

Overlord 1081

Chapter 1081: Revolt

Before Old Yao could say anything, Pang Tongyuan said, "If I'm right, they are from Zhuma City. Only they have such powerful demonic horses. They have always viewed demonic horses as the best companion, and each of them must have a demonic horse. Additionally, the Zhuma City is the largest horse dealer in the Celestial King Province."

"That's right. They are from Zhuma City. They are actually brazenly rushing over on their horses. Looks like they are here to cause trouble," said Old Yao sternly.

"There is no need for us to rush. Let's see what they're going to do," said Xiang Shaoyun with a toying look on his face.

From afar, a total of 18 horses rushed over. Each horse was a powerful demonic horse, and the group's morale seemed to be high. The group leader was a middle-aged man in a golden robe, and he wore a golden crown and had a golden scepter in his hand. He looked like a monarch, his head held high with pride. Around him were 17 mounted soldiers clad in armor, looking like valiant soldiers prepared for war.

"You dare intrude upon the Ziling Sect without permission? Who are you? Get off your horses," berated a Ziling Sect member.

"We are the 18 knights of Zhuma City's Ma Clan. What are you waiting for? Get out of the way. We are here to attend the assembly," shouted the middle-aged man.

From how he was behaving, he was clearly viewing the Ziling Sect with disregard.

"Since you're here for the assembly, get off your horses. Are you challenging the sect?" said the Ziling Sect member.

"Hehe, we of the Ma Clan have been riding for generations. None of us will separate from our horses. You want us to get off? Impossible!" declared the middle-aged man proudly.

The middle-aged man was a late-stage Sovereign from the Ma Clan. His name was Ma Xiaoshi, and he was a popular candidate for the position of the next Ma Clan patriarch.

"I don't care. Disrespect is not acceptable," berated the Ziling Sect member. Once he spoke, about 30 Emperors rose up, and a standoff was formed between them and the Ma Clan people.

The confrontation gathered everyone's attention. They all wanted to see if the Ma Clan was truly courageous enough to challenge the Ziling Sect.

"Haha, since we are not welcomed here, we might as well leave," said Ma Xiaoshi as he roared with laughter. He then spun around to leave with his people.

At this time, a different group appeared from a different direction. They were all dressed in green, and each had a sword hanging on his back. They were seated atop a war chariot pulled by six Demon Emperor green cranes. Like the Ma Clan's group, they remained in the air, showing no intention of proceeding on foot.

"Qingxiu Manor's deputy manor master, Qing Jiancheng is here to observe the assembly," lazily announced a white-haired old man on the chariot.

The old man had a slim face that looked more a monkey's. He had a pair of sharp snake-like eyes that few would dare to look straight at, and two locks of white hair drifted about from his head, giving him a carefree and contented look.

"Since you're here to attend the assembly, why are you not getting off your chariot?" asked a different Ziling Sect member.

Qing Jiancheng stroked his white beard and sneered, asking, "Why should we? Don't tell me your Ziling Sect doesn't even have enough space to fit a chariot? Isn't that too embarrassing?"

"What is the meaning of this? Are you going against the Ziling Sect's rules?" berated the Ziling Sect member.

"Rules are made by man. Since you have invited us here, you should display some generosity. Why are you bickering with us over these small issues?" said Qing Jiancheng with a smile.

His lack of respect for the Ziling Sect was clear for all to see.

Ma Xiaoshi greeted Qing Jiancheng and said, "Big Brother Jiancheng, we are obviously not welcome here. We should just leave and stop wasting our time here."

"True, this is no longer the same Ziling Sect," said Qing Jiancheng with a toying expression.

His words caused the Ziling Sect people to blank out slightly, and odd expressions surfaced on the faces of the people from the various organizations.

It was common knowledge that this was no longer the same Ziling Sect, but none of them had dared to actually say it so far. Qing Jiancheng saying it made it very clear that they were intending to revolt. The various organizations present were unaware of their source of confidence. Although this was no longer the same Ziling Sect, they were the same people who had defeated Di Batian, proving that they had Heaven Battling Realm experts.

That was the reason why they had all rushed over to attend the assembly. They wouldn't have wasted their time otherwise. Now that Zhuma City's Ma Clan and Qingxiu City's Qingxiu Manor were trying to create trouble for the Ziling Sect, they all wanted to see how the Ziling Sect would deal with the two tier-6 organizations.

"Is the Qingxiu Manor going to rebel?" shouted a Ziling Sect member.

The nearby Ziling Sect members rushed over. After undergoing the bitter training under Devouring Ghost, they had all been taught a harsh lesson on the consequences of disloyalty. If they were to slack in their job, Devouring Ghost would definitely skin them alive.

Devouring Ghost was currently their major commander, and he was personally present at the square. His blood demon clone alone was enough to stand guard for Duo Ji.

"You're making this a way bigger deal than it is. Since when have we rebelled?" questioned Qing Jiancheng.

Ma Xiaoshi said, "That's right. We aren't even part of the Ziling Sect, so how are we even rebelling? We have always been nothing more than allies."

"Hehe, allies? You wish. You are probably tired of being your master's dog and are intending to bite your own master," said Devouring Ghost as he stepped out of the crowd with a cold sneer on his face.

Devouring Ghost had a young appearance, and although he looked somewhat imposing, he did not look special in the eyes of Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi.

"Are there no other people in the Ziling Sect? Why is this trash speaking to us?" questioned Qing Jiancheng with disdain.

Ma Xiaoshi said, "Let's go. This is really not the same Ziling Sect anymore."

The two groups turned around, preparing to leave. The Ziling Sect members surrounded them, but due to a lack of Sovereigns, it didn't seem possible that they could stop the two groups from leaving.

Devouring Ghost was infuriated. Thick killing intent erupted from his body, and he roared, "Since you're here to court death, I'll fulfill your wish."

Just as Devouring Ghost was about to attack, Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out, "Do not be rude, Devouring Ghost. Any visitor is a guest. Allow them to enter."

He was flying over with Pang Tongyuan and Old Yao. He was supposed to arrive in a big sedan, but he had changed his mind. He wanted to have a game with these people, and he wanted to see the source of their confidence for why they showed the sect such disrespect.

Chapter 1082: Grave Provocation

"Where did this kid come from? There is no place for you to speak here," said Qing Jiancheng, trying to flaunt his seniority with his age.

Ma Xiaoshi sneered when he saw Xiang Shaoyun and Pang Tongyuan. He said, "So the Ziling Sect is really running out of talents. The likes of you are speaking for the sect?"

The look in his eyes seemed to say, "The sect sure is getting desperate for sending a boy and a cripple out."

"Young master, what's the point of showing them this much courteousness?" asked Devouring Ghost in confusion.

He could see what Ma Xiaoshi meant, and fire was almost spewing out of his eyes from his anger.

"You're the young master? Then who's the sect master?" questioned Ma Xiaoshi rudely.

"Audacious! You have actually forgotten who your sect master is? The Ziling Sect has never changed its sect master. Xiang Yangzhan is the one and only sect master, while this is the sect master's son, Xiang Shaoyun, the current young master of the sect. What are you waiting for? Offer the young master your greetings!" berated Old Yao.

Old Yao had high seniority in the sect. Like Duo Ji, he was a senior figure that had been around for a while. He had seen both Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi before. Seeing them acting so rude filled him with fury.

"Ahh, so it's Old Yao. You're actually staying in the new Ziling Sect? This is worthy of celebration!" said Qing Jiancheng, acting as though he had just noticed Old Yao.

