

Overlord 1041

Chapter 1041: He Is the Young Master

"You may rise," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently. "Has Di Batian noticed anything?"

"Yes, young master. He suspects that something had happened in the city and had sent us here to investigate," replied Old Winter.

"Looks like that old dog is really quite capable. He noticed me the moment I arrived? But he only sent the two of you here? Is he thinking of this as a game or something?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered.

Xiang Shaoyun questioned the two on the Di Sect's internal affairs. After all, information was crucial to winning any war. He did not believe that he would be able to kill every single member of the Di Sect.

Old Winter said, "In recent years, Di Batian has been in seclusion. However, he never stopped doing things. Strangers would constantly appear in the sect. They are people we have never seen, and they all seem to share the surname Di. I believe their relationship with Di Batian is not simple."

Old Summer said, "It is probably due to the third young master's return. After you killed the eighth young master, they hated you to the bone. However, they also seemed fearful of you, so they never attempted to kill you again. Perhaps they were planning something big, so they didn't have the time to deal with you."

Xiang Shaoyun rested his chin against his hand and said, "Is the Di Clan behind Di Batian preparing to emerge from seclusion? If that is the case, things will be somewhat thorny."

After a slight pause, he continued, "Return immediately and inform him that I have occupied the governor's manor. All Hong Clan members have been slaughtered. Also tell them that I have a Saint at my side. See how they react."

Since they already knew that something was happening at the governor's mansion, hiding this from them would not solve anything. They might as well make everything clear and see how Di Batian would respond. They would stay in a reactive position, causing their enemies confusion and slowly grind away at their strength.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun still had other plans in mind. He had no intention of destroying an entire city.

When Old Winter and Old Summer left, Duo Ji came over impatiently and asked, "Young master, how did you do that?"

"They are my puppets," replied Xiang Shaoyun.

When Duo Ji heard that, he understood everything. He did not ask how Xiang Shaoyun had gained control over the two, but he was confident Xiang Shaoyun was telling the truth. Inwardly, he was filled with admiration as he thought, The young master has truly grown. Looks like there really are chances our revenge will be successful.

Duo Ji sank into thought for a bit before saying, "Young master, most people in the sect are now Di Batian's people. However, a small portion of them are still loyal to the sect master. When the time comes, I hope you can show them mercy and not kill all of them."

"We will decide when the time comes," said Xiang Shaoyun. He was obviously rather indifferent to what was just said. In his mind, all traitors should be killed.

Duo Ji was left speechless for a bit, so he decided to wait and see. Next, Xiang Shaoyun brought a group of people to hide outside the city. They would be waiting to intercept the people from Di Sect.

He did not have a lot of people with him. Apart from Ye Chaomu's group, he only brought Xia Liuhui, Du Xuanhao, Han Pohun, Little White, and the demonic beasts that had followed Little White over. Tuoba Wan'er, Gong Qinyin, and the rest were put on standby in the governor's manor.

The two were unhappy that they couldn't go with him, but they had no choice but to listen. They would only get the chance to move out during the final battle.

After Old Winter and Old Summer returned to the sect, they told Di Batian what Xiang Shaoyun told them to say. When Di Batian heard what they had to say, his face turned gloomy, and he immediately convened an elder's assembly.

The Di Sect was a tier-7 organization. Over the years, they had grown consistently. They had at least 100 Soul Foundation Realm experts and hundreds of Emperors in their ranks. As for Kings, they had too many to be counted.

In the main hall, dozens of Soul Foundation Realm experts were gathered. They were all sect elders, and all of them were sitting calmly as they waited for Di Batian to speak.

"Our previous young master, Xiang Shaoyun, has returned," said Di Batian calmly.

The expressions of a majority of them changed. They were all old members of the previous Ziling Sect, and they all knew very well who Xiang Shaoyun was. As traitors, they naturally felt uncomfortable at the thought of him.

"Sect master, did we not clear them all back then?" asked someone.

"At the time, that little bastard was escorted away by someone before we could stabilize everything, so it is true that he had escaped," someone else replied for Di Batian. "But it's good that he's back. I will personally capture him. Let's see just how capable that little trash is."

The others also started speaking, all of them cursing Xiang Shaoyun as they attempted to express their loyalty to Di Batian. Seated at a certain corner was a white-haired old man. His eyes were shut as he sat there silently.

The white-haired old man looked dignified and composed, and he had an extraordinary bearing about him. He exuded a thick smell of herbs, and he was clearly someone who worked closely with herbs. In fact, he was the sect's chief alchemist, Elder Yao. This Elder Yao was also the same person who had been in charge of nourishing Xiang Shaoyun's body when Xiang Shaoyun was young.

"Elder Yao, what do you think? I remember that you cared rather much for that little bastard back in the days," asked someone opposite Old Herb with his brows raised.

The one who asked was Qin Junling, and he had never liked Elder Yao. He had requested Elder Yao to refine some pills for him many times but had always been rejected, so he had been displeased with Elder Yao for quite a while.

Elder Yao opened his eyes and said, "No matter what, he is still the young master."

The moment those words came out, the expressions of everyone present changed. After all, those words were somewhat of a taboo.

"Sect master, you saw it yourself. He is still thinking about that little bastard. If we keep this old bastard here, he might be the first to turn on us," said Qin Junling.

Elder Yao did not even bother to reply. He shut his eyes again as if saying to everyone, "This is just how I am."

His reaction further infuriated Qin Junling, who said, "Sect master, we can't put up with this!"

"Enough. I understand Elder Yao's loyalty to the previous sect master. But the previous sect master is dead. Since you remain stubborn, I'll have to keep you in custody for now," said Di Batian.

He then had Elder Yao taken away. Old Herb did not resist. Instead, a gratified look appeared on his face.

After Elder Yao was taken away, Di Batian commanded, "Qin Junling, step out. I hereby command you to lead a group and capture Xiang Shaoyun. I will send a sacred elder to help you in secret as well. Make sure to capture Xiang Shaoyun alive and kill anyone resisting without mercy."

"Yes, sect master. I will not disappoint you," said Qin Junling as he set off to do what he was commanded.

For a moment, news of Xiang Shaoyun's return spread throughout the Di Sect, and rumors started spreading.

Chapter 1042: Let Me Deal With This Woman

Qin Junling was a senior figure in Di Sect. In fact, his seniority was comparable to Old Winter and Old Summer. One advantage he held over them was him being younger. He was at an age where he still had a lot of room for growth in cultivation. He was already an eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, and he was someone Di Batian looked highly upon.

Qin Junling had three siblings alongside him. The four of them were collectively known as Di's Four Qins. The eldest was Qin Junling, then Qin Huailing, followed by Qin Xialing and finally Qin Shiling. The three eldest were males, while the youngest was a woman.

Of the four, the strongest was Qin Junling. The second strongest was Qin Shiling, who also had another identity—a woman of the sect's first young master.

Qin Junling gathered about 200 people with his siblings and headed toward the Di City in a grandiose fashion. The group was powerful, and all of them were in high spirits, showcasing the might of a large organization.

Qin Junling was seated atop a tiger as he led the group. With a halberd in hand, he looked like a heroic general of a powerful army. By his side, Qin Huailing and Qin Xialing also looked incredibly mighty and formidable. Although they were already middle-aged, they still had an impressive temperament about them.

Also with them was a young woman dressed in a yellow satin outfit. She had a flirtatious look on her face that seemed to emanate seduction, and her fiery figure was well showcased by her revealing outfit. Any man looking at her would feel their lips go dry.

