

Overlord 1221

Chapter 1221: Comprehension Training

After an unknown amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun woke up.

He opened his fuzzy eyes. When Money entered his gaze, he called out, "Money!"

"I'm here, boss. Start recuperating. I'll stand guard for you," said Money.

At this time, a silver horn had appeared on Money's forehead. It looked rather conspicuous. In the past, he wouldn't have the horn when he assumed human form. But after refining the celestial horn, the very essence of his being had transformed, and he could no longer keep the horn hidden.

This was understandable as the celestial horn was boundlessly powerful. Its might couldn't be hidden so easily. Xiang Shaoyun regained his clarity of mind and understood what happened to him. He hurriedly started healing himself. His main issue was the exhaustion of his soul power. He would be fine after his soul power recovered.

He gulped down spring water, but he found that his recovery was slow. He then decided to swallow the ghostbloom he was growing in the soul spring in his astral cosmos sea. The Devil Domain was filled with danger. He couldn't afford to slowly recover his soul power. Thus, he had no choice but to consume the valuable ghostbloom.

Fortunately, a new ghostbloom had grown in his astral cosmos sea. After a while, the newly grown ghostbloom would also mature. After Xiang Shaoyun consumed some spring water and the ghostbloom, his soul power recovered rapidly, and soon he felt much better. However, his soul had yet to recover to the Saint Realm. He still needed some time before his soul could reach its peak condition.

When Xiang Shaoyun had healed enough, he opened his eyes and asked, "How many days have I been unconscious?"

"Three days," Money replied.

"Three days?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed.

He had only recovered a tiny bit of soul power even after three days. It was obvious how much he had exhausted himself while fighting the diabolic dragon. However, killing a first-stage Saint Realm diabolic dragon was an incredible feat. If news of this spread, it would create an uproar.

Xiang Shaoyun decided to stop staying at the same place and left with Money. Seated atop Money, he continued healing himself and sensed his surroundings as they traveled. He wanted to meet up with the Overlord Legion, but he was in a completely unfamiliar place. It was almost impossible for him to find them.

Forget it. It's about time they test themselves. I should start tempering my own battle techniques, thought Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh as he reached a decision.

He headed toward the third layer with Money. He wanted more than just to enter the third layer. His goal was to continue advancing and challenging more powerful devils. There were countless devils in the Devil Domain. Each devil race had unique abilities, and a moment of carelessness could very well result in grave consequences. With his soul injury, Xiang Shaoyun temporarily couldn't unleash a Saint Realm combat strength. However, his physical strength was still enough for him to dominate many opponents.

In the blink of an eye, two months passed. During these two months, Xiang Shaoyun had killed so many devils that he couldn't keep count anymore. He had harvested numerous devil cores and devil corpses. It reached a point where he no longer felt anything when harvesting devil cores and devil corpses.

His proficiency with the Fiery Lightning Storm technique, a fusion of wind, lightning, and flame powers, had increased massively. He had also comprehended a new technique, Stone to Gold, which was a finger technique.

Stone to Gold was based upon the reinforcing effect earth energy had on gold energy. Making use of the reinforcing effect, Xiang Shaoyun was able to fuse the two completely different energies.

Stone to Gold was an incredibly powerful technique especially effective against devils with powerful defenses. That was why Xiang Shaoyun had decided to fuse the two energies into a finger technique—finger techniques were generally incredibly penetrative.

During the two months, his overall strength had also advanced by leaps and bounds. He had constantly fought devils, always striving to push himself to his limits. There were a few times where he nearly killed himself due to his high-risk training.

In that manner, Xiang Shaoyun had forcefully squeezed out his potential and had only hidden to rest whenever his astral energy was fully exhausted. After each recovery, he could see obvious improvements in his strength. It was almost impossible to absorb natural astral energy in the Devil Domain. Fortunately, he could replenish himself using spirit crystals.

