gambler would still break his word. He would most probably have to use the Nether Dragon Soul Curse to put Ugly Gambler under proper control.

Liu Yezi could only stare blankly as Ugly Gambler was captured. She was speechless.

Soon, the incident spread throughout the Bloodsin City. The Seven Villains were extremely well-known in the city, and there was naturally a reason for them to be able to do so well. The capture of Ugly Gambler had caused a big commotion, and soon, the other villains found out about it.

At a certain part of the city was an inconspicuous house that emanated a horrible stench. Because of the revolting stench, nobody was willing to approach the house. There were quite a lot of such smelly buildings in the Bloodsin City, so nobody paid it much attention. This house, in particular, was one of the Seven Villains' gathering spots. It was also where Du Wusheng the Poison Physician resided.

Of the Seven Villains, Suicide Sword Li Juetian was the strongest, but he was not the scariest. The scariest was the last ranked of the seven, Poison Physician Du Wusheng. That was because his poison was capable of attacking from anywhere. His poison was also extremely ferocious and

overbearing, and nobody wanted an enemy like him. His revenge was one of the scariest things one could possibly face.

Once, a member of a certain organization had offended Du Wusheng. Ultimately, he poisoned the entire organization to death, and they each died horribly. There was a saying in the Bloodsin City that provoking the king of hell is better than provoking the Poison Physician.

Du Wusheng was also antisocial. He was tall and slim, and his face looked like a cold corpse. Poisonous gas constantly swirled around his body, and numerous poisonous bugs were always crawling all over him. All in all, he looked incredibly disgusting.

At this time, Du Wusheng was in the house. Standing before him were two of the villains. One of them was Myriad Face Consort Yao Jiaojiao, and the other was Heaven Rupturing Foot Can Lehen. Li Juetian, Shi Lie, and the Smiling Monk weren't present.

"Old Poison, you're not gathering us here to help Ugly Gambler, right?" asked Can Lehen in a straightforward manner.

"Shouldn't we help him?" asked Du Wusheng with a hoarse voice.

"I don't think so. That fellow had gambled with his life and lost. There is no need for us to get involved," said Can Lehen.

"Jiaojiao, what do you think?" asked Du Wusheng.

"Hehe, I personally think we still need to do something. But without Boss Li, I doubt we will be able to. Since they can capture Ugly Gambler so easily, they are probably stronger than us," said Yao Jiaojiao.

Chapter 1015: Persuading Ugly Gambler

Du Wusheng shot the two a glance and said indifferently, "If you're not helping, I'll do it alone. Of course, if the two of you get into any trouble, I'll help as well."

He then strode out of the house in heavy steps. As he left, the many poisonous bugs in the house followed along. These poisonous bugs were incredibly terrifying. In fact, even Sovereigns would fear them.

"Do it if you want. I won't go crazy with you," said Can Lehen before he sped off.

After some hesitation, Yao Jiaojiao followed Du Wusheng and said, "I'll go crazy with you for once, Old Poison. That guy might be ugly, but he's still worth saving."

Du Wusheng turned back to look at her and said, "Jiaojiao, you have always been a softie."

"Don't say that. I just don't want the Seven Villains to be reduced into the Six Villains," said Yao Jiaojiao. "Boss Li cares most about loyalty. Since he has not shown himself, he is probably not around anymore. I heard he has taken that step, but I'm not sure if that is true."

Du Wusheng nodded and said, "Boss Li has outstanding talent. It is about time he takes that step. In fact, he could already do so 500 years ago, but he was delayed. His hatred has reached his limits over the period of 500 years, so he has probably returned to take his revenge. He is either dead now or has successfully taken his revenge and freed himself."

"I really hope he succeeds," said Yao Jiaojiao. She was showing her true emotions, and this was something extremely rare.

"How about you? You have been leading a tiring life all these years. Have you never thought of finding yourself a man and getting on with your life?" said Du Wusheng.

"The world is filled with heartbreakers. Why would I want a man? I'm doing well living freely by myself," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"Is that so? Haven't you been testing out different men with different appearances? Aren't you trying to find a sincere man to spend the rest of your life with?" said Du Wusheng with a sigh.

"Old Poison, you are getting way too talkative today," said Yao Jiaojiao unhappily.

"That's because I don't even know if I'll return alive today."

At the Skeleton Gang, Ugly Gambler was locked in a room. His strength had been completely sealed, but he wasn't being mistreated. Seated opposite him was Xiang Shaoyun, who was slowly brewing a pot of tea. The calming fragrance of the 1000-year-old tea leaf permeated the room.

"Lord Gambler, have you ever imagined that a day like this where you would fall into my hands would come?" asked Xiang Shaoyun in a calm and unruffled manner.

Ugly Gambler had his strength completely sealed, and he had a bleak look as he replied, "I never imagined that you would grow this fast. I also did not imagine that you would also be able to deal with Old Poison's poison."

"Let's not talk about that. What do you think of my proposal?" Xiang Shaoyun shifted the topic.

