

## Overlord 1151

### Chapter 1151: Heavy Responsibilities of a Guardian

Unsurprisingly, the old lady's face turned unsightly when she heard Xiang Shaoyun's words. The high priest was a Great Saint. Even their Dragon Monarch had conceded. What else could she say? But since this was still extremely humiliating, she looked at the Dragon Monarch and waited for his decision.

"Just pay it. It's not much anyway. In the future, everyone will mind their own business," said the Dragon Monarch.

With that, the old lady and Jin Junyi grudgingly paid 20 million high-grade spirit crystals before leaving with the Dragon Society people.

But Xiang Shaoyun called out to them yet again, "No rush. I need to talk to you about something."

"Don't go overboard!" warned the Dragon Monarch in a displeased manner.

"No, you misunderstand me. I only wish to discuss something. I have an old friend among your people. I hope to have a chat with him. Don't worry, we're not enemies, so I won't make things hard for him," said Xiang Shaoyun honestly.

"Who?" asked the Dragon Monarch.

Xiang Shaoyun pointed at a certain young man and said, "Chen Zilong."

The young man stepped out with a helpless smile and said, "Long time no see, Xiang Shaoyun. I never imagined that you were actually the Ziling Sect's young sect master. I have truly been rude in the past."

When the Dragon Monarch looked at Chen Zilong and saw that it was only an Emperor, he stopped caring. He ordered everyone else to leave, abandoning Chen Zilong. The others were now looking at Chen Zilong differently, as though they were now filled with distrust.

As Chen Zilong looked at his departing fellow disciples, his emotions turned complicated. In recent years, he had cultivated hard after joining the Dragon Society. He had won the favor of the society elders and had even been accepted as the last disciple of a certain elder.

However, the crown princes of the Dragon Society were greatly prejudiced against him. Even when he subsequently became a crown prince himself, he still lived a hard life in the Dragon Society due to his lack of connections.

He might look impressive being a crown prince and all, but he alone knew the bitterness of his life. With Xiang Shaoyun publicly admitting that they knew each other, he was placed in a hard position. The Dragon Society would only start suspecting that he was a spy.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't really trying to scheme or anything. He just wanted to have a nice chat with Chen Zilong since it had been a while since they last met. Only when he noticed Chen Zilong's discomfort did he realize just what he had done. But since it had happened, he could only go along with whatever was to happen next.

"Chen Zilong, why don't you come be a guest at my Ziling Sect?" offered Xiang Shaoyun.

After all these years, Chen Zilong was now a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Reaching such a level at his age signified that his talent compared to the geniuses in the four academies.

He had merely been unlucky to miss out on entering one of the four academies. Back when the two had met, Chen Zilong was still in the Skysoar Realm. To reach the Dragon Ascension Realm in seven years, his advancement speed was extremely admirable.

"What else can I do? Let's go," said Chen Zilong. He knew that he couldn't do anything to change the Dragon Society's opinion of him, so he agreed. He had also wanted to have a nice chat with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. He then asked Old Urchin to help monitor the Dragon Society's retreat in case they tried to play any tricks. Old Urchin was very cooperative and hurriedly went after them.

As for the others, they were all sent back to the sect. Some were tasked to announce at Ziling City that they had successfully fought off the Dragon Society's invasion. As a result, the morale within Ziling City and the Ziling Sect surged.

After several tribulations, the Ziling Sect finally gained a relatively stable foothold. Fighting off the Dragon Society had probably earned them a period of peaceful growth.

The entire Ziling City started celebrating and hailing the dawn of peace, something incredibly rare. This dawn of peace signified that the city would enter a new stage of growth.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to the sect with the high priest, Chen Zilong, and the others. A feast was held to welcome the high priest and Chen Zilong. Additionally, the sect's victory over the Dragon Society was celebrated.

After the feast ended, Xiang Shaoyun personally arranged the angels' accommodation. He then had Chen Zilong's accommodation prepared as well. Between the high priest and Chen Zilong, he naturally needed to place more emphasis on the high priest. He also needed to properly talk with the angels about their previous plan.

The high priest was basically the angels' guardian. With him coming personally, one could see just how high his opinion of Xiang Shaoyun was.

Xiang Shaoyun and the high priest went to an uninhabited mountain ridge. There, they stood facing the night view and the gentle breeze, standing erect like pine trees.

"High priest, thank you for coming in time. I can't imagine what would have happened without you," said Xiang Shaoyun gratefully.

The high priest replied, "I would have arrived even sooner. However, I could only leave without worry after I finished handling my race's affairs. After you left the Dragon Phoenix Academy, I severed our relationship with the academy."

His words only served to increase the pressure on Xiang Shaoyun's shoulders. Originally, the angels and the Dragon Phoenix Academy had a relationship of mutual assistance. Now that the angels had severed the relationship, it could only show how much importance the high priest attached to Xiang Shaoyun.

"High priest, is this worth it?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"I wondered the same, but after seeing you, I think it's definitely worth it," said the high priest firmly.

Xiang Shaoyun had taken such a short time to reach his current cultivation level. His advancement speed was astonishing. After 100 years, just how strong would he be?

Looking at the high priest's expectant eyes, Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly, "I will not disappoint your expectations, high priest. You will not regret your choice!"

He realized that he was shouldering the burden of guarding not only the Ziling Sect but also the angels. His responsibilities had only grown heavier.

However, if he was being truthful, he did not mind taking on all responsibility. Regardless of whether he was doing it to return the kindness they had shown him or to obtain help to fulfill his goals, he would be more than willing to protect those who had shown him kindness.

"Um. It's good that you know it. None of us know the future," said the high priest. "Pudi told me about the teleportation formation you proposed. It's a decent idea, but it won't be easy. Our two places are too far from each other."

"What should we do to make it happen?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

The high priest replied sternly, "Only a Saint Realm formation grandmaster can lay out a teleportation formation. Additionally, the grandmaster requires the assistance of several Saints. We don't lack Saints, but a Saint Realm formation grandmaster is hard to find. Also, we need a large amount of materials. This can only be a long-term plan. For now, it will be hard for us to meet all the requirements."

## Chapter 1152: You Might as Well Join Ziling Sect

Only someone who had grasped the power of space could lay out a teleportation formation. A minor teleportation formation supported by other major formations could also be used to pierce through space and establish a connection between two places.

Xiang Shaoyun and the high priest wanted to establish a teleportation formation connecting the Ziling Sect and the angels. The distance between the two locations was incomparably far. It required a high-tier formation and a large amount of materials. None of the requirements to lay out a teleportation formation could be met easily.

For example, a Saint Realm formation grandmaster was very hard to find in tier-7 organizations. Generally, one could only be found among tier-8 organizations. Also, one would need to pay a terrifyingly high price to invite a Saint Realm formation grandmaster for the job.

With the Ziling Sect's current financial condition, they couldn't hire a Saint Realm formation grandmaster. One ought to remember that even after finding a formation grandmaster, one still needed to gather numerous rare materials.

Of the materials required, spatial stones were the rarest and most valuable. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that one might not be able to buy one even with spirit crystals. And to establish a connection crossing such a large distance, a large number of spatial stones were required.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned as he thought of all the requirements he needed to fulfill.

"Don't worry. Just wait for a few decades and you'll be a Saint yourself. At that time, gather enough materials and it will be easy to connect the two places," comforted the high priest.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought before asking, "If we can find a Saint Realm grandmaster, do you think we can complete the formation?"