During his first visit to the Devil Domain, he had absorbed devil cores to replenish his energy. However, now that all nine of his stars were cultivating different powers and he had comprehended nine different profundities, all other energy would be rejected by his body. Thus, the only use he had for devilish energy was to strengthen his Nether Soul Domain or his flesh. It was no longer helpful in enhancing his stars. In a sense, he had gained and lost some things after specializing his nine stars into different powers.

Of course, in the last two months, Xiang Shaoyun had also made a decent harvest of rare devil materials, herbs and ores. These materials were rather valuable and could be exchanged for a considerable sum of contribution points.

He had also encountered many humans during his time in the Devil Domain. Some were reduced into puddles of blood by the devils, while some were successful in their hunt. In short, the humans in the Devil Domain were either killing or being killed.

Xiang Shaoyun had grown numb as he had seen too many deaths. He wouldn't help unless the humans were people he knew. He did not view himself as a kind person.

One day, he had just finished killing a group of devils when he received a request for help.

He couldn't ignore the request because one of the people in the group requesting help was someone he knew. Not far ahead of him were one Devil Sovereign and more than ten Devil Emperors surrounding several humans.

The humans were not weak, but they had obviously reached the end of the road. They wouldn't be able to last any longer. Among them was Jiang Qi from the Sacred Deer Academy. She was now a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator and was still the academy's strongest disciple.

Xiang Shaoyun had a decent impression of her. Thus, he rushed over when he heard her call for help. He descended upon the battlefield like a celestial soldier and blasted the devils to death with his unparalleled combat strength. He displayed an extraordinarily heroic bearing, as though he was a child of heaven.

However, one of the devils was incredibly powerful. It had been idle, but when it saw Xiang Shaoyun's strength, it decided to make a move. This devil was an ivory elephant. It stamped its massive leg down, aiming for Xiang Shaoyun as space itself collapsed from the stomp's might.

When Jiang Qi witnessed the devil's dreadful strength, she exclaimed in alarm, "Xiang Shaoyun, watch out!"

Chapter 1222: Handsome Xiang Shaoyun

Elephant Devil's Trample!

The stomp was powerful enough to crush the world and cause the sky to rupture with its incomparable might. Facing the stomp, Xiang Shaoyun charged forward instead of retreating. A yellowish radiance condensed at the tip of his finger as he pointed at the leg.

Whoosh!

The finger beam pierced through space as it headed toward the sole of the elephant's feet. The yellowish beam turned golden as it shot forward, becoming increasingly sharp and terrifying.

This was Xiang Shaoyun's newly created Stone to Gold finger technique. With the concept of earth begets gold, the energies of earth and gold fused into an unstoppable power. They instantly penetrated the sole, causing the elephant devil to roar in pain and pull back its leg.

With a look of scorn, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Mere brute strength. Nothing special at all."

His contempt infuriated the ivory elephant devil, which roared, "Human kid, you will die a miserable death!"

The elephant devil swept its trunk like a whip, creating a thick and solid beam of light that shot toward Xiang Shaoyun's vitals. The trunk was as tough as the best of weapons. Anyone it struck would probably be reduced into a pile of mincemeat.

Xiang Shaoyun sneered and advanced again. He clawed at the trunk. His sharp energy claws, powered by a raging flame, shot forward and collided against the trunk. The fiery claws tore through the energy around the trunk, then clasped the trunk, rendering it immobile.

Infuriated, the ivory elephant devil unleashed all its strength in an attempt to pull the trunk back to swat away Xiang Shaoyun. However, Xiang Shaoyun's grip was too strong. Not only had the elephant devil failed to pull its trunk back, but it had also been tossed away.

"Piss off," said Xiang Shaoyun as he threw the elephant away like some toy.

The massive elephant crashed through several mountains before finally stopping.

The impact disoriented the elephant. If it wasn't for its thick skin, it would have been thrown to its death. The Sacred Deer Academy disciples were completely dumbstruck after witnessing Xiang Shaoyun's heroic might.

Before their eyes, he charged forward and punched the massive elephant. He threw it before the disciples and said, "Job's done."

He then dusted his palms in a carefree manner as though he hadn't broken a sweat from the fight. The disciples' astonished eyes twinkled as they looked at him with reverence and adoration.

