

Overlord 1101

Chapter 1101: Fighting the Kui Ox

With the Radiant Saint Sword in hand, Xiang Shaoyun slashed left and right, destroying one skeleton after another. They weren't able to harm him much. However, the bone race members were not to be underestimated. Some of their experts rushed over and unleashed waves of powerful silverbone energy that crashed into Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was both happy and worried seeing the silverbone energy attacks. He was happy because the three-colored snake was distracted and no longer chasing him. On the other hand, he was worried because the attacks were too powerful.

It wouldn't be too bad if he could utilize his energy, but since he couldn't, he had to rely on his physical body and reaction to avoid the attacks. He quickly put his armor on as he prioritized staying alive.

Just as he was trying very hard to flee, he suddenly heard someone roar with laughter, "Hahahaha, I can finally use my energy. Excellent. Let's see who can stop me from obtaining the grotto's inheritance now?"

Not far away was a person standing before the stele. He had regained his full strength. Using his weapon, he unleashed destruction in all directions, looking incomparably bold and powerful.

The people hiding in the area were shocked. They realized that their suppression might vanish if they approached the stele. They madly rushed toward it.

The stele was probably the true location for the competition's final round. The bone race members guarding the place moved. They moved together, unleashing valiant attacks toward the intruders.

Some beasts and freaks appeared as well, and the entire scene became bustling with activity. With saint armor protecting him, Xiang Shaoyun withstood the many attacks striking him. He, like the others, charged toward the stele without hesitation.

He moved like a slippery eel, dodging left and right as he advanced. He evaded numerous attacks and constantly swung his saint sword, destroying the skeletons in his path. He did not know how many attacks he had received. Neither did he know how many skeletons he had destroyed. Eventually, he reached the stele but encountered the kui ox again. It had obviously committed him to its memory and had decided to come for him the moment it saw him again.

"Holy shit! Why are you aiming for me?" Xiang Shaoyun cursed and swung his saint sword instead of running.

Unfortunately, the kui ox was too fast. It moved to the side and dodged the attack before sending its tail whipping toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Pa!

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't avoid the attack in time and was whipped across the face. A burning pain assaulted him.

"You should never hit someone's face. You're dead!" Xiang Shaoyun was infuriated. With a roar, he started madly swinging his sword at the kui ox.

He used his footwork to constantly shift his position. Each swing of his sword was carried out with his full strength as he vowed to slash this ox apart. However, the kui ox was too powerful. It was also aware of the threat the saint sword. Thus, as it evaded the attacks, it roared furiously.

The roar seemed to come from primordial times, penetrating time and space to enter Xiang Shaoyun's heart. He felt a massive impact to his heart, and he coughed up a mouth of blood as he was sent flying backward.

Fortunately, he had tempered his inner organs to the point they were akin to blazing suns. His life force was incredibly vigorous, and his flesh was tough. Otherwise, that roar alone would have probably crushed all his organs.

Xiang Shaoyun realized that even with access to his energy, he still wouldn't be this kui ox's match. His soul clone would need to be the one to deal with this ox. He wanted to release his soul clone, but there were too many bone race members around. Without access to his energy, he couldn't afford to release his clone since not even his clone would be able to do anything without energy.

The kui ox's roar threw him even nearer to the stele. He scrambled back to his feet, crashed through numerous skeletons, and rushed toward the stele. Skeletons were still swarming him from all directions, trying their very best to stop him.

Behind him was the kui ox, who was still trying to chase Xiang Shaoyun. It was somewhat impeded by the skeletons that were everywhere, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to stagger to the stele before reaching it.

Alas, the headless stone lion suddenly appeared and tackled him mercilessly. Xiang Shaoyun had just gotten free of several skeletons attacking him. Before he could regain his footing, the lion rammed into him. If he wasn't protected by his saint armor, the tackle alone would have heavily injured him.

After he was tackled, the skeletons around him continued bombarding him with attacks from their bone weapons. He was having great difficulty dealing with all their attacks.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun was sent flying away. He found himself admiring the person who had successfully reached the stele. He was most definitely someone with an extremely incredible combat strength.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't sit around doing nothing. He did not intend to be killed off so easily. He tried to activate the Nether Soul Domain, but the attempt failed. He was completely out of options. It was only then that he discovered that he had heavily crashed onto the steps before the stele.

Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun regained access to his nine stars, and the energy in his meridians came to life. He had regained access to energy. He felt like a devil who had escaped suppression, finally able to vent his anger at the world.

His nine stars stirred, and his nine energies erupted at the same time. A dazzling nine-colored radiance enveloped him, making him look like a divine being. With a swing of his Radiant Saint Sword, a world-shaking attack was unleashed before him.

The powerful energy attack turned all the skeletons before him into dust. They were completely helpless against him and his weapon. After all, saint weapons were also extraordinary existences with boundless strength. With the addition of energy, it was finally able to unleash its might.

"Elders, please show yourself. These mortals that dare to disturb the master's slumber deserve death," a skeleton started praying.

The bone race members were still madly swarming the intruders without a care for their own lives.

After swinging his sword several times, Xiang Shaoyun found that too many skeletons were in the area. Some stronger ones might appear soon as well, so he decided to wait no longer, and he continued approaching the stele.

The grotto's secret was on the stele, and it remained to be seen who would obtain the secret. Xiang Shaoyun was finally able to make use of his unparalleled speed. His figure flickered as he advanced, leaving a series of afterimages in his path.

Suddenly, two massive skeletons crawled out from the ground beside the stele. Bone wings grew out of the two skeletons. The bone runes on their skulls looked much more extraordinary than that of the regular bone race members. It was obvious these two were different from the others.

Chapter 1102: Nether Yin Palm Versus Bone Saint

The two skeletons with bone wings were Saints of the bone race. Their bones had entered the Saint Realm, granting them a heaven-defying combat strength. For generations, they had guarded the stele. The two Bone Saints split up, determined to kill every single intruder.

One of the intruders shouted, "Everyone, work together and focus on getting to the stele first. We will be fine after reaching there."

The shout acted as a reminder for everyone to work together to approach the stele.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he found with great sadness that nobody was working with him. Furthermore, he had a Bone Saint charging at him. The bone runes on the Bone Saint pulsed as it flapped its wings, sending a rain of bone spikes toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The Bone Saint completely disregarded the other bone race members around Xiang Shaoyun as it unleashed an attack covering a wide area, as though their lives were worthless.

"Is there a need to place so much focus on me?" Xiang Shaoyun howled in grief as his soul clone appeared before him. A Yin Yang Shield was manifested by the clone to block the incoming bone spikes.

The soul clone had the strength of a peak Sovereign. With his ability to punch above his weight, he could fully protect himself against a Saint even if he couldn't go toe to toe with one.

Energies of yin and yang circled, forming a powerful shield that fully protected Xiang Shaoyun. Not even a peak Sovereign could hope to get through the shield. Alas, the shield was too weak before the Bone Saint. The numerous bone spikes pierced through the shield and filled it with holes.

The chakram appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's hand. He spun it relentlessly, forcefully blocking many of the incoming bone spikes. However, the cost was that his clone was sent flying away, and the chakram nearly flew out of his grip.

