

Overlord 1071

Chapter 1071: I'm Going to Eat You

Old Yao would require some time to complete his preparations, so Xiang Shaoyun stayed behind to care for Yao Qian. Lying on the bed, she had a delicate appearance that provoked pity in one's heart. Her bountiful chest heaved up and down as she breathed, but no dirty thoughts surfaced in Xiang Shaoyun's mind.

He gently stroked her hair and said, "Little Qian, don't worry. I won't let you die."

He viewed her as a childhood friend and nothing else, and he had no other motives for wanting her to live. He only wanted her to be well and return to being the past her who would always trail him like his shadow.

Xiang Shaoyun was only about 25 or 26 years old, yet he had experienced too many things in life. Thus, he greatly treasured every single person by his side, not willing to see anything happen to any of them.

After a while, Yao Qian woke up. She opened her hazy eyes, and when she saw Xiang Shaoyun, she asked weakly, "Y-Young master. A-Am I dreaming?"

Xiang Shaoyun softly held her hand and said, "You'll be fine, Little Qian. This is not a dream."

"Prove it. Pinch me, and see if it hurts," said Yao Qian.

"Silly girl. Of course it will hurt," replied Xiang Shaoyun tenderly.

"Pinch me. I have dreamed of your return many times, but I will always wake up. I'm afraid that this is a dream as well. I would rather stay in a dream than to wake up," said Yao Qian as she spoke slowly.

Every single word of hers was spoken earnestly, and Xiang Shaoyun was greatly moved.

He lightly stroked her face and said, "Silly girl, this is really not a dream. You will be able to see me all the time in the future. I am really back."

Yao Qian rubbed her face against his hand and smiled in contentment. "This is a wonderful feeling. I wish this moment can last forever."

Xiang Shaoyun accompanied her for a while until she fell asleep once more. He then had someone else look after her and left. Since Old Yao would take some time preparing the materials, he had to go and handle some other affairs first. He returned to the grand hall and gathered all his trusted aides before issuing one command after another.

Firstly, he had Duo Ji take the lead in rebuilding the sect. The damaged buildings would be cleaned and rebuilt. Secondly, he had Ye Chaomu check the sect's inventory to see the Ziling Sect's current level of wealth. Thirdly, he had Devouring Ghost manage the Di Sect members who had decided to stay. Lastly, he had a sincere talk with the villains, asking them if they were willing to stay and serve the sect.

After receiving the command, Duo Ji and Xia Liuhui left to begin rebuilding the sect. Devouring Ghost also left to carry out his task. With his strength, all those people he was supposed to manage would be completely docile. In any case, the former Di Sect members lacked unity, and someone as ruthless as Devouring Ghost was required to discipline them.

As for the six villains, two left. They were the Smiling Monk and Heaven Rupturing Foot. They had been forced here by Li Juetian, and now that the mission had been completed, they had no intention of staying. With Di Batian alive, the Ziling Sect wouldn't be a safe place to stay. Thus, only Li Juetian, Yao Jiaojiao, Ugly Gambler, and Du Wusheng remained.

Previously, they were among the fastest to flee when the silver-winged owl appeared. But when they found that the silver-winged owl hadn't harmed Xiang Shaoyun or started a massacre, they decided to stay.

Of the villains, Li Juetian had stayed for Old Man Three Severing's inheritance mentioned by Scarlet Flame Monarch. As for the other three villains, they were only following his lead and hadn't stayed because of Xiang Shaoyun's charm.

Xiang Shaoyun tried talking to them, but they ignored him and insisted that they were waiting for Scarlet Flame Monarch. However, Scarlet Flame Monarch was currently in seclusion to recuperate and would remain in seclusion for a while. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was left with no choice but to leave the villains alone.

After they left, Ye Chaomu said, "Big brother, they don't seem to acknowledge your authority."

"They have their pride. If I want them to acknowledge me, I need to at least reach the Heaven Battling Realm," said Xiang Shaoyun. "With Scarlet Flame around, it's only a matter of time before they turn into my followers."

He had full confidence in Scarlet Flame Monarch. Although Scarlet Flame Monarch wasn't in good condition right now, his recovery to peak strength would accelerate after Old Yao refined the saint soul fruit into pills since one of the pills could be given to him.

"It's all good so long as you're confident," said Ye Chaomu. She started her report, "The Books Pavilion is still fully intact. The Weapons Pavilion was destroyed, and so were many of the lesser quality weapons. Only a portion of the high-quality weapons can still be used. As for Old Yao's herb farm, it is still doing well. As for the cultivation rooms, almost all of them had been destroyed. It will take some work to rebuild them."

"Everything is fine as long as the Books Pavilion is preserved. The rest don't matter that much," said Xiang Shaoyun, who was satisfied with the report.

"What is your next plan, big brother? Are you going to be staying guard here?" asked Ye Chaomu.

"I wanted to ask Old Yao about Father, but I was too occupied with Little Qian's matter and had forgotten. After everything here stabilizes, I will go look for Father. I refuse to believe he's dead," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Good. I'll go with you as well," said Ye Chaomu.

"No, it's enough for me to go alone. You still need to return to Lord Wu Xie and continue your cultivation," Xiang Shaoyun rejected.

"I can cultivate anywhere. Master won't be bothered about me at all. In any case, I want to stay with you, big brother. I don't want you to gather more and more women by your side," said Ye Chaomu bluntly.

As she said that, she looked straight into his eyes with a pair of enchanting eyes capable of tugging at one's soul. Not even Xiang Shaoyun dared to meet her gaze. This younger sister of his was truly too beautiful.

There was also a devilish charm about her that could easily mesmerize anyone. If he hadn't viewed her as a little sister all this while, he would have fully fallen for her by now. With her looking straight into his eyes, he felt his heartbeat accelerate and his cheeks heat up.

"Little Mu, don't stare at your big brother like this. You're making me nervous," said Xiang Shaoyun meekly.

Her gaze was too invasive, and he couldn't stand it anymore.

An enchanting smile formed on Ye Chaomu's face as she started walking toward him one step at a time. She said, "So you'll actually blush as well, big brother? How adorable."

She then caressed his face, acting like a hooligan taking advantage of a weak girl.

Xiang Shaoyun gripped her tender hand and said, "Little Mu, stop messing around."

"I'm not messing around. Big brother, I'm serious. I'm going to eat you," said Ye Chaomu with a fiendish smile as she plopped down on Xiang Shaoyun's thighs.

An enthralling fragrance spread from her body into Xiang Shaoyun's nostrils. Facing such enticement, Xiang Shaoyun lost all control over his body as his blood boiled and a certain part of his body stood erect.

Chapter 1072: First Woman

Ye Chaomu was as beautiful as a fairy, and very few women could compare with her in terms of looks. In Xiang Shaoyun's entire life, the only other woman he had seen as beautiful as her was the woman in the ice coffin.

People like Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin were slightly lacking when compared with her, as Ye Chaomu's beauty was the most natural type of beauty, one that she was born with, not something she had gained by using cosmetics.

Ye Chaomu had the bloodline of the Undying Devil Clan, and the devilish aura in her formed a resonance with Xiang Shaoyun's devilish aura, causing him to slowly lose control over his body. He found it greatly enjoyable to spend time with her.

To make it worse, Ye Chaomu was a little devil whose courage knew no bounds. She started rubbing her body against Xiang Shaoyun's body as she tilted his head up and planted a kiss on his face. At that instant, Xiang Shaoyun lost all control over himself.

She is my little sister! I can't do this! Xiang Shaoyun roared to himself inwardly, trying to keep a rational mind. However, his resistance kept dropping until he finally couldn't resist. He roared, To hell with her being my sister.