"Getting a Saint Realm grandmaster is basically the same as getting the job half done. Then, we will only need to gather materials. Of course, those materials aren't easy to gather either. We angels have some of the materials, but I doubt it's enough. To know what exactly we need, we have to wait for the grandmaster's list."

"You're very thoughtful, high priest. I will handle it and try to lay out the formation as quickly as possible," said Xiang Shaoyun with a resolute look.

"We can't rush something like this. I will support you with all my strength," said the high priest.

With that promise, Xiang Shaoyun could finally be at ease. He then had the high priest retire to rest. They would talk further on a different day. He then went straight to Chen Zilong's residence. At this time, Chen Zilong was drinking alone in the courtyard, looking rather bleak.

"My sincere apologies for leaving you alone, my respected guest," said Xiang Shaoyun guiltily.

"How am I a respected guest? At most, I'm only an old friend," said Chen Zilong with a self-mocking smile.

Back when they were at the Cloud Margin Pavilion, his cultivation level was above Xiang Shaoyun's. Even so, Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess had been comparable to his.

After many years, Xiang Shaoyun had greatly surpassed him in cultivation and had even become a young sect master. He was finding it hard to accept the contrast between the two. When he left the Cloud Margin Pavilion for the Dragon Society, his goal was to prove that he was not worse than Xiang Shaoyun, perhaps even better.

After entering the Dragon Ascension Realm, he had returned to the Cloud Margin Pavilion to flaunt his new cultivation level. Alas, when he returned, Xiang Shaoyun had long left.

"As an old friend, you are also a respected guest. It has been a while. You have advanced quite quickly in your cultivation," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Whatever the present situation was, back then, he had thought highly of Chen Zilong. He was of the opinion Chen Zilong was a decent person. Thus, when he saw Chen Zilong, he couldn't help but call out to him.

"I was trying to surpass you and court your sister. But I now find that the distance between us has only grown. This is quite depressing, if I'm being honest," said Chen Zilong with a sigh. Depressed, he took a sip from his liquor.

Like Xia Liuhui, when he first saw Ye Chaomu, he was completely charmed. He vowed to one day surpass Xiang Shaoyun and her, making her his woman. But now, the little bit of confidence he had was destroyed by the strength Xiang Shaoyun had demonstrated. One ought to know that he used to have a higher cultivation level than Xiang Shaoyun. Now, his cultivation level was lower.

"So that was what you have been scheming," said Xiang Shaoyun. Now that Ye Chaomu was his woman, he definitely didn't wish for other men to have any thoughts of her.

"I can't help it. Since I met her, I can't forget her. But I knew that the gap between us was too big. I have been cultivating hard so that I could one day be a qualified match for her. So where is she now?" asked Chen Zilong with a look of yearning.

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "She's not here. But you're really not a good match for her. She has an even higher cultivation level than me."

Xiang Shaoyun had decided that he had to thoroughly make Chen Zilong give up.

Chen Zilong smiled bitterly and said, "I knew it. She is not an ordinary woman. Looks like I need to work even harder if I want to catch up to her."

"It's good to work hard, but she already has a man. Just forget her," said Xiang Shaoyun with a heavier tone.

"Have you invited me to stay just so you can shatter my confidence?" asked Chen Zilong gloomily.

Xiang Shaoyun readjusted his tone and said, "Of course not. It has been years since we last met, so I wanted to have a good chat with you. I'm afraid I might have created some trouble for you by doing so."

"It's nothing. I'm already used to trouble," said Chen Zilong indifferently.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw the helpless and unreconciled look in Chen Zilong's eyes, he said, "Looks like you weren't happy at the Dragon Society, anyway. You might as well join the Ziling Sect. I can help you reach an even higher level of cultivation."

This was Xiang Shaoyun's actual goal. He wanted to recruit Chen Zilong. Chen Zilong was someone with the Qilin Arms technique and qilin blood flowing in his veins. His talent in cultivation was extremely high. He would definitely have a bright future. That much was evident from the fact that he was already at the Dragon Ascension Realm at his age. If someone like Chen Zilong remained in the Dragon Society, he would probably grow into a formidable opponent.

Chen Zilong narrowed his eyes and asked, "Do you look so highly upon me? Or do you only want to have me as a subordinate so you can feel good about yourself?"

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Haha, I do look highly upon you. I won't treat you as a subordinate. You're my brother. What do you think?"

"Hehe, you're not a simple young sect master. Even your words of recruitment are so enticing. Anyone else would have developed a fierce devotion for you after hearing your words," said Chen Zilong with a sneer.

"You think I'm lacking sincerity?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Let's not talk about sincerity. Let's talk about what you can do. Can you really give me more resources to help me grow?" questioned Chen Zilong, his eyes burning with ambition.

"Of course. What we lack now is manpower. Someone as talented as you will definitely receive great help from us," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

#### Chapter 1153: I Am a Formation Grandmaster

Chen Zilong was an ambitious person. He was born in the Chen Clan, an organization equal to the Cloud Margin Pavilion. Thus, he had always been prideful. Furthermore, he also had an excellent talent in cultivation. Because of that, he had set his sights on the pursuit of ultimate strength at a young age.

After joining the Dragon Society, he had received a decent amount of support. However, his support was still incomparable to those crown princes with deep foundations. Many factions were prejudiced against him, and he would have been crippled long ago if he wasn't capable enough.

Eventually, he had become one of Dragon Society's crown princes, but he still didn't receive the support he deserved. He had long grown dissatisfied with the Dragon Society. Thus, it was understandable that he would be enticed by Xiang Shaoyun's offer after seeing Xiang Shaoyun's strong background.

He knew that he would become Xiang Shaoyun's subordinate after agreeing to the offer, which would probably hurt his pride as a man. However, a real man should also be aware of when to advance and when to retreat. If he could catch up to or even surpass Xiang Shaoyun in the future, all the so-called shame would be washed clean.

Xiang Shaoyun's offer had successfully enticed him. However, he still had some misgivings.

"I am interested, but I can't do it. Our Chen Clan still operates within the Dragon Society's territory. If I turn on them, I'll be a rebel, and my Chen Clan will be purged," said Chen Zilong after suppressing his ambitious heart.



Xiang Shaoyun replied, "If you can convince your clan, I'll let them move here."

"That's a good idea, but it's not easy to just up and leave our home," said Chen Zilong with a sigh.

Xiang Shaoyun felt that it would be improper to keep pushing, so he took out two jars of liquor and said, "Let's stop talking about all that. No matter what happens, I do not wish to see us become enemies. Come, drink up."

"That's right. I wouldn't even dare to make the current you an enemy anyway," said Chen Zilong. He accepted the jar of liquor, toasted Xiang Shaoyun, and gulped it down.

The two drank and chatted idly in the courtyard. Instead of talking about the same topic, they talked about completely random topics, acting like old friends who had been separated for a long time. The entire scene was harmonious and tranquil.

They chatted until daybreak. Talking through the night had greatly deepened their friendship. Unknown to them, this night was also the start of a friendship where each was willing to die for the other.

After returning to his own residence, Xiang Shaoyun spent some time with Tuoba Wan'er, then got to work and wrote down a list of materials.

Tuoba Wan'er nestled against his body and gently asked, "Holy son-in-law, why are you writing all this?"

"These are the materials required for laying out a teleportation formation," replied Xiang Shaoyun.

"You even know something like this?" asked Tuoba Wan'er curiously.

"Of course. Your husband is omnipotent," said Xiang Shaoyun smugly.

Tuoba Wan'er had a look of admiration as she praised, "Wow, you're amazing."