"Big brother, is it worth all of us making such a big deal out of a little bastard like that?" Qin Shiling grumbled unhappily.

"That little bastard is no longer the same person. He went to the Dragon Phoenix Academy and is now an Emperor. He also brought some experts with him. He had even taken over the governor's manor. We have to take them seriously," said Qin Junling. "This time, we need to capture that little bastard alive. That way, we will be able to show the sect master our undivided loyalty to him."

"True. If we can get this merit, I will probably be the first lady once the first young master becomes the sect master in the future," said Qin Shiling joyfully.

"Big brother, that kid is an Emperor at most. How strong can the people he brought be? Is there a need for the sect master to take this so seriously?" asked Qin Huailing.

"I heard that they had brought along a Heaven Battling Realm expert. The people behind Xiang Shaoyun are probably those left behind by the previous sect master. It doesn't matter, though. The sect master has some people protecting us in secret," said Qin Junling.

"If that is the case, we have to give them a good show this time. If we can settle this nicely, our standing in the sect will rise to a higher level," said Qin Xialing.

As they traveled through the wild, Xiang Shaoyun's group suddenly appeared. This particular spot was the place bordering both the Di Sect and Di City. The place was desolate and uninhabited, and if a battle broke out, other parties would not be affected.

Qin Junling and his people were somewhat astonished to see Xiang Shaoyun's group bravely appearing before them. And when they noticed that Xiang Shaoyun did not even have that many people with him, they smiled.

"Haha, I trust you have been well, young master," said Qin Junling as he howled with laughter.

Xiang Shaoyun only had Ye Chaomu, Little White, Money, Du Xuanhao, Han Pojun, the turtle, and some others with him. They were few in number, but each of them was a valiant combatant.

A sharp look appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes as he said, "Qin Junling, it looks like you have been living a good life."

Xiang Shaoyun did not have much of an impression of Qin Junling and his people, but he still remembered that they were good-for-nothings that only excelled in flattering their superiors. In the past, his father had not attached any importance to them. Obviously, Di Batian had valued them rather highly.

"Of course. Back then, the previous sect master looked down upon nobodies like us. But now, we nobodies are the ones holding power in the sect, enjoying all the sect has to offer. As for you, little bastard, you are reduced into a vagrant, living a life of being constantly hunted. It must have been hard for you to survive until today," said Qin Junling with derision. "Unfortunately, you seem to be dead set on threading this path of doom. Today, you will come with us to the sect and await the sect master's command. Don't bother struggling against us. It is pointless."

"Hehe, what a shameless traitor. Since I dare to show myself here, I am definitely confident in surviving this encounter. Remember, today is the day all of you die!" declared Xiang Shaoyun as he started stepping forward.

"You trying to have a one-on-one fight? Let me play with you for a bit," said Qin Shiling, who found her heartbeat accelerating upon seeing how good Xiang Shaoyun looked.

She was a seventh-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator and was the second strongest among their siblings. It was expected that she would be able to easily defeat Xiang Shaoyun.

"Let me deal with this woman," volunteered Ye Chaomu, who could see what Qin Shiling was thinking in her mind.

Riding on her green-eyed cat, she rushed ahead of Xiang Shaoyun. Strands of dark energy swirled around her, instantly surrounding her in a mystical aura. Her eyes glowed with an odd glint that caused all the onlookers to feel a chill creep up their spines.

"Little Mu, it's better if I go," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He was confident in Ye Chaomu, but as the big brother, how could he let his little sister battle on his behalf?

"No! This woman is too slutty. I feel angry just looking at her!" said Ye Chaomu.

"Little slut, you dare scold me? Looks like I need to tear your lips apart," said Qin Shiling furiously as she charged Ye Chaomu with her mount.

She attacked mercilessly and sent a sweeping slash forward with her sword. The sword moved as fast as lightning, and a regular person wouldn't even be able to react in time. No response came from Ye Chaomu, and it looked like she wasn't going to be able to dodge it.

Xiang Shaoyun grew nervous and shouted, "Little Mu, dodge!"

Ye Chaomu's eyes shone brightly as two beams shot out from them, the rays carrying numerous ancient symbols. The two beams exuded an ancient aura as though they had arrived from beyond the world. They were capable of penetrating everything, and they reached Qin Shiling with an unimaginable might.

Qin Shiling's sword energy was instantly erased, and before she could react, her chest was penetrated. With her strength, she would be able to survive even a stab to her chest. However, the

beams contained a corrosive power that instantly erased her life force, giving her no chance to heal. Like a withering flower, she instantly wilted away.

"Fourth sister!" Qin Junling and his two brothers exclaimed in alarm.

They rushed forward to give help, but they found that she was no longer breathing. Her body had rotted, and the corrosive power was even spreading toward them, making them let go of her in fright.

Chapter 1043: Fighting the Di's Four Qins

"What absolute trash," said Ye Chaomu with derision.

Her performance shocked Xiang Shaoyun. He had never imagined that she was actually so strong. Just look at how easily she had killed Qin Shiling.

Little Mu is actually this terrifying? exclaimed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He still remembered back when he had gifted her a heavenly eye stone. He did not know if the stone was what had given her such a powerful eye technique. Or perhaps it was her Undying Devil Clan bloodline?

Qin Junling, Qin Huailing, and Qin Xialing raged.

"Everyone, charge! Kill every last one of them!" roared Qin Junling as though he had lost all reason.

This was supposed to be a game of cat and mouse, but before they could even catch the mouse, their claws were injured. At his command, the over 200 people behind them went into formation. Each of them erupted with a powerful might, and attacks of all colors rained down on Xiang Shaoyun's group.

The barrage of energy attacks was incredibly terrifying, as though the entire world was going to be destroyed. A regular cultivator's legs would go limp at the mere sight of this, but Xiang Shaoyun was someone with a rich battle experience. Coupled with the memories from his previous lives, something like this was nothing to him.

"Everyone, scatter. Fight with all your strength. If you die, you can only blame your luck," said Xiang Shaoyun as he charged Qin Junling.

Since he wanted to fight, he would fight the strongest of them. He could also take this chance to test just how strong his brand new soul foundation was.

He fully blocked the incoming attacks with his Goldplates, and with his gift of instincts, he moved through the openings within the attacks. Like a fish in water, he swam through the attacks while rushing toward Qin Junling.

But while he was doing so, Qin Xialing charged him and roared, "Little bastard, I will tear you apart to appease my little sister's deceased soul!"

Riding on a massive lizard and wielding a massive axe, Qin Xialing sent the power of his four-layered soul foundation crushing down upon Xiang Shaoyun. His energy sealed their surroundings, and his overbearing axe came down with a might to split the world. It was a terrifying combination attack, but in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, it was too weak for him to even bother showing his soul foundation.

Flux Finger Sword Technique!

Xiang Shaoyun showed no quarters in his attack. The moment he found Qin Xialing's opening, he sent out a golden finger beam. The beam quickly reached Qin Xialing and penetrated his defensive barrier before piercing through his soul foundation.

Qin Xialing immediately felt the damage done to his soul foundation, and he wailed in pain, a stinging pain torturing him. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to end Qin Xialing's life, Qin Huailing arrived from a different direction and sent eight slashes his way. Each slash created a massive python that charged toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Qin Huailing was stronger than Qin Xialing. The moment he attacked, he used his ultimate technique. His saber seemed unstoppable, as though the sky was going to be cut apart by his slashes.