With that yell in his heart, he wrapped his arms around Ye Chaomu and reciprocated strongly. Ye Chaomu moaned as a blissful sensation invaded her entire body. She took the lead to conquer every inch of Xiang Shaoyun's body, further provoking his rampaging desire.

Xiang Shaoyun completely unleashed himself. He had already regained the Ziling Sect. Although he hadn't been able to kill Di Batian, most of the knot in his heart had been untied. This little episode fully dispersed the last bit of shadow remaining in his heart. Right now, at this moment, he wanted nothing but to fully release his soul and let his body indulge without being restrained by distracting thoughts.

The door of the hall was shut, and inside the hall were two figures entangled with each other. Gasps and moans filled the hall.

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At a certain wasteland far from Ziling Sect, Di Batian was furiously venting his rage on the beautiful woman that was with him, causing her to screech repeatedly.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you little bastard! I will personally tear you apart!" he roared in fury.

After taking over the Ziling Sect, he had lived a glorious life. Who would have thought that in a short 10 years, his entire world would be turned upside down by Xiang Shaoyun? He found it hard to accept.

Additionally, Xiang Shaoyun had killed his disappointing sons one after another, and Di Batian couldn't even kill Xiang Shaoyun even though Di Batian was a Saint. The thought caused him to be incomparably gloomy.

Over the years, he had worked extremely hard to prove that he was better than Xiang Yangzhan. Apart from that, he also wanted to return to his clan, earn their trust, and gain an important position there. But now, all his plans had gone down the drain. It was understandable why he hated Xiang Shaoyun so much.

After he was done venting, the beautiful woman lay weakly in his arms and said, "Batian, since you hate him so much, why don't we go back and kill him."

Di Batian shook his head and said, "That silver-winged owl is too powerful. We won't be its match. Going back is the same as suicide."

"Let's return to the clan, then. The clan will definitely send some experts to eliminate all of them," said the beautiful woman.

Di Batian thought about it before saying, "If I return now, I will no longer be able to raise my head in my entire life. You know full well just how snobbish those people in the clan are."

"But if we don't return now, we might not have the chance anymore," said the beautiful woman with worry.

Di Batian stood up, stared into the distance, and said, "We are definitely returning, but before that, there is something we need to do."

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At the Ziling Sect, the rebuilding was progressing smoothly. The Qian Clan of Ziling City had also arrived with a group of people to help with the construction. Their patriarch, Qian Furen, even came personally with more than half of their clan's wealth as an offering to express his sincerity in submitting under Xiang Shaoyun.

Instead of meeting him personally, Xiang Shaoyun had Duo Ji deal with them. After the incident with Ye Chaomu the other night, he felt that his devilish energy was starting to get out of control. He was forced to stay in seclusion as he looked for a way to handle this issue.

Ye Chaomu was in the same condition, so the two decided to work on the issue together. But when they stayed together alone, they couldn't help but have another go at it. Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had fully sunken into decadence.

After yet another round of intense activity, he looked at Ye Chaomu, who was nestled against his chest, and said, "Little Mu, is it really fine for us to keep doing this?"

"Of course, it's extremely fine. I'm finally your woman, and I'm even your first," said Ye Chaomu with satisfaction.

Her rosy face was incredibly beautiful and alluring.

"We're here to look for a way to control the devilish energy," Xiang Shaoyun reminded.

"Yes, we are. Haven't you realized that the more we do it, the more naturally we can control the devilish energy?" asked Ye Chaomu.

"Oh...let me see..." Xiang Shaoyun blanked out and started manipulating the devilish energy in him. He found that he really could freely control it now.

Ye Chaomu said, "After we did it, our devilish auras intermingled and were unleashed. We weren't adapted to it, so we failed to control the energy for a bit, but now that we have adapted, we can freely control it. In truth, the devilish aura is also a type of energy that is slightly different from astral energy. We don't really need to make a fuss out of it."

Xiang Shaoyun was dumbstruck when he saw how nonchalant Ye Chaomu was about it. He had a human body yet possessed devilish energy. It was understandable that others would see him as a devil and try to kill him. Thus, he had been trying to cover up the fact that he had devil blood in him.

Although he didn't mind using the Imperial Nether Clan's abilities during battle, he still cared about how others viewed him. After his intercourse with Ye Chaomu, his devilish energy had grown, resulting in his body becoming stronger. His Imperial Nether Clan abilities had also become stronger. For example, his invisibility now lasted longer, his Nether Yin Gate was now larger, and so on. Additionally, their bloodline powers had also grown. These were all the benefits of their intercourse.

"You're right, Little Mu. It's just another energy we can make use of. As long as we're strong enough, nobody will dare say anything," said Xiang Shaoyun in realization.

"That's right. Don't keep thinking about it, big brother. We have the noblest of devil bloodlines. Not only will we become the hegemon of humanity in the future, but we will also be a hegemon among the devils. Just think of it. Who would still dare to stand against us if we make it a reality?" said Ye Chaomu in a heroic manner.

While listening to her, Xiang Shaoyun's gaze landed on her bountiful chest, which she had raised while talking. He once again lost control over himself and pounced on her.

"Big brother, take good care of me," said Ye Chaomu in a suggestive tone as she wrapped her arms around him.

Chapter 1073: I Have to Tend to Something Else, Bye

At the rear court on the main peak, graceful zither tunes were resounding in the air. The tunes were incredibly pleasant, as though they were natural sounds made by nature when a spring flowed through a mountain. A refreshing aura accompanied the tunes, attracting several spiritual birds. Two people were in the courtyard, so beautiful that their very presence made their surroundings look prettier.

One of them was seated before a zither and gently playing it, her fingers dancing across the zither deftly with a graceful bearing about her. The other was currently dancing around nimbly, moving like the wind and water, her green muslin dress rippling about as she danced, further adding to her charm.

The two were none other than Gong Qinyin and Tuoba Wan'er. After resting for several days, they had recovered fully. They came to see Xiang Shaoyun but were told that he was in seclusion, so the two started entertaining themselves out of boredom.

As the music stopped, the dancing came to an end. The two competed with each other, but each had her own strong points that made it hard to decide who was superior.

"Sister Qinyin, your zither skills are truly unparalleled," praised Tuoba Wan'er.

Gong Qinyin smiled. "I am merely a beginner. My master is much better."

"I don't know how good your master is, but I do know that your zither had actually made me dance to it voluntarily. In fact, I have never danced so carefreely before," said Tuoba Wan'er sincerely.

"Then we need to practice more together. I guarantee the two of us will be able to charm Shaoyun out of his mind," said Gong Qinyin cheerily.

"Hehe, can we really do that?" asked Tuoba Wan'er with a smile.

"Why not? He's the one who will get to enjoy all the pleasure," said Gong Qinyin. "But I wonder what's going on with him? He was fine, so why is he suddenly in seclusion?"

"Maybe he comprehended something in the battle? He will probably be out in a few days," said Tuoba Wan'er in a considerate manner.

Right after saying that, she sensed someone coming. The two looked toward the door and found Xiang Shaoyun coming over with Ye Chaomu. Their arms were wrapped together, looking like a loving couple.

Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat guilty, so he didn't even dare to look at the two women. Both of them were women he had acknowledged as his, but he hadn't even touched them yet. An odd glint flashed through both their eyes as though they had found something from Xiang Shaoyun and Ye Chaomu.

On the other hand, Ye Chaomu faced them nonchalantly as she greeted, "Hello, sisters."

"Chaomu, did you get something wrong? You should be calling us sisters-in-law," Gong Qinyin emphasized.

"That's right. You're the holy son-in-law's younger sister. You should be calling us sisters-in-law," said Tuoba Wan'er.

Both of them were as beautiful as Ye Chaomu, but something about Ye Chaomu made her seem more attractive than them. But when the two were standing together, they could definitely compete with her in terms of attractiveness.