She believed fully that Xiang Shaoyun would never lie to her. Teleportation formations were high-level formations. Few people knew how to build one, but Xiang Shaoyun actually knew. It made him seem even more incredible.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun did know how to construct a teleportation formation. Two lifetimes ago, he was a top-tier formation grandmaster. He also had the book of formations, allowing him to master formations without a master.

He was preparing to construct a long-distance teleportation formation. To do it, he needed to be fully prepared. He would first prepare the list of required materials, then show it to the high priest. After finding out what materials the high priest had, he could then plan on how to acquire the rest of the materials.

After he wrote the list, which was quite long, he went to the high priest. Even an entire sect would have difficulty supplying all the materials. Everyone needed to work together and slowly collect them.

When the high priest received the list, astonishment flickered in his eyes. "Where did you get this list? Do you have a formation grandmaster here?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "I am a formation grandmaster."

"You are?" the high priest raised his brow in shock. "It's a pity your cultivation is not high enough. Otherwise, we might really be able to construct this long-distance teleportation formation."

"Don't worry about that for now. Look at these materials. How many of them do you have?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

The high priest did not think too much about it. As he went through the list of thousands of materials, he smiled bitterly and said, "I can't even supply a third of these materials. The angels have remained in seclusion for too many years. We haven't attached much importance to things not of the light element."

"Tell me which materials you lack," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The high priest listed out the materials they could provide, and Xiang Shaoyun memorized everything in silence.

"Looks like we really still lack a lot of materials," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

After some thought, the high priest said, "I can supply some spirit crystals so you can buy them. I believe these materials will be available in many of your human territories."

"It's the thought that counts. I'll think of something," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He knew very well that a few of these materials were incredibly hard to find. Even so, he still decided to deal with it himself because he did not want to rely on the high priest for everything. There were things the Ziling Sect had to handle by themselves.

"There is a lot of work waiting to be done here, so I'm afraid you won't be able to spare too many spirit crystals either. Isn't that so?" asked the high priest.

"I do have the 20 million high-grade spirit crystals you helped me get from the Dragon Society not too long ago," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"That is far from enough. Many of these saint materials require saint crystals to purchase them," said the high priest. He took out a storage ring and said, "I have some saint crystals in here. Use them. The angels don't really need them in the meantime, anyway."

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the storage ring. Moved, he said solemnly, "High priest, for your favor today, I, Xiang Shaoyun, will forever guard the angels with my life."

"I believe you," said the high priest with a satisfied nod.

After spending some more time with the high priest, Xiang Shaoyun returned to the grand hall. There, he summoned the higher-ups and had them start gathering the required materials.

They had no idea what he was trying to do, but they still did as told. Xiang Shaoyun then handed the spirit crystals over to Qian Furen and had him take charge of purchasing the required materials.

Qian Furen felt extremely honored. He could feel Xiang Shaoyun's trust in him, and his devotion toward Xiang Shaoyun deepened as a result. The materials Xiang Shaoyun had them gather did not include saint-grade materials. Those were the materials only Saints could gather.

With worry plastered all over his face, Xiang Shaoyun returned to his residence. Tuoba Wan'er donned a look of pity on her face as she asked, "Holy son-in-law, are you worried about the materials?"

"Yeah. Many of the materials are hard to find. I have some people searching, but I'm not optimistic about it," replied Xiang Shaoyun.

"In truth, the Holy Hall can also give you some help," offered Tuoba Wan'er.

#### Chapter 1154: Returning to the Desert of Despair

Xiang Shaoyun turned around in joy and asked, "Is that true?"

"It's not like you have never been to the Holy Hall. Although we're a hidden organization, we're not that much weaker than other organizations. We also have some connections with the outside world, so it won't be hard for us to find some materials for you," said Tuoba Wan'er.

Xiang Shaoyun slapped his forehead and said, "True. I completely forgot. I'll have to trouble you and Elder Urchin to take a trip back and see how many of the materials you can gather."

If he could obtain their help, he would have a much easier time gathering materials.

"Are you not coming back with me?" asked Tuoba Wan'er, hope plastered all over her face.

Xiang Shaoyun's heart softened when he sensed her emotions. He nodded and said, "Ok. I'll take this trip with you. It's about time we pay the first elder a visit. They are probably starting to worry about you."

A smile bloomed on Tuoba Wan'er's face. She hugged Xiang Shaoyun, planted several kisses on his face, and said, "Thank you, holy son-in-law."

Xiang Shaoyun gently stroked her hair and said, "Foolish girl. I was the one who had made your life hard."

"That's not true at all. So long as I can stay by your side, I am the happiest woman under the sky," said Tuoba Wan'er, her voice full of emotions.

Looking at her tender cheek, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but plant a kiss there. He spent several days dealing with sect affairs. Duo Ji was charged with guarding the sect, Pang Tongyuan was charged with handling all the administrative affairs, and Qian Furen was in charge of purchasing all the required materials and items. Xiang Shaoyun started preparing for his return to the Holy Hall with Tuoba Wan'er.

As for the high priest, he would stay in the sect for a bit, which was his way of giving Xiang Shaoyun a helping hand to prevent the Dragon Society's further encroachment.

Chen Zilong had already taken his leave two days prior. Since he couldn't accept Xiang Shaoyun's offer, it wouldn't be proper for him to stay. In any case, Xiang Shaoyun himself was incredibly busy. It was time for him to return to the Dragon Society.

When Xiang Shaoyun finished handling the sect affairs, he set off on his trip to the Holy Hall with Tuoba Wan'er, Old Urchin, and the old donkey. This time, he brought 49 riders with him. They would serve to boost the Ziling Sect's image and prestige. He had to ensure that the Holy Hall wouldn't belittle his sect.

The riders were led by a Soul Foundation Realm expert, and the rest were Emperors. This was already the most elite group the sect could send. With all these people leaving, the sect's strength weakened considerably.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun had to do it. This was his first time returning to Tuoba Wan'er's home with her. He had to treat this visit seriously and ensure that Tuoba Wan'er wouldn't lose face.

In any case, it was unlikely that the Dragon Society would still dare to invade them. Furthermore, those organizations under them would probably stay obedient after the sect's recent victory over the Dragon Society.

The Holy Hall was located in the Desert of Despair, while the Desert of Despair was located within the Western Desert. It wasn't too far away from the sect. They could reach it after going through several provinces.

All these provinces were linked with teleportation formations. After about 10 teleportations, they finally arrived at the Desert of Despair. This wasn't Xiang Shaoyun's first time here. However, he could still feel a sense of despair as he looked at the vast and boundless desert. If even someone with his strength would feel despair, one could only imagine just how wide the desert was.

"Wan'er, is there no teleportation formation here leading us straight to the Holy Hall?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Tuoba Wan'er shook her head and said, "No. After the Holy Hall entered seclusion, they had no intention of maintaining too many connections with the outside world. Thus, no teleportation formations were built."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled bitterly. "Let's get going, then."

They then entered the desert. With the old donkey leading the way, they did not need to worry about getting lost or being attacked by demonic beasts. The old donkey was the lord of this path. He had walked this same route countless times, and all the demonic beasts in the area would withdraw at the sight of him.

However, the 49 riders Xiang Shaoyun brought were having a hard time. They might all be strong, but the Desert of Despair's environment was difficult to be in. After two days of travel, they encountered a group of bandits encircling a group of people.

Such scuffles were common occurrences in the desert, so Xiang Shaoyun originally did not intend to interfere. However, he still couldn't contain his curiosity and ended up extending out his senses.