The spikes were only a casual attack. From the might of this one attack, one could see just how formidable the Bone Saint was. Xiang Shaoyun knew that with a Bone Saint guarding the stele, reaching the stele would be much harder.

The Bone Saint's second attack came for him. This time, the soul clone used the Nether Yin Gate. A black hole manifested in the air, unleashing a powerful suction force that pulled the Bone Saint's attack into the black hole.

When the Bone Saint saw it, traces of fear surfaced on its face as it exclaimed in alarm, "This looks like the Imperial Nether Clan's Nether Yin Gate!"

For a Saint to be so fearful of the Nether Yin Gate, could it be that the gate still had some other terrifying secrets? Xiang Shaoyun seemed to realize the same thing. An indescribable sensation overwhelmed him as some memories awakened in his bloodline. He channeled even more devilish energy into the Nether Yin Gate, further enhancing the gate's might.

Abruptly, a pair of black hands reached out from the Nether Yin Gate. Dense devilish energy accompanied the hands as they clawed at the Bone Saint. The black hands were akin to the hands of an enormous devil. An incredibly sinister aura accompanied them; the two hands' long devilish claws planted fear in all who looked at them.

A powerful sense of oppression descended as though a Devil Saint had appeared. Not even the Bone Saint could afford to underestimate the pair of hands. The Bone Saint brandished its bone saber and slashed at the two hands.

A powerful explosion ensued, causing the place to shake as a powerful energy wave rippled out, sending everyone nearby tumbling away. The bone race members outnumbered everyone present. As a destructive battle erupted, the skeletons hurriedly left the battleground. It was now all up to the Saints to deal with the intruders.

The Bone Saints were the final obstacle for Xiang Shaoyun and the other intruders to reach the stele. Even with his saint armor, Xiang Shaoyun's main body was sent tumbling away by the shockwave. He nearly left the stele's range. If that happened, he would once again lose access to his energy.

He remained close to the ground and watched on as the devil hands continued reaching out of the gate. As he watched, more memories surfaced from his bloodline.

The Nether Yin Gate was the gate to the Netherland, a place with extremely thick yin and death auras. Meanwhile, this grotto was filled with life force and had a thick yin aura under the soil. Otherwise, all these bone race members wouldn't be able to live and prosper here.

In the Netherland, nether yin devils could be found. They were extremely terrifying existences. Like human yin ghosts, yin devils wielded the dreadful nether yin energy. Generally speaking, an Imperial Nether Clan member would have to reach the Saint Realm before gaining the ability to summon nether yin devils from the Nether Yin Gate.

Since Xiang Shaoyun's clone only had the strength of a peak Sovereign, he hadn't been able to sense the nether yin devils through the Nether Yin Gate. However, the rich yin energy in the grotto had caught the nether yin devils' attention. This had allowed Xiang Shaoyun to summon them from the gate. Unfortunately, he was too weak to summon an entire nether yin devil. Otherwise, something more than a pair of hands would come through the gate.

When that pair of hands went through the gate, Xiang Shaoyun felt the pressure in his bloodline intensify as his energy drained at a rapid rate. He probably wouldn't be able to keep this up for long.

Fortunately, just the pair of hands was enough to give the Bone Saint a terrible time, giving him a complete advantage over the Bone Saint. If not even the devil hands worked, he would not know what to do.

As for the other intruders, they did not possess such an impressive combat strength. They suffered a great defeat under the hands of the other Bone Saint. Only a few were able to barely put on some fight, and they had only been able to do so thanks to the complete sets of saint equipment they wielded.

Xiang Shaoyun saw an opportunity. With the regular bone race members retreating, his main body was free. He could take this chance to reach the stele. Without any hesitation, he activated his saint armor and pushed his speed to the limits as he rushed toward the stele.

He no longer held anything back as he fully unleashed his wind star. He also used the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and footwork intent. He even manifested his white tiger wings as he streaked toward the stele.

His main body moved as fast as any peak Sovereign. Meanwhile, his soul clone was trying his best to maintain the Nether Yin Gate's activation. The devil hands continued clawing at the Bone Saint, flooding their surroundings with a sinister energy that caused space itself to crack. The battle between those in the Saint Realm was incredibly destructive and far beyond an ordinary person's imagination.

"Come help me destroy this nether yin devil!" the Bone Saint finally called for help because it could barely handle the devil hands.

"You just need to get rid of that little devil. Why are you wasting so much effort on the hands?" replied the other Bone Saint before sending a saber energy attack toward Xiang Shaoyun's clone.

If the attack struck, the clone would probably be badly injured. Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly squeezed the final bit of strength he had left. With his mental power, he controlled the nether yin devil hands and had them split some of their strength to block the attack.

As the pressure on him doubled, Xiang Shaoyun's clone finally exhausted all his strength. The Nether Yin Gate started closing, and he lost the ability to deal with the Bone Saints. He was placed in a dangerous predicament.

Chapter 1103: Numerous Saint Herbs

The Bone Saint was incredibly powerful. Without the nether yin devil hands getting in its way, who could still stop its advance? Sensing the impending crisis, Xiang Shaoyun's main body rushed toward the stele with all his strength. As for his clone, he naturally started fleeing back to the main body to prevent any mishaps.

Alas, his summoning of the nether yin devil hands had infuriated the Bone Saint. The Saint roared, "Little devil, don't even think about running."

It swung its bone saber, tearing through space to arrive before the soul clone. The clone blocked the attack with the chakram and was sent crashing far away. His aura started to weaken.

He had exhausted himself too much earlier, and the gap between him and the Bone Saint was already huge in the first place. It was not surprising that he had failed to fully block the Bone Saint's attack.

Xiang Shaoyun's clone fled with all his strength. Relying on pure willpower, he escaped with his last shred of energy. The Bone Saint gave chase and swung its bone saber yet again. If the attack landed, his clone would probably be destroyed then and there.

Clank!

Unable to avoid the attack, the clone was struck to the ground. Contrary to all expectations, he wasn't completely decimated. What had blocked the fatal attack for him? It was none other than the Nether Soul Dragon Headband he was wearing on his head.

At this time, his main body finally reached the stele. A unique power seemed to cover the stele's immediate surroundings, loosening the pressure he was feeling. He had a feeling that this was a place the bone race members would not approach.

Just as the Bone Saint was able to unleash another attack at his clone, Xiang Shaoyun roared, "Clone, return!"

With that, the clone transformed into a phantom. Under the Nether Soul Dragon Headband's protection, the clone drifted back toward his main body. However, the Bone Saint had still struck the phantom, giving him a dizzy spell that nearly caused him to faint.

Fortunately, his clone was able to persevere. Under the Nether Soul Dragon Headband's protection, he gritted his teeth and continued, eventually returning to the main body. Xiang Shaoyun felt emptied of energy. He plopped down onto the ground weakly. The Bone Saint rushed over, but it did not dare to approach the stele. Neither did it dare to release any attacks in the stele's direction.

It could only curse outside the stele's range, "Little devil, get your ass out here. Do not disturb my master's slumber, or you will die a miserable death and fail to reincarnate for an eternity."