"Are you not afraid that I will find a way to break free of your control after agreeing? You should be aware that with my capabilities, nobody can find me if I decide to hide," said Ugly Gambler.

"I am afraid, but I don't care," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently. "I have a way to fully control you, but I do not want you to live under my control and lose your desire to forge ahead. That is why I have decided to talk with you. Of course, if you remain stubborn, you will become my puppet for eternity. That is not what I wish to see."

He then released the Nether Soul Domain and wrapped Ugly Gambler in it. Ugly Gambler's expression changed greatly at the Nether Soul Domain's appearance.

"Nether Soul Domain!" he exclaimed.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything. He started chanting the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, and one symbol after another started drifting toward Ugly Gambler. Instead of invading his head straight away, the symbols hovered around him.

Xiang Shaoyun spoke again, "This is the Nether Dragon Soul Curse. It can put your soul under my full control, and you won't be able to escape for your entire life. So do you think I'm bluffing or telling the truth?"

Ugly Gambler's pupils instantly constricted. The fear on his face had betrayed his true feelings. He was a villain and was not afraid of death. However, he was fearful of turning into a puppet with no independent thought.

Xiang Shaoyun withdrew the symbols and the Nether Soul Domain. He then looked at Ugly Gambler indifferently and said, "In truth, I only need your help for one matter. When the matter is over, I can let you go."

"What help do you need? If I can do it, I'll certainly agree," said Ugly Gambler as he heaved a breath of relief.

Xiang Shaoyun then told Ugly Gambler the situation he was in. It was at this time that Du Wusheng and Yao Jiaojiao arrived outside the Skeleton Gang. Instead of charging inside, they surrounded the headquarters with poison. The poisonous gas was extremely powerful, and an ordinary person would not be able to survive it.

In fact, this poisonous gas could easily kill about 70 or 80 percent of the people in the headquarters. Alas, Du Wusheng had miscalculated this time. Before the poisonous gas could enter the headquarters, a middle-aged man rushed out and swallowed the entirety of the gas.

The poisonous bugs releasing the gas were suddenly frightened and started fleeing in disarray. It was as though they had encountered their greatest nemesis. Even the Sovereigns among the bugs were returning to Du Wusheng in fear.

"Using poison before me is like using a saber in front of the ancestor of sabers," said the toad.

"Monarch of all poison, poisonous toad!" exclaimed Du Wusheng in shock.

"You must be here to rescue that ugly bastard. Surrender now and avoid any unnecessary suffering on your part," demanded the toad.

"Why waste time talking with them? Let's beat them up first. Witness my Overlord Fist!" shouted the turtle, who charged out and threw a punch at Du Wusheng.

The turtle's punch looked ordinary, but it contained boundless power.

"Old Poison, retreat!" Yao Jiaojiao shouted in alarm as she hurriedly retreated. She was not strong enough to stop the punch, so she didn't even dare to try facing it.

However, Du Wusheng stood his ground. Fearsome dark energy gathered on his hand as he clawed at the punch. The dark claw attack was also powered by a terrifying poison. The turtle's punch was corroded into nothingness, and strands of poison surrounded him.

He had thought that he could ignore the poison and continue attacking, but he found that the poison was instantly melting through his defensive barrier. He was forced to retreat, and he shouted at the toad, "Toad, this fellow is in your field. You'll deal with him while I deal with the girl."

Chapter 1016: Capturing the Two Villains

The turtle decisively gave up on Du Wusheng and charged Yao Jiaojiao instead.

The toad charged Du Wusheng unhesitatingly. A clump of venom shot out of his mouth and surrounded Du Wusheng. The toad's poison was incredibly powerful, but Du Wusheng showed no fear and spat out a clump of poisonous gas to neutralize the venom. Du Wusheng then took the initiative to attack with clawing attacks. It was as though countless poisonous bugs were surrounding the toad.

Myriad Poison Sutra!

That was what Du Wusheng cultivated, an extremely powerful yet rare technique. Few people would dare to cultivate this technique, as nine out of ten people would die. However, those who succeeded would gain mastery over the myriad poison and obtain great strength.

Over the years, Du Wusheng had lived a low-profile life. He was ranked last among the Seven Villains, but he was in truth a peak Sovereign. Not many people knew about that. His Myriad Poison Sutra wasn't an offensive technique, but it suited him well. Thus, he was strong enough to match Shi Lie, who was ranked second among the villains. Even Yao Jiaojiao wasn't his match.

That was what gave him the courage to attempt this rescue mission. Little did he expect that his opponents actually had two powerful Demon Sovereigns. But it was now too late for him to rethink his actions.

The toad and Du Wusheng were evenly matched. One of them was the monarch of all poison while the other had planted his dao through poison. Both of them had mastery over powerful poison techniques, and the shockwaves of their battle were rapidly corroding their surroundings.