He spoke with a sarcastic tone, and he was in truth accusing Old Yao of being someone who would go whichever way the wind blew due to the speed in which he had changed his allegiance.

"Haha, Old Yao, you still look healthy. So, can we consider you a senior member over three generations of the Ziling Sect now?" said Ma Xiaoshi as he roared with laughter.

Old Yao grew even angrier.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "If you intend to bicker, you have succeeded. As the young master, I hereby invite you to attend the assembly. Of course, you are free to leave if you do not wish to stay. I will not stop you."

Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi looked at each other. Next, Qing Jiancheng smiled and said, "Fine. Since this young brother is inviting us so sincerely, we might as well attend the assembly."

"Yes, let us witness the current might of the sect. Hehe," said Ma Xiaoshi with a smirk.

Then, the two groups strutted arrogantly into the square together with their mounts. It was obvious that they were showing the Ziling Sect zero respect.

Devouring Ghost, Old Yao, and Pang Tongyuan wore unsightly expressions, while the other Ziling Sect members were utterly confused. The Xiang Shaoyun they knew was a domineering person. Why was he so timid today?

As for those from the other organizations, they started stirring. Some of them even greeted and flattered Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi. As far as they were concerned, at present, it would be much better for them to fawn over Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi instead of the Ziling Sect.

At this time, someone announced, "The time has come to start the assembly. Let us welcome the young master."

With that announcement, the drummers to the left and right of the square struck the drums hard. The horns were blown as well, and numerous massive banners were unfurled. The banners fluttered about in the wind, creating a grand and imposing scene in the square.

Next, Ye Chaomu, Tuoba Wan'er, Gong Qinyin, and Xia Yingying flanked Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun himself looked like the child of deities—heroic, handsome, and radiant. The women with him were gorgeously dressed, looking beautiful and alluring as though they were fairies who had descended to the mortal world. They overwhelmed their surroundings with their charm.

With the four women by his side, Xiang Shaoyun spiritedly strode to the main seat, emanating an imposing presence that was completely different from his previous display. When Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi saw Xiang Shaoyun's complete change of temperament, their pupils constricted as an odd feeling rose in their hearts.

What a pretentious act, sneered Qing Jiancheng inwardly.

Empty flamboyance, thought Ma Xiaoshi with disdain.

In their eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was but a wimpy boy. Even though he had a decent cultivation level, he was nothing to them. Of course, the source of their confidence wasn't Xiang Shaoyun's age. Instead, it was something else.

They had both been informed that after repeated wars, the Ziling Sect only appeared strong but was, in fact, greatly weakened. As for the Saints who had arrived with Xiang Shaoyun, they were either dead or had departed the sect.

It was also rumored that those Saints had only helped out of their friendship with Xiang Yangzhan. In truth, Xiang Shaoyun did not have a single Saint by his side. Of course, they couldn't entirely believe the rumors, but one particular benefit had prompted the two to act.

If the two could successfully give the Ziling Sect a show of force, they could extort the sect for many benefits that could even cause Saints to rise from their own ranks. Before the assembly, they had also received some benefits from some other people, allowing them to see hope in succeeding. This was why they had the courage to create trouble during the assembly.

The identity of the one pulling the strings from behind the scenes was quite obvious. Xiang Shaoyun flung his cloak around and scanned the crowd present. His gaze was sharp, seemingly capable of reaching the depths of their hearts.

Xiang Shaoyun started delivering the speech he had prepared recently, "Today, the Ziling Sect is once again holding a Sorting General Assembly. The sect has been established for about 100 years, and we have always focused on strengthening ourselves and expanding our territory. We aim to guard our land with all of you—"

A particularly loud sneeze interrupted the speech.

"My apologies. The weather has been dry recently, so my nose is somewhat clogged. I must be sick, but I feel better after sneezing," said Ma Xiaoshi smugly.

He was acting even more arrogant than earlier. Sneezing was no different than slapping the Ziling Sect's face in public. As a Sovereign, he was supposed to be immune to sickness. How could he be sick? Even a blind person could see that he was provoking the sect.

"Impudent!" roared Devouring Ghost, who couldn't hold his anger anymore.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped him. "Devouring Ghost, do not be rude. All visitors are guests. If we can't even tolerate this small sickness, how are we fit to be their superior organization?"

"That's right. If you want to be a boss, you need to show the generosity of a boss. Am I right, everyone?" said Qing Jiancheng, trying to work up the crowd.

"Looks like the young master is still quite a reasonable person. Don't get aggressive over everything. You can't scare everyone just because you have a loud voice," said someone from a tier-5 organization.

Someone else said, "That's right. There is no need to take everything so seriously. We are all allies, right?"

Xiang Shaoyun looked at them, smiled, and asked, "Anyone else thinks the same? Don't worry, speak freely. I can accept all criticism."

With those words, a few more people mustered their courage and said more provocative words, trying to test Xiang Shaoyun's bottom line.

Chapter 1083: Stubborn

When the Ziling Sect people saw how much disrespect their subordinate organizations were showing and how Xiang Shaoyun was facing them with a smile on his face, they felt extremely gloomy. Of course, some of the smarter ones thought of the possibility that this whole thing was a big trap.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "Alright, since everyone is done speaking, let me finish what I have to say. You may all express your opinions after that. Is that fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun behaved timidly, as though he was really afraid that the many organizations would join hands against the sect. In fact, some of the subordinate organizations already regretted attending this assembly. How could a young master like this take on any sort of responsibility?

They couldn't understand how Di Batian and his Di Sect were destroyed. Perhaps Xiang Shaoyun was actually a puppet for someone else? In short, everyone now had a bad impression of this young master.

Xiang Shaoyun continued his speech nonchalantly. The subordinate organizations grew restless. They stopped listening and started whispering among themselves.

This was especially true for Qing Jiancheng and Ma Xiaoshi. They completely ignored the speech. One had his legs on the table and was picking his ears, the other had his head raised high as he dug his nose and spoke loudly like he owned the place. Everyone saw what the two were doing, but nobody dared to flare up. Since the young master could endure this, why couldn't they?

Xiang Shaoyun continued speaking indifferently, "Moving forward, I hope everyone can continue supporting the Ziling Sect. Together, we can help Ziling Sect become a tier-8 organization or higher —"

"Brother, this is quite a dull assembly. Why don't we find a place to drink and talk about life? That would be much more enjoyable," suggested Ma Xiaoshi to Qing Jiancheng loudly.

He was being incredibly rude, interrupting Xiang Shaoyun once again.

"Sure, sure, drinking and having fun with some girls. This is how life is supposed to be. It is much better than wasting time listening to some boy rambling on and on," said Qing Jiancheng.

Next, the two stood up to leave without a care. If Xiang Shaoyun had displayed a somewhat unyielding stance at the start, they might fear him a bit. But the more timid Xiang Shaoyun seemed, the weaker he seemed to them. They concluded that he had no trump cards that they needed to fear. In any case, their reinforcements were waiting around them. The moment something happened, their people would rush in to help them escape.

Just as they were about to leave, the smile on Xiang Shaoyun's face finally faded. He looked at the two and asked, "Are you two really leaving?"

"Isn't that obvious? Do we look like we're joking?" answered Ma Xiaoshi haughtily.

"Let's go. What's the point of talking to him? It's pointless," said Qing Jiancheng. He also called out to the others, "Everyone, if you are interested in grabbing some drinks and having fun with some girls, feel free to come. Don't miss this chance to have the time of your life."