Xiang Shaoyun constantly moved, leaving numerous afterimages everywhere as he danced amidst the saber energies. He eventually dashed toward Qin Huailing like a meteor, moving at an unimaginable speed. Sensing how terrifying Xiang Shaoyun was, Qin Junling charged over on his tiger, as he was afraid that something would happen to Qin Huailing as well.

Roar!

The tiger roared, assaulting Xiang Shaoyun with a terrifying sound attack. Another tiger's roar sounded, a roar that contained the will of a monarch, one whose command would never be disobeyed. The moment Qin Junling's mount heard the roar, it trembled and started retreating.

Qin Junling cursed, "Tiger, what do you think you're doing?"

When he saw that his mount was still incredibly fearful, he ignored the tiger and leaped off before charging at Xiang Shaoyun again. Unfortunately for him, that little distraction had placed Qin Huailing in danger.

Xiang Shaoyun fully intended to kill all four Qin siblings. He aimed to kill them as quickly as possible to destroy the morale of their people. As he approached Qin Huailing, a black curtain burst out, instantly pulling his opponent into a world of darkness.

Dark Sky Engulfing Imprint!

Xiang Shaoyun could now use basically any of his battle techniques at will. That was the benefit of forming a soul foundation, as he could engrave some of his battle techniques onto the foundation, allowing him to use them anytime he wished.

Black palms slammed into Qin Huailing from all directions, blasting him with the corrosive dark origin energy. Qin Huailing couldn't even see his surroundings, but he had his defenses pushed to his limits. Even so, he was unable to withstand the palms raining down on him.

That little bastard is only a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Why is he so terrifying? cursed Qin Huailing inwardly.

He could not afford to not do anything, so he started swinging his saber madly, trying to force Xiang Shaoyun away from him. However, Xiang Shaoyun's Goldplates fully blocked the slashes.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun struck his opponent's forehead with a heavy black palm.

By the time Qin Huailing had sensed danger, it had already been too late for him to dodge. When the attack had landed on his forehead, a burst of energy had invaded his head, causing his mind to go blank.

Xiang Shaoyun swept his finger horizontally, severing Qin Huailing's head. Only then did Qin Junling arrive. Filled with rage, he swung his halberd at Xiang Shaoyun.

"I was planning to capture you alive, but you leave me with no choice but to kill you without even leaving your corpse intact," said Qin Junling, raging. He pushed the power gathered at the tip of his halberd to his limits and sent the power of his eight-layered soul foundation crushing down. It was as though an entire star was collapsing upon Xiang Shaoyun.

"Eight-layered soul foundation, it's indeed powerful," remarked Xiang Shaoyun. Even he was feeling pressured by what he was facing. He was only a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator while his opponent was at the eighth stage. The gap between them was incredibly large.

However, Xiang Shaoyun also wished to see his limits, so he released his soul foundation and activated the energies of yin and yang to create the Yin Yang Shield, blocking the entirety of Qin Junling's attack.

Chapter 1044: Challenging the Limits

Xiang Shaoyun had learned a lot from his fight with Dugu Qiubai. And coupled with the awakening of his combat experience from his previous life, he had a feeling his limits had been raised to an entirely new level. Using the yin and yang energies, he formed the Yin Yang Diagram and cleanly redirected Qin Junling's attack.

"Impossible! How can this little bastard be so strong? Even if he cultivates yin and yang, he is not supposed to be able to skip so many stages and fight me," Qin Junling said to himself in disbelief. He continued attacking with all his strength, refusing to believe that he wouldn't be able to take down Xiang Shaoyun.

With the soul foundation and Yin Yang Diagram active, Xiang Shaoyun soared into the sky. The energy under his control changed from a defensive mode to an offensive mode.

Golden fury.

Instantly, two energies of red and gold appeared. The crimson flame energy fused with the shiny gold energy, creating a reddish-gold dragon that roared as it charged forward with a terrifyingly destructive might. The only thing Qin Junling's attack could do was achieve a standstill with the reddish-gold dragon. He couldn't smash through it despite his cultivation level.

"It is impossible for someone to be so scary even after cultivating so many different powers!" roared Qin Junling. He finally decided to use his ultimate technique.

Celestial Bloodlust!

His killing intent rose, and a boundless power rose from his soul foundation. A sense of bloodlust filled his surroundings, and his halberd transformed into a tiger. He sent numerous halberd energies out, and it was as though the very sky was going to be pierced through.

As an eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert, Qin Junling's strength was naturally not something that one could underestimate. It was especially true when he was fighting with all his strength since he could match even a ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert in a battle.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately felt a massive pressure, a pressure that gave him a sensation that his opponent was one he couldn't contend against. His instincts were screaming at him to retreat.

How can I even think of retreating? He is but an eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. If I can't even defeat him, I should forget about revenge, thought Xiang Shaoyun. He gathered his battle intent and fused the energy in his astral cosmos sea with his soul foundation. The primal inception energy swirled around him, turning him into a war god as he charged Qin Junling.

Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

The battle between Soul Foundation Realm cultivators was not as simple as a clash of energies. It was also a clash of soul foundations. If one had powerful energy but a weak soul foundation, one might still suffer defeat.

A clash of battle techniques was a clash of combat strengths, while a clash of soul foundations was a clash of souls. The two aspects would complement each other, and a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator had to use the two together in order to fully display the might of this cultivation realm.

Generally speaking, one would require some time to adapt with the soul foundation after breaking through before one could fully display the realm's might, but Xiang Shaoyun was no regular person.

His soul power had reached a level comparable to a ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator's. He was more than capable of steering his soul foundation. After gaining full control over one's soul foundation, one could easily incorporate it into one's overall combat strength.

The pressure emanated by Xiang Shaoyun's soul foundation was no weaker than Qin Junling's. Thus, it was impossible for Qin Junling to suppress Xiang Shaoyun with the pressure of his soul foundation. In terms of combat strength, Qin Junling was slightly superior. However, after Xiang Shaoyun used his primal inception energy, he was able to unleash an unimaginable strength.

The two energies clashed fiercely and created a world-shaking explosion. The people fighting in the area were all given a fright. They hurriedly distanced themselves from the two. After all, the clashing energies were beyond what they could withstand. After a series of collisions, Xiang Shaoyun was pushed into a defensive position.

Multiple wounds had appeared on his body, but they were all superficial wounds that couldn't pose a threat to his life. As for Qin Junling, a fist imprint could be seen on his body, with blood spurting out of his stomach endlessly.

As a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, Xiang Shaoyun was able to fight an eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator to a standstill. If word of this spread, it would be enough to shock the entire dominion.

One ought to know that, although the various prodigies of the world could most certainly fight those of higher cultivation levels, if any of them fought a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator of this level, there would still be a clear gap between the two. However, Xiang Shaoyun was able to fight someone seven stages above him without suffering defeat. No word could accurately describe just how powerful his combat strength was.

This level of strength was perhaps the result of surviving the competition of the four academies and awakening the memories of his previous life.

After a few more clashes, Qin Junling started feeling fearful.

He had thought that he would be able to easily capture Xiang Shaoyun, but he came to a realization just how wrong he was. Even though Qin Junling had brought 200 people, Xiang Shaoyun would still be able to stay or leave as he wished.

All around Qin Junling, the 200 people he had brought were being killed as well. They weren't able to obtain any sort of advantage.

Among the people Xiang Shaoyun had brought with him, Little White, the turtle, and the toad were displaying terrifyingly monstrous strength.