As for the battle between the turtle and Yao Jiaojiao, it was not one-sided either. The turtle might be stronger, but Yao Jiaojiao had an incredible footwork technique that allowed her to avoid his punches then launch her counterattacks.

Her attacks were exceedingly sharp, and her tender palms contained an earth-shattering might. If it wasn't for the turtle's incredible defenses, he would have suffered in the fight.

"Girl, you sure are slimy," shouted the turtle as his fist energy shifted into an abstruse energy that enveloped the entire space around them. Yao Jiaojiao's surroundings were fully sealed, and she was forced to meet the attack head on.

Her face fell as two sharp swords shot out of her hands. She used them to repeatedly stab the turtle's punch.

Clank!

The swords and the punch collided, creating numerous sparks and shockwaves, kicking up a cloud of dust around them. She failed to stop the punch's advance, and it struck her stomach and sent her flying away.

However, she acted like she hadn't been punched and continued retreating, borrowing the punch's impact. The turtle blanked out slightly, but he quickly gave chase. Alas, Yao Jiaojiao was so fast he was feeling helpless.

Just as Yao Jiaojiao thought that she had escaped, an aged figure noiselessly appeared in her way. The voice rang out from the figure, "Go and meet my young master. Do not force my hand, or someone will die."

The aged figure was none other than Scarlet Flame Monarch. His presence of a Heaven Battling Realm expert pressed down on Yao Jiaojiao, causing her entire body to start trembling.

When the turtle saw Scarlet Flame Monarch appearing, he stopped chasing and turned back to help the toad. With his extraordinary poison technique, Du Wusheng was able to restrain even the toad. But with the turtle's addition, he started having a hard time.

"Sigh. They must have come prepared. Looks like my effort is worthless, after all," Du Wusheng lamented. A terrifying poisonous mist appeared above his nine-layered soul foundation before

spreading all around him. Visibility dropped within the range of the mist, and nobody dared to approach for fear of being poisoned to death.

Taking advantage of the mist, Du Wusheng attempted to flee. Alas, he wasn't able to get far before an incomparably terrifying aura locked onto him. He instantly stopped moving.

"Turn around. Your poison mastery is decent, but you have yet to reach a level where your poison is powerful enough to devour even Saints. You can't pose any threat to me," said Scarlet Flame Monarch bluntly.

"Sigh, I really wonder who Ugly Gambler offended for all this to happen," said Du Wusheng with a sigh before withdrawing all his poison and surrendering alongside Yao Jiaojiao.

With the assistance of an expert like Scarlet Flame Monarch, they were able to reduce a lot of trouble. By the time Xiang Shaoyun finished his talk with Ugly Gambler, Yao Jiaojiao and Du Wusheng were already seated at the main hall.

Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the hall with Ugly Gambler. He first looked at Yao Jiaojiao with a smile and said, "Big sister, it has been a while. I trust you have been well."

"Hehe, how have you been, young brother? So you're the one who had caught this ugly bastard? You scared us. If we had known it was you, we wouldn't have been as worried," said Yao Jiaojiao. One ought to admit that she was a person with a rich experience in life, able to maintain such composure even when being held prisoner.

"I didn't capture him. He was the one who had lost his life to me in a bet. That was why I brought him back with me," said Xiang Shaoyun as he sat down on the main seat. He then looked at Du Wusheng and said, "This must be the famous Poison Physician, Lord Du Wusheng. I've long looked forward to meeting you."

"I wonder where you come from, young brother? What business do you have with us?" asked Du Wusheng.

He assumed that Xiang Shaoyun was the young master of some powerful organization. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to get a Heaven Battling Realm expert to work for him.

"I'm here to solicit your help on one matter, but it looks like a few of you are still missing?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"They won't come. Just be transparent with what you want. We will help if it's something we can do," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"That's regretful to hear," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh. He looked at Ugly Gambler and said, "Lord Gambler, tell them what I told you. I hope to gain the two lords' assistance as well."

He then signaled to Scarlet Flame Monarch before leaving the hall for the three villains.

With a guilty look, Ugly Gambler said, "It's all my fault. I will make up for this in the future."

"What's the point of saying all that now? Just tell us what he wants from us," said Yao Jiaojiao with a glare.

And thus, Ugly Gambler repeated what he had heard from Xiang Shaoyun.

"Making a move against a tier-7 organization. That could be both a big deal and a small deal," said Yao Jiaojiao with a frown.

Du Wusheng sat down, shut his eyes, and said, "We have no other choices."

"That's right. If we refuse, we will suffer terribly," said Ugly Gambler with a sigh.

"We can only hope that he will keep his word and release us once the matter is done," said Yao Jiaojiao.

Right this moment, a cold voice rang out, "Release them, or none of you shall know peace."

Chapter 1017: Battle of Heaven Battling Realms

When the three villains in the main hall heard the voice, they exclaimed in surprise, "It's Boss Li!"

First of the Seven Villains, Li Juetian, had appeared.