At his invitation, someone hesitated a bit before standing up and saying, "This assembly is truly getting somewhat boring. I'll come to have some fun."

With someone taking the lead, others followed suit. These were the leaders of organizations, and their action signified that several organizations under the sect were displaying the intention to revolt.

Of course, if they all formed an alliance, they would indeed be powerful enough to stand against the Ziling Sect.

Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng were pleased with the response. They took the lead and prepared to leave.

Xiang Shaoyun watched on coldly. When they were about to leave the square, he waved his hand and said, "Activate the formation."

At his command, several formations activated around the square, instantly surrounding the square with a barrier of light. The expressions of Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng turned cautious as they sensed that a conflict was finally happening.

"What is the meaning of this? Are you trying to confine us here?" questioned Ma Xiaoshi.

"We're only being polite when we call you the young master. To put it bluntly, you're just a boy still reeking of milk. If you dare to provoke us, we will flatten your Ziling Sect," threatened Qing Jiancheng.

Since things had escalated to this extent, there was no point for him to continue acting. He might as well put on a full show of force.

"Hehe, I knew you were a disloyal bunch. I wanted to have a proper talk with all of you and let you continue following me so you can get the chance to witness my brilliance. Unfortunately, you refuse to treasure this opportunity. Since that is the case, all of you should just pass on to the afterlife. I will be sure to visit your organizations after this," said Xiang Shaoyun as cold killing intent burst out of his body.

"Young master, let me go take all their heads," volunteered Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "No. I will personally make a move and show everyone just what this young master is capable of and let them decide for themselves if this young master is worth following."

He stood up and took off his cloak. With a nonchalant smile, he gazed at Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng as he slowly walked toward them.

"You really think we're pushovers? Don't do something you will regret," said Qing Jiancheng, narrowing his eyes.

He heightened his senses and constantly searched his surroundings for the existence of any experts. He was fully ready to deal with any changes that might happen.

"That's right. Young master, if you withdraw the formations, we will be willing to talk this out. If you remain stubborn, don't blame us for showing no mercy," said Ma Xiaoshi.

The two groups had converged, prepared to fight at any moment. As for the people who had echoed Ma Xiaoshi's and Qing Jiancheng's words, their expressions were complicated. They shut their mouths and decided to keep observing before doing anything.

"I will give you two choices. One, submit to the Ziling Sect and serve me. Two, die," said Xiang Shaoyun sternly.

"We have a third choice," said Ma Xiaoshi loudly.

"That's right. Our third choice is to get rid of this kid and destroy the Ziling Sect," said Qing Jiancheng with a ruthless glint in his eyes.

"Stubborn," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh as he continued walking toward them.

As he walked over, the people in his way stepped back to give him enough space to do what he needed to do.

"The young master will be victorious!" Pang Tongyuan's hoarse voice suddenly rang out.

Old Yao and the others also shouted in unison, "The young master will be victorious! The young master will be victorious!"

The Ziling Sect people shouted together, forming an imposing presence that converged on Xiang Shaoyun, a presence that caused Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng to feel fear.

"I repeat. Those who submit will be spared," roared Xiang Shaoyun as his aura surged.

"Submit your mother. Kill him!" replied Ma Xiaoshi unyieldingly.

Chapter 1084: Battling the Eighteen Knights

After Ma Xiaoshi shouted, two of his 18 knights rode out and charged Xiang Shaoyun. The 18 knights were the Ma Clan's elites. Each of them was a Sovereign. The two riding out joined hands and unleashed a destructive attack toward Xiang Shaoyun. They attacked mercilessly, trying to kill Xiang Shaoyun while he was still being arrogantly careless without giving him a chance to bounce back.

Everyone paid full attention to the clash, trying to see if Xiang Shaoyun could actually survive or prevail over two Sovereigns.

Facing the fierce attack, Xiang Shaoyun showed no fear. He tightened his glove before casually throwing a punch at the two.

Xiang Shaoyun attacked swiftly. All everyone saw was a flash before two bolts of lightning shot toward the two knights like two roaring dragons. A loud explosion erupted, creating a massive cloud of dust, and the two knights were sent flying. Xiang Shaoyun had easily crushed their joint attack.

Instead of pushing on, Xiang Shaoyun beckoned to Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng and said, "You two were the loudest ones earlier. I am giving you a chance to attack together now. If you don't grab this opportunity, you will no longer have the chance to attack."

Ma Xiaoshi was aware of the concept that an arrow that had been let loose couldn't be recalled, so he raised his golden spear and roared, "Knights, get into formation and eliminate our enemy!"

With him at the center, all the knights gathered around him. Powerful Sovereign energies shrouded them, turning them into iron buckets as they charged Xiang Shaoyun with a terrifying group attack.

The attacking Sovereigns had frequently trained together and had excellent teamwork. Thus, they could unleash great destruction when working together. Not even a peak Sovereign could hope to break free of their encirclement, much less Xiang Shaoyun, who wasn't even a peak Sovereign.

Even in such a situation, Xiang Shaoyun did not use his Nether Soul Domain and his saint weapons. He was confident he could defeat the knights with his own strength. His eyes blazed with a bright radiance as he swept his senses over his attackers, seeing through every single opening in their attacks.

Havoc Dance!

Enemy Sealing!

Using some seemingly disorderly techniques, Xiang Shaoyun threw attacks in multiple directions. His seemingly chaotic attacks were actually extremely ingenious, and he broke through two weak points. He charged through them to two knights. The two were sealed before they could activate their attacks, instantly throwing the entire formation into chaos.

Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky!

Xiang Shaoyun had no intention of underestimating his enemies. He drew the Overlord Skyslaying Saber and madly slashed at the two, unleashing a massive amount of destructive lightning. The lightning pervaded the area, making guarding against it an extremely difficult task.

The two released their soul foundations and defended with all their strength, but they failed miserably and were sent flying and coughing blood. If the other knights hadn't helped them in time, they would have died.

Xiang Shaoyun did not get greedy and overstretch himself. Instead of pushing toward the two, he activated the Six Goldplate Manual and erected a strong defense around his body. He then turned around to attack the other knights.

These knights weren't exactly useless outside of their formation. Each had a powerful soul foundation and incredible combat prowess. With all of them attacking together, they unleashed great destruction upon their surroundings.

If it wasn't for the formations protecting the area, the square would have been destroyed the moment the battle started. From how destructive their attacks were, it was obvious the Ma Clan was here today with their clan experts to create trouble at the Ziling Sect.

Unfortunately, they were facing Xiang Shaoyun, who excelled at fighting multiple enemies. Their attacks might be powerful, but Xiang Shaoyun was akin to a slippery eel that constantly avoided their attacks and attacked them from their weak points.

Xiang Shaoyun had a clear goal. He picked out the easier targets to finish them off. Today, he had to establish his dominance, or these subordinate organizations would not submit.

After avoiding the pincer attack of three knights, he rushed toward a third-stage Sovereign and swung his saber at the Sovereign and his mount. Before the Sovereign and his mount could react, they were slashed into two; their blood splattered everywhere.

As Xiang Shaoyun slashed the two, the others approached from behind to attack him, but he moved away using the Phantom Shift and avoided their attacks. He reappeared beside a different person and slammed his elbow into that person's face.

The person wasn't able to react. A depression was left on his face, and blood spurted out. As for his mount, it was greatly startled. It sprawled on the ground from sheer fear.

Two weapons arrived from behind Xiang Shaoyun, and he wasn't able to avoid them in time. The two attackers thought that they could finally kill Xiang Shaoyun, but they discovered with dismay that they couldn't even get through his defensive barrier.