Little White was undefeated with his white tiger abilities. His roar was able to reach anyone's eardrums and penetrate their hearts, filling them with fear before he finished them off. He also had numerous Demon Sovereigns with him. The Demon Sovereigns were exceptionally cruel and vicious in fights, filling their current opponents, the Di Sect members, with fear.

There wasn't even a need to mention why the toad and the turtle were so terrifying. They were peak Demon Sovereigns, and they could easily crush the Di Sect members without even reverting to their original forms.

As for Ye Chaomu, after killing Qin Shiling, she did nothing. She stood there silently and watched on as Xiang Shaoyun fought, constantly ready to jump in at the moment he seemed to be in any sort of danger. But when she witnessed his strength, she discovered that she had been worried over nothing.

I did not expect big brother to be so strong already. He might already be stronger than even me at my full strength, thought Ye Chaomu in a gratified manner.

She had always been the stronger one, so she felt happy for him when he was finally displaying a strength that was definitely no weaker than hers.

"Sacred elder, what are you still waiting for? At this rate, all of us will die!" shouted Qin Junling, not daring to wait any longer.

Right after he shouted, a bloody body crashed into the ground.

"So this is your sacred elder? He's worthless," remarked the middle-aged man Ye Chaomu brought from the sky above.

Qin Junling stared at the sacred elder whose neck was broken, and fear instantly filled his eyes. Without any hesitation, he started fleeing. These people were way too terrifying.

"Can you even escape?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered as he sent out his soul clone. A bow appeared in the clone's hands, and an arrow was instantly unleashed.

Chapter 1045: Conquering the City

First, there was a loud bang. Next, blood bloomed not far ahead of them. The blood splattered in all directions like a beautiful firework. Xiang Shaoyun's soul clone was too powerful. Even the eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator was instantly killed by the clone.

At this time, the second group of Di Sect members arrived. This group was led by Di Luoyang, someone Xiang Shaoyun had met before. Di Luoyang nearly dropped from the carriage in shock from the scene of the massacre he saw when he arrived.

They had set off as a backup for Qin Junling's group, but before they had even arrived, they witnessed the slaughter of Qin Junling from far away. An eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator was actually shot down just like that. This was too shocking a scene.

Di Luoyang also had some peak Sovereigns with him. They even had Heaven Battling Realm experts in their group. However, they all felt a chill creep up their spines, and they no longer dared to take a single step forward.

"Retreat! Retreat to the sect! The enemy is too strong!" Di Luoyang commanded without the slightest hesitation.

He did not have the courage to even try fighting, and he left with his tail between his legs. As for the over 100 people that had arrived with him, they naturally didn't dare to disobey him either. All of them started retreating.

As for Qin Junling's group, they were scattered everywhere. Most were dead, and a small number of them were able to slip away. Xiang Shaoyun's group only gave chase for a little bit before stopping.

Di Luoyang's group was rather far from them, so it would take some time for them to catch up. If they did give chase, even Di Batian might show himself. Now was still not the time for them to have a decisive battle with him.

"Big brother, why don't we take this chance to charge right into the Di Sect?" asked Ye Chaomu.

"There is no rush. I'll make Di Batian tremble in fear as I slowly kill him. He will understand that it isn't easy being a sect master," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.

Over the years, he had accumulated a massive amount of hatred in his heart. Now that the time for revenge had arrived, he was in no rush to end it.

"Big brother, are you not afraid that he will escape or get some help?" Ye Chaomu asked.

Xiang Shaoyun thought for a bit before answering, "With that old dog's character, he might flee. But I personally think that it would be more probable that some Di Clan people would come help him. It looks like I need to take over the sect before they arrive."

In this battle, Xia Liuhui was the only one to have suffered some injuries. The others were mostly fine. The Di Sect had more people on their side, but Xiang Shaoyun's side was stronger. Each of the people on his side could easily take on 100 of their enemies. Thus, they suffered practically no losses.

When Xiang Shaoyun returned to the governor's manor, he called over Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost. He needed their opinion before deciding on his next course of action.

"Now that I have destroyed Di Sect's vanguard, they will definitely get ready for all-out war. They will think of a countermeasure to deal with us as well. I want to know what you think about this situation," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"If I were Di Batian, I would unleash my entire army upon you and destroy you immediately," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"That's right. Since he has been humiliated, he will have to return the favor, or his reputation will be destroyed," said Devouring Ghost. "Young master, you can consider using the empty city stratagem. We will withdraw first. When they arrive, we will surround them and take them by complete surprise. Or we can even skip the city and take their sect while they're busy here."

The two were worthy of being experienced generals, capable of giving excellent advice.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought before saying with a sharp glint in his eyes, "I am going to rule this city and formally declare war on Di Batian. I will defeat him fair and square, completely destroying his reputation before killing him."

"You can do that, but it will be riskier since they will have enough time to prepare," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"That's right. I don't think it's worth it," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Don't worry; I have my ways of dealing with them."

Xiang Shaoyun immediately acted on what he had in mind. Leading a group of people, he headed outside the city before flying into the sky. The people in the city were already becoming agitated. The appearance of a new group of people instantly caused them all to be anxious.

"Who are they? What are they trying to do?"

"What a terrifying pressure. That person is at least a Sovereign. They don't seem to be from the governor's manor. Are they the ones who have taken over the city?"

"Let's see what they're trying to do. If they are going to start a slaughter, we need to flee."

"Where are the Di Sect people? These people are acting too arrogantly."

Xiang Shaoyun listened to all the discussions calmly. After a while, he opened his mouth, "All of you must be wondering who we are and why we are here. Do not be fearful. Let me tell you the full story.

"I believe that everyone here is aware that before this city came to be known as Di City, it was known as Ziling City? The organization ruling this city was known as the Ziling Sect. Am I right? I am the Ziling Sect's young master, Xiang Shaoyun. The previous sect master of the Ziling Sect, Xiang Yangzhan, is my father. I hereby declare that I am taking over this city and renaming it Ziling City once again. If anyone has a problem with that, feel free to step forth."

"What proof do you have that you're the previous young master?" someone questioned.

"That's easy to prove. I hereby declare war against Di Batian. He is the proof of my identity. Of course, it doesn't matter even if he refuses to acknowledge my identity as I will simply replace him," declared Xiang Shaoyun in a domineering fashion.

His declaration created an uproar. The people in the city had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be so confident.

"Those are some big words. You really think the sect master is nothing? By tomorrow, all of you will be corpses," said someone with a sneer.

That person did not dare to show himself, and he kept spreading his voice everywhere to confuse the people and mask his location.

"What a rat," Xiang Shaoyun said coldly.

Then, the turtle beside Xiang Shaoyun moved and reached out toward a certain person.

"What are you doing? Release me!" The person was only an Emperor. Before a Sovereign, he was nothing.

"Make him a lesson to everyone here," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

"Sure. This is what I call the fairy scatters the flowers," said the turtle as he exerted some strength with his hands, crushing the person into mincemeat.

Blood splattered everywhere, and the people around them hurriedly scattered in panic. The more cowardly ones among the crowd even pissed themselves. After all, there were also commoners in the city. Most of them had never seen a scene this bloody before, and they were the ones most frightened by the bloody scene.

Chapter 1046: Attack of a Saint

At the Di Sect, all sorts of rumors started spreading.

"Have you heard? The previous young master, Xiang Shaoyun, is back."

"That trash? He actually has the guts to return? Is he trying to die?"