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun ignored the Bone Saint and used the Secret Reversal Technique to quickly heal his wounds. Utilizing his wood star and profundity of wood, the Secret Reversal Technique started working its magic. His injuries healed bit by bit.

After shouting for a while, the Bone Saint left resentfully and started venting its anger on the other intruders. Two days passed. More and more intruders entered the area, but few could get through the Bone Saints. Most had either been killed or forced to retreat.

Three other individuals had managed to slaughter a path to the stele. One was a peak Sovereign with a powerful nine-layered soul foundation that emanated the power of a pseudo-Saint. Relying on a saint weapon, he had blasted a path to the stele.

The second person was a demonic beast, an eight-winged bee Sovereign who could freely change his size. Relying on this ability and his speed, he had reached the stele.

The third person was a woman from the flower fairy race. Members of the flower fairy race greatly resembled humans. However, their hair and skin were akin to flowers with floral petals, differentiating them from humans and giving them a rather unique look.

She was a peak Sovereign, and utilizing a wide variety of unpredictable and ever-changing techniques, she had reached the stele.

After getting through the bone race, none of them focused on the stele. Rather, they all focused on recovering.

Xiang Shaoyun's injuries had recovered rapidly in the span of two days. However, his soul clone would take much longer to recover. Even with the soul raising stone and soul spring water, he still needed time to heal the clone. Only the saint soul pill would allow the clone to heal rapidly.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to waste another saint soul pill. The grotto wasn't a suitable place to consume a pill either. Thus, he could only consume some other herbs beneficial to the soul and slowly recuperate. Without the Nether Soul Dragon Headband's protection, his soul clone would have been destroyed by the Bone Saint, and it would have been a disastrous loss.

The eight-winged bee Sovereign was the first to recover. He had only lost a wing, but it did not affect him much. He flew up and started studying the stele, trying to figure out the stele's secret. He was disappointed to find nothing. Just as he was about to erupt in anger, he noticed several saint

herbs behind the stele. His eyes burned with greed. He rushed over and reached for the herbs. But just as he was about to touch them, a burst of energy erupted and blasted him away.

He roared in fury, "Damn it! Why are there restrictions everywhere! My saint herbs!"

His shout roused Xiang Shaoyun, the old man, and the flower fairy from their meditation. Saint herbs were too attractive. Even if they hadn't fully recovered, they wouldn't willingly give up on any saint herb they could get.

Xiang Shaoyun, the old man, and the flower fairy flew up and looked in the eight-winged bee's direction. There, they saw several saint herbs exuding thick medicinal power growing on the ground behind the stele.

"Dragonshape grass!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm when his gaze landed on a dragon-shaped plant.

The plant was about a meter in length. It was bright green, looking like a five-clawed azure dragon trying to soar into the sky. The old man's gaze landed on a 10,000-year-old green rattan, causing his eyes to light up.

The 10,000-year-old green rattan was capable of extending one's lifespan and returning youth to one's body. If one used the rattan, one's life force would return to its peak, making this rattan an extremely valuable herb for those in old age.

As for the flower fairy, her gaze landed on a saint flower that looked incredibly enchanting and smelled incredibly pleasant. The flower greatly enticed her.

"Let's work together to break this restriction and split the herbs among us. What do you think?" suggested the eight-winged bee.

"I have no problem," said the old man.

The flower fairy hesitated for a bit before agreeing, "Sure, but I want that flower."

"How about you, kid?" asked the eight-winged bee when he saw that Xiang Shaoyun was keeping his mouth shut.

"I'm fine," Xiang Shaoyun answered.

"Good. Let's get to work!" said the eight-winged bee.

Just as they were about to break the restriction, an indescribable power surged out of the stele, and a phantom manifested before them.

Chapter 1104: Terrifying Restriction Power

The blurry phantom came in the form of a face that was plain yet exuded a thick majesty. When Xiang Shaoyun and the others saw the face, they went on high alert, afraid that the face would suddenly attack.

"For being able to reach here, all of you are fated individuals. You may each take away a saint herb," said the phantom with a voice that seemed like it had come from bygone times, a voice that had gone through a long passage of time.

Xiang Shaoyun and the others blanked out when they heard what the face said. They could leave with these saint herbs? This was definitely too good to be true. They found it hard to believe. And yet the restriction before them had indeed vanished. They could now freely pluck the saint herbs.

The eight-winged bee was the first to charge forward. A certain saint herb that would help him greatly had caught his eyes. The old man and the fairy hesitated slightly before rushing forth to their respective saint herbs as well. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was still hesitant. In fact, he felt extremely fearful of the free gift.

"Why are you not taking your saint herb? If you wait, there will be nothing left," asked the phantom face.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and looked at the face. A firm look covered his face as he said, "I don't want it anymore."

"Are you sure? It will be quite a pity," asked the phantom with a sigh.

The moment the phantom spoke, the restriction power returned, alarming the eight-winged bee, the old man, and the fairy as they tried escaping frantically. Unfortunately, they weren't fast enough. They were soon suppressed by the restriction power.

"Bastard, get lost!" roared the eight-winged bee as a long golden spike appeared from his tail and stabbed at the restriction power.

But when the golden spike struck the restriction, it bounced off and crashed into the ground. The old man demonstrated his might as well. He released his nine-layered soul foundation, combining the strands of sparkling energy around his soul foundation with his astral energy. He erupted with a powerful combat strength as he swung his saint weapon at the restriction.

"Break!" declared the old man confidently as he attacked. This was a proper saint weapon that had helped him greatly in the past. He believed that it would not fail him this time either.

Alas, he was mistaken. When his saint weapon struck the restriction, no miracle was created. His attack was fully blocked, failing to do anything to the restriction. The fairy also made her move.

She formed a seal with both hands and manifested a massive blooming flower. The flower rippled with stunning energy as a flower-shaped arrow appeared in her hand. It shot toward the restriction.

The fairy was actually much stronger than the eight-winged bee and the old man. Even the restriction shook under her attack. Unfortunately, she was still not strong enough to break through the restriction.

"Let's work together!" the old man roared.

The three joined hands and unleashed a bombardment at the restriction.

Their joint attack was exceedingly terrifying, containing a might to destroy a mountain range in the blink of an eye. The powerful impact alarmed Xiang Shaoyun, and he hurriedly retreated. He definitely didn't want to be hit by a stray attack when the restriction retaliated against the three. The joint attack might be powerful, but it was still unable to affect the restriction.

"Don't bother. Just stay," said the phantom as the restriction started changing.

Behind the stele, the graveyard, filled with spiritual energy, suddenly turned into a zone of blood. The soil, herbs, and buildings transformed into piles of bones, as though time was accelerating rapidly as the entire world shifted.

The three Sovereigns trapped within the restriction also started changing. The old man's life force started weakening, and his black hair turned white while his skin shriveled until it looked like tree bark. It was a terrifying scene to behold.

"W-what is going on? Why is my life force draining? This is impossible! This must be an illusion!" the old man roared in panic.

Anyone would sink into a panic in this situation.

"Why am I turning old? What is happening? Yes, this must be an illusion! This damn restriction, I need to break it!" The same thing happened to the eight-winged bee, and he started doing everything he could to save himself.