Ye Chaomu smiled and replied, "Yes, I would have called you that in the past, but I'm now big brother's woman. In fact, I'm his first woman."

She was behaving like a smug vixen, causing the two women to fume. They were aware that Ye Chaomu was not related biologically to Xiang Shaoyun. They also knew how much she liked him.

Little had they expected that she would be the first to obtain him. They found this fact hard to accept. Their gazes when looking at Xiang Shaoyun turned aggressive, as though they had transformed into two tigresses.

"D-Don't look at me like this. I-I have to tend to something else, bye. Feel free to chat among yourselves," said Xiang Shaoyun after taking two steps back before he hurriedly fled.

He had been having too much fun with Ye Chaomu for the past few days. It was a blissful experience, but he seemed to have overdone it, as his legs felt somewhat weak now.

He had no idea how to face both Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin at the same time. Thus, he concluded that fleeing was his best course of action. He was happy to just let them settle it among themselves.

"Bastard! Come back!" shouted both Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin.

Xiang Shaoyun pretended he heard nothing and ran even faster. He wasn't going to face them before they calmed down. He had Ye Chaomu's guardian, Grandpa Chen, bring him straight to Yao Peak. Old Yao was probably done with his preparations, so it was now time to refine the saint soul fruit pills.

Sure enough, when he arrived, he saw a massive cauldron. Several pill disciples were busily working around the cauldron, preparing for pill refining. Old Yao stood aside as he gave them commands, and Yao Qian was seated under the shade of a tree. Her face was incomparably pale.

"Little Qian, why are you outside? You should be resting inside," said Xiang Shaoyun gently.

"Young master, you're here!" Yao Qian stood up and greeted cheerfully. "I can't stand staying inside anymore. It's too boring. I came out to take in some fresh air."

"I see. Do you feel unwell?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I'm good, just some dizziness here and there. But I heard from grandpa that you contributed saint medicine to help me with my illness. I-I don't know how I can repay you for this," said Yao Qian.

"Don't worry about it. If you want to repay me, just live a good life. Sit here. I'll go ask Grandpa Yao if he is ready to refine the pills," said Xiang Shaoyun as he softly patted her arm before walking toward Old Yao.

"Young master, you're just in time. We can start refining now," said Old Yao before Xiang Shaoyun could open his mouth.

"Good. The faster we refine the pills, the faster we can cure Little Qian," said Xiang Shaoyun joyfully.

"Um," said Old Yao before sending away all the pill disciples. "Young master, the moment I start the fire, make a move alongside me. Make sure to control the fire well. When I reduce the intensity, do the same, and when I increase it, increase it. Be very careful to do exactly what I say during the refinement."

"Don't worry. I won't mess this up," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. He looked at Grandpa Chen standing not far away and said, "Grandpa Chen, I'll have to trouble you for this."

For this refining process, they needed a Saint to stand guard by their side. Otherwise, a single mistake would completely ruin the entire process.

"Don't worry. I have no problem helping with something so simple," said Grandpa Chen.

In truth, he was only willing to help because of Ye Chaomu's repeated reminders. Otherwise, Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be qualified to make him do anything.

Old Yao had someone bring Yao Qian back to her room, and he started refining the saint soul fruit with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was not well-versed in pill refinement, but he had personally seen many pill refinements during his childhood. In fact, Old Yao had tried making him an alchemist at one point. Thus, he still had some knowledge.

After pouring some spring water into the cauldron, Old Yao started the fire. He wasn't using a regular flame. Rather, he was using a high-tier flame, something every alchemist needed. Without a good flame, how could one hope to refine good pills?

Chapter 1074: Saint Pill Done

After Old Yao started the fire, Xiang Shaoyun ignited his. He controlled his fire and kept it the same intensity as Old Yao's fire. When Old Yao saw that, his eyes lit up with praise. While controlling his fire, Old Yao tossed numerous medicinal herbs into the cauldron. They were all herbs of king-grade and above, and each was astonishingly valuable. All of them were going to serve as materials for the pills they were about to refine.

Pill refinement was a complicated process. Each step was difficult, and any simple mistake could easily spoil the entire process. For this refinement, Old Yao was extremely cautious. After all, making this pill was something extremely important to him, and it was his first attempt at refining a saint pill. He couldn't afford to be careless.

After one king herb after another was extracted, Old Yao started tossing emperor herbs into the cauldron.

He shouted, "Increase the intensity."

Xiang Shaoyun immediately did as told. But then Old Yao requested for the intensity to be lowered, so Xiang Shaoyun did as told again. It had only been an hour, and he was made to switch back and forth over 10 times, greatly exhausting him.

If it wasn't for the fact that he had comprehended the profundity of flame, he probably wouldn't have been able to follow Old Yao's precise orders. This was too difficult a refinement.

As time passed, more and more herbs were extracted, and the entire Yao Peak was filled with the fragrance of herbs.

Old Yao completed every single step carefully, each move he made smooth and graceful, displaying the skills befitting of a grandmaster alchemist. In a flash, two days passed. The extracting stage was almost done, and the only step remaining was to throw in the saint soul fruit. This final step was also the most important step, and no mistake was allowed.

"Hang on, young master. It's time to extract the saint soul fruit," said Old Yao when he saw that Xiang Shaoyun had sweat all over his head.

"Go on. I can still hang on," said Xiang Shaoyun as he clenched his teeth.

He had thought that controlling some flame wouldn't be too difficult, but doing it for so long was actually extremely tiring. More importantly, it placed a great mental strain on him, and a regular person would not be able to endure it. Xiang Shaoyun gathered his focus and waited for further instructions.

After Old Yao tossed the saint soul fruit into the cauldron, a multicolored radiance burst out of the cauldron, and an incredibly vast medicinal power erupted from the fruit.

Old Yao hurriedly shouted at Grandpa Chen, "Lord, please help stabilize this burst of power."

Grandpa Chen did not hesitate. A powerful saintly presence surged out and confined the multicolored radiance within the cauldron.

"Increase the intensity all the way up!" said Old Yao.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly followed the order and increased the intensity of his fire alongside Old Yao's fire, creating a massive inferno beneath the cauldron as they attempted to extract the saint soul fruit's medicinal power. The saint soul fruit had a frightening medicinal power. Without a high-tier flame, one would have difficulty extracting it.

They were slowly refining the fruit in the cauldron instead of directly burning it. If they instead burned and destroyed it, they would lose a saint fruit, which would be a great loss.

After another day, all the medicinal power of the saint soul fruit was finally extracted. Old Yao had Xiang Shaoyun withdraw his flame before getting Grandpa Chen to seal the cauldron. Old Yao continued the refining process with a smaller fire.

At this point, Xiang Shaoyun and Grandpa Chen no longer had anything to do. It was now all up to Old Yao's pill refining skills. After four more days, Old Yao was finally going to start the pill forming stage. He unleashed all his strength and started cooling the cauldron. During the cooling, numerous oppressive sounds broke out from within the cauldron, greatly shocking Xiang Shaoyun, who thought that the process was about to fail.

However, Old Yao continued calmly making numerous complicated hand signs and continued to cool the cauldron. After about an hour, Old Yao finally stopped and looked relieved. Xiang Shaoyun

could see that Old Yao was completely drenched in sweat. After finishing, Old Yao immediately swallowed some pills to recover his strength.

Xiang Shaoyun stepped forth and asked, "Grandpa Yao, are you fine?"

"I'm fine. See if the pills are done," said Old Yao.

Xiang Shaoyun then went to the cauldron and opened the lid. A burst of medicinal fragrance erupted, giving one a feeling that one was soaring into the sky. Radiance of numerous different colors also surged out of the cauldron and flooded the entire Yao Peak.

All three of them were stunned. In fact, even those around Yao Peak were stunned by the sight.

"What is this? Did someone do something at Yao Peak? This is so beautiful!"