A middle-aged man emanating a thick killing intent was approaching the Skeleton Gang coldly. His entire person was akin to an exceptional sword. His murderous intent was incredibly sharp, and with each step he took, thick killing intent churned around him, filling his surroundings with desolation.

He was tall and slim, and he was dressed in a crude outfit. When he walked, it was as though his feet weren't touching the ground. He wore a bamboo hat, and a sword hung on his back. He had the typical look of an assassin.

He was the strongest of the Seven Villains and was known to be cold-hearted. In truth, only the other members of the Seven Villains were aware of how loyal he was toward his people. In fact, the Seven Villains had mostly been able to survive for this long thanks to Li Juetian. His mere existence served as a deterrent for many organizations to try anything against the villains.

Scarlet Flame Monarch appeared before Li Juetian with a raging flame around him and said, "If you want to save them, you have to get through me."

"Watch out, Scarlet Flame. This person is most likely Li Juetian, head of the Seven Villains. He is probably a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator," reminded Xiang Shaoyun.

"Seven Villains? Never heard of them," said Scarlet Flame Monarch indifferently.

He was once one of the strongest Heaven Battling Realm experts in existence. Although his strength had deteriorated greatly, he was still able to display a third of his original strength. That much strength was enough to give him a lot of confidence.

Li Juetian looked at him coldly and said, "Defeat you. Release them."

"Sure. It has been 10,000 years since this old man got any exercise. Today, you will serve as my warmup," replied Scarlet Flame Monarch unyieldingly.

The two flew high into the sky and began a battle between Heaven Battling Realm cultivators.

In a certain courtyard, Tuoba Wan'er said to Old Urchin, "Grandpa Urchin, please help holy son-in-law's man."

"That old fellow is very strong. He doesn't need my help," said Old Urchin.

"Is he really that strong?" asked Tuoba Wan'er.

"Yes. If he is at his peak condition, not even I will be his match," replied Old Urchin solemnly.

"That's good to hear," said Tuoba Wan'er.

The three villains in the headquarters saw a hope to leave, but they still didn't dare to move rashly. They weren't stupid enough to believe that these people would be pushovers the moment their Heaven Battling Realm expert was tied up with something. After all, the toad and the turtle were observing them at all times. The moment they tried anything, they would be faced with an intense barrage of attacks.

Xiang Shaoyun and his people waited silently for the battle's result. He hoped that Scarlet Flame Monarch could capture Li Juetian as well. If that happened, they would have two Heaven Battling Realm experts at their side, and they would have greater confidence in retaking the Ziling Sect.

"Devouring Ghost, do you think Scarlet Flame can win?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Although second brother has only recovered 30 percent of his strength, with his combat prowess, he won't have much problem against this opponent," said Devouring Ghost confidently. "However, it might be somewhat hard to capture that person alive. I can feel that he is quite strong as well. He is at least a second-stage or a third-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator."

"The head of the Seven Villains is indeed not someone to be underestimated," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh. He took out a jade case and handed it to Devouring Ghost. "Devouring Ghost, I have a saint soul fruit here. Use it now. After you're done digesting it, we'll set off to take my revenge."

At Lonesoul Island, he had obtained three saint soul fruits in total. One of them would be reserved for himself. Now that Devouring Ghost had gotten one as well, one could see just how important he was to Xiang Shaoyun.

Devouring Ghost used to be strong, but after getting a new body, it wouldn't be easy for him to regain his former strength. But with this saint soul fruit, he could strengthen his soul. And if he could reforge his soul foundation, he would be able to grow rapidly.

Unsurprisingly, Devouring Ghost roared with laughter and said, "Thank you, young master. I will definitely digest it as quickly as possible. With this, it will shorten the time I need to reach the Heaven Battling Realm by dozens or even a hundred years."

He then entered seclusion without wasting any time. After all, Scarlet Flame Monarch was not the sole Heaven Battling Realm expert by Xiang Shaoyun's side. There was also Old Urchin around.

High in the sky, a world-shaking battle was ongoing between Scarlet Flame Monarch and Li Juetian. The battle strength they were displaying was unimaginably terrifying.

Like a raging meteor, Scarlet Flame Monarch rammed into his opponent over and over again. It was as though he could break apart even a star. The sea of flame covering the sky seemed absolutely unstoppable. He was old, but he was still vigorous. And if he could recover his full strength, he would probably be more than 10 times stronger than now.

On the other hand, Li Juetian was not to be underestimated either. His Sky Severing Slash seemed capable of cutting through everything, and his sword energy seemed unstoppable. Boundless killing intent surrounded him, one that would plant fear in the heart of all onlookers.

Two energies collided repeatedly, and loud explosions rumbled on and on. Scarlet Flame Monarch's flame was able to suppress Li Juetian's sword energy, but that was not enough because Li Juetian's endurance was too high. He resisted the flame and did not suffer much harm. Rather, Scarlet Flame Monarch was the one who started feeling exhaustion.