The flower fairy was also aging abruptly. Similarly, she did not sit around doing nothing. She tried shoving the saint herb in her hand down her throat, but then she found that the herb had withered just like her.

"Why is this happening? I don't want to die!" the fairy howled in alarm.

The three struggled madly, trying to charge out of the restriction.

"Save me! Young brother, save me!" The old man called weakly in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

"Please, save us. We will reward you generously," the eight-winged bee and flower fairy begged as well.

They had no other option, and they viewed Xiang Shaoyun as their final lifeline.

Looking at them, Xiang Shaoyun said indifferently, "You are all stronger than me. How am I supposed to save you? You should beg this thing instead."

The phantom was still there. Xiang Shaoyun had been standing to the side vigilantly, not daring to be careless. He would not even think of saving the three, as that was basically suicide.

The three turned to the phantom and begged, "Please spare us. We don't want the saint herbs anymore."

In the face of death, they could give up even dignity, to say nothing of some saint herbs.

"Haha, I can't save you. Only he can save you," said the phantom, who started roaring with laughter.

"I can save them?" Xiang Shaoyun asked as he pointed at himself.

"Yes, you can. You're the only one. Hahaha!" said the phantom as it laughed before slowly vanishing into the air.

"Young brother, please, save us!" pleaded the old man as he bowed.

"Please, you must help me! I will repay you generously!" shouted the eight-winged bee.

The fairy was too weak to speak, but the way she was looking at Xiang Shaoyun made it clear what she was thinking. Who would want to die if one could continue living? Xiang Shaoyun did not give them blind promises. He used the profundity of earth and tried sensing any formations underground.

Unfortunately, he found nothing. Or perhaps there was a formation here, but it was too sophisticated for him to detect.

After giving it some thought, his gaze landed on the stele as he muttered, "Is the solution on the stele?"

Chapter 1105: Dao of Time

Everything in the area was changing, with the stele being the only thing that was unchanging. Standing before the stele, Xiang Shaoyun remained unaffected. He had a feeling that the stele was the only thing that could resist the power working all around him. The key to solving this situation could probably be found on the stele as well.

Without any hesitation, he flew toward the stele. The stele was massive—several kilometers high and several meters wide. On its mottled surface were ancient markings. There was no order to the markings, and they did not look like any characters or symbols. Rather, they looked like some irregular totems or imprints left behind by a super expert.

In short, nobody could understand the markings. If so, how could anyone hope to understand anything from looking at them? Even with the Light of Wisdom, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't figure out anything about the markings.

He flew up and down as he took a rough glance at the entirety of the stele before sinking into deep thought. He was sure that the stele hid this place's secret since he could sense some unique undulations from the chaotic markings.

The undulations felt like they were resonating with a certain part of his body or perhaps a certain power in his body. The resonance was the crucial point he was focused on. After thinking about it for a bit, he was still completely clueless. Thus, he decided to fly toward one of the markings and touch it with his hand.

The moment he touched the marking, something astonishing happened. He started growing younger, from a youth to a teenager, then to a child, and to even younger. He was stunned.

"What's going on? Why am I growing younger?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm.

Anyone else would be overjoyed to regain youth, but Xiang Shaoyun was at the peak of his youth. He had no interest in reliving his childhood. However, everything had happened too quickly. He wasn't the least bit prepared for it, which was why he was so shocked.

He hurriedly pulled his hand back. The moment his hand left the stele, he returned to his original appearance.

Only then did he release a breath of relief. He seemed to have come to a realization, and he muttered, "This is the Spacetime Grotto. They are aging while I am growing younger. This is a manifestation of the passage of time. Is this stele hiding the secret of time?"

At that thought, he reached out for a different marking. After touching it, his appearance did not change. However, he could feel time flowing by him while he himself was frozen in time, watching on as everything he had experienced replayed before him as if he was a third party.

It was a unique experience, one that endlessly astonished him. He wondered just what kind of expert had left something like this behind, granting him such an experience. He reached out for yet another marking.

This time, he started aging. In a flash, he reached the end of his life. The sensation of looming death was much more terrifying than the sensation of returning to childhood. He panicked.

Everything felt too real. Even if he knew that everything was an illusion, he still broke out in cold sweat. Even after pulling his hand back, he still felt fear in his heart. He was forced to take some time off to calm his mind.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but exclaim in admiration, "The power of time is too terrifying. If a cultivator manages to comprehend this power, they would probably become undefeatable. Who can hope to stop such a cultivator?"

The dao of time only existed in legends. Only the ultimate geniuses with the best physiques during the primordial times had been able to cultivate this dao. In fact, no time cultivator had appeared again in the distant ancient past, the ancient past, and the present era.

One could say that being able to even feel the dao of time was a massive opportunity for Xiang Shaoyun. After adjusting his condition, he reached out for a different marking, sensing a different change this time. To be born, to grow old, to get sick, and to die. Happiness, anger, sorrow, and joy. Time flowed constantly, and the heaven and the earth were the only constant.

After witnessing different sceneries, living through different experiences, and experiencing different passages of time, Xiang Shaoyun's memories from his two past lives and present life became much clearer in his head. He saw the model of time, and he learned more about cause and effect, allowing him to get a clearer look at the memory fragments he had buried in the river of time.

The memories of his conflict against the top organizations of the eight regions became exceptionally clear. Back then, he was encircled by the eight super experts beyond the Saint Realm. His Overlord Skyslaying Saber was broken in the battle, and he ultimately met his end with the destruction of his entire body.

If he hadn't made all his preparations prior to his death, he wouldn't have been able to reincarnate and leave his inheritance for this life.

After experiencing the enlightenment from the markings, the three lifelines on each of his palms became incredibly clear, proving his identity as someone who had lived three lives.

Very few people could awaken their memories from two past lives. Someone like that was most definitely the pet of the heavens. Such past memories would greatly enhance one's life experience. It was extremely important for any cultivator and ensured the cultivator would make fewer mistakes in cultivation.

Standing before the stele, Xiang Shaoyun had his eyes shut as he recalled everything he had experienced earlier. Unknowingly, an ancient aura started radiating from his body. He still looked youthful, yet he felt like an old man. Or to be precise, he now seemed much more mature and reliable.

However, experiencing all that did not mean that he could manipulate the power of time and rescue the old man, the eight-winged bee, and the flower fairy. Currently, they were on the verge of death. They no longer had the energy to even speak. All they could do was keep their eyes open, maintaining the final bit of clarity they had and hoping that a miracle would appear. Without a miracle, this would be their end.

After all, they were in a completely different situation than Xiang Shaoyun. They were suppressed by the restriction while Xiang Shaoyun wasn't. Thus, they couldn't leave the restriction and could only helplessly wait for death.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes. Strands of radiance swirled in them, as though he had gained a lot from the stele. He soared into the sky, heading toward the very top of the stele. When he reached the top, he saw two deep palm prints on it. Those two palms were the key to the stele's secret.

Without hesitation, he reached for the two prints.

Chapter 1106: Comprehending the Dao of Time

The two palm prints looked ordinary, but they gave off an extraordinary feeling. Any regular person placing their palms on the prints wouldn't invoke any reaction. Only someone like Xiang Shaoyun, who had experienced the dao of time and cultivated the powers of yin and yang, would be able to trigger a reaction from the prints.