Not far away, over 1,000 bandits were attacking dozens of people. A bitter fight was ongoing. The people in the smaller group were comparatively young. They were all in their early twenties and were at the prime of their lives. Everyone was incredibly valiant, no weaker than fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. Some had even reached the late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

Such young Emperors practically had boundless prospects. They would be the pillars of any organization they belonged to. Why would they be here attacked by so many bandits? The answer was quite obvious. Only the Dragon Phoenix Academy could gather so many young geniuses in the Desert of Despair.

The leader of the smaller group was none other than Zhuge Zhantian, someone Xiang Shaoyun viewed as a brother, and he was also someone from the Overlord Legion. He was on a bandit extermination mission to practice his war formations and help temper his fellow brethren.

However, he had not imagined that they would encounter such a large group of bandits. They instantly sank into a predicament, but Zhuge Zhantian did not panic. He continued to command his people calmly, displaying the bearing of a great general.

The others followed his every command and performed spectacularly in the battle, fully defending themselves against the bandits. In fact, they even launched some attacks of their own, hitting some bandits that couldn't escape in time.

Unfortunately, there were three Sovereigns among the bandits. With the three Sovereigns working together, not even Zhuge Zhantian's battle formation could hold on. Terrifying explosions rumbled on and on, creating numerous clouds of dust and sand. Eventually, the Overlord Legion's formation was broken up, and they could no longer work together to fight the bandits.

"You are quite amazing, little pups. Too bad you're still a tad bit too tender. Do you dare to set your sights on us, the Barbaric Desert Snakes? You must be tired of living," said the bandit leader with a look of contempt. "Slaughter all of them. All the things on them are quite valuable, so this will be a decent harvest."

"You dare touch my brother? Die!"

A roar suddenly sounded when Zhuge Zhantian and the others were feeling extreme despair.

#### Chapter 1155: You're Still Our Overlord

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that he would encounter his brothers from the Overlord Legion in the Desert of Despair. When he saw them in danger, he naturally had to help. As he sat atop Money, starfall lightning energy swirled around him, making him look like a child of lightning. Like a purple bolt of lightning, he charged into the battlefield.

The moment he attacked, he used the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, sending out numerous lightning bolts. A thick saber intent tore through air and instantly separated dozens of bandit heads from their bodies. Scorched bandit corpses dropped everywhere, scaring the bandits into a panic.

"Yet another little bastard here to throw his life away. Kill him," said one of the bandit leaders as he charged Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun leaped off Money's body and said, "You'll deal with them, Money."

"Yes, boss. I'll teach them a good lesson," replied Money as he enlarged and swept through the battlefield.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he flew toward Zhuge Zhantian's group. He moved at an astonishing speed, leaving a path of beheaded bandits behind him. Not a single bandit could survive encountering him.

This greatly frightened the other bandits. They wanted to join hands against him, but they couldn't even catch his shadow. What could they even do against him? Xiang Shaoyun was far stronger than them. There might be many of them, but when Xiang Shaoyun was seriously trying to slaughter them, they were helpless.

When the people from the Overlord Legion saw Xiang Shaoyun, they were overjoyed.

"I-is this the overlord? I'm not seeing things, right?"

"Yes, it's the overlord. He's actually at the Desert of Despair. This is great!"

"We're saved! These damn bandits tried to kill us? Let us work with the overlord and slaughter them all!"

"Haha, with the overlord here, who can be the match for us, the Overlord Legion? Let's kill, brothers!"

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The Overlord Legion's morale rose as they attacked the bandits madly. Each Overlord Legion member was an Emperor among Emperors. They could all punch above their class. They were only at a disadvantage earlier because none of them could deal with Soul Foundation Realm experts.



With Money dealing with the Soul Foundation Realm experts for them, their pressure was greatly reduced. There were three Soul Foundation Realm experts among the bandits, the strongest being a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. This particular person was currently still near Zhuge Zhantian, and he was the actual leader of the Barbaric Desert Snakes.

"Whoever you are, stop right now, or I'll kill him," said the bandit leader coldly with Zhuge Zhantian in hand.

Zhuge Zhantian shouted, "Ignore me, overlord. Kill them all!"

He did not wish to see Xiang Shaoyun and the others fall in danger just for him.

"Shut your mouth! Don't you dare think that I wouldn't dare kill you!" snapped the bandit leader murderously.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. His figure instantly vanished into thin air. All the bandits lost sight of him, causing the bandit leader to panic.

The bandit leader roared, "Show yourself, or I'll really kill him!"

As soon as the bandit finished speaking, Xiang Shaoyun's voice came from his back, "I'm here."

A finger sword flickered through the air, and a head was sent flying.

Even in his last moments, the bandit leader still couldn't understand what had happened. He was a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert. How could he be killed so easily?

With the bandit head in his hand, Xiang Shaoyun soared into the sky and roared, "Your leader has been beheaded. Accept your deaths!"

His voice rumbled like thunder. All the bandits heard him, and when they saw the head in his hand, fear flooded their hearts. None of them had the courage to continue fighting.

"The boss is dead! We need to flee!" shouted someone.

With someone taking the lead, nobody was willing to stay. They fled in all directions.

Unfortunately for them, the 49 riders charged toward them at this time. Like wolves unleashed upon a flock of sheep, they started slaughtering the bandits. Not a single bandit was able to escape. All of them were killed.

Even those Soul Foundation Realm experts were killed by Money. After becoming a Demon Sovereign, Money had started refining the celestial horned dragonsnake's horn. His strength had grown rapidly, and like Xiang Shaoyun, he was now a second-stage Sovereign.

Xiang Shaoyun came beside Zhuge Zhantian. He was about to say something when Zhuge Zhantian knelt down on one knee and saluted him, "I greet the overlord!"

The other Overlord Legion members also rushed over, got down on one knee, and greeted, "We greet the overlord!"

They acted in a straightforward manner, making it clear that he was their leader. Those from the Ziling Sect saw it clearly, and shock filled their eyes. These were all extraordinary youths with boundless prospects. They would attract much attention wherever they went. All of them were actually showing such devotion to Xiang Shaoyun. This was incredibly hard to believe.

"How many secrets are the young sect master still hiding?" wondered the Ziling Sect people.

Ever since Xiang Shaoyun returned to the sect with a group of experts, he had surprised them again and again. They couldn't even begin to see his limits.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "You don't have to act like this, brothers. Stand up. You are only making things hard for me. I'm no longer your overlord."

He had left the academy for two years. Thus, he was very moved to see that these brothers still remembered him and were still willing to show him such respect.

"Overlord, even after leaving, you're still our overlord. This is something all the brothers and sisters agree with. Even Deputy Commander Ouyang agrees. You don't have to refuse our greetings," said Zhuge Zhantian seriously.

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to talk too much about it. He shifted the topic and asked, "Only you guys are here? Where are the others?"

"This is my idea. I was planning to have the brothers temper themselves here, but I did not expect to encounter such a powerful group of bandits. If it wasn't for your timely appearance, we would have probably all died here," said Zhuge Zhantian.

"All is good as long as you're fine," said Xiang Shaoyun as he started greeting the other Overlord Legion members.

Among them, some were familiar faces while some were new faces. Even so, all of them were looking at him with reverence.

#### Chapter 1156: Overlord Legion's Recent Developments

There were a few dozen Overlord Legion members here, and Xiang Shaoyun only knew about half of them. The other half were unfamiliar faces that had joined after he had left. However, they all knew Xiang Shaoyun. His past accomplishments when in the academy and his role during the competition between the four academies had fully etched his name in their hearts.