"Is this the legendary pill phenomenon? It is said that something like this will only appear when a high-tier pill is refined."

"Has Old Yao's refining skills improved again? I never saw him do something like this before."

"The radiance is accompanied by a thick medicinal fragrance. It smells so good. I feel like I'm floating in the sky. He couldn't have refined a saint pill, right?"

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Atop the Yao Peak, Old Yao cheered in joy when he took a look inside the cauldron. "Excellent. This is amazing! We refined six saint pills in total!"

Old Yao had refined countless pills, but this was the first time he had refined saint pills. In truth, he wasn't very confident and feared he would fail. After all, he wasn't a Saint yet. But with the assistance of Xiang Shaoyun and Grandpa Chen, he successfully refined six pills in his first try. He was filled with disbelief.

Xiang Shaoyun walked over and saw that there were indeed six round pills. The pills were glowing, looking like beautiful pebbles.

"These pills should be enough to help Little Qian, right?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Definitely! It will fully replenish her life soul. In the future, she will be able to live like a normal person," said Old Yao happily.

Immediately after, he took out six jade cases and carefully placed the six pills inside.

He handed five cases to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young master, keep these well. I only need one to help Little Qian."

Xiang Shaoyun kept four and said, "You can keep one more. You deserve it. Don't say no."

"This..." Old Yao was speechless.

Generally, he would charge others for each pill refinement. He would also take additional sets of materials that would earn him a lot of wealth. But Xiang Shaoyun had offered the saint soul fruit to save his granddaughter. He was hesitant to accept a pill for refining it but didn't know what to say. In any case, he also greatly longed for this pill.

"Grandpa Yao, go help Little Qian first. She must be getting impatient," Xiang Shaoyun shifted the topic.

"Good. Grandpa Yao won't hesitate then. In the future, I will serve the sect with my life," said Old Yao solemnly.

Chapter 1075: Scarlet Flame Monarch's Departure

"I believe in Grandpa Yao," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. He took out a jade bottle and said, "I have some soul spring water here. Give it to Little Qian as well."

Old Yao was greatly touched. He accepted the jade bottle and gave Xiang Shaoyun a deep bow before Xiang Shaoyun could stop him. Then, Old Yao left and went to Yao Qian with the pill and spring water.

Xiang Shaoyun tossed one of the jade cases toward Grandpa Chen and said, "Grandpa Chen, this is for your time."

Grandpa Chen accepted it without hesitation. He caught the jade case and said, "Remember to look for me if you have any good jobs like this in the future."

He then left. Xiang Shaoyun waited until Yao Qian took the pill to leave Yao Peak. Yao Qian did not have much cultivation to speak of, so she would take some time to digest the pill. It was enough to have Old Yao by her side. Xiang Shaoyun went looking for Scarlet Flame Monarch to give him a saint pill. The pill would help him recover his combat strength.

Ever since Scarlet Flame Monarch ignited his lifebound flame, he had been in bad condition. It was almost impossible to recover by just shutting himself in seclusion. He had damaged the very essence of his being. Coupled with his old injuries, he would probably die soon if he couldn't recover from some of his injuries soon.

When Xiang Shaoyun reached Scarlet Flame Monarch's cultivation room and saw how bad Scarlet Flame Monarch's condition was, his heart chilled. He rushed over and asked, "Scarlet Flame, how are you?"

Scarlet Flame Monarch's aura was unstable, and he looked much older than before, giving Xiang Shaoyun an ominous feeling.

"Don't worry, young master. I won't die yet," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a hoarse voice.

"Did you suffer some injuries from the previous battle? I have a saint soul pill here. It can replenish your soul power. Take it first," said Xiang Shaoyun as he hurriedly handed the saint soul pill over.

Scarlet Flame Monarch accepted the pill without hesitation and tossed it into his mouth. The saint soul pill was refined from a massive amount of king herbs, emperor herbs, and sovereign herbs in addition to the saint soul fruit. It contained an enormous amount of medicinal power, but it wasn't too powerful for Scarlet Flame Monarch to take.

After swallowing the pill, Scarlet Flame Monarch's soul immediately healed considerably. His aura recovered and stabilized, but the effect wasn't as good as Xiang Shaoyun had imagined. Scarlet Flame Monarch only took an hour to fully digest the valuable saint soul pill.

He opened his eyes and thanked, "Thank you for the pill, young master."

"Don't mention it. The pill is nothing if you can get better," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Scarlet Flame Monarch said, "That saint soul pill has been somewhat helpful, but it won't be easy for me to fully recover. I need a place with thick flame energy to reforge my body and reform my lifebound flame. Otherwise, my body will slowly wither away due to energy exhaustion."

"Then you need to hurry up and find a place like that. Don't drag your injuries on," said Xiang Shaoyun anxiously.

He viewed Scarlet Flame Monarch as a brother, not a servant, and he did not wish for anything to happen to his brother.

"But you're in need of people right now. How can I leave?" said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a sigh.

"Di Batian probably won't dare to come anytime soon. Don't worry; just focus on your recovery. In any case, you won't be of help in your current condition," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sigh. Now is the time of major undertakings. I really don't want to be the one slowing you down," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a heavy sigh. "If that silver-winged owl had stayed, I would have been able to leave without worry. Unfortunately, you don't have many people you can use. I really can't bring myself to leave."

"What's the point of worrying about everything? The faster you recover, the safer I will be. In any case, I won't be waiting around doing nothing. I have my own ways of dealing with Di Batian's revenge. Don't worry," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

"Fine. I'll try searching the nearby mountain range and see if I can find anything helpful. If possible, I will recuperate nearby. That way, I will be able to come quickly if anything happens," Scarlet Flame Monarch offered a compromise.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought and said, "I think there is a place with thick flame energy at the Buried Monarch Mountain Range. However, it is the territory of some demonic beasts. Be careful if you decide to go there. There might even be a Demon Saint."

"That will be for the best. Regular Demon Saints still won't be able to do anything to me," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Scarlet Flame Monarch left the moment he spoke about it, but he gave Xiang Shaoyun a jade tube before leaving. The tube contained his blood essence. The moment Xiang Shaoyun crushed the tube, Scarlet Flame Monarch would sense it and could return to help.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the tube without any hesitation and watched on as Scarlet Flame Monarch left. After Scarlet Flame Monarch left, Xiang Shaoyun felt like a massive stone had landed on his heart, giving him so much pressure he couldn't breathe. He might have made everything seem fine in front of Scarlet Flame Monarch, but that wasn't the case.

It seemed he had several Saints helping him, but in truth, none of them would actually listen to his commands. Li Juetian was only here for Scarlet Flame Monarch. With Scarlet Flame Monarch's departure, could he still make Li Juetian do anything?

Things were better with Old Urchin, as Xiang Shaoyun was the holy son-in-law. Out of respect for Tuoba Wan'er, Old Urchin would probably be willing to give him some help. However, Old Urchin's ultimate priority was still Tuoba Wan'er.

As for Granny Luo and Grandpa Chen, they would only listen to Ye Chaomu, and they would only prioritize protecting her. It was the same case for the old demon Little White brought. Apart from Scarlet Flame Monarch, he did not have a single reliable Saint. Thus, it was understandable that Scarlet Flame Monarch's departure would give him great pressure. More importantly, Di Batian had only fled because of the silver-winged owl. If they found out the owl had left, Xiang Shaoyun could very easily lose everything here.

What should I do to protect everything? thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He had spent the past few years thinking about retaking the sect, and now, he had to think of defending it. He felt a different kind of pressure, and he could sense just how lacking he was in terms of helpers. His own strength was also far from enough. It was as though each time he reached a new level, someone else would be overlooking him from an even higher level. He had to keep climbing. The moment he stopped, he would be crushed to death.