Xiang Shaoyun met both requirements. More importantly, he also had the Light of Wisdom. All those factored in when it came to unlocking the secret of these prints. When Xiang Shaoyun was

experiencing the dao of time, his Light of Wisdom had allowed him to obtain a deep comprehension of it. He had even formed some sort of resonance with the dao of time, allowing him to slightly comprehend the profundity of time.

The dao of time was something only someone with the Light of Wisdom could comprehend. Anyone without the Light of Wisdom would probably only be able to scratch the surface of the dao.

With both his palms on the prints, the Light of Wisdom activated. He muttered, "The two extremities begets the yin and yang. The yin and yang spun into time and space, which begets all creation. Embracing the yin, guarding the yang..."

He was chanting the Desolate mantra, which contained the profundities of the supreme great dao. This was a mantra that would grant him boundless comprehension each time he chanted it. This time was no exception.

As he chanted the mantra, his energies of yin and yang flowed out. The energies of black and white surged out from both his hands and entered the stele. And when the two energies entered the stele, an astonishing change occurred.

Two energies burst out of the stele. One was black, and one was white, each turning into a dragonfish and swimming in the air. A boundless power surged into the sky, shaking the entire grotto. The many bone race members, beasts, and other beings prostrated on the ground, not daring to do anything.

The two dragonfish swam in a circle and formed a Tai Chi diagram, with each chasing the other's tail. The prints on the stele erupted in power, blooming with the dao of time. The dao instantly threw the passage of time in the area into chaos.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, both his palms were stuck on the prints. It wouldn't be easy for him to pull his hands out. His energies of yin and yang were also flowing uncontrollably out of his body into the stele.

At the same time, his Light of Wisdom shone brightly, releasing strands of light that tangled with the chaotic power of time around him. The strands constantly absorbed the dao of time into the space inside his head.

His soul foundation manifested by itself. His soul with the Nether Soul Dragon Headband on it sat atop his soul foundation as his foundation started accepting the marks of the dao of time.

This was a form of ancient inheritance—an inheritance of a great dao. It would implant some memories in Xiang Shaoyun that would last for eternity, and they couldn't be erased. In the future, he would be able to slowly comprehend the implanted memories.

He had touched many of the markings on the stele earlier. But now that the powers of multiple markings were manifesting at the same time, his mind sank into chaos. His age changed constantly. From a young man, he turned into a middle-aged man, then an old man, and then he changed again. He experienced numerous tortures almost collapsed mentally.

Time was the only thing nobody was immune to, unless one had gone beyond the Saint Realm, entering the realm of godhood. While Xiang Shaoyun was tormented by the dao of time, his Light of Wisdom continuously enlightened him.

The markings of the dao of time started resonating with the Desolation mantra, as though the two had always been one.

The dao of time seemed to be complementing the Desolation mantra, further perfecting the mantra. At the same time, the dao of time also existed independently without conflicting with the other portions of the Desolation mantra.

Time passed while Xiang Shaoyun's yin and yang energies slowly dried up. The energy powering the stele started lessening, and the chaotic power of time started calming. The yin and yang dragonfish also began to fade, but the marks branded onto his soul foundation by the Light of Wisdom remained.

When the dragonfish vanished, all the energy in the area vanished. Calm returned. Xiang Shaoyun sat weakly atop the stele, his entire body drenched with sweat. He did not dare to loosen his nerves. He directly sat cross-legged and entered a state of meditation. He emptied his mind and started comprehending the inheritance he had just received.

The dao of time was the most heaven-defying dao in existence, one of the strongest daos. It controlled time, controlled life and death; all living beings feared it.

The different powers of the time marks appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's mind. He also went through all that had happened when the dao of time and Desolation mantra resonated.

He repeatedly studied the yin and yang dragonfish. Every move of the dragonfish was akin to the flow and ebb of time, stimulating the passage of time and presenting a clear dao of time before him. Time fragments flashed through his mind. They were hazy and ethereal, yet it was undeniable that they existed.

Even with the Light of Wisdom, Xiang Shaoyun failed to memorize all the time fragments he saw. He couldn't comprehend the dao of time with only one look at the fragments. However, he had still benefited greatly. He had deepened his understanding of the dao of time, which placed him far ahead of many cultivators. He had even obtained some inspiration on how to utilize the dao of time in battle.

Previously, his Yin Yang Shield was capable of protecting him. Now, not only had the shield's defensive prowess grown, but he could also transform the powers of yin and yang into the sharpest blade to harm his enemies.

He recalled Devil Concubine's method of yin and yang manipulation that could be used offensively and defensively. Now, he was also capable of the same. This was the benefit of grasping the dao of time. Even though he had barely scratched its surface, the little comprehension he had was extremely valuable.

He sat there for an indeterminate amount of time before he finally woke up. When he opened his eyes, energies of yin and yang swirled in his eyes, with one of his eyes white and the other black.

"The dao of time is basically the dao of yin and yang. Dividing the yin and yang, time shall flow. As time flows, the yin and yang will spin, stimulating the passage of time. As the yin and yang continue to spin together, time shall return. The movement of yin and yang is equal to the movement of time. Heaven and earth are yin and yang, and this is eternal. The one grasping the yin and yang will be unequaled," muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

The more he learned about the dao of time, the more he realized how terrifying the great dao was. He came to the realization that all he had cultivated so far was merely a drop in the ocean representing the great dao. His present accomplishments were nothing in the grand scheme of things.

He casually drew a sword and started practicing swordplay right where he stood. Strands of yin and yang energies started swirling around him as he danced with the sword.

Initially, the strands appeared in a chaotic manner and were in a complete mess. But as the yin and yang dragonfish started spinning in his soul foundation, chaos receded, and order came. The strands were moving in a smooth and orderly manner.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Chapter 1107: Yin and Yang Offensive

The sword sliced through the air gently, looking completely unassuming. However, there seemed to be a certain law contained within the sword strokes as the powers of yin and yang moved in accordance with the sword. The sword dance looked completely disorderly, yet it also looked exceptionally profound. The more one looked at it, the more complicated it seemed.

Xiang Shaoyun was testing out the offensive ability of the dao of time. He followed the flow of his sword and moved alongside the yin and yang dragonfish. His speed kept rising, his range of motions kept increasing, and his sword's might become increasingly terrifying as strands of yin and yang energies swirled around him. It was as though he was wielding a certain power of nature itself, demonstrating mastery over a dreadful power.

A Yin Yang Diagram manifested with him at the center. He exuded an indescribable bearing, as though he was a grandmaster of cultivation. After an indeterminate amount of time, an incredibly stunning sword strike shot out and sliced through the air. The slice seemed to have separated yin and yang and stopped time itself.

This was an offensive technique utilizing the powers of yin and yang—Instant Tempo!

Xiang Shaoyun was not done comprehending the dao of time. He continued dancing with his sword, trying to seek techniques that suited him more. After more time, yet another stunning sword strike was launched. The slash carried with it the fragments of time. It seemed to accelerate the flow of time and was an attack nobody could hope to stop.

The slash could steal time and make one age rapidly. It was a terrifying sword strike that could kill an opponent before the opponent even knew what was happening.