During his time at the academy, he was already one of the top three disciples, his strength only behind Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang. But during the competition of the four academies, he alone faced the top disciples of all four academies and defeated all of them, including the owner of the legendary Primal Chaos Physique. His fame had thus spread all over the four academies. Even some ancient organizations had come to learn of his name.

It was only natural that the members of the Overlord Legion would look at him with so much reverence.

After catching up with them for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun called Tuoba Wan'er over and introduced her, "This is your sister-in-law, Tuoba Wan'er."

Tuoba Wan'er blushed when she heard the way Xiang Shaoyun introduced her. However, bliss filled her heart.

"Greetings, sister-in-law," greeted the Overlord Legion members.

"Hello," she returned the greeting.

"These are my brothers from my time at the Dragon Phoenix Academy. They frequently train at the Desert of Despair," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Tuoba Wan'er knew that Xiang Shaoyun was a disciple abandoned by the Dragon Phoenix Academy, so she didn't have any good impression of the academy's higher-ups. However, she definitely had a different opinion of his brothers.

"Overlord, why are you here?" Zhuge Zhantian asked curiously after giving the 49 riders a glance.

"Oh, your sister-in-law's home is here, so we're visiting. It's quite a surprise to see you guys here," said Xiang Shaoyun after a slight hesitation.

"This is the Desert of Despair. How is her home here?" asked someone in confusion.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't answer. After all, the Holy Hall was a hermit organization isolated from the world. Few people knew of them, so it wouldn't be proper for him to tell them about it.

At this time, Tuoba Wan'er said, "My home is somewhere in the desert. If you guys are interested, you can come visit. I'll gladly have you guys as guests."

"Excellent! We would be honored to visit our sister-in-law's home," said someone.

A different person agreed, "Yes, let's go with the overlord and help make his return even more glorious."

All of them were still very young, and they thought that Xiang Shaoyun was returning to ask for her hand in marriage. Thus, they wanted to join in on the excitement.

Zhuce Zhantian was a tactful person. He said, "Stop messing around. It would be rude for so many of us to barge into our sister-in-law's home. We still need to return to the academy and update the mission status."

He was trying to remind them not to mess around. Tuoba Wan'er was merely extending an invitation out of politeness. Everyone came to a realization. They seemed to have gotten too ahead of themselves.

"It doesn't matter. If you have the time, feel free to visit anytime," said Tuoba Wan'er generously.

She was the princess of the Holy Hall, someone with a paramount position in the Holy Earth Hall. It wouldn't be hard for her to invite them in.

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that Tuoba Wan'er would be so open about it. He said, "If you are free, just come visit. But your sister-in-law's place is a bit special, so be sure to not run your mouth needlessly after the visit."

When they saw that even Xiang Shaoyun was inviting them, they stopped refusing. After a short rest, they joined the procession of 49 riders and headed toward the Holy Earth Hall.

Along the way, Zhuge Zhantian walked with Xiang Shaoyun. Even so, he still consciously stayed half a step behind, abiding by his identity as a subordinate. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help asking about the Overlord Legion, Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, Tang Longfei, and Lady Shura.

Ouyang Chuanqi had replaced Xiang Shaoyun as the leader, but he still insisted on staying the deputy commander instead of calling himself the commander. Even so, he still did everything a leader should. He had started expanding the Overlord Legion and had led the legion on numerous missions outside the academy, successfully solidifying the legion's unity.

Han Chenfei became the best assistance. She helped Ouyang Chuanqi lead the Overlord Legion, and with her identity as the academy's number two beauty, more and more people joined the legion.

Tang Longfei did not stop doing his duties just because there were two new deputy commanders. Rather, he cultivated even harder. He had a good relationship with the brothers and sisters of the legion and had everyone's respect.

Lady Shura had remained low profile, spending most of her time cultivating at the goldmen territory. She very rarely participated in the legion events, but each time she showed herself, it was obvious she had grown stronger.

People like Shang Jifeng, Shou Xie, Ma Qihao, and the others whom Xiang Shaoyun knew were also doing well. Few people dared to easily provoke the legion.

Now, the Overlord Legion was one of the three strongest factions within the academy. This was completely different from the past when they were looked down upon by everyone. From what Zhuge Zhantian said, their batch of disciples were already starting to produce Soul Foundation Realm experts.

Apart from the few geniuses in the academy, most of the disciples were in the Dragon Ascension Realm and were working hard to catch up. Everyone was growing at a decent pace.

Two dark horses had also appeared out of nowhere, catching up to the other geniuses. They managed to catch the eyes of the academy higher-ups and caused all the other disciples to exclaim in admiration.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't too interested in any other news as he only cared about those close to him. So long as they were doing well in the academy, all was good for him. He had been afraid that those who held a grudge toward him would move against the Overlord Legion, but it seemed it wasn't an issue.

"Overlord, how have you been for the past two years?" asked Zhuge Zhantian curiously.

When he had first met Xiang Shaoyun, he had thought himself capable of seeing through Xiang Shaoyun. But now, he felt like a layer of mist was enshrouding Xiang Shaoyun, making him impossible to see through.

One could say that for a reason unknown to Zhuge Zhantian, a sense of reverence was automatically surging out of his heart when he met Xiang Shaoyun again. Thus, he was curious just what Xiang Shaoyun had experienced within the past two years.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "I regained what belonged to my father and continued what he was doing before. I am now based in the Western Desert's Celestial King Province and leading the Ziling Sect. Feel free to come visit with our brothers when you have the time. I will have my door wide open for you."

"That's good to hear. I'll definitely visit with our brothers in the future," said Zhuge Zhantian.

Xiang Shaoyun gave Zhuge Zhantian a simplified rundown of his recent experiences, letting Zhuge Zhantian know that the past two years hadn't been easy for him at all. As they talked, they arrived at the Holy Earth Hall's entrance.

#### Chapter 1157: Holy Hall Master

The Holy Earth Hall was akin to an entirely different world located underground. They occupied a large territory and were self-sufficient. They lived in isolation, with cultivation being their way of life. One could say that they all stood aloof from worldly affairs.

When the people from the Ziling Sect and Overlord Legion arrived with Xiang Shaoyun, they felt their horizons widen. They knew that everything was possible in the world, but this was still their first time visiting an actual underground organization. Everything was full of novelty for them.

When they arrived, a large group approached them. The group was valiant and majestic, causing them to instinctively make way. They all knew that these newcomers were definitely the Holy Hall's guards, people with a high status in this underground world.

When the group came before Tuoba Wan'er and Xiang Shaoyun, they got off their mounts and knelt down on one knee. They greeted, "We welcome the princess and holy son-in-law back to the Holy Hall."

The people from the Ziling Sect and Overlord Legion were all shocked. Princess? Holy son-in-law? The two terms appeared in their brains, stunning them.

"Rise. Let's return," said Tuoba Wan'er with a noble grace.

And thus, the Holy Hall's guards led them back toward the Holy Hall. Just the presence of Holy Hall guards was eye-catching enough. With the addition of the 49 riders and the young geniuses from the Overlord Legion, the procession looked even more extraordinary.

When the group reached the Holy City, an even larger group of people was waiting there. They were lined up in an orderly manner as they welcomed Tuoba Wan'er and Xiang Shaoyun. It was not until they saw this welcome that the people from the Ziling Sect and Overlord Legion were sure of Tuoba Wan'er's status as a princess.