The 10,000 years of torture had affected him greatly. It was hard for him to sustain himself in a prolonged battle. Li Juetian had evidently noticed that, so he had been keeping his patience. He continued dragging the fight on and was in no rush to end it.

Scarlet Flame Monarch could see what Li Juetian was trying to do. His battle experience was incredibly rich, and it allowed him to react instantly. Instead of wasting any more time, he unleashed his trump card.

Flame Star Chained Explosions!

He then clawed repeatedly at the empty air. His palms were akin to the universe, sending numerous flaming stars flying out. The stars proceeded to surround Li Juetian before erupting.

Li Juetian might be decently strong, but his face finally fell when he witnessed Scarlet Flame Monarch's merciless attack. He could feel that he wouldn't be able to contend against such strength, but escaping wasn't an option either. He could only face it head on.

Severing the heaven!

Severing the earth!

Severing the human!

Three Severing Slash!

Dense killing intent exploded from Li Juetian's body. He swung his sword repeatedly, and each swing created massive sword energy that wreaked havoc in the sky. He was displaying a strength comparable to a fourth-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator. In truth, he was only an early third-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator. It was now obvious that he also possessed the ability to punch above his weight.

The sky itself seemed to be on the verge of breaking apart from their intense collisions. Ultimately, Li Juetian was sent flying and coughing blood. However, Scarlet Flame Monarch was also so exhausted he could no longer press on with more attacks.

Chapter 1018: Li Juetian Staying

Half of Li Juetian's body was in a bloody mess, and he looked to be in a miserable state. Even so, he tenaciously remained standing in the air as he hurriedly healed. He had displayed incredible tenacity and willpower.

On the other hand, Scarlet Flame Monarch was gasping for breath as he constantly absorbed the flame energy around him to replenish his exhausted energy. He wanted to push forth and capture Li Juetian, but he also realized that it wouldn't be easy.

"Sigh, looks like I have really gotten old," said Scarlet Flame Monarch bleakly.

"You won't be able to kill me," said Li Juetian.

"Yes. But you can't defeat me either," replied Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Li Juetian said, "You won't be able to stop me if I want to run with them."

"Hehe, you think too highly of yourself. I was like you back in the days. I have a different opinion. I think it would be the best for you to stay with them and serve my young master," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a smile.

"I, Li Juetian, will not submit to anyone. It's not like you can even capture me," said Li Juetian.

"I can," said Scarlet Flame Monarch confidently.

Li Juetian had a look of contempt, not understanding the reason for this person to be so stubborn.

Scarlet Flame Monarch said, "You cultivate the Three Severing Slash. Too bad you have only comprehended a tiny bit of the technique. I refuse to believe you're not interested in Old Man Three Severing's inheritance."

Li Juetian's pupils constricted. Clearly, Scarlet Flame Monarch's words were right on the mark. Old Man Three Severing was the legendary individual who had created the Three Severing Slash. It was said that he had entered the realm beyond Heaven Battling Realm. The chance to obtain his inheritance would be an opportunity that would fill everyone with envy.

However, Li Juetian was no gullible child. He would not blindly believe Scarlet Flame Monarch's words. He asked, "If you know the location of Old Man Three Severing's inheritance, why don't you get it for yourself instead? Don't even dream of lying to me!"

"Hehe, Old Man Three Severing is a legendary individual from 100,000 years ago. Countless people are searching for his inheritance. I don't know the exact location of his inheritance, but I once explored some of the clues. I am 80 percent confident I know the location. If it wasn't for the incident that had happened to me and my master back then, I would have found Old Man Three Severing's cultivation location," said Scarlet Flame Monarch confidently. "Of course, you can

choose not to believe me. However, it is in a completely unexpected place. You will probably spend a lifetime looking for it only to find nothing. Perhaps it will be worth trusting me once."

He then turned and headed back into the Celestial Skeleton headquarters, not bothering to talk more. He knew very well that it would be very hard for Li Juetian to believe his words, but he was confident that if the other party longed for Old Man Three Severing's inheritance, this was an opportunity that couldn't be missed. In any case, he wasn't lying.

Li Juetian hovered in the air, dazed, his thoughts in disarray. Over the years, he had been searching for Old Man Three Severing's inheritance. However, he had never found anything. That was why his cultivation level had been stuck. If he could obtain Old Man Three Severing's inheritance, his strength would soar, and he would finally be able to get his revenge. There was no helping it as his enemy was too powerful.

He was a decisive person. After spending a short while thinking about it, he started heading toward the Celestial Skeleton headquarters as well. When Xiang Shaoyun saw the two coming over one after another, he was confused.

"Has Scarlet Flame been defeated?" Xiang Shaoyun frowned.

It was at this time that Old Urchin noiselessly appeared beside him to prevent Li Juetian from potentially sneak attacking him.

Li Juetian looked at Scarlet Flame Monarch and asked, "Were you telling the truth?"

"Absolutely," Scarlet Flame Monarch replied solemnly.