Not only was Xiang Shaoyun handsome, but he was also valiant. It was understandable for these girls to be smitten by him. Even the Sacred Deer Academy's number one beauty, Jiang Qi, had her heart thumping heart as she thought, Xiang Shaoyun is so handsome.

However, Jiang Qi had incredible willpower and knew that a man like Xiang Shaoyun would have a lot of admirers. It wouldn't be easy to win his heart.

She calmed her mind and cupped her hands at Xiang Shaoyun. "Thank you, Xiang Shaoyun. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have survived."

Smiling, Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "No worries. It's nothing."

Just as Jiang Qi was about to speak, a voice rang out, "Help, senior sister. Luo Ying is about to die from the corrosion brought about by devilish energy."

The Sacred Deer Academy disciples panicked and rushed toward the speaker. They soon found several injured individuals; one of them was nearly dead.

"Was she fed any spiritual spring water?" asked Jiang Qi.

"Yes, but it didn't seem to work. She has been infected with not only devilish energy but also some devilish poison. Her injuries are grave," answered the nervous disciple.

Xiang Shaoyun looked over and found that the injured disciple looked decent. In fact, her beauty was comparable with Jiang Qi's, her beautiful face round and her figure voluptuous. Together with her blue outfit, she had a youthful and enchanting bearing. Unfortunately, she had a pitiful look of suffering on her pale face.

Xiang Shaoyun found his heart softening. "Move aside. I can help her."

"Xiang Shaoyun, if you have a solution, please save my junior sister," Jiang Qi pleaded.

"Don't worry. Her injuries aren't that bad," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. He stepped forth and fed the woman a drop of top-quality lightning liquid.

The top-quality lightning liquid had a property of extreme yang and contained rich vitality. It could cleanse devilish poison and restore one's life force—it was an incredibly rare saint-grade liquid.

However, the woman's body had also been invaded by devilish energy. She would probably die before the lightning liquid could even begin to heal her. Therefore, Xiang Shaoyun had to absorb all the devilish energy in her body. That was precisely what he did when he held her hand.

A man to the side immediately berated, "What are you doing? Let go of Junior Luo Ying's hand immediately!"

The man looked decent and was also considerably strong. However, he currently looked rather wretched because he had also suffered a serious injury. His name was Hu Ruhai, and he had a crush on the injured woman.

"Shut up if you want her to live," Xiang Shaoyun snapped.

Jiang Qi hurriedly said, "Stop messing around, Hu Ruhai. Just watch silently."

Hu Ruhai hesitated slightly before deciding to shut his mouth. However, his gaze never left Xiang Shaoyun, as though he was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would take advantage of the injured woman. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered with him as he absorbed the devilish energy that had invaded the woman's body.

After a while, he set the woman down and walked toward the other injured disciples. He said, "I can cleanse the devilish energy in your body. Don't resist."

Something about his voice caused all the injured disciples to believe in him, allowing him to easily absorb the devilish energy in their bodies. The others felt their horizons expand after witnessing this.

Additionally, Xiang Shaoyun even demonstrated the Secret Reversal Technique and used the profundity of wood to replenish the injured disciples' vitality, greatly healing their injuries.

When he was finished, he stopped and said, "Done. They should be fine now."

Jiang Qi stepped forth and said gratefully, "We're really lucky to meet you. I don't know how to thank you."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "We are friends, so don't worry about it. You should move somewhere else. Since a battle just ended here, more devils might come here soon."

"Um. We'll find a different location," answered Jiang Qi with a nod. "You came alone?"

"Kind of," answered Xiang Shaoyun.

"Then...do you want to join us?" asked Jiang Qi expectantly.

Chapter 1223: Travelling With Jiang Qi

Jiang Qi might not be weak, but being the leader of a group, she would be under great pressure when attacked by Devil Sovereigns. She was the strongest genius of the Sacred Deer Academy, but she had a rather gentle disposition. When encountering danger, she would feel helpless.