After thinking about it for a long time, Xiang Shaoyun muttered, "It won't be easy for me to increase my cultivation. Perhaps if I use the saint soul pill and turn my clone into a saint-grade soul, I will gain the ability to protect myself."

Chapter 1076: Conquer

Xiang Shaoyun decided to swallow a saint soul pill, but he didn't consume it immediately. After all, he still had a lot of things to take care of. Since he had regained the Ziling Sect, he naturally had to get the sect running once again instead of letting the sect's name remain unknown. But beforehand, he needed to first get his household in order. If he couldn't even handle his household, how could he hope to handle a large sect?

When he returned to the rear court, he was welcomed with the sight of Ye Chaomu and the two women chatting away cheerfully. Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat astonished. A pleased smile formed on his face. Since they weren't bickering, it meant that everything had calmed.

"Big brother, you're back? I'm going to take a rest. Sisters, don't miss your chance," said Ye Chaomu with a naughty wink before leaving.

Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin looked at Xiang Shaoyun bashfully, their faces blushed red.

Somewhat confused, Xiang Shaoyun asked, "What's up with the two of you? Did Little Mu say something stupid to you?"

"Sister, I'm feeling slightly unwell, so I'm leaving to get some rest," said Tuoba Wan'er. Instead of answering Xiang Shaoyun, she tried to leave.

Gong Qinyin hurriedly stopped her and said, "Don't be like this. You're the elder sister, and you are already engaged to him. You should stay. I'll leave."

She then glared at Xiang Shaoyun and left before giving Tuoba Wan'er a chance to protest. After listening to their conversation, Xiang Shaoyun would know what was going on no matter how stupid he was. A smile formed on his face.

Tuoba Wan'er glared at Xiang Shaoyun and berated, "What are you smiling for? I'm ignoring you!"

She then tried to leave. However, Xiang Shaoyun rushed over and hugged her. With a perverted smile, he said, "Tonight, you're mine. Don't even dream of running."

The two were engaged, so nominally, Tuoba Wan'er should be his first wife. But they seemed to have been restricted by questions of morality, so they hadn't done anything after the engagement. Now that the time was ripe for them to take a step further, Xiang Shaoyun was not going to let her escape.

After what he did with Ye Chaomu, he could no longer resist not touching any of his other women. Perhaps only after doing it with them would they truly be his. Tuoba Wan'er knew what Xiang Shaoyun was trying to do. She became nervous and turned bashful. She curled inside Xiang Shaoyun's arms, not knowing what to say.

She had not experienced something like this before, so she was suddenly turning into a dainty and shy girl. Xiang Shaoyun lowered his head and looked at her bashful face. The more he looked at her, the more he was attracted. He unhesitatingly lifted her by the waist and brought her to his room.

"Holy son-in-law, w-we shouldn't," said Tuoba Wan'er.

"Don't you want to be my woman?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I-I want!" Tuoba Wan'er answered softly.

"From tonight onward, you're my woman," replied Xiang Shaoyun with a strong tone.

...

In a flash, a month passed. During that month, Xiang Shaoyun had conquered Ye Chaomu, Tuoba Wan'er, and Gong Qinyin successively. He also got the Ziling Sect and Ziling City back on the right track of development.

It was a busy month for him, so he did not have the time to cultivate. He also didn't have the time to teach his disciple, Guo Po. Instead, Ye Chaomu was the one in charge of guiding him in terms of eye techniques.

Her Divine Devil Eyes were cultivated using the heavenly eye stone given to her by Xiang Shaoyun. They were dreadfully powerful, capable of seeing through all illusions and laying out extremely destructive attacks. One could say that her pair of eyes was simply in defiance of the natural order.

Thus, it was more than appropriate that Ye Chaomu was the one teaching Guo Po about eye techniques. The plan was to get Guo Po to clear his meridians and enter the Astral Realm before feeding him the pill to recover his crippled leg.

Xiang Shaoyun already had Old Yao refine the lifebone pill with his lifebone flower. The pill would be easier to digest for Guo Po, and no medicinal power would be wasted.

The combination of Devouring Ghost's threat and additional executions had thoroughly settled the remaining Di Sect members, making them serve the Ziling Sect obediently. They worked alongside the Qian Clan and started reconstructing many of the destroyed buildings in the sect.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he personally restored all the formations in the sect, allowing the Ziling Sect to regain some of the splendor a sect of its level should have. Unfortunately, he did not have Scarlet Flame Monarch by his side, and all the Sovereigns sent by Tang Zhan had all left. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun greatly lacked experts. It was time to recruit new members, as destruction would be near if any outsider discovered this weakness.

The only ones he could utilize immediately were Devouring Ghost, Duo Ji, Du Xuanhao, Han Pojun, and some others. Fortunately, he still had the turtle and the toad to rely on. However, he had to fix this problem soon.

Sitting alone atop a mountain peak, Xiang Shaoyun was worrying and thinking of a solution. He looked bleak and lonesome by himself.

Xia Liuhui noiselessly appeared and asked, "Boss, why are you daydreaming?"

Xia Liuhui was a disciple of one of the four ancient academies, but for Xiang Shaoyun, he had abandoned cultivating at his academy. One could say that he was an extremely loyal brother.

"Liuhui, return to the academy tomorrow," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Boss, are you chasing me away?" asked Xia Liuhui.

"What can you do if you stay?"

"Boss, I'm not useless! I have helped my master with a lot!"

"Is that so? Why did I hear that you have your eyes on the remaining female disciples all the time?"

"Oh...that's not true! I was merely teaching them to be loyal to you, boss!"

...

After some idle chatter with Xia Liuhui, Xiang Shaoyun felt much better, and the two started drinking.

"Boss, what were you thinking about? Are you worried that the old dog would return?" asked Xia Liuhui.

"I would be lying if I said no," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"With your extraordinary talent, you will probably reach the Heaven Battling Realm in a few years. If he dares to come, we will shatter his balls!" said Xia Liuhui ruthlessly.

"It would be great if we got a few years. But who knows when he will return?" said Xiang Shaoyun, vexed.

"True. Even if my master can immediately enter the Heaven Battling Realm, it will be pointless. The gap is still too big," said Xia Liuhui with a sigh.

"Your master is breaking through to the Heaven Battling Realm?" said Xiang Shaoyun as his eyes lit up in joy. "True, your master is going to break through soon. The turtle and the toad have also reached that point. If all of them can break through, they can help relieve a lot of my pressure."

"No way, boss. Can you really help my master break through?" asked Xia Liuhui. He was merely rambling, but Xiang Shaoyun was serious.

Chapter 1077: Help You Reach Heaven Battling Realm

"Of course it won't be that easy, but at the very least, I can increase his chances of success," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He still had some saint soul pills left, so he could give Duo Ji one. With the pill, Duo Ji could form a saint-grade soul. That way, he would have a much greater chance of success when attempting to break through. Additionally, the turtle and toad were also peak Demon Sovereigns. However, they still lacked the opportunity to take that final step into the next realm.

Now, Xiang Shaoyun remembered that he could give the very opportunity those two were looking for. The gold lunar liquid he had would allow them to enhance their bloodlines. With the liquid and some saint-grade demonic cores, they would probably be able to enter the next realm.

He immediately acted on his thoughts. After telling Xia Liuhui to return to the Sacred Deer Academy once again, he left. Xia Liuhui knew that Xiang Shaoyun was merely trying to send him away for his safety, and that gesture touched him. However, he did not want to leave so easily. After all, there were still quite a lot of girls in the Ziling Sect.

Xiang Shaoyun had something else to do for now. He first went looking for Duo Ji, trying to check on Duo Ji's current condition. During the month, Duo Ji had been busy with the sect's reconstruction. He had not gotten any chance to rest. One could see just how deeply he cared for the Ziling Sect.