"Good. I can stay and help, but there will be a time limit. I do not wish to submit to anyone," Li Juetian gave his term.

"Sure. Serve my young master for 10 years, and you will get what you want," replied Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Li Juetian frowned and hesitated before saying, "It can't be longer than five years. I don't even know if you're really telling the truth. Unless you can prove it, I won't agree to a period of ten years."

"Sure, we'll do five years. I am not 100 percent sure, but I am 90 percent sure," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a smile. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young master, he will be serving you for five years starting now. Feel free to make him work."

Xiang Shaoyun was wild with joy. He had been troubled over his lack of Heaven Battling Realm experts. And now, one such Heaven Battling Realm expert had joined him just when he needed them most.

He did not know how Scarlet Flame Monarch had accomplished this, but he had confidence in Scarlet Flame Monarch, so he wasn't worried. After experiencing just how good it felt to have capable assistants by his side, his will to nurture some faithful helpers for himself was reaffirmed.

Xiang Shaoyun allowed Li Juetian to meet the three villains. When they met, a discussion ensued. When they heard that even Li Juetian had agreed to stay and help, they grew anxious. Li Juetian did not give them much of an explanation, leaving them in confusion.

Yao Jiaojiao, Ugly Gambler, and Du Wusheng finally accepted their fate. Since even their boss had submitted, there was nothing they could do. And just like that, four of the villains became Xiang Shaoyun's helpers, and the force at his side suddenly grew much stronger.

After subduing the four villains, Xiang Shaoyun also planned to get his hands on the remaining three villains as well. He had the four villains to persuade the other three, promising that he would grant them their freedom after he did what he needed to do. Of course, that deal excluded Li Juetian.

Sending the villains against the other villains was the most optimal way of going around it. As the villains knew each other's hiding places, they were able to soon bring over the Heaven Rupturing Foot and Smiling Monk.

As for the villain ranked second, Shi Lie, he was nowhere to be found. Perhaps he had long left Bloodsin City. With that, six of the Seven Villains were now serving under Xiang Shaoyun.

Can Lehen and Smiling Monk were not pleased, but with Li Juetian's suppression, they were forced to lower their heads and compromise. With his army prepared, Xiang Shaoyun finally set foot on his return journey to Xia Hamlet. The period of seven years had ended, and it was time for them to come together and talk business.

Xiang Shaoyun brought Tuoba Wan'er, Xia Liuhui, Du Xuanhao, Han Pojun, the turtle, and the toad as they set off toward the Xia Hamlet. As for the rest of his people, they were handed over to Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost. They would reconvene near Celestial King Province's Ziling Sect.

As Devouring Ghost had just consumed the saint soul fruit, he still needed some time to digest it. Thus, they were in no rush either. Everyone was moving in accordance to the plan. Xiang Shaoyun's group started going through many teleportation formations as they headed toward the Cloud Margin City.

In truth, he had thought of returning to Dong City on his way and visit an old friend, but he changed his mind. At times, it would be better for two parties to not meet. He did not know if he could even return from Ziling Sect alive.

He might have a great number of helpers by his side, but that did not mean that Di Batian and his people were easy opponents. The result of their confrontation was still unknown.

...

The Cloud Margin Pavilion was the ruling organization of the Cloud Margin City. Here, they were kings. This was a place Xiang Shaoyun once stayed at, and he still had some friends here, such as Zi Changhe, Gong Qinyin, and Hua Cheng.

Zi Changhe was nominally Xiang Shaoyun's senior brother. He was someone Xiang Shaoyun had known from the very beginning, and the two were extremely close. Xiang Shaoyun had also given him some high-level battle techniques to help increase his combat prowess.

As for Gong Qinyin, she was someone who once hated him. She eventually found herself falling for him. She had also abandoned archery for the art of zither. At their time of separation, she wasn't even in the Skysoar Realm yet. Hua Cheng was Xiang Shaoyun's sworn sister, and she was deeply in love with Du Xuanhao. She was a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator when they had separated.

Many years had passed, and a new Emperor had appeared within the Cloud Margin Pavilion. This new Emperor was none other than Gong Qinyin, who wasn't even at the Skysoar Realm back then.

She had used only seven years to enter the Emperor Realm from her cultivation level of the Transformation Realm. She advanced at a record speed that filled everyone with disbelief. She only had a five-star physique. How exactly had she grown so much in such a short period of time?

It turned out that she had an innate affinity with the dao of zither. With the Seven Severing Tunes Xiang Shaoyun had given her as a parting gift, her comprehension of the dao of zither had deepened considerably. Naturally, she had had her own fortuitous encounters as well. That was how she had been able to reach the Emperor Realm so quickly.

Currently, the Cloud Margin Pavilion was hosting a celebration for her breakthrough, conferring upon her the title of Tune Empress. The celebration was held grandly, and the organizations of the neighboring cities all sent their representatives over to attend the ceremony. More importantly, the Dragon Society had also sent their people over, trying to invite Gong Qinyin to cultivate at their society.