White tiger energy!

Abruptly, a terrifying vicious gold energy erupted from Xiang Shaoyun's body. He transformed into a white tiger and pounced on the two attackers.

They hurriedly blocked and mustered all the power of their soul foundations, but Xiang Shaoyun also released his soul foundation. He instantly overwhelmed their soul foundations, causing their aura to weaken, completely reducing their threat.

The situation was reversed, and the two were the ones currently feeling an intense sense of danger.

The white tiger energy merged with the flux goldthorn energy and swarmed the two, crushing through their defenses like paper and leaving numerous wounds on their bodies.

"Die, kid!" Ma Xiaoshi finally attacked. He had been waiting for an opportunity in silence, and he had finally found one.

His entire body radiated a dazzling golden radiance. The phantom of a golden horse rushed out of his spear, and his nine-layered soul foundation emanated a powerful pressure that crushed down on Xiang Shaoyun.

Horse Trampling the World!

As Ma Xiaoshi took a step forward, all his gathered power rushed forth, creating a stampede of horses and spears heading toward Xiang Shaoyun.

This was the might of a peak Sovereign, someone with the might to destroy more than 10 mountains at the same time.

The Ziling Sect people all hid to the very edge of the square. Everyone was locked in the square by the formations, so they were forced to erect their own defenses to protect themselves from the shockwaves. The Sovereigns were in charge of protecting the weaker ones from being injured.

While Ma Xiaoshi attacked, Qing Jiancheng also attacked with all his strength. He aimed to join hands with Ma Xiaoshi and finish off Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 1085: You Are Unforgivable

Qing Jiancheng's attack was much more low-key than Ma Xiaoshi's attack. Like an assassin, he instantly grabbed the opening he saw and rushed forth with his sword. A green flash streaked forth with thick sword intent as a terrifying attack stabbed at Xiang Shaoyun. The attack was swift and sudden; nobody saw it coming.

When the Ziling Sect members saw Qing Jiancheng's attack, they cursed, "Shameless."

They were too weak to help, while those strong enough to help were standing still. It was all up to Xiang Shaoyun to deal with the attacks.

The two peak Sovereigns had incredible combat prowess, and they had sealed all of Xiang Shaoyun's escape routes.

With Xiang Shaoyun's swift reaction time, he sensed the two attacks. However, suppressing both of them wouldn't be easy with his strength. He unhesitatingly used his soul clone. The clone was at the same cultivation stage as Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng and could easily suppress them.

He wanted to use the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist through his clone, but he was afraid that he would destroy the formations accidentally. Thus, he used the Wind and Lightning technique instead.

The powers of wind and lightning erupted from his body. The storm wreaked havoc in his surroundings, creating deafening rumblings as the incoming golden horses were crushed.

Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng were greatly alarmed. They could feel death approaching, and they unleashed all the might of their soul foundations and their trump cards, trying to resist Xiang Shaoyun's attack.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was too strong. Even when he was trying to suppress the might of his attack, he still caused cracks to appear in the formations. The people in the area paled from fright. They had retreated repeatedly and were running out of space. They greatly feared that they would be pulled into the storm as well.

Thunder rumbled on and on as the powerful storm wreaked destruction. The people in the area felt their ears go deaf from the loud explosions. The storm eventually reached the bystanders, but the energy in the storm seemed to weaken upon touching them, as though someone was intentionally withdrawing the energy from the storm. This reduced the amount of destruction the storm left in the area.

Eventually, the storm dissipated, and Xiang Shaoyun could be seen standing on two miserable-looking people. The two on the ground were none other than Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng. Their armors were cracked, and bloody wounds were all over their bodies. Xiang Shaoyun had already recalled his soul clone back into his body, so nobody even knew what had happened.

With the Overlord Skyslaying Saber in hand, Xiang Shaoyun overlooked them from above and said, "The two of you were feeling very haughty earlier, right? You repeatedly disrespected me, thinking that I'm an idiot. The only reason I allowed you to stay was so I can see just how disgusting you can get. Now, the time for you to go to the afterlife has arrived."

"N-No, don't kill me! I-I'm the next patriarch of the Ma Clan. If you let me live, the Ma Clan will serve you with all our strength. I beg you, please spare me," begged Ma Xiaoshi, losing his mind from fear.

Qing Jiancheng also lost his calm. "Young master, w-we were muddle-headed! I hereby swear that I will serve you with all I have, young master. I will be the first to face those who dare stand against you!"

Neither could remain calm in the face of death. They did have a good time earlier when they were creating trouble, but now that Xiang Shaoyun was displaying his might, they turned cowardly.

"Can I really spare you?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, yes, you can. I beg you! We will never stand against you ever again," replied both of them.

Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess was too terrifying. One attack had reduced both of them to such a miserable state. It was clear that he could easily kill them if he so wished.

"Hehe, your armies are already waiting outside, and you're saying that you won't stand against me ever again? How audacious of you! Not only have you shown me disrespect, but you are also planning to destroy the Ziling Sect! You are unforgivable!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer before he mercilessly brought his saber down.

Whoosh!

Two heads were sent flying. The bloody scene made a chill creep up everyone's spine. The beheading was an incredibly overbearing display by Xiang Shaoyun, who had killed two peak Sovereigns without batting an eye.

Now, everyone's eyes were filled with admiration when they looked at Xiang Shaoyun. A young master with such strength could easily bring the sect to great heights. The Ziling Sect members heaved a breath of relief, and their gloominess dispersed. The surviving Ma Clan and Qingxiu Manor people were at a loss as to what to do.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at them and said indifferently, "Those who submit will be spared. Those who remain stubborn will be killed."

His nonchalant voice was filled with authority, causing the hearts of the Ma Clan and Qingxiu Manor people to pump and a chill to creep up their spines.

"Don't even dream of being saved by your reinforcements waiting outside. Look over there. They have all been dealt with," said Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed in a certain direction.

The three Golden Guardians could be seen flying over, carrying numerous heads.

The formations were deactivated, allowing the three to enter. They stopped before Xiang Shaoyun and said respectfully, "Young master, they have been dealt with."

The three had been placed under Xiang Shaoyun's control with the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, so they now had undivided loyalty for him.

The Ziling Sect members were rather shocked to see the three, as they had all assumed that the three had been killed.

Surprisingly, the three would actually appear in this situation. Even more surprising was the fact that they had submitted to Xiang Shaoyun. The three were peak Sovereigns, and experts of this level were rare. Just the three alone would be enough to deter many people from rising against the sect.

"Not bad," said Xiang Shaoyun, pleased.

In truth, during the start of the Sorting General Assembly, he had a premonition that someone would take the chance to create trouble. Thus, he had the three Golden Guardians hide nearby and observe their surroundings. Sure enough, his premonition was right. Some troublemakers had arrived.

"I-I'm willing to submit," surrendered a person trembling in fear.

The first surrender was akin to the start of a chain reaction. In the blink of an eye, all the Ma Clan and Qingxiu Manor people surrendered. Their leaders were dead, and they would also be killed if they resisted. It was better to surrender for the sake of survival.

Those who had flattered Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng were thoroughly stunned. They had not expected that things would turn out this way, and the entire incident felt like a massive scam. If Xiang Shaoyun had displayed an unyielding attitude from the start, they wouldn't have flattered Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng. Now, it was too late for regrets.

"Young master, I-I was muddle-headed earlier. I am willing to support you and the sect," one of them hurriedly swore his loyalty.