Duo Ji could be seen throwing orders to a group of people. "Move faster. We need to finish this tomorrow. In a few days, the sect's general assembly will be held. If you can't finish your job well, you can consider packing your bags."

Most of the heavy work had been dealt with, and only some menial tasks were left. However, Duo Ji still did everything personally, and Xiang Shaoyun was touched to see his dedication.

"Old drunkard, you don't need to do everything yourself," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Duo Ji turned and looked at Xiang Shaoyun before saying, "Young master, these people will slack off without anyone pushing them. The Sorting General Assembly will start in a few days. We can't be sloppy about it."

The so-called Sorting General Assembly was an event where all organizations within all cities under the Ziling Sect's sphere of power were gathered. During the assembly, the sect would show its power and deter these organizations, ensuring that they would remain loyal and continue offering the sect tributes.

If any organization refused to submit, they would probably have to suppress the organization by force.

"Old drunkard, have someone else do it. I have something I need to talk to you about," said Xiang Shaoyun. He took out the saint soul pill and continued, "This is a saint soul pill. With this, you will be able to form a saint soul. Will it be enough to bring you into the Heaven Battling Realm?"

Duo Ji shivered and asked, "Is this the saint soul pill Old Yao refined a month ago?"

"That's right. He managed to refine a few of them. I still have two on me, so I'm giving you one to help you reach the Heaven Battling Realm. Otherwise, it will look really bad on us if we don't have a single Saint in the sect," said Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

Duo Ji swallowed and said, "In the past, I wasn't confident that I could take that step even with this saint soul pill. But the lifebone flower you gave me has already helped me regrow my arm. I am at my peak condition. Furthermore, I have been in the Sovereign Realm for many years, so I have already accumulated enough strength. With this pill, I will probably have about a 30 or 40 percent chance of succeeding."

"Only 30 or 40 percent?" Xiang Shaoyun frowned. That still felt too low for him.

"My dearest young master, from the dawn of time, entering the Heaven Battling Realm has always been extremely hard. This is an act of defying the heavens. One needs to form a saint body and saint soul, going through a complete transformation. One will face extremely difficult trials. Generally, a Sovereign will only have about a 20 percent chance of succeeding. Many have died trying. I am already very optimistic by saying 30 or 40 percent thanks to the saint soul pill," explained Duo Ji. "Of course, if you have other saint herbs and saint crystals, I might be able to further increase my chances."

"I wish I did, but unfortunately, I really don't have more," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug. "I do have some saint crystals, but they're of specific energies and are not suited for you. Go and work on your breakthrough. Do not fail. It will be too embarrassing for our sect to not have a single Saint of our own."

Duo Ji hesitated. "But breaking through will also take some time. The Sorting General Assembly is starting soon."

"Stop wasting time. Just go into seclusion, and don't leave before you're a Saint. Your presence won't mean much during the Sorting General Assembly," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He could deal with the Sorting General Assembly by himself, but the sect wouldn't last long without a Heaven Battling Realm expert.

"Fine. I'll go look for a place and enter seclusion. It will be better if I can get someone to stand guard for me as well. That way, I won't be disturbed," said Duo Ji.

"You sure have a lot of demands. Fine, have Devouring Ghost stand guard for you," said Xiang Shaoyun after giving it some thought.

"Sure. In any case, he has a powerful clone," said Duo Ji.

Next, Duo Ji went looking for a place to concentrate on his breakthrough while Xiang Shaoyun sent Devouring Ghost to stand guard for him. He also told Devouring Ghost to give Duo Ji some pointers about breaking through into the Heaven Battling Realm, helping reduce Duo Ji's potential mistakes during the attempt.

Devouring Ghost accepted the order. He was once a peak Heaven Battling Realm expert, so sharing some of his experiences with Duo Ji was not a problem.

Xiang Shaoyun then went looking for the turtle and the toad. The two had been stationed at the main peak to serve as peak guardians. With them, no regular person would dare create trouble unless they were tired of living.

"Come with me," said Xiang Shaoyun when he found the two who were slacking off.

After leaving the secret space, the two had greatly expanded their horizons. However, they missed their old lair more. The environment out here felt rather uncomfortable for them.

After bringing them somewhere, Xiang Shaoyun took out two bottles containing gold lunar liquid. He said to the two, "This is gold lunar liquid. Can you become Demon Saints with it?"

They grew wildly excited at the mention of gold lunar liquid.

"W-With this gold lunar liquid, I can definitely become a Demon Saint!" the turtle promised.

"I can become a Demon Saint, too. Let me have all the liquid, young master," said the toad.

"Are you confident you can become Demon Saints? You're aware of the consequences of lying to me, right?" warned Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

In the past, he would fear them. But with his soul clone's increase in strength, he no longer feared them. In fact, he could even kill them with his saint weapon if he wanted.

The turtle said with a reserved tone, "How can it be so easy to become a Saint? The gold lunar liquid can only strengthen our bloodline power. It isn't really that helpful in terms of overall strength."

"That's right. If you can give us like 10 more years, we will definitely be able to break through," said the toad.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and said, "What's the point of giving you the gold lunar liquid then?"

"The gold lunar liquid is still very useful. Without it, we will probably need 30 or even 50 years to take that step," said the turtle.

"That's right. By upgrading our bloodlines, we will also be able to reach a higher level in the future," said the toad.

Chapter 1078: I Hope They'll Be Able to Hang On

"What if you're both allowed to absorb a large amount of flux goldthorn energy?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"You were the one who had taken the energy at the bottom of the lake, right?" asked the turtle.

"Yes, it's me. I can take it out for you two, but I'm afraid you won't be able to endure it," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Back then, he had suffered greatly trying to harvest the flux goldthorn energy. If it wasn't for his special astral cosmos sea, the energy would have killed him. Thanks to the flux goldthorn energy, he started cultivating the Limit Stimulation Technique and completed the first stage, the body cleansing stage.

Generally, only a Saint would be able to slowly refine such a high-tier gold energy. The two Demon Sovereigns were once the owners of the flux goldthorn energy, but they had never dared to approach it.

"The energy is useful for us, but we don't dare to actually absorb it. We only dare to absorb a diluted version of it. Otherwise, we will only end up being tortured to death," said the toad timidly.

"That's right. Young master, just give us the gold lunar liquid first. We will try to advance as quickly as we can," said the turtle.

"Yes, young master. We will work really hard to enter the Saint Realm. Give us a chance," pleaded the toad.

"Sure. I'll give you a chance. But you have to refine some flux goldthorn energy as well. I will teach you a technique to deal with the pain. With the technique, you will do fine," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

He couldn't afford to wait any longer. He had to force the turtle and the toad into the next realm. He had kept them two lifetimes ago because of the potential he saw in them. As peak Demon Sovereigns, it wasn't possible that they couldn't endure the pain of absorbing the flux goldthorn energy.

"No, we really shouldn't do that," said both the turtle and the toad fearfully.

"You'll do it even if you don't want to. Let's go. I will find a cave where I can release the flux goldthorn energy. You can absorb the energy there. You won't be allowed to leave before you are Saints," commanded Xiang Shaoyun.

Both the turtle and the toad wanted to refuse, but the thought of becoming Demon Saints was too attractive, making them throw caution to the wind.

Xiang Shaoyun brought the two to an uninhabited mountain ridge at Ziling Sect. There, several cultivation caves could be found. For now, the caves were empty.

He selected one of the caves and drew a formation, completely isolating the cave from the outside world. That way, the flux goldthorn energy would not leak out of the cave, and nobody would discover what was happening inside.

Once finished, Xiang Shaoyun released the flux goldthorn energy. Clumps of powerful golden radiance filled the cave, immediately leaving countless holes in the walls. If it wasn't for the formation drawn by Xiang Shaoyun, the entire mountain would have been destroyed the moment he released the flux goldthorn energy.