"Seems like you are uninformed. That trash has gotten really strong. Not long ago, the sect deployed an army against him, and the entire army was destroyed. He has grown into an extremely powerful person."

"He's really that strong? So you're saying that after swallowing humiliation, he decided to work hard and is now back to retake what was his? That feels like overconfidence!"

"What's the point of working hard now? This is no longer the same sect. He is only struggling pointlessly."

Most of the sect members had been in the sect since before Di Batian's time. But with the rise of Di Batian, everyone's mindset had started changing. Additionally, new members had joined the sect. Thus, the sect, as a whole, was indifferent toward Xiang Shaoyun.

In the main hall, Di Batian's clone appeared on the main seat once again. This time, his expression was unsightly, and the people before the seat did not dare to make a single sound.

"Di City has been taken over by that little bastard. He has even publicly declared war against me. Di's Four Qins are all dead. Looks like all of you have been living too well over the years. You can't even deal with an invasion anymore," said Di Batian. His gaze landed on Old Winter and Old Summer as he said, "Back then, the two of you were in charge of hunting that little bastard. Now that he has managed to grow, the fault lands on you two."

The two knelt down and said, "We beg the sect master's forgiveness."

"Seeing as the two of you have toiled hard for the sect, I will give you the chance to make up for your mistake. Lead an army and return with Xiang Shaoyun's head," commanded Di Batian.

Di Luoyang stepped out and said, "Father, please calm your anger. Xiang Shaoyun has indeed brought some capable helpers with him. Since he dares to challenge us, it is clear he has enough strength to fight us. If we want to kill him, we need to send our elites. Sending the two elders is almost the same as sending them to their deaths. It won't bring us any benefit."

"The third young master is right. Sect master, please reconsider," advised someone else.

Di Batian gave it some thought before saying, "Fine. Since that little bastard is acting so arrogant, I will send someone strong to destroy him. Let's see just how capable he is."

He then ended the meeting and activated the sect's formation to be in a battle-ready state before calling an old man over. At a glance, the old man looked like he was on the verge of death. Even so, his pair of old eyes were still incredibly penetrative.

"Elder He, I need to inconvenience you with something. Xiang Yangzhan's son is back for revenge. He has taken over Di City. I need you to go and destroy him," requested Di Batian with a respectful tone.

"Xiang Yangzhan's son? Sure, I'll capture that little bastard for you," said the old man before vanishing into thin air.

Looking at the departing old man, Di Batian clasped his hand behind his back and thought, It will be better if he can kill that little bastard. And if he can't, he can at least get rid of some of those ungrateful wretches for me.

Then, Di Batian's clone vanished into thin air as well. Meanwhile, his main body continued cultivating in a secluded location. He was at the crucial point of reaching a higher level of cultivation.

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Above Di City's four city gates were four signboards with Di City written on them. All four had been taken down by Xiang Shaoyun and replaced with Ziling City signboards. Nobody in the city dared to object, as those who dared to object were all killed.

Standing atop the city wall, Xiang Shaoyun looked in the Di Sect's direction and muttered, "It won't be long before I return. Di Batian, just you wait."

And as he was about to return to the governor's manor, an indescribable aura descended from the sky with a powerful, suffocating pressure. Xiang Shaoyun was completely helpless against the pressure, and he nearly collapsed to the ground.

"Impudent!" At this time, Scarlet Flame Monarch, who had been protecting Xiang Shaoyun from the dark, roared and charged out. He sent a flaming fist toward the sky.

Even space itself cracked from the might of his punch. A figure appeared from thin air. This newcomer was none other than He Wuyou, the Saint who had arrived from Di Sect.

"No wonder Di Batian sent me here. So you actually have a Saint here as well," said He Wuyou as he focused his gaze on Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"Cut the nonsense. Wherever you come from, anyone daring to lay hands on the young master shall die," said Scarlet Flame Monarch as he charged He Wuyou.

Scarlet Flame Monarch had yet to recover to his peak strength, but he was strong enough to deal with fifth-stage Saints. In any case, He Wuyou was only a peak fifth-stage Saint. The moment the two clashed, a world-shaking explosion erupted, frightening everyone in the city. Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to slip back into the governor's manor so he wouldn't be hit by a stray attack.

"That old dog sure is cautious. He actually sends a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator right away? I wonder if Scarlet Flame can deal with this opponent," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. He looked at Ye Chaomu and said, "Little Mu, send someone to help Scarlet Flame. I'm worried that he won't be able to deal with this opponent alone. This person wouldn't dare to come alone if he wasn't capable."

Ye Chaomu did not hesitate. She nodded and sent the middle-aged man behind her. Ye Chaomu had two Saints by her side. One of them was an old woman called Granny Luo, while the other, a middle-aged man, was called Grandpa Chen. Both of them were extraordinarily strong and were the dao guardians Ye Chaomu's master had assigned her.

Grandpa Chen soared into the sky, and when he was about to join the battle, Scarlet Flame Monarch refused his help.

"We don't need two people to deal with someone like this. Just be on standby. I alone am enough to defeat him," said Scarlet Flame Monarch confidently.

He was somewhat inferior in terms of battle strength, but he was still confident he could win.

"How confident of you. Let me see just how strong you are," said He Wuyou with a sneer. He increased the strength of his attacks, trying to defeat Scarlet Flame Monarch as quickly as possible.

Grandpa Chen did not say anything. However, just by being there, he gave He Wuyou an incorporeal presence, keeping him on constant alert. Because of that, he became more irritated the longer the battle went on. Relying on his rich experience, Scarlet Flame Monarch was able to fight better and better, and slowly, he started gaining the upper hand.

The two exchanged numerous attacks, creating a massive spectacle in the sky. If they were fighting on the ground, the entire city would have probably been flattened by now.

Eventually, He Wuyou couldn't hang on anymore. After a feint attack, he turned tail and ran.

Scarlet Flame Monarch was completely stunned. He asked Grandpa Chen, "Why didn't you stop him?"

"You said you could deal with him alone, right?" said Grandpa Chen.

Scarlet Flame Monarch was speechless.

Chapter 1047: Qian Clan Defects

He Wuyou returned to the Di Sect in a sorry manner. He wanted to look for Di Batian, but he couldn't find Di Batian anywhere. He did not know Di Batian was in secluded cultivation either, so he became jittery from anxiousness.

Di Batian sent me to that little bastard without telling me they have such a powerful Heaven Battling Realm expert at their side. This is obviously a setup! thought He Wuyou.

After thinking about it for a bit, he decided to leave the sect.

"Since that kid is here with such a big army, he is definitely not giving up on the sect. I am not getting involved in this mess. If Di Batian wins, I will return. If that little bastard wins, I'll just leave," He Wuyou decided.

It was true that Di Batian intended to set He Wuyou up. He had not expected such a reaction, and it was interesting how he would feel if he found out. He Wuyou had a grudge against Xiang Yangzhan, which was why Di Batian had managed to recruit him in the past. However, He Wuyou was not someone who would be blindly loyal to someone. Because of that, Di Batian had decided to set him up.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. Nobody else had come for Xiang Shaoyun, and Xiang Shaoyun had officially become Ziling City's governor. His authority was high, and nobody in the city dared to disobey him. Some people visited him with the intention of defecting to him.

The visitors were the people from a decently sized clan based in the city. The patriarch of the clan was Qian Furen, a middle-aged fatty. When he smiled, his eyes would narrow, and his face would look like the face of a Buddhist idol. In short, he was a person with a comical appearance.