Chapter 1086: Yao Qian's Soul Transformation

At a location far away from Ziling Sect, Di Batian and the beautiful woman were hidden in the void, their eyes shut as they extended their senses. After a long while, they opened their eyes with a look of disappointment on their faces.

"Both chess pieces have been used. They have indeed failed," said Di Batian with a sigh.

"That was expected. Why did you try?" asked the beautiful woman in confusion.

"I only wanted to cause that little bastard more trouble. With the temper of someone his age, he will definitely try to subjugate the Ma Clan and Qingxiu Manor. I can then send the news to the Dragon Society. With their grudge against Xiang Yangzhan, they will definitely recruit the two organizations into their fold. At that time, a conflict will break out between them and the Ziling Sect. I can then find a chance to fish in troubled waters," said Di Batian with a crafty look in his eyes.

"The sect master is wise," the beautiful woman praised. "So, are we returning to the Di Clan now?"

"There is no rush. Let's go to the Dragon Society and spread some news before paying the Dragon Phoenix Academy a visit," said Di Batian.

"Dragon Phoenix Academy?" the beautiful woman did not understand the reason.

"Yes. That little bastard has been expelled. He has some enemies there. Furthermore, Di Lin and Di Tong are both there. I need to inform them about this, or they will probably return cluelessly and kill themselves," said Di Batian.

He then left the Ziling Sect's territory with the beautiful woman.

Xiang Shaoyun had guessed that Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng's troublesome matter was probably caused by Di Batian, but he hadn't predicted that Di Batian had more follow-up plans.

After witnessing Xiang Shaoyun's strength, the various organizations became incredibly docile, no longer daring to display haughtiness before him. They all rejoiced that they hadn't decided to revolt, or things would have also ended up badly for them.

The few who had joined Ma Xiaoshi and Qing Jiancheng earlier served as the perfect example. They weren't killed, but each of them had lost an arm in warning. Their yearly tribute had also been increased by 30 percent. Failure to offer the tribute would result in a visit from someone from the sect.

Some trouble might have arisen during the Sorting General Assembly, but as a whole, it had still ended smoothly. Xiang Shaoyun was quite pleased with the assembly, as it had achieved his desired effect.

He had people attend to all the guests. He also informed them of his requests and ideas, telling them to send their people into the sect. He sugarcoated his words, telling them that he was giving them a chance to assume positions and cultivate in the sect when in truth, he was trying to strengthen the sect's foundation in the shortest time possible. That way, he would be able to temporarily solve the manpower shortage they were suffering from.

Pang Tongyuan was the one in charge of the entire process. Xiang Shaoyun had two Emperors attending Pang Tongyuan at all times, allowing Pang Tongyuan to slowly regain his confidence.

Pang Tongyuan did not disappoint, and he handled everything flawlessly. With that, Xiang Shaoyun confidently handed over the sect affairs to Pang Tongyuan.

Xiang Shaoyun also wanted to immediately send some people to attack the Ma Clan and Qingxiu Manor. Still, due to his lack of manpower, it was unwise to oppose them so soon. Thus, he decided to stay still for now and focus on dealing with those who had submitted to him.

Xiang Shaoyun used an extremely straightforward method to deal with them—putting them under the Nether Dragon Soul Curse's control to fully turn them into Ziling Sect members. Those who had submitted to him were Sovereigns and were great additions to the sect.

After all, Tang Zhan's people had long left, while the Skeleton Gang members were unreliable. The Demon Sovereigns brought by Little White were also unreliable. Xiang Shaoyun greatly lacked capable helpers by his side.

I never thought of putting all of you under control, but since you're delivering yourself right into my lap, I have to make good use of you. Consider yourself unlucky, thought Xiang Shaoyun to himself.

Once he finished putting the curse on all of them, he went to see Yao Qian. She had remained unconscious after consuming the saint soul pill. It had been a month, yet she had not woken up. If it wasn't for her stable aura, they would have thought that something bad had happened to her.

Ultimately, Old Yao concluded that her body was too weak and it was too difficult for her to digest the pill. Thus, she sank into a deep slumber. Or perhaps she merely needed more time to complete her soul. In any case, she wasn't in any danger.

When Xiang Shaoyun reached Yao Peak, he sensed an unusual aura emanating from one of the rooms.

"What a strong soul power. Has Little Qian awakened?" muttered Xiang Shaoyun doubtfully as he hastened his steps toward her room.

Old Yao was already waiting outside the room, not daring to enter rashly.

"Grandpa Yao, did Little Qian wake up?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Young master, it's good that you're here. I don't know what's happening. Since she is completing her crippled soul, she shouldn't be emanating such strong soul power. I'm afraid that the medicinal power was too strong for her..." said Old Yao anxiously.

"Let's go take a look?" Xiang Shaoyun suggested.

"Should we keep waiting? I'm afraid that we will disturb her recovery by entering," said Old Yao after some hesitation.

After all, soul recovery was completely different than the recovery of ordinary wounds. If one was interrupted, the whole process might fail.

Xiang Shaoyun placated Old Yao, "Sure, we'll stay out here. I have a way to check her current condition. Don't worry."

"What way do you have?" asked Old Yao.

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "You'll know soon."

He shut his eyes and sent his powerful senses into Yao Qian's room without much difficulty. When his senses entered, he felt a thick soul power in the air and saw a powerful soul tangled with Yao Qian's body. It frightened him, and he almost rushed into the room to destroy the soul.

But he immediately stopped when he saw that the soul looked exactly the same as Yao Qian. The two seemed to be fusing together instead of devouring each other, so the situation was still under control.

Is this Yao Qian's mortal soul? It's so powerful! Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

Every human had three ethereal souls, the heavenly soul, the earthly soul, and the mortal soul. The mortal soul was also known as the life soul, and it was the same soul that Yao Qian lacked. This powerful soul could very well be the life soul that she lacked. If that were the case, it could only mean that Yao Qian possessed an extraordinary life soul.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun thought of something. She might not be lacking the life soul as Old Yao had said. Rather, her life soul had been too powerful, to the point it couldn't unite with her other two ethereal souls.

In other words, her two other ethereal souls were too weak while the life soul was too powerful. The three were unable to coexist in balance, leading to her soul deficiency. After consuming the saint soul pill, her heavenly and earthly souls were greatly strengthened, allowing the three souls to finally unite.

Chapter 1087: Yao Qian Wakes Up

After spending some time observing Yao Qian, Xiang Shaoyun could confirm that his conclusion about her was right. As Yao Qian was merging with her own soul, she did not react tensely. Instead, she remained relatively calm. Her life force continued growing, reaching a point where her rich vitality couldn't be hidden anymore.

Her soul power also reached an impressive level, as though it had reached a level comparable to a Sovereign or even someone beyond that realm. The discovery greatly astonished Xiang Shaoyun.

Yao Qian's cultivation level was low as she was only at the Transformation Realm, yet she possessed such a terrifying soul power. It was simply in defiance of the natural order.

At this time, Old Yao asked anxiously, "Young master, how is Little Qian?"

Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes and said, "Don't worry, Grandpa Yao. Little Qian is fine. I believe she will wake up soon."

"Is that true? That's great news!" said Old Yao, as joyful as a child who had just been given candy.

Xiang Shaoyun's heart warmed when he saw the smile on Old Yao's face. Old Yao cared deeply for Yao Qian. Otherwise, he wouldn't have worked so hard to extend her life all these years, and he wouldn't have remained by Di Batian's side even after the rebellion. This was the strong love a grandfather had for his granddaughter, the kind of love not everyone could feel.