They couldn't help but gasp inwardly, The young sect master(overlord) is really amazing. He even managed to steal their princess. I feel like prostrating myself before him in admiration.

But when they recalled the remarkable potential Xiang Shaoyun had, they all felt that he was good enough for someone like Tuoba Wan'er.

At this time, the first elder led the other elders to respectfully welcome Tuoba Wan'er and Xiang Shaoyun into the main hall.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw the first elder, he found that the first elder looked even younger than before. The occasional sharp gleam that would flicker in his eyes made it hard for one to guess just how high his cultivation level was.

"Young lady, son-in-law, the hall master awaits," said the first elder with a bow.

"Grandpa has left seclusion?" exclaimed Tuoba Wan'er with an expression of pleasant surprise.

"Yes. He ended seclusion two years ago," replied the first elder.

"Why didn't anyone tell me? It has been years since I last saw grandpa," said Tuoba Wan'er gloomily.

"The hall master did not want to distract you," said the first elder.

"Forget it. Holy son-in-law, let's go meet grandpa," said Tuoba Wan'er. She was in a good mood, so she couldn't be bothered to get overly worked up over something minor. She had the first elder arrange the accommodations for the Ziling Sect and the Overlord Legion. These people still weren't qualified to step into the main hall.

The first elder immediately got someone to make the arrangements while he himself led Tuoba Wan'er and Xiang Shaoyun to the main hall.

Old Urchin wanted to slip off with the donkey, but the first elder noticed what he was trying to do and berated, "Second brother, come in as well. The hall master wishes to see you."

Old Urchin said sullenly, "I have a stomachache. Can't we meet after a few days?"



Old Urchin was fearless, but he seemed rather scared of the hall master.

"Sure, up to you," answered the first elder indifferently.

"Erm...I think I'll just go with you," said Old Urchin helplessly.

Shortly after, they arrived at the main hall. The main hall was still as gorgeous and luxurious as ever, radiating a majestic grace that could give any regular person a sense of inferiority. Someone was seated on the main seat. Just by sitting there, it was as though he was the center of the entire hall. He gave off the feeling that he was the master of everything and that nothing mattered except for him.

He had the appearance of someone about 30 years old. His eyebrows were thick, and his eyes were as bright as the sun and moon. His figure was akin to a lofty mountain, his stature like someone standing atop a star, radiating an imposing aura.

When one looked at him, one would inevitably find oneself completely taken in. He was too imposing, too valiant. He was someone who attracted the admiration of any woman and the reverence of any man.

Xiang Shaoyun had never felt this sensation from anyone apart from his master. The only difference was that his master was blind and no longer cared about his physical appearance, so his master did not appear as attractive as this man. This man was none other than the master of the Holy Hall, Tuoba Wan'er's grandfather. If Tuoba Wan'er was to stand beside him, people would probably think that they were siblings.

"Grandpa," Tuoba Wan'er's voice of pleasant surprise broke the silence as she rushed toward the main seat.

She then jumped into the man's arms, joy all over her face.

Xiang Shaoyun was shocked as he thought, Is he really the hall master? He's so young?

"Haha, Wan'er, my darling, your grandpa misses you dearly," said the hall master with a hearty laugh.

"That is definitely a lie, Grandpa. You didn't even tell me you left seclusion," grumbled Tuoba Wan'er.

"I saw that you were having a lot of fun outside, so I wanted to give you more time. In any case, I'll always be here waiting," said the hall master.

"I don't care. You need to compensate me," Tuoba Wan'er nagged.

"Sure, sure, anything you want," said the hall master with a pampering tone. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Why are you not introducing me to your husband?"

Before Tuoba Wan'er could say anything, Xiang Shaoyun stepped forth, saluted respectfully, and said, "Xiang Shaoyun greets Grandpa."

He was saluting him with the etiquette of a hall master's junior, not subordinate. After all, he was Tuoba Wan'er's husband.

"Haha, good, good. You're quite a decent kid," said the hall master as he scanned Xiang Shaoyun with a look of praise in his eyes.

His clone had fought Xiang Shaoyun before, so he knew that Xiang Shaoyun cultivated many powers. He had thought that it would be hard for Xiang Shaoyun to reach far, but not only had his strength continued growing, he had also grown rapidly. Thus, the little prejudice the hall master had toward him fully dispersed.

More importantly, Xiang Shaoyun was smart enough to come visit with his granddaughter. His attitude wouldn't be as good otherwise.

"Thank you, Grandpa," answered Xiang Shaoyun.

"Um. You may be at ease. Wan'er, now that you're back, let's complete the wedding ceremony. You should also start to consider giving birth to a fat baby that can take over my position. Hahaha," said the hall master in excitement.

Chapter 1158: Marriage

Tuoba Wan'er blushed deeply when she heard the hall master's words, not daring to even meet his eyes anymore. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he had thick skin, but even he felt some heat rising to his face. Those words were a tad bit too blunt. Fortunately, apart from them, only the first elder and Old Urchin were present. If there were more people, they would probably find some hole to hide in shame.

The hall master did not continue on the same topic. He looked at Old Urchin and said, "Old Urchin, you have been slacking in cultivation."

Old Urchin hurriedly replied in panic, "Please forgive me, hall master. I will definitely work harder."

"You have a playful nature, so I allowed you to travel around with Wan'er. But that does not mean you can neglect your cultivation. Now that you're back, just stay around for now. You need to temper your nature somewhat. The tempering will help your cultivation," said the hall master emotionlessly.

Old Urchin's face collapsed as he said, "There is no need for that, right? My cultivation has never stopped growing."

"You're happy with this kind of growth speed?" asked the hall master. He decided, "No negotiation. You may all leave. I want to spend some time with Wan'er."

At that, the first elder, Old Urchin, and Xiang Shaoyun retreated from the main hall.

"Wan'er, have you suffered after following that kid?" asked the hall master.

Tuoba Wan'er answered, "No. The holy son-in-law treats me kindly."

"Be honest with your grandpa. From what I see, he does not seem the type to stay away from trouble. In fact, he looks like a player," said the hall master confidently.

Even Tuoba Wan'er felt embarrassed on Xiang Shaoyun's behalf. She said, "I think it's fine. He is sincere and treats me well."

"Girl, you are too kind. You're still speaking for him here? If it wasn't for the upright aura he has around him, I would have crippled him the moment I saw him," said the hall master. "Now that you're back, stay. Don't even think of leaving anytime soon. You need to complete the task I gave you earlier."

"Grandpa, I don't think we should do that. The holy son-in-law has a lot of things to do," said Tuoba Wan'er, who didn't dare to outright refuse the request.

"Nothing is more important than creating a successor for the Tuoba Clan. No negotiation," concluded the hall master imposingly.

Tuoba Wan'er wanted to say something, but she didn't know what to say. She knew her grandfather well. The moment he decided on something, it would be hard to change his mind. She could only wait and talk again at a later time.

Xiang Shaoyun went to where the Ziling Sect and Overlord Legion members were and spent some time with them. He told them what to watch out for while they were here so that they wouldn't get into any trouble unknowingly. He didn't have the time to babysit them.

The people from the Ziling Sect and Overlord Legion took this opportunity to properly experience the atmosphere within the Holy Earth Hall, so they didn't stay in their rooms.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to the residence arranged for him and Tuoba Wan'er. The residence was filled with beautiful memories of their past.

For the next few days, the entire Holy City was bustling with activity. The hall master was going to personally oversee the marriage between Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er. News of it spread rapidly to every corner of the Holy Earth Hall, and many organizations based in the Holy Earth Hall visited them with gifts.