Qian Furen did not come alone. An old man and a beautiful young woman came alongside him. The old man looked like he was already senile, and he was walking on crutches with a crooked back. In fact, he looked like he was going to drop down and die any moment. However, he was actually a late-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert.

As for the beautiful woman, she was a peak King. She looked like she was in her early 20s, but she was actually approaching 40 in age. Of course, her age was still young for a cultivator, and she still had the looks to charm countless men.

"Qian Furen greets the young master," greeted Qian Furen with a respectful salute.

The old man and woman behind him followed suit, not daring to slack in terms of politeness.

"Be at ease. Tell me, why are you here?" Xiang Shaoyun went straight to business.

"My humble self is here to offer you the allegiance of my clan, young master. We of the Qian Clan have always been the old sect master's followers. After Di Batian's rebellion, we have been in seclusion until now. With your return, young master, we of the Qian Clan are willing to be at your beck and call," said Qian Furen earnestly.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have any impression of the Qian Clan. In the past, he frequented the city, but he had never heard of them. Since they were willing to defect, he didn't really mind taking them in. After all, numbers would still boost his forces.

"If I send the Qian Clan to attack the Di Sect right now, would you agree to it?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

The expressions of Qian Furen, the old man, and the woman changed. They knew very well just how powerful the Di Sect was. Telling them to attack a monster like that was the same as striking a rock with an egg. They were here to cling onto someone powerful, but before they could even cling on, they were going to be thrown away?

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to continue speaking, a resolute look covered Qian Furen's face as he said, "The Qian Clan is willing to charge at the front lines, not retreating even in the face of death!"

Qian Furen decided to throw all caution to the wind. If he did not make a good show of faith right now, he would lose this great chance to rise in power. Of course, this was a gamble since the entire Qian Clan might end up destroyed.

"Good. Remember your words," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Tell me more about your Qian Clan. Also, tell me everything you know about those in the city who are loyal to the Di Sect."

Qian Furen heaved a breath of relief. He rearranged his thoughts and proceeded to tell him everything he knew. There were some Di Sect loyalists remaining in the city, and they used to work closely with the governor's manor. As Qian Furen talked, Xiang Shaoyun looked straight into his eyes, trying to detect any lies.

Qian Furen felt extremely pressured, as though he was facing a dignified monarch. The lies and excuses he had planned to say were all thrown away, and he spoke nothing but the truth.

After listening to everything, Xiang Shaoyun sank into momentary thought. He said, "Good. Return and get ready. We will war against the Di Sect. If your Qian Clan's performance is to my satisfaction during the war, you will be allowed to administer the city in the future."

Xiang Shaoyun was still lacking people, so he wouldn't mistreat those who willingly came under his banner.

Qian Furen was overjoyed, and he said, "Thank you, young master!"

Riches and honor could be found in the midst of danger. If he had defected any later, this offer would have probably been given to someone else. And now, the only thing left for him to do was to obey Xiang Shaoyun's command.

After asking some other questions, Xiang Shaoyun dismissed the three. Before leaving, Qian Furen hurriedly said, "Young master, many things are waiting to be done, and you are probably very busy handling all sorts of matters. Why don't you let this girl from my clan stay and serve you? She is quite nimble, so she can at least be of some help."

The woman saluted Xiang Shaoyun gently and looked at him with a seductive gaze. "Qian Mengmeng greets the young master. I am willing to stay by your side and attend to all your wishes."

She was very confident in her looks. In the city, she was considered a top beauty. Many men dreamed of having her as a wife, but not many of them could catch her eyes. Earlier, when her patriarch had brought her to see Xiang Shaoyun, she had protested vehemently. Alas, even if she was the clan's darling, she would have to toe the line and act for the clan's benefit when necessary.

But after seeing Xiang Shaoyun with her own eyes, she wished for nothing more than to surrender herself to him. He was too attractive. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had seen too many beauties. Thus, Qian Mengmeng was incapable of catching his eyes. He waved his hand and said, "Don't bother playing this game with me. Just work well, and I won't mistreat you. You may leave."

He spoke with a commanding tone, and Qian Furen immediately shivered. He hurriedly left with Qian Mengmeng and the old man. Qian Mengmeng was unresigned, but she also realized that a man like him would probably have nothing to do with her.

After the three left, Xiang Shaoyun called Du Xuanhao over. He had Du Xuanhao lead a team to clear out the Di Sect loyalists in the city. Additionally, he also had Xia Liuhui announce that they would be attacking the Di Sect in three days. The announcement caused a great commotion both in Ziling City and the Di Sect.

Chapter 1048: Returning to a Familiar Place

The official declaration of war by Xiang Shaoyun was a big deal. The atmosphere in the city turned nervous as everyone was afraid that the entire city would be engulfed in the flames of war. At that time, they would be implicated even as bystanders. After all, a battle of such scale would usually result in massive destruction due to the sheer amount of experts involved.

They could only pray that the city wouldn't be the battlefield. Only then would they stay safe.

Meanwhile, several organizations in the city were eliminated in the span of one night. They were the organizations loyal to the Di Sect. They had hidden well, but with Qian Furen's defection, all of them were exposed.

Everyone in the city felt a sense of crisis, and a great commotion erupted in the Di Sect.

The people of the Di Sect were now aware of Xiang Shaoyun's return, and all of them were awaiting Di Batian's command to go and eliminate him. Xiang Shaoyun was back to take his revenge. For him to publicly declare war on them, it was clear he was looking down on them.

However, Di Batian still remained hidden during his secluded cultivation session. Nobody could find him, and the first young master, Di Lang, was forced to take charge. Di Lang was a middle-aged man, and he was the eldest of Di Batian's nine sons. He looked somewhat mediocre; he was only a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator.

With Di Lang's strength, he was most certainly not the most remarkable one. Even the third son, Di Luoyang, had caught up to him in terms of cultivation. The death of Qin Shiling had filled Di Lang's heart with fury, and he was thinking of a way to get rid of Xiang Shaoyun. With his father missing, he found the opportunity to send an army after Xiang Shaoyun.

Alas, when he actually tried taking command, he found that not many people were willing to obey him. Even among those who obeyed, they were only paying lip service instead of actually carrying out his orders. Not a single Heaven Battling Realm expert responded to his call for help, which further hurt his feelings.

It had been confirmed that Xiang Shaoyun had Heaven Battling Realm experts at his side. Without Heaven Battling Realm experts, they would stand no chance against him. Di Lang's incompetence to fully take charge of the situation caused the sect members to start stirring restlessly.

"Why is the sect master still in seclusion? Our enemies are already at our gates. This is too humiliating!"

"The sect master hasn't abandoned us and escaped, right? If he has, we will be in big trouble."

"Don't go around spreading rumors. The sect master is probably at a crucial point in his cultivation. Otherwise, he would have shown himself and crushed that little bastard by now."

"Why is the previous young master so confident? The old sect master couldn't have returned, right?"

"The old sect master is dead, which is why the current sect master had taken over the position. That little bastard is simply unhappy that someone else is the sect master."

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It didn't take Xiang Shaoyun long to receive a message from Old Winter and Old Summer. He learned that Di Batian was still in seclusion, and he also found out about the restless atmosphere in the sect.

After hearing about it, he convened with his people and prepared to launch an attack. Before setting off, he sent his clone out first. His soul clone was already at ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm and was firmly in the middle-tier among the experts of the dominion. As long as he didn't encounter those at the Heaven Battling Realm, he could basically do whatever he wished.