"Take the gold lunar liquid first before absorbing the flux goldthorn energy. Then, start your breakthrough. Do not stop until you succeed. My clone will be standing guard here," said Xiang Shaoyun before leaving.

The toad and the turtle held onto a bottle of gold lunar liquid each and exchanged gazes. Shortly after, the toad decided to swallow the gold lunar liquid.

"I'll do it even if I have to die. I'll definitely become a Saint before you, old turtle," said the toad. After swallowing the gold lunar liquid, he gathered all his strength and walked toward the flux goldthorn energy.

Looking at the toad who had the expression of someone who had already embraced death, the turtle hesitated and muttered, "When have I ever lost to this toad? Trying to surpass me? Dream on!"

He swallowed his bottle of gold lunar liquid and then rushed toward the flux goldthorn energy.

Wahaa!

Hissss!

Two different voices of pain rang out in the cave. Their wails would have reached every corner of the sect if it wasn't for the formation.

"I hope they can hang on," said Xiang Shaoyun, sighing outside the cave.

He left his soul clone behind while his main body returned to the grand hall. After returning to the grand hall, he called Gong Qinyin over. She arrived in a leisurely manner. There was something different about her now—the charm of a mature woman. Perhaps the change was the result of her doing the deed with Xiang Shaoyun.

She saluted Xiang Shaoyun in a leisurely manner, "Greetings, young master."

"Stop messing around, Qinyin. Come over here. I have something important to tell you," said Xiang Shaoyun as he gestured at his thigh.

After shooting Xiang Shaoyun a glance, Gong Qinyin sauntered toward him and sat down on his thigh. She hung her hands on his neck and said tenderly, "Husband, are you planning to make some love here?"

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed his stirring desire and said, "I'm talking business here. I plan to have you pick some trusted members of the sect and train them into our future elites."

"Why? Don't you think I'm not strong enough for such a responsibility?" asked Gong Qinyin.

"I don't have anyone I can use now, so I need you to do it for me. In any case, you will be picking from the younger generation. They will be more willing to listen. Forget about those old foxes," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Fine. Since you're handing this task to me, I will do it nicely," said Gong Qinyin confidently.

She had just reached the Emperor Realm, so she wouldn't be of much help to him. Now that she had a chance to help, she definitely wouldn't reject it.

"Um. You only need to lay out a good foundation. Be sure to spend more time cultivating. Only by becoming strong ourselves can we face all challenges."

"I know. I won't drag you down," said Gong Qinyin.

Xiang Shaoyun sent Aikai to be Gong Qinyin's guardian. He would feel much more comfortable knowing that a Sovereign was watching over her. Just as he was about to call over Qian Furen and the Sovereigns forced to stay in the sect, Pang Tongyuan requested an audience.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before saying, "Invite the third uncle in. No, wait, I'll go greet him personally."

He hurriedly rushed out of the hall and saw Pang Tongyuan waiting outside. His frail figure made him look like a gust of wind was enough to blow him away.

"Why are you here, third uncle? I thought I told you to focus on resting?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he rushed over and held Pang Tongyuan's arm.

Pang Tongyuan said, "Young master, why did you come out personally? I haven't even saluted you."

"Third uncle, there is no need for such formality between us. Come, let me help you inside," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After spending all this time resting, Pang Tongyuan had recovered from most of his external wounds. His body was covered with shocking scars, while his entire body was weak. He was extremely frail, looking like an old man in his last days.

Xiang Shaoyun helped him sit down and asked, "Third uncle, why are you here?"

"I'm here to talk about your father," said Pang Tongyuan.

Chapter 1079: Your Father Is Not Dead

The moment Xiang Shaoyun heard that this was about his father, he grew agitated as he asked, "Third uncle, do you have any news about my father?"

His father was the most important person in his life, the person who had pampered him during his childhood and the person who had satisfied all his wishes even when he was asking for the moon in the sky.

He had never been willing to accept the fact that his father might be dead after the disappearance. He had asked Old Yao about his father before, but Old Yao knew nothing. He had not imagined that his third uncle actually had information about his father, and Xiang Shaoyun hoped he could hear some good news.

Pang Tongyuan went straight to the point and said, "Your father is not dead."

Xiang Shaoyun jumped in excitement. That was excellent news.

"Third uncle, why are you so sure? Are you trying to comfort me?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he suppressed his excitement.

Pang Tongyuan took out a jade tube and said, "Your father gave me this before his departure. Inside is his blood essence. If he is dead, the blood essence would be dim and colorless, and the tube would break apart. But it is still undamaged, so this is proof enough that your father is still alive. But I don't know why he hasn't returned."

His words calmed Xiang Shaoyun significantly. He asked, "Third uncle, why didn't you crush the tube during Di Batian's rebellion to try to call Father back?"

This tube was similar to the one Scarlet Flame Monarch gave him, so it probably had the summoning ability as well.

"Back then, I never imagined that I would need to use this tube, so I hid it somewhere. During Di Batian's rebellion, I didn't get the chance to reach the tube. Fortunately, I hid it well enough, and Di Batian wasn't able to find it," said Pang Tongyuan with a sigh.

He then handed the tube to Xiang Shaoyun as it was no longer useful for him. He would let Xiang Shaoyun decide if he wanted to crush the tube. Xiang Shaoyun had complicated emotions as he held the tube in hand, hesitating whether he should crush it.

His father would immediately sense it the moment he crushed the tube. Perhaps his father would rush back. Then again, there was a different possibility. His father might be busy with something and wouldn't be able to return.

Pang Tongyuan said, "Since the sect master has not returned even after so many years, he has probably encountered something or found a way to break through. You should know that someone

at his level will probably need decades in seclusion once a chance to break through comes. Or maybe he was delayed by something else. So long as he's alive, he will return eventually."

"You're right, third uncle. Since Father is fine, let's not disturb him. Perhaps he will safely return soon after he handles his matters," said Xiang Shaoyun as he kept the tube away.

He felt much calmer knowing that his father was still alive. He decided to just keep waiting. He was afraid that his father wouldn't return even after he crushed the tube. That way, he would lose the only clue he had about his father.

"Um. You can make your own decision. Since I have already told you everything, I won't be of any help to you anymore," said Pang Tongyuan bleakly.

"Third uncle, thank you very much," said Xiang Shaoyun gratefully. "Third uncle, I hope you can remain as the Ziling Sect's advisor. Are you willing to come out of retirement and lend your nephew a hand?"

Pang Tongyuan blanked out slightly before smiling bitterly. "What can a cripple like me do? Young master, you can stop comforting me. My heart is not that weak."

"Third uncle, I wasn't making the offer out of pity. You were my father's right hand in the past. Although you have lost your cultivation, I believe that your wisdom is still far above others. In any case, I have a bad reputation from my past. The Sorting General Assembly is approaching, and I need a lot of help. Therefore, I truly wish for you to lend me a helping hand," said Xiang Shaoyun earnestly.

Pang Tongyuan was definitely moved by the offer. He was already a cripple, and he felt a sense of inferiority. Since a chance had arrived for him to prove that he was still useful, he naturally didn't want to let go of it.

Xiang Shaoyun could see that Pang Tongyuan was interested in the offer. He kept pushing, "Third uncle, even your loss of cultivation is only temporary. We will definitely find you a method to reform your stars. Take this time to nurse your body back to health while helping me with the sect's general affairs. You know that I still need to focus on my cultivation. Di Batian might come back at any moment. I need to be prepared."

Pang Tongyuan sank into a short silence before saying, "Fine. Since you still look highly on your third uncle's abilities, I will use my crippled body to do more things for the sect."

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Don't even worry about it. How about we start talking about the Sorting General Assembly?"

"Sure, let's start," said Pang Tongyuan with his chin raised.