In the past, Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't have understood this feeling well. But as his life experience grew, he learned of how precious one's loved ones were, especially when he thought of his father.

During his childhood, his father had pampered him greatly. He was allowed to do everything he wished. His father's love for him was no less than the love Old Yao had for his granddaughter. If Xiang Shaoyun's father learned of the sufferings he had gone through the years, his father would probably tear Di Batian into pieces in anger.

Father, are you living well? asked Xiang Shaoyun inwardly with a sigh.

Now that he knew his father was still alive, he could no longer keep calm. He couldn't wait to reunite with his father again. And the only thing he wanted out of the reunion was to see if his father had grown stronger or better looking.

In his memories, his father wasn't exactly a kind and honorable person. Otherwise, he wouldn't have grown into such a useless young master during his childhood.

Xiang Shaoyun and Old Yao stayed near Yao Qian's room, both waiting for her to wake up.

They spent a day and a night waiting before the soul power finally calmed. The three souls had probably completed their fusion. Old Yao's anxiousness had reached the breaking point. Xiang Shaoyun never shifted his focus from Yao Qian and only heaved a breath of relief after he was sure that her three souls had truly merged.

And when her completed soul returned to her body, she woke up. A sharp radiance rippled from her eyes, something that should never come from a frail young lady like her. The sharp radiance only appeared for a split second, and not even Xiang Shaoyun noticed it.

Inwardly, Yao Qian muttered, I survived. It hasn't been easy.

This person was still Yao Qian, but she was no longer the same Yao Qian.

She sat up on the bed. Even with the door shut, she could sense Old Yao and Xiang Shaoyun outside. Her rosy lips moved as she spoke, "Grandpa, young master, please come in."

Her senses had reached an extraordinary level, and she did not intend to hide it from Old Yao and Xiang Shaoyun.

"Grandpa Yao, Little Qian is awake. Let's go in," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After recovering from his shock, Old Yao said, "Good, good. I really want to know what she experienced during these days."

The two entered the room together. Yao Qian greeted them. Her face was rosy, her skin was tender, and her temperament was ethereal. It almost felt like she had become younger, looking like she was 18, at the peak of her youthfulness. Even Xiang Shaoyun was momentarily mesmerized when he laid eyes on her.

"How are you, Little Qian? Do you feel unwell anywhere?" asked Old Yao in a caring manner.

Yao Qian came beside Old Yao, held his hand, and said, "It has been hard on you, Grandpa. I am fine now. In fact, my soul feels much stronger now. If I start cultivating now, I can probably grow rapidly."

"Great, great. So long as you're healthy, you can do anything you want," said Old Yao in excitement.

"You're the best, Grandpa," said Yao Qian as she kissed him on his face.

Her personality had turned much more cheerful than before with her illness gone.

"Hehe, this is all thanks to the young master's saint soul fruit. Without you, it's likely we would have already been separated by life and death. We need to thank you, young master," said Old Yao as he tried kneeling to him with Yao Qian.

Their kneeling gave Xiang Shaoyun a fright. He hurriedly stopped them and said, "Grandpa Yao, Little Qian, don't be like this. One of you is my grandpa, and the other is my little sister. You are both family. Don't be too courteous."

"From now onward, my life is yours," declared Old Yao solemnly.

"And I'll be your maid. Is that fine, young master?" asked Yao Qian with a naughty look on her face.

"You're making this way too big of a deal," said Xiang Shaoyun somewhat awkwardly. "Since it's a good day today, I'll call Little Mu and third uncle over for a celebration. Let us wish Little Qian a long life and eternal youth."

"Yes, this is worth a celebration," Old Yao agreed.

Yao Qian naturally wouldn't object. She had a wide smile on her face as she thought, This feels amazing.

A small celebration was thus held. The few women of Xiang Shaoyun's naturally attended. Pang Tongyuan and a few others who were close with them were present as well.

Yao Qian still looked as delicate as ever. With some slight makeup, her beauty became comparable to Ye Chaomu, Tuoba Wan'er, and Gong Qinyin.

Yao Qian and Ye Chaomu already knew each other, but they were never close. However, they could quickly get familiar with each other. With Ye Chaomu's help, Yao Qian had cheerful conversations with the other two women as well. Before long, they referred to each other as sisters.

Xiang Shaoyun was happy with the celebration. It helped improve the bond between those around him, and he no longer needed to worry that trouble would brew at home while he was busy outside.

Finally, the celebration ended, and everyone left. Xiang Shaoyun called Yao Qian to the side to talk to her. Others might be unclear as to her actual condition, but Xiang Shaoyun knew very well. He could only be assured after more confirmation.

"Young master, thank you for today," thanked Yao Qian sincerely.

Chapter 1088: Soul Duality

"Are you really Little Qian?" asked Xiang Shaoyun while looking straight into her eyes.

After Yao Qian's recovery, the feeling she gave him was different than before, which was the reason for this question. He was sure that Yao Qian had definitely experienced some changes, but he didn't know if she was still the same person.

"Hehe, young master, do you think that I'm no longer me?" asked Yao Qian with an alluring smile.

"I'm not sure," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Yao Qian took two steps forward and said with a smile, "Thank you for asking, young master. I am still the same person. My strengthened soul has merely allowed me to become a true version of myself."

"Is that really so? I can see your powerful life soul. It is much more terrifying than the other two souls. If I'm right, your soul power is even scarier than mine. With your current strength, you can easily reach the Heaven Battling Realm. I really can't wrap my mind around your current condition, and I'm even suspecting that you have been possessed by some other soul," said Xiang Shaoyun.

His gaze was fixed on Yao Qian as he tried to see if she was speaking the truth.

Yao Qian smiled and said, "You're right. If it wasn't for your saint soul fruit, I wouldn't have survived. And I have indeed changed. Have you heard of soul duality?"

After searching his brain for the term, Xiang Shaoyun said with astonishment, "Soul duality? A condition in which someone has two souls?"

The so-called soul duality referred to a condition in which someone was born with two souls. It was a sort of mutation allowing one to split one's mind into two and focus on two different trains of thoughts at the same time. The phenomenon could be used for cultivation and numerous other activities. It was basically the same as having two brains. Additionally, someone with the mutation also obtained some unique abilities.

"That's right. I'm one such person. That was why I was born with an innate soul defect, but that was only one soul. My other soul was too powerful. The two souls couldn't merge, adversely affecting my body. Fortunately, the saint soul pill helped my defect soul grow stronger, allowing the two souls to join into true dual souls. In other words, I might have dual souls, but my dual souls had been incomplete. Do you understand now?" Yao Qian gave a proper explanation.

Her words were very believable. Soul duality was an extremely rare physique. It was not as powerful as the Primal Chaos Physique and Yin Yang Physique, but it was still extremely impressive. Xiang Shaoyun was naturally happy that Yao Qian had a powerful physique like this.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Since that is the case, you have to treasure your dual souls. It is said that a person with this physique will be able to form a powerful soul clone upon reaching a certain level of cultivation. At one point, they'll even gain the ability to control everything with soul power alone. This is an extremely powerful physique."

"Maybe. But for now, I only want to adapt to my new life. I want to spend more time with grandpa and serve you well, young master," said Yao Qian as she smiled contently.

"Stop joking. I don't need you to serve me. I only hope that you can become a Saint as quickly as possible and help me run the Ziling Sect. That will make me happy," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Alright, go back and get used to your new condition. Tell me if you need anything. You don't need to be too courteous with me."