Why did he send his clone alone to the Di Sect? It was because he wanted to find out for himself what was actually going on in the sect. He was also planning to destroy the sect's defensive formation. After doing so, he would be able to support his army and reduce their casualties.

Naturally, he wasn't arrogant enough to look down on all the experts in the sect. After approaching the sect, he turned invisible because it was the only way to walk directly into the sect without obstructions. Turning invisible was the ability that had given him the confidence to destroy the sect's defensive formation.

As Xiang Shaoyun stood before the majestic sect gate, his heart was filled with melancholy. He thought, I'm finally back.

This was where he had grown up, and he was the one who had lost this place to others. Once, his heart was filled with incomparable regret. Now that he was back, he felt thankful for Di Batian in a

way. Without Di Batian's betrayal, he would still be living the life of a rotten young master. He would not put any effort into being strong, and he would not work relentlessly for his future. He would still be wasting away his time like the playboy young master that he was before.

Xiang Shaoyun could not afford to waste too much time thinking of the past while standing before the gate. He stepped into the sect. Currently, the sect was in high alert. Security was extremely tight, and even a housefly would have a hard time intruding into the sect. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun could casually walk past the guards undetected.

Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat smug at his success, and he hurriedly headed toward the mountain peak where he once resided. It was named Shaoyun Peak and contained a lot of his happy memories.

Upon arriving at the peak, he found out just how desolate the peak was. The place where he once resided was broken and dilapidated, and those who once served him at the peak were all dead.

Just as he was about to leave, he saw a figure kneeling in the corner and muttering about something. Somewhat curious, Xiang Shaoyun walked over.

"The young master is back. I hope he can obtain victory and retake what was his," whispered the figure softly.

Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be able to hear anything if he hadn't gotten near.

Upon hearing that familiar voice, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but softly exclaim, "Little Qian."

Fortunately, he was able to quickly regain his calm. His voice was soft, so nobody would hear him unless that person was right beside him.

"Who is it?" The kneeling woman was frightened, and she jolted up from the ground before turning around.

As she turned, a slightly round and exceptionally beautiful face was revealed before Xiang Shaoyun. Her skin was tender and fair; her eyes were akin to a pair of luminous moons that gave one the urge to cherish her. She also had an incredibly attractive hourglass figure. Unfortunately, she looked somewhat weak, as though a simple gust of wind could blow her away.

This was a woman with a delicate bearing, one that anyone would have an urge to protect. Xiang Shaoyun's emotions turned complicated when he saw her. This woman was none other than Yao Qian, his favorite maid from back then. The two had grown up together, but because she wasn't that good looking back then, he had liked Xia Yunxi more than her.

He still remembered Yao Qian as a snotty-nosed brat who loved sticking to him everywhere. He used to find her too needy, but seeing her again filled him with melancholy.

Chapter 1049: The Feeble Yao Qian

Yao Qian had a second identity. She was Elder Yao's granddaughter. Elder Yao had always been looked highly upon by Xiang Yangzhan, and his status in the sect was high. Even after Di Batian took over the sect, he still treated Elder Yao with respect. After all, Elder Yao's skills with herb refining were extremely rare and valuable.

Over the years, Yao Qian had grown into a woman much prettier than before. However, she still had the same feeble constitution. Xiang Shaoyun remembered that Elder Yao once said that Yao Qian was born with innate severed meridians. She wasn't supposed to live past 18. Now that she had lived past 18, it was clear just how much work Elder Yao had put into helping her all these years.

Xiang Shaoyun had the urge to give her a warm hug, but he knew that he couldn't. Since Yao Qian was here praying for him, it was clear that she still saw him as a young master, and it greatly moved him.

When Yao Qian failed to find anyone around her, she calmed down and prepared to leave.

This was a sensitive period of time in the sect. Even her grandfather had been placed under house arrest. She couldn't afford to create trouble. Just as she was about to leave, several people appeared noiselessly on the peak. The moment Xiang Shaoyun saw them, his killing intent rose.

The leader of the group was Di Chenggong, Di Batian's fifth son. His name meant success, but as a person, he was quite a failure. Of Di Batian's nine sons, Di Lin was without a doubt the most talented one. As for the worst of them, it was this Di Chenggong. Due to his bad talent in cultivation, he fell far behind his siblings. Because of that, he completely gave up on himself, and he idled about, doing nothing productive. In fact, some of Xiang Shaoyun's bad habits from the past had come from him.

Di Chenggong currently looked like he had his entire life force emptied by excessive alcohol consumption and carnal indulgence. He couldn't even walk straight, and he did not look the slightest bit like a cultivator.

Following him were his henchmen in charge of protecting him. Without them by his side, he would have long been killed due to his pervertedness.

Di Chenggong currently had his sights on Yao Qian, and she was aware he harbored ill intentions toward her. After meekly greeting him, she hurried off.

Unfortunately, she was the reason he had come to Shaoyun Peak. He stopped her in her path and smiled, saying, "Sister Qian, why are you in such a rush? Come have a chat with me."

He reached out for her arm, but fortunately, she was able to swiftly move away.

She aimed to escape before doing anything else. If she stayed, she would definitely fall victim to him. In the past, Di Chenggong hadn't dared to be so audacious with her. Now that her grandfather was arrested, he had gained the courage to act unbridled toward her.

When Di Chenggong saw that Yao Qian was about to escape, he loudly commanded, "Get her!"

At his command, his henchmen stopped Yao Qian.

"Did you not hear what the fifth young master just said?" asked one of them.

"Let me go!" Yao Qian yelled.

She became anxious at the thought that she wouldn't be able to escape this time.

"You won't be able to escape today. Just stay here with this young master obediently, or nothing good will happen to your grandfather," said Di Chenggong with a sneer.

He swept his gaze all over Yao Qian's delicate body as a raging flame rose in his heart. He pounced on her, trying to defile her right there in the open. Yao Qian paled from fear. She collapsed onto the ground after a stagger, and she started screeching.

"Keep shouting. Nothing will change. You will be mine today," said Di Chenggong in excitement.

Xiang Shaoyun watched on coldly, rage simmering in his heart. What a beast, Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly as he chanted the Nether Dragon Soul Curse. Numerous incorporeal symbols rushed toward Di Chenggong.

Di Chenggong was no longer a young man. Relying on the sect's resources, he had forcefully reached the Skysoar Realm. In Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, this level of cultivation was no different than a bug. Xiang Shaoyun could easily turn someone like him into his puppet.

And as Di Chenggong was about to reach Yao Qian, his weak soul instantly fell under Xiang Shaoyun's control. He clutched his own head and started wailing, assaulted by an intense pain that tormented his very soul. His henchmen were given a fright.

"Fifth young master, how are you?" asked the henchmen as they hurriedly surrounded him.

Instead of answering, Di Chenggong started knocking his head onto the ground. Blood flowed, and he continued wailing like a pig being slaughtered. His wails were so miserable the people present shivered just listening to him.

Yao Qian herself was greatly frightened. She quickly retreated and distanced herself from Di Chenggong.

"Witch, you must have done something to the fifth young master. You're under arrest as we decide what to do with you," said one of the henchmen as he reached for Yao Qian.

But before he could touch her, Di Chenggong stopped shouting. He raised his head and cursed, "Bastard, get back here. This has nothing to do with Sister Qian."

The henchman instantly pulled his hand back, no longer daring to make any moves against Yao Qian.