In the Holy Earth Hall, the Holy Hall people were basically royalty. Nobody dared to slight them, and everyone needed to fawn on them. Thus, the coming wedding would be grand.

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that he would actually undergo a proper wedding ceremony during his visit. He thought of a different person whom he wanted even more to have a wedding ceremony with.

But since he was already here, there was no way he could say no. After all, he also loved Tuoba Wan'er, and they had already held their engagement ceremony. It was only right that they complete the wedding ceremony now.

The entire city was decorated with lanterns and colored banners, every single resident celebrating the royal wedding. Seated in a luxurious carriage pulled by eight dragonblood horses, Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er were paraded around the Holy Earth Hall once again.

Those lucky enough to come with Xiang Shaoyun rejoiced at the fact they could witness his wedding. They would be able to brag about their attendance for their entire life.

On the wedding day, Xiang Shaoyun was dressed in formal attire, looking handsome and noble. Tuoba Wan'er was akin to a fairy, every move of hers capable of tugging at one's heartstrings. When the two stood together, it was as though they had both descended from the heavens and were a match made in the heavens, gracing the mortal world with their presence.

Everyone in the city cheered endlessly, giving their most heartfelt blessings to Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er.

Holding Xiang Shaoyun's hand, Tuoba Wan'er asked, "Holy son-in-law, are you happy?"

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at her and said, "Of course. Why do you ask?"

"Won't you feel guilty toward the other sisters?" asked Tuoba Wan'er with a complicated look in her eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun gently wrapped his arm around her shoulders and said, "Silly girl. The heavens are blessing me for allowing me to get a wife as beautiful as you. Today, we won't think of anything or anyone else. This is a day for only the two of us. I only worry that you will suffer by my side."

"With those words, any suffering would be worth it," said Tuoba Wan'er with a smile.

Looking at the beautiful face right before him, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but plant a kiss on her cheek. They were currently in a parade going around the city. Everyone was looking at them, and when they saw Xiang Shaoyun kiss her, their excitement reached a boiling point. Everyone cheered even louder.

"Well done, holy son-in-law. One more, come on," someone shouted. The others also followed along.

Tuoba Wan'er's face turned red, and she lowered her head shyly, not daring to look at anyone.

"Sure, sure, I'll do it. Just don't forget me in the future," replied Xiang Shaoyun, in a good mood.

He then planted yet another kiss on Tuoba Wan'er's face.

"Well done, holy son-in-law. We won't forget you. You're a real man worthy of our princess," shouted someone.

The crowd continued cheering; joy and excitement filled the wedding.

Hovering high above them was the hall master, who was watching on as everything happened. A pleased look covered his face as he muttered, "At least this kid is decent. If he doesn't know how to appreciate Wan'er, I'll chop him into pieces."

"I heard from second brother that this kid is a hard worker. He is also decently connected, having the assistance of the white tigers, the angels, and some other weird but capable cultivators. His organization is decently sized, but they are currently suffering from internal troubles and outside aggression," said the first elder.

#### Chapter 1159: 10000-Year Snow Lotus Tea and Bellmilk Spring

The wedding ceremony came to an end. After Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er entered their room, the doors of their residence were locked for three days and three nights. They would only be allowed to leave after that. This was a tradition of the Holy Earth Hall.

This was a tradition to ensure that the newly-wed couples could complete the noble mission of propagating the next generation as soon as possible. During the three days, Tuoba Wan'er let go of all her inhibitions and fully immersed herself in copulating with Xiang Shaoyun, trying her best to create a descendant for the Tuoba Clan.

After all, she had lost her parents to an accident at a young age. Her grandfather was the one who had raised her dotingly. Unfortunately, she was a woman and couldn't inherit the hall as per tradition. Thus, she wanted a son who could inherit the hall in her place.

Xiang Shaoyun knew of her thoughts, and he did not disagree. She had already suffered enough to be with him. He didn't mind having their child take on the Tuoba surname. In any case, the child would still be theirs.

On the fourth day, the two went to the main hall to greet the hall master and accept his well wishes. After finishing the ceremony, Xiang Shaoyun went to see his Overlord Legion brothers off. At this point, they had already stayed there for about half a month. It was time they returned to the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

"Overlord, are you really not going back to the academy?" asked Zhuge Zhantian.

That was what all their brothers wished to see happen.

Xiang Shaoyun patted Zhuge Zhantian's shoulder and said, "Everyone knows that I have been expelled. If they take me back now, it will be the same as slapping their own faces. Forget it. Go back and continue cultivating hard. In the future, come visit me at the Ziling Sect if you have the time, and I'll be happy."

They all looked disappointed to hear his reply. Without a doubt, Xiang Shaoyun was an extremely charismatic leader. All the Overlord Legion members missed him dearly.

"Ok. If in the future I'm left with no other place to go, I hope the overlord will take me in once again," said Zhuge Zhantian bluntly.

"My door will always be open for all of you," said Xiang Shaoyun earnestly.

With that, they ended the conversation. The Overlord Legion people started leaving under the lead of the Holy Hall people. Looking at their departing backs, Xiang Shaoyun thought, If I can also acquire their help, I wouldn't need to worry about the sect's future anymore.

His Overlord Legion companions were all the most remarkable geniuses the world had to offer. All of them would become pillars of their respective organizations in the future. At the same time, they

were most certainly treated as treasures of their respective organizations. Thus, it wouldn't be easy to recruit them to his side.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to his residence and asked Tuoba Wan'er about the teleportation formation materials. He was trying to figure out just how much help the Holy Hall could give him.

"I spoke to Grandpa about this, but he wanted to talk with you alone," said Tuoba Wan'er.

"Oh? Is it proper for me to talk to him directly?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, feeling somewhat timid.

The aura around the hall master was too powerful. Even someone as confident as Xiang Shaoyun would lose his confidence before him.

"But that is Grandpa's request," said Tuoba Wan'er helplessly.

"Fine, I'll go meet Grandpa," said Xiang Shaoyun. He could only grit his teeth and face the hall master.

This time, the hall master did not meet Xiang Shaoyun at the main hall. Rather, they were meeting at his personal residence. In fact, this residence was only a short distance away from where Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er resided.

The design of the residence was rather minimalistic and wasn't too luxurious. Even so, every single object in the residence seemed to emit a certain kind of aura that made them extraordinary. The hall master was seated in the courtyard and sipping tea. The tea's pleasant fragrance filled the tranquil courtyard.

Xiang Shaoyun came before the hall master and saluted respectfully. "Grandpa, Shaoyun is here to pay his respects."

"Sit," said the hall master with his eyes still closed.

Xiang Shaoyun did as told and took a seat beside him.

The hall master said, "Make a pot of tea."



Xiang Shaoyun took one look at the tea leaves before him, and his pupils contracted. He said, "Is this the 10,000-year snow lotus tea?"

The snow lotus tea was a variant tea leaf that only grew in snowy mountains. It was extremely rare, especially for one that had grown for 10,000 years. One such lotus was comparable to a saint herb in value. Just a single sip would grant one immense benefit.

Xiang Shaoyun had read about snow lotus tea in some ancient records and was able to recognize it from the color, luster, and patterns on the leaves.

"However old it is, it is still a type of tea. Go ahead," said the hall master as he lightly tapped on the table, his eyes still shut.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything and prepared to do as told. But when he saw the water prepared, he exclaimed again, "Is this 10,000-year bellmilk spring water?"