Gong Qinyin was dressed formally, showcasing her beauty to all. She had a confident glint in her eyes, and her face was as sleek as a piece of jade that gave one the urge to go and caress her face. Her figure had matured nicely, emanating an alluring charm that made her worthy of being called the number one beauty of Cloud Margin City.

She had countless pursuers, including members of other organizations. However, not one was a young Emperor. They failed to catch her eyes as someone had already occupied her heart.

Shaoyun, you said that you would allow me to follow you if I can enter the Emperor Realm in 10 years. I did it. Do you know? sighed Gong Qinyin inwardly.

Seated off the main stage was Hua Cheng, who was incomparably satisfied and proud of her disciple. Back when she had accepted Gong Qinyin as her disciple, she had never expected her disciple to reach such heights in such a short period of time. As the master of such a disciple, she naturally felt greatly pressured.

With the great pressure, she had managed to advance by three stages, becoming a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. She had now reached the cultivation level Du Xuanhao had in the past.

With her current strength, she was an incredibly powerful existence within the Cloud Margin Pavilion. With the growth of Gong Qinyin, one could say that Hua Cheng now wielded more and more influence in the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

The previous pavilion master, Murong Qing, and the current pavilion master, Yue Yuze, both gave Gong Qinyin their blessings. They also expressed that if she was willing, she would be lined up as the next pavilion master. However, Gong Qinyin seemed rather disinterested.

The Emperor from Dragon Society that was here to observe the ceremony stood up and said, "Tune Empress is a genius that is fated to become a Sovereign in the future. It is a waste to keep her in your Cloud Margin Pavilion." He stepped forth, looked straight into Gong Qinyin's eyes, and said, "Qinyin, someone as beautiful as you deserve someone like me, crown prince of Dragon Society. From now on, stay by my side. It wouldn't be anything difficult for both of us to become Sovereigns in the future."

The person speaking was one of Dragon Society's thirteen crown princes, Lin Ha the Fifth Dragon. Each of the thirteen crown princes was an individual with extraordinary talent. Back then, Long Yunfei, who competed against Xiang Shaoyun at the Devil Domain, was one of them. This Fifth Dragon was even stronger than Long Yunfei back then.

He was a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and he was only about 40 years old. For a cultivator, he was still considered a youngster. He was also ugly and fat and was definitely not the match for Gong Qinyin.

Everyone sank into silence, and not even the two pavilion masters dared to say anything. One ought to know that Lin Ha was backed by the Dragon Society, which was a tier-7 organization. The Cloud Margin Pavilion was also operating within Dragon Society's territory. Even the men that had been pursuing Gong Qinyin stayed silent in fear. They might like Gong Qinyin, but it was pointless, anyway, since they did not have the strength to make them worthwhile partners for her.

Gong Qinyin looked at Lin Ha and replied with a gentle smile, "Sorry, but I have never considered joining the Dragon Society. I am also not interested in being your lover. Thank you for your offer."

Lin Ha's face turned cold. With a deep voice, he said, "Think this through. A wrong answer will not only destroy you but the Cloud Margin Pavilion as well."

His voice was filled with threat, and anyone listening to him would not feel very comfortable. The old man beside Lin Ha released his aura. The presence of a peak Emperor crushed down on everyone present, causing them to suffocate.

"My answer remains the same," said Gong Qinyin firmly.

"What you're saying is that you would rather choose the hard way than the easy way?" said Lin Ha with a frown. It was obvious he was in a bad mood.

He was a crown prince of the Dragon Society. No woman had ever escaped his grasp successfully.

Chapter 1020: The Arrogant Dragon Society People

"Fifth crown prince, I don't think we should rush this. Today is her coronation. It's not the occasion to be talking about this," said Yue Yuze with a flattering smile.

Lin Ha looked at Yue Yuze and said, "In my opinion, this is a chance to have two happy occasions happening at once. She should be honored to receive this offer from me, a crown prince of the Dragon Society. You should help her understand this. The moment she becomes mine and joins the Dragon Society, she will reach higher heights in the future. Don't you understand something so simple?"

Hua Cheng said, "That is an excuse you're using to force her to be with you. If you're a real man, you should pursue her properly instead of forcing her. There are so many heroes present. You are harming the Dragon Society's reputation doing what you just did."

One ought to admit that Hua Cheng was holding nothing back with her words. She even mentioned the Dragon Society's reputation, trying to put some sort of restriction on Lin Ha.

Mu Rongqing also spoke, "That's right. Fifth crown prince, we should talk about this afterward. We shouldn't let something like this harm our relationship."

"Hehe, you are obviously disrespecting the Dragon Society, and you're actually speaking with such a self-righteous attitude? Do you want the entire Cloud Margin Pavilion to be flattened?" threatened Lin Ha arrogantly.

He was truly incredibly arrogant, thinking that he could disregard all smaller organizations just because he was a crown prince of the Dragon Society.