The latest incident was a great example of her helplessness. Although she had tried her best to break free with her companions, she still couldn't do it. As a result, her confidence started to waver.

Xiang Shaoyun had appeared to help them, and his powerful combat strength was akin to reliable insurance. If he agreed to travel with them, they would be much safer. She knew that she was perhaps asking too much from him, but she had no other choice.

It wouldn't matter if she was alone, as she would just die if she wasn't a match for the enemy. But she was leading a group, and she had to be responsible for their safety. Thus, she braced herself and requested for Xiang Shaoyun to travel with them.

The others also looked at Xiang Shaoyun expectantly, waiting for his answer. They would be overjoyed if this handsome and powerful man could travel with them.

After giving it some thought, Xiang Shaoyun agreed, "Sure, I'll travel with you guys for a bit."

He wasn't cold-blooded. He could watch on as others died, but he viewed Jiang Qi as a friend. Since she was in trouble, he wouldn't mind giving her some help. Of course, he made it clear to them that he would leave after they were fully healed. He enjoyed the feeling of traveling alone in the Devil Domain, and by being alone, he could grow rapidly. Traveling with others would only drag him down.

"Great! Thank you, Xiang Shaoyun," said Jiang Qi in joy.

The others also reacted similarly, joy plastered all over their faces. With that, Xiang Shaoyun started traveling with them. Not long after, they found a safe spot to rest and heal. Xiang Shaoyun volunteered to stand guard for them.

He glanced at Jiang Qi, who had a somewhat stiff expression, and asked, "Jiang Qi, why do you seem to be afraid of me?"

Jiang Qi was a beautiful woman with delicate facial features. She gave off the feeling of an educated young lady from a wealthy family of scholars. Her personality was warm and caused

many men to be attracted to her, yet the men did not develop any perverse thoughts about her. This was due to her unique temperament.

Jiang Qi blushed slightly and said, "No, I'm just kind of embarrassed to trouble you."

Xiang Shaoyun flashed a carefree smile as he said, "This is not a problem for me. Your academy is filled with beauties. I'm honored to travel with your group."

"Is that so? Which of my juniors caught your eye? Let me know, and I'll introduce her to you," teased Jiang Qi.

Xiang Shaoyun laughed, "Haha. Forget it. I'm a married man, so I shouldn't be willfully plucking more flowers."

"You're married?" exclaimed Jiang Qi in astonishment. Her expression dimmed slightly.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded seriously. "Yes. My son is nearly one now."

He recalled his silly-looking son, and his heart filled with warmth. Perhaps this was the kind of emotion only a father would feel.

Jiang Qi said sincerely, "Congratulations."

For some reason, she was slightly sad when she heard he was married. Fortunately, the feeling wasn't too strong.

She quickly adjusted her mood and asked, "By the way, are you brothers with Xia Liuhui and Liang Zhuangmin?"

Xiang Shaoyun became more attentive at the mention of their names. He asked, "Yes, we're brothers. Did you see them somewhere?"

He had thought of looking for Xia Liuhui at the fort, but he had subsequently changed his mind. It would be more advantageous for Xia Liuhui's growth if Xia Liuhui tempered himself alone. From Jiang Qi's tone of voice, she seemed to know about their most recent news.

"I invited them to join us prior to entering the Devil Domain, but they rejected me. They went with Wu Zhijun instead," said Jiang Qi. "Xia Liuhui is an odd talent from our academy. As for Liang Zhuangmin, who joined our academy later, he is a true prodigy. He is the black horse in our academy, a disciple with the fastest advancement speed. Looks like none of your friends are ordinary."

Xiang Shaoyun was pleased to hear that. He said, "Looks like the power of love has given my big brother a great motivation."

He still remembered when he had first met Liang Zhuangmin. At the time, Liang Zhuangmin had yet to enter the Dragon Ascension Realm. After receiving his help, Liang Zhuangmin was finally able to become an Emperor. It came as quite a pleasant surprise that Liang Zhuangmin had managed to join the Sacred Deer Academy after only a few years.