"Yes. You're the best, young master," said Yao Qian.

After some more idle chatter, Xiang Shaoyun left. Looking at the departing Xiang Shaoyun, Yao Qian sighed inwardly as she thought, Don't worry, young master. I will catch up to you as soon as possible and protect the sect alongside you.

...

The Ziling Sect was slowly getting onto the right track. Little White brought his Demon Sovereigns and entered the Buried Monarch Mountain Range, trying to see if there were powerful demonic beasts they could befriend.

As for Ye Chaomu, after spending a few days sticking to Xiang Shaoyun, she also left with her people. She was on a mission to persuade her master to stay at the Ziling Sect. Failing that, she hoped to at least gain the freedom to stay by Xiang Shaoyun's side.

With Ye Chaomu's departure, the Ziling Sect's strength dropped considerably. Because of that, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even find the time to focus on cultivation.

Fortunately, the turtle and the toad seemed to be on the verge of ending their cultivation session. A terrifying aura surged out of the cave they were in, and two figures flew out.

One was a radiant gold turtle, and the other was a toad with numerous golden markings running all over his body. The two exuded terrifying auras as their demonic cores emanated powerful energies that instantly flooded the area with a blinding radiance.

The golden radiance was incredibly dazzling, blinding the eyes of the Ziling Sect members. Dense black clouds gathered, and numerous terrifying lightning bolts converged into a fearsome sea of lightning in the sky above the sect.

"W-What is going on? What terrifying lightning bolts! Is a natural disaster happening or something?"

"This is a lightning tribulation! It was attracted to the two golden beings earlier! Two powerful demonic beasts are undergoing tribulation. Can't they go farther away? Doing it here will just drag us all to death with them."

"What level of tribulation is this? It doesn't even feel like the tribulation of some demonic beasts. Is this a saint-grade tribulation?"

"Where is the young master? He needs to make them leave and undergo the tribulation elsewhere!"

...

The Ziling Sect members panicked. A tribulation this powerful was probably too powerful for their formations to block.

Just as the tribulation was about to start, Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out, "Turtle, toad, piss off and face your tribulation somewhere else. Don't do it here."

It was unknown if the two heard him, but they did leave after that. The sea of lightning in the sky followed them, and shortly after, a rain of lightning started. The lightning bolts were incredibly terrifying, instantly reducing a distant mountain into dust.

The tremors could be felt even in the sect, as though an earthquake was happening. The entire sect shook without stop, and everyone was pale with fright. The flickering lightning bolts seemed different than ordinary lightning bolts. It was clear they weren't regular lightning bolts.

Money, who had been cultivating in seclusion, wore a look of longing when he saw the lightning bolts. However, he didn't dare to actually go and absorb the lightning power since absorbing them would probably kill him. In any case, he was at a crucial point of breaking through to the Demon Sovereign Realm, so he couldn't take this risk.

Xiang Shaoyun felt the same. He had an intense thirst to enter seclusion upon sensing the unique lightning power. Inwardly, he thought, After they are done, it is my turn to enter seclusion and refine the starfall lightning energy.

The starfall lightning was a unique lightning power he had obtained from the inheritance left behind by his previous life. He hadn't gotten the chance to refine it yet.

Chapter 1089: Double Demon Saints

The turtle and the toad had broken through at the same time, creating massive phenomena. Even the areas tens of kilometers away from the Ziling Sect were affected, and all the wild beasts madly fled in fear. Far away from them, the people in Ziling City felt the oppressive sensation of a natural calamity approaching and became restless.

The lightning tribulation lasted for an indeterminate amount of time. Eventually, the sea of lightning in the sky gradually vanished.

Tranquility returned.

Xiang Shaoyun was too busy to check on the turtle and the toad. Instead, he rushed to the cave to see how much of the flux goldthorn energy remained. When he arrived, he found that about one third of the flux goldthorn energy had been used. It was clear that the two beasts had used a large amount of energy for their breakthrough.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly absorbed the remaining energy into his astral cosmos sea, not wanting to waste it by letting it continue to dissipate. After all, the flux goldthorn energy could likely support his cultivation all the way to the Saint Realm. Only after retrieving it did he go to the turtle and the toad.

They hadn't gone too far away from the sect. About 100 mountains near them had been destroyed. The area was in a complete mess, and flame and lightning energies still rampaged in the region, not leaving even a single blade of grass intact.

Xiang Shaoyun did not hold back, and he absorbed the flame and lightning energies in the surroundings since they were natural energies left behind by a saint-grade tribulation and could greatly enhance his cultivation.

Money also rushed over and hurriedly absorbed the lightning energy, not wanting to waste any of it. The turtle and the toad, who were recovering from their breakthrough, were completely ignored. They were gloomy when they discovered they were ignored despite having just survived a lightning tribulation to become Demon Saints.

However, they didn't have the time to indulge in their gloominess. They focused and repaired their damaged bodies, forging true Demon Saint bodies. Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't disregard them completely. He heaved a breath of relief when he found they were still alive. He stood guard for them, ensuring that they could recover in peace.

After absorbing the flame and lightning energies, Xiang Shaoyun's flame and lightning stars grew considerably. The unique energies contained within the stars were incredibly destructive, capable of instantly killing a regular person by mere contact. Only someone like Xiang Shaoyun with a tough body could ignore the two energies' destructiveness and absorb them forcefully.

After an unknown amount of time, the turtle and the toad were finally almost fully recovered. Their massive bodies shrunk as they turned back into their human forms. They now looked much younger than before, and a powerful devilish aura still lingered around them as they still couldn't fully control their new strength.

With each step they took, a radiant brilliance would light up around them. The radiance was extremely oppressive, as though one's eyes would go blind from being stabbed just by looking at them. This was a unique attribute the pair had obtained from absorbing the flux goldthorn energy, and they could now utilize the energy to kill their enemies.

"Thank you for blessing us with this success, young master," said the two respectfully.

They might be Demon Saints now, but they had long opted to serve Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, the thought of betraying him never crossed their minds. In any case, they were connected to Xiang Shaoyun through karma, and they would not be able to escape the arrangements of fate.

"See, I told you it would be fine. Do you believe me now?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile. His face turned solemn. "You will need to watch over the sect for the coming days. I am going to enter seclusion for a while."

"Don't worry, young master. With me here, nobody can touch this place," said the turtle.

The toad hurriedly said, "That's right. I can swallow any regular Saint alive."

"That's good to hear. Don't create trouble, or you will regret it," warned Xiang Shaoyun sternly.

He brought the two back to the grand hall and gathered the elders to introduce the two to them. They were incredibly pleased to learn that the two were now Demon Saints. The stronger the sect became, the safer the elders would feel. The two beasts were appointed as sacred elders, taking on the task of protecting the sect.

Afterward, Xiang Shaoyun spent some loving time with Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin, then entered seclusion with Money. The two women wasted no time and also entered seclusion separately.

As for Xia Liuhui, instead of waiting for Duo Ji to come out of seclusion, he returned alone to the Sacred Deer Academy, bored. He vowed to recruit some genius disciples from the academy on Xiang Shaoyun's behalf.

Du Xuanhao was placed in charge of the sect's defenses. He also needed to manage the new recruits sent over by their numerous subordinate organizations. He oversaw the recruits' cultivation and helped them grow as quickly as possible.