"Don't push it," shouted an unhappy Cloud Margin Pavilion elder.

"That's exactly what I'm doing," said Lin Ha as he sent out a palm. The attack was not to be underestimated, and it instantly reached the elder who had just spoken.

If the attack landed, the elder would probably die.

At the final moment, Hua Cheng blocked the attack. She coldly said, "This is the Cloud Margin Pavilion. If you're here to create trouble, you will not be welcomed. Please leave immediately."

Along with her growth in strength, Hua Cheng had also grown more confident. Even if the other party had a peak Emperor, she would still make her thoughts known. She would not allow anyone to walk all over them, and she would not allow her disciple to be bullied.

"Those are some arrogant words. A mere tier-4 organization is trying to confront us? Are you rebelling?" berated the Dragon Society elder, who had remained silent all along.

That elder was absolutely the strongest person present. His voice carried a certain power in it and placed a heavy pressure on the people present.

At this time, an old man from a different direction said, "The Dragon Society has never bullied smaller organizations. What's this?"

"Huh? Are you criticizing the Dragon Society?" questioned the peak Emperor as he looked at the old man.

The old man was none other than old man Chen Jiayan from Cloud Margin City's Chen Clan. Chen Jiayan was already a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and it was understandable why he had the confidence to talk like this toward the Dragon Society people.

The peak Emperor from the Dragon Society was Xu Ziyang, Lin Ha's guardian. Only the two of them had been sent, but they were of the opinion that just gracing the Cloud Margin Pavilion with their presences was already very generous of them.

"I'm not criticizing anyone. I'm just pointing out the obvious," replied Chen Jiayan.

There were some Chen Clan members in the Dragon Society as well, but he was finding himself disgusted with how these Dragon Society people were carrying themselves.

"I see. Looks like after staying away from these outskirt cities for years, many people are starting to lose respect for us," said Xu Ziyang coldly. He then dashed toward Chen Jiayan.

Xu Ziyang moved swiftly, and his aura crushed down like a mountain, causing the people in the area to collapse. He arrived before Chen Jiayan and sent a fiery palm attack over. The palm attack had an earth-shattering might. The flame surged violently, exhibiting a power no ordinary person could resist. Chen Jiayan's pupils constricted as he hurriedly countered with a palm attack of his own.

Bang!

Two palms collided, resulting in a rumble as massive shockwaves rippled everywhere. The people nearby who weren't able to escape in time were sent flying while coughing blood. Fortunately, the people seated near the stage were all Kings or stronger. Otherwise, the shockwaves would have probably killed a large number of them.

Chen Jiayan was sent dozens of meters backward before he coughed up a mouthful of blood. From how one of the top three experts of Cloud Margin City was beaten into coughing up blood with one attack, one could see just how strong the peak Emperor was.

Xu Ziyang did not seem like he was going to drop the matter at that. He pressed on and sent several more palm attacks toward Chen Jiayan. Chen Jiayan struggled to block the attacks, but he seemed to be having a hard time. Eventually, he was struck once again. This time, he suffered an even heavier injury that rendered him incapable of further combat.

The people present grew anxious, and Hua Cheng was still indignant. She took out a zither, and her fingers flowed through the strings. A pleasant tune rang in the air, and numerous murderous symbols appeared in the air and shot toward Xu Ziyang.

"Looks like you people are really rebelling. We will have to capture all of you to suppress this rebellion," Xu Ziyang roared as he transformed into a burning sun. A large amount of flame energy spread everywhere and destroyed all the incoming symbols before encroaching upon Hua Cheng.

Hua Cheng couldn't react in time and instantly suffered the same fate as Chen Jiayan.

Gong Qinyin couldn't stand by idly anymore, so she took out her zither as well. However, Lin Ha stood before her and said, "I advise you to think this through before acting, or the entire Cloud Margin Pavilion will suffer."

His threat worked, and Gong Qinyin immediately stopped moving.

"Are you not ashamed of doing this?" questioned Gong Qinyin. She was so angry she started trembling.

Today was supposed to be a day of celebration, but this person had messed everything up. Some terrified members of the Cloud Margin Pavilion started voicing their agreement, telling Gong Qinyin to just go with him.

Not even Zi Changhe could keep watching. He stood up and roared, "I refuse to believe the two of you can represent the entire Dragon Society. Let's go together. Let's see if they can kill all of us. If they can't, we'll fight till the end!"

"Audacious!" Lin Ha roared as he looked at Zi Changhe. He dashed over and grabbed Zi Changhe's neck before lifting him up.

"Hold it!" Gong Qinyin shouted.

"Sure, I can stop. But you need to serve me well tonight. Otherwise, the entire Cloud Margin Pavilion will suffer a calamity," said Lin Ha smugly.

Gong Qinyin's mind sank into chaos.

Just as she was about to agree, an overbearing voice rang out, "I don't know if the Cloud Margin Pavilion will suffer a calamity, but I know that if you do not let him go right now, you will die a terrible death."