One ought to know that the four academies had long closed their recruitment. For Liang Zhuangmin to be able to join an academy outside of recruitment season, it was clear he had gone through an extraordinary experience.

Xiang Shaoyun and Jiang Qi finally found a topic of conversation, resulting in their interaction becoming much more natural. As they grew closer to each other, it seemed like they were old friends. There was no romance in their relationship. Rather, it was a pure friendship.

Five days passed, and their hiding spot started suffering devil attacks. However, few powerful devils had attacked, and the group had easily repelled them. The injured ones had recovered considerably, all thanks to Xiang Shaoyun using the Secret Reversal Technique on them daily.

They felt very grateful, especially the woman called Luo Ying. Her eyes seemed to shine when she looked at Xiang Shaoyun. Hu Ruhai, who had a crush on her, noticed and became increasingly disgruntled.

When everyone was fully healed, Hu Ruhai finally lost his temper and said, "Since everyone has recovered, it's time we get going. We can also stop troubling a certain person. He can leave."

It was obvious he was trying to make Xiang Shaoyun leave.

Xiang Shaoyun understood his meaning. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to reply, Luo Ying said, "Hu Ruhai, you are being ungrateful. He saved us, and we have yet to repay him. How can you drive him off so fast? It's unacceptable."

The others agreed to her sentiment and started criticizing Hu Ruhai.

Hu Ruhai flew into a rage out of humiliation and said, "All of you only want him to stay for his good looks."

"What are you talking about, Hu Ruhai? Xiang Shaoyun saved us. How can you say that?" berated Jiang Qi. Even someone with a mild temper like her was furious.

"Fine, I'll leave instead. All of you will regret this," said Hu Ruhai decisively. He couldn't stand Xiang Shaoyun anymore. After leaving his words behind, he left.

Chapter 1224: That's Not Proper, Right?

Hu Ruhai left, causing Xiang Shaoyun to feel somewhat awkward.

He rubbed his nose and proposed, "Why don't I leave instead. I don't want to cause any unhappiness among you."

Right after he said that, Luo Ying ran over and said, "This has nothing to do with you. He is the one jealous of you. Just let him go."

"Yeah. You saved us, yet he still acts like that. He is too disappointing," someone else agreed.

The others also voiced their agreement and sided with Xiang Shaoyun. He personally believed that he hadn't done anything wrong, so he didn't really feel guilty. He did, however, sigh at how difficult human interaction could be at times.

"Alright. Time for us to get going," said Jiang Qi after giving it some thought.

"You're planning to enter the third layer?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Of course. The four academies are fighting over the devilsand. Our Sacred Deer Academy might be weak, but we still need to put up a fight," said Jiang Qi with a determined expression.

"Good resolve, but going there like this is simply suicide," said Xiang Shaoyun bluntly.

"Why? Do you look down on us?" asked Jiang Qi unhappily.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and said, "The Devil Domain is no longer the same. Even the second layer has so many Devil Sovereigns. I had even seen Devil Saints before. Just imagine how many experts there are at the third layer."

Jiang Qi and the others sank into silence. This was a fact that they didn't want to face. However, they understood that he was speaking the truth. Xiang Shaoyun's bluntness destroyed the little bit of delusion they had.

"You might be right, but we still want to visit the third layer, or we won't be able to convince ourselves," said Jiang Qi firmly.

"All of you might die," said Xiang Shaoyun gravely.

Jiang Qi turned around and asked, "Juniors, are you afraid of death?"

"No!" answered the Sacred Deer Academy disciples in an orderly fashion.

"Good. Let's head to the third layer and fight for the devilsand," said Jiang Qi.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the disciples, not knowing what to say. Were they stupid, or were they stubborn? He ultimately decided to go to the third layer with them. As they traveled, they encountered more devils. These devils naturally wouldn't hold back when encountering humans, and they attacked immediately.

The Sacred Deer Academy disciples weren't exactly useless. They had all reached late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm and were still rather competent. Xiang Shaoyun rarely made a move as they traveled. He only acted against Devil Sovereigns. As for Devil Emperors, he left them for the others so that the group could get a sense of how strong the devils were.