The name of this technique was As Time Goes By.

Not long after, Xiang Shaoyun created a new technique after referencing the previous two techniques—Time Rewind!

This was a technique created based on the concept of returning to one's youth. But instead of doing so, the technique would give one a misconception that time had reversed, giving one a feeling of déjà vu.

A slight misconception like this could easily sink an opponent into confusion, creating an opportunity for one to eliminate one's opponent.

Of course, all these techniques barely scratch the surface of the dao of time. If Xiang Shaoyun could comprehend the profundity of time, he would be capable of truly rewinding time.

Whether he could accomplish it in the future would depend on the growth of his strength and comprehension of the dao of time. After comprehending the three new techniques, he stopped in satisfaction.

The three techniques worked in accordance with the intricacies of time. He only needed to deepen his comprehension of the three techniques, and he would eventually be able to accomplish countless possibilities with them.

"The dao of time is unfathomable. I never expected to obtain such power. This trip has been totally worth it," said Xiang Shaoyun.

In his opinion, comprehending the dao of time was much more valuable than the saint herbs here. Even if someone was to offer some saint herbs for his comprehension, he would refuse.

At the thought of saint herbs, he finally remembered the old man, the eight-winged bee, and the flower fairy. He exclaimed in alarm, "I wonder how they are?"

He then leaped off the stele. The instant he leaped off the stele, the stele collapsed, giving him a fright. The stele was something that had gone through the baptism of time. It was supposed to be able to stand against the passage of time and last for eternity. But it had actually collapsed.

Xiang Shaoyun was in disbelief. That was the same stele he had just obtained the time inheritance from.

"The seed of the Spacetime Stele has been planted, and the Spacetime Grotto shall cease to exist. Everything shall disperse," a primordial voice suddenly rang out.

The spacetime door then appeared noiselessly yet again and opened. Xiang Shaoyun knew that the time to leave the grotto had arrived. He charged toward the door without hesitation. In any case, he had already obtained what he wanted from the grotto. Whatever that was left in the grotto could be neglected compared to what he had gained.

At this time, a weak voice rang out, "P-please h-help me..."

Xiang Shaoyun turned around and saw an old woman struggling to her feet. The old woman was none other than the flower fairy. Xiang Shaoyun sent his senses sweeping over and found that the old man and the eight-winged bee were now part of the earth. They couldn't be more dead. It was clear now that the restriction's power of time truly existed and was not an illusion.

As Xiang Shaoyun looked at the dying flower fairy, his heart softened. He reached for the flower fairy and pulled her as he rushed through the spacetime door. If he waited until the door shut, he would no longer be able to leave.

The bone race members and other beasts in the grotto no longer attacked them. Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun and the others were no longer subjected to any restrictions, and they could now fly freely in the grotto. After charging through the spacetime door, Xiang Shaoyun returned to the Spacetime River. The bone ships had all vanished, and only the surging water of the Spacetime River was present.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel the flow of the river trying to bring both him and the flower fairy somewhere else. Perhaps they would be brought to an unknown space or time if they followed the current.

He tried to stabilize his position in the river, but he found himself unable to go against the current. He was confused and disoriented, nearly letting the flower fairy go in his confusion.

"Spacetime River, spin, time and space!" Xiang Shaoyun had a sudden inspiration as he immediately circulated the energies of yin and yang.

The yin and yang dragonfish surfaced from his soul foundation and wrapped around him, protecting him from the Spacetime River. Sure enough, the powers of yin and yang could affect the river currents. The water now brushed past him instead of flushing him down the river.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have the luxury to give this much thought. He hurriedly charged out of the river. It was time to leave this god-forsaken place. He did his utmost to charge upward. He encountered no obstructions and smoothly left the river.

After emerging from the river, before he could catch his breath, he found that the river was gradually vanishing before his eyes. The place he was in started turning smaller and smaller, giving him a great sense of oppression. Relying on his senses, he took out his chakram and charged in the direction he had come from.

The chakram was worthy of being a saint weapon. He split space itself as he flew, allowing him to move at a rapid speed. He did not know if he could leave before the river fully vanished, but he knew he couldn't afford to stay any longer.

After an unknown amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun finally saw a dot of light in the distance. Without hesitation, he rushed toward it.

Chapter 1108: Go All The Way

Xiang Shaoyun managed to escape with his life. After leaving the underground, he couldn't even be bothered about the flower fairy. He collapsed heavily onto the ground and gasped for breath, feeling like his entire person was going to break apart.

While escaping for his life, he had to protect someone completely unrelated to him. He felt really stupid because it wasn't a wise decision to help the flower fairy. Trying to save both himself and the fairy had greatly exhausted him.

The flower fairy had crashed onto the ground with Xiang Shaoyun, and the fall nearly killed her. Fortunately, this place was rich in water and wood energies, and these two energies were what she lacked. She hurriedly used her healing technique and absorbed the two energies to nourish her withered body.

As the energies entered her body, she slowly recovered her life force. A withered flower appeared by her side and recovered alongside her as though the two were one.

Xiang Shaoyun didn't spare her any attention. He was too busy recovering. He used several spirit crystals, sending strands of energy into his stars as he absorbed energy from his surroundings and the stars in the sky. He recovered at a rapid speed.

After recovering about 30 or 40 percent of his energy, he stood up. His priority was to determine his current location. He feared that he had accidentally come to the Southern Wasteland. When he stood up, he found that he was really not at the Ziling Sect anymore.

His surroundings were completely unfamiliar. He was surrounded by a boundless wilderness, and not a single human or beast could be seen. In short, this wasn't the best place he could end up at, but it wasn't the worst either. At least he had escaped with his life.

He heaved a breath of relief and said, "All is good as long as I'm out of that place. I'll first look for someone and ask about this place."

He prepared to leave. But soon, he noticed the flower fairy and the bizarre withered flower beside her. It seemed like both of them were slowly recovering together.

"Take care. This is all I can do for you," said Xiang Shaoyun before soaring into the sky.

The flower fairy's weak voice rang out once more, "Since you've already started helping me, you might as well go all the way. Please send me back to my race. I will reward you generously."

"I am not a kind person. I can't help you with this," replied Xiang Shaoyun decisively.

He was not interested in being someone who was kind to everyone. People like that tended to get into unnecessary trouble.

"We're not far from my race. Please, I beg you. We have a lot of amazing herbs at our place, with a large number of sovereign herbs. It won't take too much of your time," begged the flower fairy.

Xiang Shaoyun's heart skipped a beat when he heard the term sovereign herb. Since they were already near, he could consider helping. In any case, he was also curious as to where he was.

"Fine, I'll help you one more time. If I find out you lied to me, the consequences won't be something you can bear," said Xiang Shaoyun sternly. "So, are you good enough to travel?"

"Can I get a few more days?" pleaded the flower fairy.

"No. I lack time," rejected Xiang Shaoyun.

"Two days, only two more days. I am too exhausted," said the flower fairy, who seemed like she was about to cry.

"Fine, I'll give you two days. Hurry up. I'll stand guard for you. You will also need to reward me for this," said Xiang Shaoyun after some hesitation.