The 10,000-year bellmilk spring water was extremely valuable. Even Saints would go mad from greed when they saw something like it. And yet the hall master was having him make some tea with it. Wasn't this too much of a waste?

He really wanted to keep the bellmilk spring water away as he thought he definitely had other ways to maximize the water's value.

"Cut the nonsense. Just do as told," said the hall master, becoming slightly impatient.

Xiang Shaoyun calmed himself and inwardly chanted some heart-calming mantra before he picked up the extraordinary-looking utensils before him. He was someone who had studied tea since his childhood. Although it had been a while since he last did anything tea related, his prior knowledge remained.

Since the water and tea leaves before him were too valuable, he was cautious with everything he did. Fortunately, his current cultivation level was no longer the same. His mentality and worldview had also changed. Thus, he could remain calm even when facing saint-grade materials. After all, he was someone who also possessed some saint-grade items himself.

Soon, he finished preparing a pot of fragrant tea.

The tea was sparkling and translucent, emitting a pleasant fragrance. Just taking a single breath of the tea would give one the feeling that one was floating in the clouds. A tea so extraordinary was not something other organizations could casually take out.

When Xiang Shaoyun smelled the fragrance, he started swallowing. He could swear that this was the best pot of tea he had ever made.

He poured a cup of tea for the hall master and said, "Grandpa, please taste the tea."

The hall master did not hold back and took the tea.

A tea like this was incomparable to the most valuable of medicinal herbs. It would bring immense benefits to anyone. However, the hall master was completely indifferent after finishing the cup, and he said, "More."

Xiang Shaoyun poured another cup of tea for him.

The hall master acted the same and drained the cup of tea without expression.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun poured another cup of tea. This time, he had the urge to try the tea.

When the pot of tea was almost finished, the hall master finally opened his eyes and said, "The tea is nicely brewed. Why didn't you drink any? This pot of tea was supposed to be for you!"

Xiang Shaoyun almost fainted from anger.

#### Chapter 1160: I'm Not Willing

This was a pot of tea brewed with 10,000-year snow lotus and 10,000-year bellmilk spring water. Drinking even a single cup would extend one's lifespan by at least 100 years. It would also cleanse one's body and enhance one's energy.

Xiang Shaoyun had wanted to drink it, but he merely didn't dare to without any permission. Thus, it was naturally infuriating that the hall master told him the tea was for him only when the tea was almost finished.

Fortunately, there was still enough tea in the pot for two cups. Xiang Shaoyun no longer hesitated and poured two cups of tea for himself and drained them both. The moment the tea entered his mouth, a refreshing fragrance flooded his mouth. Strands of slightly chilly aura slid down his throat into his stomach. Like rain during a hot summer day, this process gave him an extremely comfortable sensation.

At the same time, strands of energy converged in his organs and limbs, sweeping his body clean of any hidden injuries and impurities. His life force and health improved, and nine strands of extremely pure energy entered all nine of his stars.

He did not dare to delay and immediately circulated his cultivation method. He started refining the energy in his body, not letting even a single strand go to waste. The hall master did not do anything. He sat there silently as he waited for Xiang Shaoyun to refine the energy from the tea.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun found that his nine stars were growing rapidly, pushing him from initial second-stage Soul Foundation Realm to late second-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Even now, his stars were still growing.

He had not imagined that two cups of tea would be so powerful. He was both shocked and joyful. This was basically the hall master was showing him great favor. The higher one's cultivation, the harder further growth would be. The amount of energy one needed to accumulate would only increase. Even if Xiang Shaoyun's energy absorption speed was much faster, he would still need some time before he could advance.

This favor from the hall master had allowed his strength to greatly increase. He felt somewhat overwhelmed by the favor. Even after reaching the very peak of the second stage, his nine stars were still growing. He forced the stars to stop growing, and he started purifying and compressing the energy, further enriching his foundations instead of charging straight into the third stage.

When the hall master sensed he was compressing his energy, a look of astonishment flickered in his eyes. He thought, This kid's foundations are already extremely solid, yet he can still further compress the energy?

He knew very well how rich the energy within the tea was. A regular Soul Foundation Realm cultivator could easily advance three stages after drinking some. However, Xiang Shaoyun hadn't

even advanced a single stage. Instead, he had compressed the surplus energy, which wasn't something anyone could do.

Most people wouldn't let go of a chance to break through when it arrived. But Xiang Shaoyun could do it, proving he was of extraordinary character.

After a long while, Xiang Shaoyun finally opened his eyes. He saluted the hall master in excitement and said, "Thank you for your grace, Grandpa."

He had reached the peak of the stage in one go, which was an incredible advancement speed that made him feel like he was dreaming. His body had also been further cleansed of impurities. A day would come when he successfully formed a filthless body as well. At that time, he would possess a pseudo-saint body. For a mortal to surpass mortality and become a Saint, one needed to forge a perfect body, to undergo a qualitative transformation in one's being.

"Why didn't you break through?" asked the hall master.

"The amount of energy is not enough for a proper breakthrough. I might as well use it to further solidify my foundation. I'll break through after accumulating more energy," replied Xiang Shaoyun honestly.

"Not enough for a proper breakthrough? Interesting," said the hall master with a smile.

He was now sure that Xiang Shaoyun's foundations were much more solid than he had thought.

"Grandpa, Wan'er had talked to you about me trying to construct a teleportation formation, right? I wonder if there are any required materials here," asked Xiang Shaoyun bluntly.

He did not wish to beat around the bush. He had to gather the required materials as quickly as possible and solidify the Ziling Sect's defenses. Only then could he be worry-free and focus on pursuing ultimate strength. And only with enough strength would he be able to protect his own people and not fear the provocation of any organization.

"We don't have to be in that much of a rush to talk about that. I have a question. Are you willing to stay together with Wan'er here at the Holy Hall?" asked the hall master.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know what to say. He was afraid that he would suffer after giving the wrong answer.

But he couldn't run from this question, so he braced himself and said, "Wan'er is married to me. I will definitely take good care of her. My father had left behind his own organization. I want to inherit what my father left behind. I hope you can understand, Grandpa."

"I know, but that organization is not even one-third of the Holy Hall's strength. If you are willing to stay here with Wan'er, I will give you the hall master position. What do you think?" asked the hall master.

After a slight hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun replied firmly, "Grandpa, I'm not willing."

"Do you find the Tuoba Clan lacking? Or perhaps you don't really like Wan'er after all? You are merely toying with her," said the hall master with a furious tone.

An unprecedentedly powerful pressure smashed into Xiang Shaoyun's soul and chest, almost causing him to faint from suffocation.

He clenched his teeth and struggled as he spoke, "Th-that was not what I meant. Since Wan'er is married to me, she naturally has to follow me. My father's organization might be small, but I am confident I can grow it into something like the Holy Hall or even something bigger. I can protect her well."

He was not willing to live off a woman. He had his own ambitions. Although the hall master's offer was tempting, it wasn't what he wanted. He could not abandon what his father left behind, and he wouldn't abandon those he loved. He also wasn't willing to be tied up in the Holy Hall since it was not the kind of life he wanted.

"Hmph. You keep on saying that you love her, but you aren't even willing to make any sacrifices for her. Like others, you are a mere hypocrite. I might as well kill you right now so that Wan'er can get over you quickly," said the hall master. His aura surged, causing his surroundings to shake.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't withstand the ordeal and spat out a mouthful of blood, his figure slumping. His spirited appearance from before was nowhere to be seen.

"I'll ask you one more time. Are you willing to stay?" repeated the hall master.

With a resolute look in his eyes, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "A-apologies, but no!"