After about eight battles of differing scales, the Sacred Deer Academy disciples were ridden with wounds, looking battered and exhausted. If Xiang Shaoyun hadn't helped them during a few critical moments, they would have all perished. They rejoiced at the fact that Xiang Shaoyun had stayed to help them. What would happen if he left? They didn't even dare to entertain the thought.

One day, when everyone was resting, Luo Ying quietly looked for Jiang Qi and asked, "Senior, what's your relationship with Xiang Shaoyun?"

"We're friends," answered Jiang Qi earnestly.

"Only friends?" Luo Ying pushed on.

"Yes," replied Jiang Qi firmly. "Why?"

"J-just asking," said Luo Ying, blushing.

Jiang Qi wasn't stupid. She thought of a certain possibility and asked, "Have you fallen for Xiang Shaoyun?"

"O-only a little," said Luo Ying bashfully.

Jiang Qi asked teasingly, "Do you want me to give you a hand?"

"No. I want to rely on myself!" said Luo Ying. She mustered her courage and walked toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Looking at Luo Ying, Jiang Qi's eyes widened. This girl is really quite courageous.

Jiang Qi knew that Luo Ying had always been a reserved person who didn't really dare to speak with strangers. Thus, it was admirable for her to have such courage. However, Jiang Qi also knew that Luo Ying probably wouldn't receive a favorable answer.

Xiang Shaoyun was standing atop a nearby boulder. His senses permeated their surroundings as he constantly watched for devils. At the same time, he was also contemplating his next course of action.

He wouldn't be able to keep protecting the group. However, he didn't mind escorting them to the third layer. After all, he was heading there himself. But upon arriving, he would have to part ways with them. He still needed to gather more contribution points, so he couldn't keep wasting time with them.

Xiang Shaoyun sensed someone approaching. When he saw that it was Luo Ying, he smiled and asked, "Yes?"

"N-nothing. Actually, I-I'm here to thank you for saving my life," said Luo Ying bashfully.

"You thanked me before. There is no need to thank me again," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"No, I want to thank you properly. I-I want to give you my body as thanks. What do you think?" asked Luo Ying as she met Xiang Shaoyun's gaze, her face flushed red.

"That's not proper, right?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his nose.

"Why? Am I not beautiful?" asked Luo Ying.

"You're beautiful."

"Why not, then? Is it because I'm not strong enough? I can put more effort into cultivating!"

"No, you're pretty good, but I already have a wife and a child. Y-you should understand."

"I-I can be your mistress. I don't mind. I only need you to show me more care," said Luo Ying in an agitated manner as she hugged Xiang Shaoyun's arm.

She had not fallen for him just because he had saved her. More importantly, he was too charming, and she couldn't help but jump at him like a moth flying into a flame.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel Luo Ying's bountiful chest pressing against his arm. However, he still nimbly pulled his arm away and said, "You don't have to treat yourself that badly. I only helped you for Jiang Qi's sake. If it was for anyone else, I wouldn't have done anything. Don't overthink it."

When Luo Ying heard his indifferent words, she paled. This rejection had obviously dealt her a great blow. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't bear to see her sad look. Just as he was about to say something else, his eyes turned cold. He hugged her and dashed aside.

As soon as they moved away, the boulder they were on exploded. If Xiang Shaoyun was any slower, he would have died.

Chapter 1225: Shadow Devouring Devil

The explosion alarmed Jiang Qi and the others.

"Devil attack! Be careful!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

He was somewhat confused because he had been paying close attention to his surroundings but hadn't sensed anything. Why was there suddenly a devil attack?

The attackers were a rarely seen devil race called the shadow devouring devils.

The shadow devouring devils could conceal all signs of life, and they were extremely proficient in concealment. That was why Xiang Shaoyun hadn't noticed the attackers approaching. The shadow devouring devils had translucent bodies, and when they were hidden amid the bush, it was hard to detect them.