As for Han Pojun, he took a trip back to the Han Clan to see if he could recruit some people. The Han Clan was located in the Yu Province, which was under the Yu Clan's rule. Countless organizations in the province were related to the Yu Clan in some shape or form, so there was little space for the Han Clan to grow further there. Thus, it was better for him to get some of his fellow clan members to follow Xiang Shaoyun. They would perhaps have a better future in the Ziling Sect.

As for the villains, they went missing. They seemed to have left the sect, but it was probable that they had entered the Buried Monarch Mountain Range to look for new opportunities.

Guo Po, Xiang Shaoyun's disciple, was trained alongside the regular disciples. He was born crippled, so he naturally faced many insults and instances of bullying when placed among the regular disciples. However, Xiang Shaoyun had said that he shouldn't be given any special treatment. Guo Po would be required to stay with the regular disciples for a year, open up his meridians as quickly as possible, and enter the Astral Realm.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't so strict that he gave Guo Po no resources. After all, Guo Po was still a cripple. It wouldn't be easy for him to enter the Astral Realm. Thus, Old Yao was in charge of giving him a medicinal bath once per month to properly nurse his body. With the medicinal bath, entering the Astral Realm wouldn't be as hard as Guo Po had imagined.

Pang Tongyuan and the other loyalists were in charge of managing the sect's general affairs. They had been crippled during their imprisonment, but with Old Yao's help, they recovered greatly. For now, they would still be of some help to the sect.

As for Ziling City, it was placed under Qian Furen's administration, and Qian Furen himself was appointed governor. One could say that Qian Furen had placed his bet correctly in the recent conflict, allowing his clan to rise rapidly.

The Qian Clan had always been a merchant clan. They knew that there were still many things to be done at the Ziling Sect and that a large number of spirit crystals would be required. Thus, they took control over all the trades in the city and started accumulating wealth for the sect to consolidate their position and show their support to the sect. This was their way of repaying the sect for their current position in the city.

Chapter 1090: Starfall Lightning Refining

The Ziling Sect had returned to the right track, but it wouldn't be easy for them to regain their previous strength. In the past, Di Batian was able to speedily suppress all backlashes after taking over the sect with his own strength. After about 10 years of accumulation, the sect had finally reached a considerable level of strength.

Xiang Shaoyun had only been back for a month. Furthermore, a few of his helpers were actually his own people. Thus, he needed to grow his own strength and nurture more trusted aides.

Without strength, how could he hope to recruit more experts? Thus, strength was the foundation for everything. Xiang Shaoyun selected a mountain not far from the sect, made some preparations in the mountain, and entered seclusion. His chosen spot had a decent environment that would benefit his cultivation.

"Money, I'll be refining the starfall lightning. You can attach yourself to me since it will help you enter the Demon Sovereign Realm," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Money had obtained the celestial horn, but his refinement of the horn was extremely slow since the horn was too high of a grade. They might share the same origin, but it still wasn't easy to absorb. Therefore, it would be better for Money to first become a Demon Sovereign. Then, it would be much easier for him to refine the horn.

"Sure," answered Money in excitement as he attached himself to Xiang Shaoyun's body.

In recent days, Xiang Shaoyun had not let Money enter his astral cosmos sea. This had helped Money adapt to the outside world and rely on himself in terms of breakthroughs. After all, the astral cosmos sea was not flawless despite the numerous benefits of staying within it, and it no longer helped Money as much as in the past.

With Money attached to Xiang Shaoyun's arms, Xiang Shaoyun looked like someone with an impressive arm tattoo.

Xiang Shaoyun adjusted his condition, slowly tossing all thoughts out of his mind as he entered a state of meditation. He meditated on all his recent experiences.

He found that his energy circulation had become much smoother and about twice faster than before. The discovery confused him somewhat, but he was still pleased with it. He concluded that after settling a matter that had been gnawing at his mind and losing his virginity, he had further matured and his mental state had grown more formidable.

Whatever the reason, this was a great improvement that was worth being happy about. First, he spread his lightning energy throughout his body. He released his soul foundation, causing a thick yet simple nine-colored energy to emanate from it. On the soul foundation, mysterious and abstruse soul marks could be seen.

After entering his optimal state, he took out the starfall lightning, which his past life had sealed. The seal could only be removed with his bloodline power and innate lightning power.

Unsealing it was what Xiang Shaoyun was about to do. He dripped a drop of his blood essence on the seal and channeled his innate lightning energy into the starfall lightning, tearing the seal apart.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

A terrifying lightning dragon soared into the air and pounced toward Xiang Shaoyun. The dragon was purple, its body thick and tough. It carried an incomparably dreadful lightning power and was lifelike enough for anyone to instinctively feel fear by looking at it.

Xiang Shaoyun was instantly swallowed before he could react. He felt himself being cooked alive, and his wails started reverberating in the air. The lightning dragon destroyed his clothes and torched his skin black.

Money, attached to his body, trembled and presented a somewhat comical sight of a coiling tattoo.

Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun's soul foundation was sufficiently tough. Otherwise, the lightning dragon would have instantly destroyed Xiang Shaoyun. His flesh might be tough, but starfall lightning was too powerful. If he couldn't withstand the lightning power, how could he hope to refine it?

"Starfall lightning, stand still! I'm your master!" Xiang Shaoyun roared.

His blood boiled, and his innate lightning power stirred as he tried to resonate with the starfall lightning and tell the lightning that they were meant to be one. Unfortunately, the starfall lightning's consciousness seemed to have grown hazy after years of being sealed. Moreover, Xiang Shaoyun was ultimately a different person now. It wouldn't be easy for him to awaken the starfall lightning's consciousness.

He felt like he was on the verge of being cooked alive. Skin, meridians, bones—every inch of his body was filled with extreme pain. Even after circulating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, he failed to pull the berserk energy toward his lightning star and lightning bone.

If this continued, it would only be a matter of time before he was reduced into a pile of mincemeat. His brain raced for a solution. He recalled the Limit Stimulation Technique, the only technique that could help him in this situation.

The second stage of the technique surfaced in his mind as he prepared to use the starfall lightning power to break through to the next stage. The Limit Stimulation Technique's second stage involved training one's skin and gaining a skin of steel immune to the elements and all weapons.

A foundation had been built during the first stage of its cultivation. Thus, using the Limit Stimulation Technique again was much easier than before. With the starfall lightning power helping to temper his body, his flesh was greatly enhanced.

However, the starfall lightning was too powerful. It would be too much of a waste to use this power to only temper his skin. In any case, he wouldn't be able to exhaust the power by only tempering his skin with it.

Thus, he started cultivating the third and fourth stages simultaneously. The third stage was the meridians like river stage. During this stage, one would further expand one's meridians, allowing the meridians to contain a greater amount of energy, increasing one's combat strength.

The fourth stage was the organs like the sun stage. One's inner organs would turn into a machine supplying an endless amount of life force, and it would push one's vitality to the highest level.

Cultivating three stages at the same time, Xiang Shaoyun managed to split the starfall lightning energy into three portions. The berserk energy assaulted his nerves, making him feel like he was floating in the air.

If it wasn't for his fortitude, which was far beyond an ordinary person's, Xiang Shaoyun would have already mentally collapsed. The so-called Limit Stimulation Technique was a technique that pushed one's limits during cultivation. Only by doing so would one be able to achieve an effect similar to rebirth.

His skin was destroyed, his meridians were torn apart, and his inner organs burst apart. He was on the verge of death. His voice turned hoarse from all the wailing, and at one point, he even lost his voice. His mind was on the verge of collapse, a condition similar to when the flux goldthorn energy had tormented him. No, to be precise, this pain was far worse.

Fifth stage, bones as weapons!