The two proceeded to talk about the Sorting General Assembly and only stopped when Pang Tongyuan started to feel tired. In the talk, Xiang Shaoyun could clearly see why Pang Tongyuan was his father's right hand man. He was extremely well-versed in administration, and each point he brought up was mentioned in great detail. Xiang Shaoyun only needed to do as told, and the entire sect would be running in an orderly manner.

After thinking about it for a bit, he sent someone to attend to Pang Tongyuan at all times. This would last until Pang Tongyuan regained his cultivation. However, he would have to pick this person carefully.

He also needed to take care of the other loyalists who had been similarly crippled. As he was currently lacking in manpower, he also had to accelerate the recruitment of sect members. But he could only do that after the Sorting General Assembly.

He returned to the rear court. There, he saw Ye Chaomu and Tuoba Wan'er. He asked, "What plans do you have after the Sorting General Assembly?"

The two women had their own Heaven Battling Realm guards, and they both had a place to return to. He wanted to know their future plans.

"Stay behind," the two answered unhesitatingly.

Xiang Shaoyun turned solemn. "I'm serious. Little Mu, Lord Wu Xie definitely won't let you stay here for an extended period of time. Wan'er can probably stay, but you need to let the first elder know, or he will start to worry."

"Sure. I must stay. We are husband and wife," said Tuoba Wan'er cheerily.

"I want to stay as well. Big brother, you can't abandon me. This is not only your home but also mine," said Ye Chaomu resentfully, her hands resting on her waist.

"It's not that I don't want you here, but you need to convince Lord Wu Xie. It would be even better if you can get him to stay here," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 1080: Before Sorting General Assembly

Ye Chaomu clenched her fists and said, "Ok! I will definitely persuade him to leave his Wuxie Valley. What's so good about that shitty place? Our Ziling Sect is not bad as well."

She was right, as in the Ziling Sect was an amazing place. The place was filled with mountains and water, the environment graceful, and the spiritual energy in the air dense. This place was more than enough to fulfill all requirements a tier-7 organization could have.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "We'll see how persuasive you are, then. In short, you will return to Wuxie Valley after the Sorting General Assembly and talk to Lord Wu Xie. It doesn't matter if he's unwilling to come. You should probably focus on getting him to let you leave. You will always be welcomed here."

"That's more like it," said Ye Chaomu, pleased with Xiang Shaoyun's words. She jumped onto him affectionately, causing him to feel somewhat embarrassed.

To the side, Tuoba Wan'er felt somewhat awkward watching them. She was reserved and wasn't used to seeing someone as lively as Ye Chaomu.

"Stop messing around. Wan'er is still here," said Xiang Shaoyun as he gently patted Ye Chaomu's back. He then continued talking with the two about recruitment.

He urgently needed to recruit people, and he wished to listen to their thoughts about it, hoping that they could give him some ideas he hadn't thought of. Although he had the Light of Wisdom, there were still things he wasn't familiar with. Having the Light of Wisdom did not mean he was omniscient.

The two gave him their opinions. Ye Chaomu suggested that they publicize their recruitment process and promise good benefits and positions to entice more experts, which was the most commonly used method.

Tuoba Wan'er suggested that they hold a selection among the Ziling Sect's subordinate organizations during the Sorting General Assembly. That way, not only could they strengthen the

sect, but they could also improve their relationship with their subordinate organizations. It would also keep the subordinate organizations busy competing with each other.

Her idea wasn't exactly groundbreaking, but Xiang Shaoyun liked it. The sect had recruited people from their subordinate organizations in the past, and that practice had probably continued until now. It would probably help all parties if they recruited even more members from their subordinate organizations.

After all, the sect currently lacked manpower, while their subordinate organizations lacked a strong backer. They could form a symbiotic relationship through recruitment. Of course, someone reliable would be required to manage the new recruits to ensure loyalty.

Xiang Shaoyun decided to let Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun take charge of the recruitment. The two were extremely close to each other, and the only thing missing from their friendship was probably some sort of joint technique. At the thought of Han Pojun, Xiang Shaoyun considered pulling the Han Clan into the fold as well.

As a tier-5 organization, the Han Clan definitely had a decent foundation. If they were willing to join the Ziling Sect, Xiang Shaoyun would definitely support their development greatly.

In a flash, several days passed, and the Sorting General Assembly was about to begin.

For this Sorting General Assembly, all the organizations within the Ziling Sect's sphere of influence were gathered and notified about the Di Sect's destruction. From now on, the sect would once again be known as the Ziling Sect, and they would closely observe the other organizations' reactions. Any display of disloyalty would be immediately suppressed, and those willing to submit could carry on with what they had been doing.

A total of 18 cities fell under the Ziling Sect's jurisdiction, with 33 organizations in all the cities. Two were tier-6 organizations, six were tier-5 organizations, and the rest were tier-4 and tier-3 organizations. Organizations of lower tiers weren't even qualified to be included.

In fact, these organizations all existed independently but simultaneously relied on the Ziling Sect. They were required to pay tribute each year to maintain the relationship. If anything happened to them, the Ziling Sect would be able to interfere with the status of a supervisor. On the other hand, the organizations were not qualified to interfere in anything related to the Ziling Sect.

This was an obvious master-subordinate relationship. The two tier-6 organizations were respectively Zhuma City's Ma Clan and Qingxiu City's Qingxiu Manor. Although the two organizations did not have any Heaven Battling Realm experts, they had many Sovereigns and Emperors in their ranks. One could say they had strong foundations. If either of them obtained two or three Saints in their ranks, they could probably immediately surpass the Ziling Sect.

The six tier-5 organizations were the administrators of the various main cities, and the other smaller organizations were based in the smaller cities that had a harder time developing themselves.

Invitations had been extended to all 33 organizations for their leaders to attend the Sorting General Assembly. Any absence would be construed as disrespect toward the Ziling Sect. Thus, all the organizations had to take the invitations seriously.

The Sorting General Assembly began, and the Ziling Sect had finished their preparations to welcome the visitors from the various organizations. Regardless of the recent happenings, the Ziling Sect had to showcase the might of a tier-7 organization to ensure their subordinate organizations' continued obedience.

On the extensive martial square, hundreds of Ziling Sect members were lined up in an orderly manner. Some were drumming, some were blowing horns, and some were demonstrating their battle techniques.

This was a show that they had to act out regardless of their current condition. Otherwise, they might be belittled by their subordinate organizations. The Ziling Sect overseers in charge of taking attendance were constantly announcing the arrivals of the various organizations.

"Whitestone City's Shi Clan patriarch is here."

"Loch Cave master is here."

"Gangpin City's Gang Clan's first elder and the Third Conduct Academy's principal are here."

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Every visitor had to proceed on foot upon arrival. Remaining on their mounts or staying in the air would be viewed as an act of disrespect. A majority of them proceeded obediently, not daring to challenge the Ziling Sect's dignity.

After all, a frail camel would still be bigger than a horse. Although the Ziling Sect had just gone through a war, they were still far stronger than these organizations. They only needed a single Saint to crush any of them.

As more and more people arrived, the place became bustling with noise and activity. On the main peak, Xiang Shaoyun was looking in the direction of the square. As the sect's young master, he could not show himself before everyone else had arrived. Waiting until afterward was a way of displaying his sect's imposing status.

"Young master, it will be your turn to show yourself soon. Most of them have arrived," reminded Old Yao.

"Um. Let's get ready," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Just as he was about to get on a sedan chair carried by eight Emperors, he sensed something. Eyes narrowed, he immediately stared in a certain direction.

A group of people appeared in the distance. They stayed in the air, and it was clear they came with ill intentions. Otherwise, they wouldn't have arrived in such a provocative manner.

"Grandpa Yao, who are those people? They are incredibly audacious," asked Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed at the newcomers.