He could use the two days to fully recover. With that, he would be better equipped to deal with anything that might happen later. And thus, the two remained in a meditative position as they both tried to recover as best as they could.

After one day, Xiang Shaoyun was almost fully recovered. After all, he had only exhausted his energy, so recovering wasn't too hard. However, his soul was still injured, and it could only recover slowly through the nourishment of the soul raising stone and the soul spring water.

Soul injuries were serious. Fortunately, his soul was strong enough that he wasn't too badly affected. Any other person would have suffered a lasting internal injury from that amount of damage to the soul.

It was worth noting that the Nether Dragon Soul Headband also had a healing effect. With all these factors added together, he would be able to return to his peak in no time. Thus, he wasn't too worried.

After waking up from his meditation, he found that the flower fairy was recovering very slowly. However, she had still recovered somewhat despite her pitifully old appearance.

Xiang Shaoyun muttered, "With your condition, I doubt you can move even if I give you two additional days. Let me give you a hand."

After saying that, he used the Secret Reversal Technique and gathered a large amount of life force around the flower fairy. The flower fairy sensed the boundless life force around her. She couldn't even be bothered about its origin as she hurriedly absorbed everything.

The flower by her side did the same. It hungrily absorbed the life force as it recovered its vitality. With Xiang Shaoyun's Secret Reversal Technique, the flower fairy's condition improved noticeably.

When the two days ended, she opened her eyes and said gratefully, "Thank you. I feel much better. I should be good enough to travel now."

"Um. So where should we go?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Go northeast," said the flower fairy weakly.

Xiang Shaoyun wrapped his energy around the flower fairy and the flower by her side and dragged them as he quickly traveled northeast. Everywhere he passed through was devoid of humans. Instead, beasts could be seen frequently. However, the beasts could hardly pose a threat to Xiang Shaoyun.

Even after traveling for three days, not a single human was seen. He wondered just what kind of desolate place he had come to. In fact, in his impatience, he had asked the flower fairy several times about the location. She had claimed that it wasn't far, but the place was nowhere in sight even after flying at full speed for several days.

Also, he was now confident that he had appeared in the Southern Wasteland. Only the Southern Wasteland would be filled with so much wilderness.

I don't think I'll be able to return to the sect anytime soon. Hopefully, nothing bad will happen to the sect, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

"How much longer do we need? If you still can't give me a concrete time, I will abandon you here. I don't have the time to waste with you," said Xiang Shaoyun impatiently.

"No more than two days," said the flower fairy seriously.

"Fine, I'll give you two more days. If I find out it's a lie, don't blame me for being merciless," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He continued traveling at full speed for two more days. However, all he could see was still the same wilderness. He was fuming.

"Head to the waterfall to the south. We have arrived," said the flower fairy.

Chapter 1109: Flower Fairy Territory

To the south was a mountainous area. Atop one of the mountains was a waterfall cascading from the mountain peak. From afar, the majestic waterfall looked like the Milky Way. The water gushing down was fierce and rapid, looking incredibly spectacular. The droplets of water splashing up were sparkling and translucent, giving one the urge to rush into the waterfall for a nice shower the moment one laid eyes on it.

However, if a regular person attempted to shower underneath the waterfall, one would probably be instantly crushed to death by the water's weight. After all, the water currents were too violent.

With the flower fairy by his side, Xiang Shaoyun landed and spread his senses in all directions. He found numerous devilish plants in the area, or to be precise, spiritual plants. Different from devilish plants, spiritual plants were benign in nature, and they each had a low level of wisdom. Unlike devilish plants, they wouldn't attack anyone who approached.

Spiritual plants could also serve as herbs, but they were also very different from regular herbs. They weren't particularly effective for humans, so people rarely disturbed them. As a result, spiritual plants were able to grow in peace. After growing for a long time, they would eventually develop intelligence.

After setting the flower fairy on the ground, the fairy did not tell him where her race was. Rather, she absorbed the spiritual energy from the spiritual plants in the area, nourishing both her and the flower beside her with the unique energy found within the spiritual plants.

Xiang Shaoyun watched on and did not stop her. In any case, the plants in the area still hadn't developed too high an intelligence. Thus, they could only helplessly wither away as they had their spiritual energy absorbed. But perhaps it was also their fate to be completely helpless against the strong.

After absorbing the energy from their surroundings, the flower fairy and the flower had recovered considerably. Their life force was now strong enough to be sensed by an outsider.

"Finally, my life is saved," said the flower fairy after she was done. She heaved a long breath of relief, looked at Xiang Shaoyun, and said, "Don't worry. People of my race will arrive soon. At that time, I will give you the reward I promised."

"This is what I have been waiting for," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Sure enough, he saw the majestic waterfall splitting into two not long after. Several graceful figures flew out from behind the waterfall. The newcomers were none other than flower fairies. They greatly resembled the flower fairy Xiang Shaoyun rescued, with the difference being they were much younger and prettier.

After coming out of the waterfall, they rushed over and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun and the flower fairy. One of them demanded, "Who are you? Why are you intruding upon the flower fairy's territory?"

They weren't particularly strong, with the leader only an Emperor. The rest were all in the King Realm.

The flower fairy brought by Xiang Shaoyun said, "It's me. Quick, help me back inside."

As she spoke, she revealed her lifebound flower. Although the flower had withered significantly, the patterns on it still radiated an extraordinary elegance.

"Y-you're the patriarch?" the flower fairies exclaimed in alarm after seeing the patterns.

"Cut the nonsense," snapped the flower fairy patriarch.

The other flower fairies shut their mouths in fear. They hurriedly helped the patriarch back inside. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun tried following them. Inwardly, he was crying in alarm, She is the flower fairy patriarch? No wonder she could survive the passage of time.

Under the flower fairies' manipulation, the waterfall split once again, revealing a cave before them. They flew straight into the cave. Xiang Shaoyun also flew inside, and soon, he reached the other side of the cave. A paradise was presented before him, and it was extremely pleasing to the eyes.

He had arrived at a world of flowers. Flowers of all colors could be seen everywhere, a scene that was dazzling and incomparably beautiful. Every now and then, spiritual birds would fly through the air. The chirping of birds would resound in the air, and a gentle breeze would glide through, enveloping everyone in a comfortable sensation.

Not far away, elegant bamboo houses dotted the landscape. Vines with blooming flowers crawled all over the bamboo houses, giving the houses a refined look. Whoever came to this place would want to spend some time here. It was a place that soothed one's soul and cleared one's mind.

Even Xiang Shaoyun felt his nerves loosening. This was a pure and peaceful place, a place without any danger. However, there was a saying that the more beautiful a place was, the more dangerous it was. Even so, he would rather blindly believe that it was safe, as it was just too beautiful.

"Mister, this way, please," invited a flower fairy, waking Xiang Shaoyun from his reverie.

Only then did he notice a tiny path amid the sea of flowers, leading toward the bamboo houses. At this time, a decent number of flower fairies of all ages rushed over. It was clear that they were all here to welcome back their patriarch.

Xiang Shaoyun found that the flower fairy race was filled with beauties. Fortunately, his willpower was strong, and he maintained a calm mind before all these alluring beauties. When his gaze landed on a certain flower fairy, he was stunned.