"I'm sorry, Sister Qian. I don't know what got into me earlier. I'm really sorry. Please forgive me," said Di Chenggong as he started slapping his own face repeatedly, stunning Yao Qian and all the henchmen.

This was the very first time they had ever seen their fifth young master slapping himself and apologizing.

"What are you waiting for? Apologize to Sister Qian! Do you want to die?" demanded Di Chenggong.

The henchmen quickly did as told, "Sorry, Miss Qian."

"You aren't even sincere. You have to do this. Slap your own faces like me and stay on your knees until Sister Qian forgives you," said Di Chenggong.

The henchmen paled. But since even their master was doing it, they did not dare to disobey. And thus, a unique scene appeared, a scene where the henchmen slapped themselves repeatedly, a scene that greatly improved Xiang Shaoyun's mood.

On the other hand, Yao Qian was in complete confusion. She did not dare to stay and think; she quickly spun around and fled.

After running for a bit, she stopped and thought, I clearly heard someone calling me earlier. That voice definitely doesn't belong to the fifth young master or anyone in his group. Who was that person?

After thinking about it for a bit, the face of a young man surfaced in her mind. Her face flushed as she muttered, "Is the young master back?"

She did not dare to spend too much time there and hurriedly continued fleeing. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to waste more time on Di Chenggong and his henchmen. He noiselessly followed Yao Qian, as he was curious about Elder Yao's current situation.

Chapter 1050: Moving In the Dark

Yao Qian's fragile appearance was one that gave everyone the urge to protect her. On her way back, she greeted everyone she encountered. However, they all kept a distance from her as if she was carrying a disease. It saddened her, and her anxiousness grew.

In the past, everyone would face her with a smile and constantly flatter and fawn over her. The moment her grandfather was placed under house arrest, she lost her previous status, becoming someone nobody dared to approach. Everyone feared that she would implicate them in whatever mess she was in.

She eventually arrived at the Yao Hall. The place appeared bleak and desolate, the usual crowd nowhere to be seen. She couldn't help but sigh. "The world is filled with hypocrisy. When all is good, everyone is here to share the joy. When things become bad, everyone becomes indifferent."

After entering the main hall, she headed toward the rear court. There, her grandfather was seated with a cup of tea.

"Grandpa," Yao Qian called out.

"Um. You went to Shaoyun Peak again?" asked Elder Yao with a genial look on his face.

Elder Yao was under imprisonment, but it was actually house arrest. His cultivation had been sealed, so he was unable to use any of his strength. He also couldn't take a single step away from the rear court, or he would be immediately punished.

"Yes. Sorry for making you worried, Grandpa," said Yao Qian.

"Sigh. I am indeed worried about you. The young master has returned, and I'm happy to hear that. However, I'm worried that the young master will think that we have betrayed him. Di Batian definitely won't believe us either. I don't mind dying, but I don't want to implicate you," said Elder Yao with a long sigh.

"Grandpa, the young master is not that kind of person. He will definitely believe that you have your own reason for doing what you did," said Yao Qian. "Grandpa, you said that I only have 18 years to live, right? I have lived seven years longer, so I'm happy enough with that. Even if I have to die now, it's worth it. I am only sad that I can't continue exercising my filial piety to you, Grandpa."

"Silly girl, you have a long life ahead of you. After the young master retakes the sect, I will take you away and search for the legendary saint medicine to prolong your lifespan," said Elder Yao as he patted Yao Qian's hand dottingly.

Xiang Shaoyun was watching them, and he felt something stabbing at his heart. He nearly called out to them then and there. Back when Di Batian had risen in rebellion, he had not seen Elder Yao anywhere. He had thought that Elder Yao had betrayed him as well, but it seemed he was still loyal to the Ziling Sect.

Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath and thought, Grandpa Yao, Little Qian, both of you will be fine. Trust me!

He then left. He wasted no time and went straight to the main hall on the main peak—the core location of the sect. Instead of rushing in, he stopped somewhere at the peak and utilized the profundity of earth. He spread his senses through the formation in his surroundings as he searched for the formation eye. He was going to do something here to prevent the formation from hindering his invasion.

After regaining his memories from two lifetimes ago and gaining the book of formations, he had gained a much deeper understanding of formations with the help of his Light of Wisdom. He could easily figure out any formation so long as it wasn't a saint-grade formation.

There was a formation grandmaster in the Di Sect, but the grandmaster's formation mastery had yet to reach the saint grade. They had only imbued the formation with the power of a Saint, making it as powerful as it was.

Hovering above the main peak, Xiang Shaoyun sensed the formation around him clearly. Soon, he found the formation eye. Inwardly, he thought, This is the main formation, a formation capable of both offense and defense. The moment I touch it, things will get dangerous. Looks like I can't carelessly touch this formation. I'll have to look for some of the other formations before deciding what to do.

After searching the main peak, Xiang Shaoyun roamed around as he looked through all the supporting formations throughout the sect. He did something to them and sealed the energy of their formation eyes so they would fail when the sect members tried activating them. That much was enough sabotage for now.

As for the main formation on the main peak, it had been tampered with by a Saint, so he had no way of touching it for now. Even so, he already had a plan in his mind as to what to do with it.

Once Xiang Shaoyun completed all his preparations, he prepared to leave but then thought of something. He changed his mind and headed toward an important location within the sect—the

place where his father used to cultivate in seclusion. Di Batian was probably the person occupying the location now.

The place was quiet and secluded, and several crude buildings stood amid a formation that gathered a thick concentration of spiritual energy in the area. Here, one could also get a good coverage of the stars, allowing one to gather a rich amount of astral energy that would be beneficial to one's cultivation.

When Xiang Shaoyun approached, he discovered that a decent number of powerful cultivators were hidden in the surroundings and guarding the area. The moment there was any movement, they would show themselves.

In his state of invisibility, Xiang Shaoyun strutted right in undetected. Only those with divine dao eyes or unique eyes would be able to detect him when he was in this state. He strolled around but did not find Di Batian. Instead, he saw someone else cultivating in seclusion inside the building. Two powerful Soul Foundation Realm experts were standing guard outside the building, preventing anyone from approaching.

Through the senses of his Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun found that the person in the room was Di Batian's third son, Di Luoyang. Di Luoyang was someone who had once set his sights on Tuoba Wan'er. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun disliked him greatly.

After thinking about it for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun sneered and thought, I wonder how Di Batian would feel if he lost two sons in a single day.

He acted immediately on his plan and unleashed the ancient curse symbols upon Di Luoyang. Di Luoyang might be a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, but he was much weaker than Xiang Shaoyun's soul clone. The moment he noticed something going on with his soul foundation, he reacted. Unlike Di Chenggong, he wasn't completely helpless.

"What the hell is this? Get lost!" Di Luoyang roared. His soul had taken a solid form, and he had his soul foundation defending his soul. He sent out his soul power, trying to destroy the ancient symbols.

His soul power was not weak, but his soul power was actually completely ineffective against the symbols, which caused him to pale from fright. He mustered all his strength as he tried to resist the symbols, and his soul also started dodging them.

However, the number of symbols grew endlessly. He couldn't destroy them, and the symbols soon fully occupied his entire headspace. His soul had nowhere to run and was soon taken over by the symbols. He wailed like a pig being slaughtered.

His cry gave the people guarding him a big fright. The two rushed into the room and asked, "Third young master, what's going on?"

At the same time, Di Chenggong, who was still atop Shaoyun Peak, started wailing in pain. And then, the brothers died at the same time.