The flower fairy in question was also stunned when she saw him. At that moment, it was as though there were only the two of them in the entire world. Everyone else was still busy paying their respects to the patriarch.

Only after they were done did they notice that something was off with Xiang Shaoyun and a certain flower fairy.

An elderly flower fairy berated the flower fairy, "Hua Xiaoqing, why are you not kneeling and paying your respects to the patriarch?"

The flower fairy recovered and hurriedly did as told. The patriarch wasn't bothered. She waved her hand and dismissed them, not bothering to say anything. The other flower fairies misunderstood the patriarch's gesture and assumed that the patriarch was displeased with Hua Xiaoqing.

A different elderly flower fairy commanded, "Take her and imprison her in the Devouring Garden. We will decide her fate at a later time."

"Yes, grandma," answered someone before advancing toward Hua Xiaoqing.

Hua Xiaoqing did not dare to resist. She lowered her head, not daring to even look at Xiang Shaoyun anymore. It almost seemed like she feared him.

Just as she was about to be taken away, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't hold back anymore. He said, "Hold on. You can't take her."

The elder flower fairy ignored him and asked the patriarch, "Patriarch, who is this?"

"He is the person who had saved my life," said the patriarch. She looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Benefactor, do you know her?"

"She is my woman. How can I not know her?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a trace of fury in his voice.

Chapter 1110: I Do Love You, Xiaoqing

Who was Hua Xiaoqing? How would Xiang Shaoyun know her, and why was he claiming that she was his woman? She was none other than Lu Xiaoqing who had gone missing for several years. It was said that she had been brought away from the Cloud Margin Pavilion by a pavilion elder. Subsequently, she went missing.

Who would have guessed that after so many years, she would suddenly appear among the flower fairies? She was as elegant as ever and still had a look that provoked pity in one's heart. However, her long black hair had turned green in color, and there was a flower symbol imprinted on her forehead. Her arms were filled with the same floral patterns all flower fairies had, making her look much more alluring than before.

She had changed considerably, but Xiang Shaoyun was still able to recognize her at one glance. Scenes from his past with Lu Xiaoqing started flashing through his mind.

"Hey, what are you still standing there for? Quickly go to the canteen to get your food! If you keep dilly-dallying, there won't be any left!"

"What a cute little girl!"

"Y-you're a bad person!"

"I have some food here for you."

"Thank you, but I can't accept this."

"You ungrateful fellow!"

...

Scenes from the past replayed in his mind, and Xiang Shaoyun discovered that Lu Xiaoqing had long occupied an important position in his heart. Thus, it was understandable why he would be furious after seeing her becoming a flower fairy and being mistreated by them.

"Your woman?" The patriarch was stunned. "Come to the main hall and take a seat. We can talk there."

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed his anger, nodded, and followed them to the hall. No matter how Lu Xiaoqing had come to the flower fairies, he had to take her away.

Lu Xiaoqing did not dare to look at him. With her head lowered, she followed them to the hall. The so-called hall was actually a large bamboo building. Flower vines decorated the walls, making the hall look both beautiful and cozy.

Xiang Shaoyun followed the patriarch and a few other flower fairies into the hall. The thick fragrance in the hall almost caused him to sneeze. He was not accustomed to such a strong smell. The patriarch sat down on the main seat and had someone serve some spiritual spring water and spiritual fruits to Xiang Shaoyun. The patriarch also took some spring water and spiritual fruits herself to further heal herself.

The other flower fairies did not dare to say anything. Xiang Shaoyun pulled Lu Xiaoqing to his side and said, "Xiaoqing, what happened to you over the years? How did you change into this appearance?"

"I-I—" Lu Xiaoqing was nervous and did not know what to say.

"Did they force you here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked gravely.

Lu Xiaoqing hurriedly waved her hands and said, "No, they didn't. They are my brethren, and they have been good to me."

"That's right. The blood of our race flows in her veins. It is also undeniable that she is showing signs that she is returning to her roots and approaching our ancestry," said the patriarch. "I am in bad condition, so I need some time to recuperate. Benefactor, why don't you stay and catch up with Xiaoqing? The flower fairy race is no major race, but we still have some places we can entertain our guests."

The patriarch then reminded the other flower fairies to treat Xiang Shaoyun well. She also gave Lu Xiaoqing full freedom to interact with Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't find a reason to reject the offer. In any case, since Lu Xiaoqing was here, he was in no rush to leave. He had to clarify what exactly happened.

Next, the patriarch left. She was still in bad condition and should save more of her energy. The other flower fairies reminded Lu Xiaoqing to take good care of Xiang Shaoyun before going off to arrange Xiang Shaoyun's accommodation. The house right beside Lu Xiaoqing's house was prepared for him.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived at his house, all the other flower fairies apart from Lu Xiaoqing left. He pulled her over and asked seriously, "Xiaoqing, tell me. What happened?"

He was becoming impatient to know about her experiences in recent years.

She jumped into his arms and started crying loudly. She cried miserably, causing one's heart to ache. Xiang Shaoyun wrapped his arms around her, his heart hurting from listening to her crying.

After a while, she finally stopped. A smile bloomed on her face as she said, "Shaoyun, I was too emotional after finally seeing you again. I-I thought that I wouldn't be able to see you anymore."

"Silly girl, we are destined to be together. How will you not see me anymore?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he gently stroked her face.

In the past, he would never do or say something like this. But now that the knot in his heart had been untied by retaking the sect, the combination of his long separation with her and their past caused him to be blunt with his words.

Lu Xiaoqing was completely stunned. She still remembered that Xiang Shaoyun couldn't fully accept her in the past. In fact, he remained indifferent even after her confession. After hearing his words, she felt her entire heart fill with sweetness.

"Y-you weren't saying all that just to comfort me, right?" asked Lu Xiaoqing.

"Of course not. I do love you, Xiaoqing," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"But can you even accept my current appearance?" she asked.

"What is there to not accept? You are much prettier now," said Xiang Shaoyun as he gently rubbed her nose.

Lu Xiaoqing was so moved that she shed more tears. She happily said, "Thank you, Shaoyun. I-I am very happy. I will forever remember today."

"Stop crying. You will grow ugly if you continue crying," said Xiang Shaoyun as he wiped her tears. "Tell me. How did you get here? You must have suffered a lot."

"I didn't suffer much. After the incident at the Cloud Margin Pavilion, I was also implicated since it was rumored that the incident was related to you. My master forcefully took me out of the pavilion. We led the life of vagrants for a period of time. Eventually, we encountered bandits, and my master was killed. The bandits nearly humiliated me, but an elder from the flower fairy race saved me. They then told me that I have the bloodline of the flower fairy clan within me and brought me here," said Lu Xiaoqing.

Xiang Shaoyun started lamenting about the uncertainties of life after hearing the story. If he hadn't saved the flower fairy patriarch, he probably would not have had a chance to see Lu Xiaoqing again.

"From my observation, they don't seem to treat you well?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Not at all. They have been kind to me," said Lu Xiaoqing hesitantly.

"Don't lie to me. I'm not blind," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Maybe it's because of my bloodline," said Lu Xiaoqing softly with her head lowered.