This time, not many shadow devouring devils had appeared. Only several of them were present, but each one was incredibly powerful. All of their attacks were solely directed at Xiang Shaoyun.

Or, to be precise, their attacks were directed at Luo Ying. After all, the first attack had also been aimed at her. Xiang Shaoyun was merely affected since he was standing so close to her. Their subsequent attacks seemed to be aiming for him because he had her in his arms.

The shadow devouring devils were extremely nimble. Eight of them had arrived, with three being Devil Sovereigns and five being Devil Emperors. They spat out many formidable black wind

blades, attempting to slice Xiang Shaoyun and Luo Ying into pieces. With his incredibly quick reflexes, Xiang Shaoyun freely moved amid the concentrated barrage of attacks.

He deftly delivered Luo Ying back to Jiang Qi and the others. He shouted, "Be on guard. I'll deal with them."

He wanted to personally deal with the eight shadow devouring devils. They were too fast for Jiang Qi and the others to handle. But after he had sent Luo Ying away, the shadow devouring devils actually followed her and sent more attacks her way.

Jiang Qi and the others hurriedly countered and launched a series of attacks at the shadow devouring devils. However, the shadow devouring devils drifted about like specters. They were way above the disciples' league. If it wasn't for Jiang Qi releasing a powerful water domain that successfully slowed the shadow devouring devils, the disciples would have been instantly killed.

Only now did Xiang Shaoyun react. He rushed over and released his Nether Soul Domain, enveloping all the shadow devouring devils. Instead of attacking, he had the ghostrunes attack. Ghostrunes were the nemesis of shadow devouring devils. The shadow devouring devils' speed was useless against the ghostrunes' formless soul attacks.

Before long, the seemingly powerful shadow devouring devils were reduced into ghostrune fodder. Jiang Qi and the rest were still stunned, confused as to where the shadow devouring devils had vanished to. They continued scanning their surroundings in vigilance.

Xiang Shaoyun reappeared from thin air and said, "Leave immediately. A large number of shadow devouring devils are coming."

Jiang Qi and the others didn't even have the chance to ask about the shadow devouring devils that had vanished all of a sudden. After hearing his warning, they fled at full speed.

"Money, come out," Xiang Shaoyun summoned Money. He had to borrow Money's strength if he wanted to ensure their safety.

Like a swarm of bees, many shadow devouring devils approached from the distance. If Xiang Shaoyun was alone, he could easily escape. However, many people in Jiang Qi's group were too slow and were basically burdens. It didn't take long for the shadow devouring devils to catch up to them.

All the shadow devouring devils aimed their attacks at Luo Ying, unleashing a terrifying barrage of attacks that even Xiang Shaoyun had a hard time blocking. Jiang Qi and the others worked together to defend themselves. Luo Ying, who had paled from fright, also fought with all her strength.

Unfortunately, there were far too many shadow devouring devils. It was almost impossible to defend against the sheer number of incoming attacks. People from Jiang Qi's side started dying. As for Luo Ying, the main target of the attacks, she would have perished if it wasn't for Jiang Qi's protection.

Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun used his Nether Soul Domain again, trapping dozens of shadow devouring devils. Inside the domain, numerous chains shot out and killed all the shadow devouring devils.

If possible, Xiang Shaoyun did not want to fight in this manner because it didn't let him temper himself. However, he had no choice if he wanted to ensure that Jiang Qi and the others survived.

"Luo Ying, do you have something on you? Why are all the shadow devouring devils chasing you relentlessly?" asked Xiang Shaoyun after killing a batch of devils.

Luo Ying was confused. "I don't think so."

Xiang Shaoyun approached her and sniffed. He then reached for her waist. He moved so fast that Luo Ying couldn't even react before an item appeared in his hand.

"What are you doing? Why did you take my stuff?" exclaimed Luo Ying.

"Hmph. Is this really yours? If it is, throw it as far away as you can. Otherwise, you'll die before long," berated Xiang Shaoyun sternly.

He then returned the sculpture in his hand to Luo Ying, not caring about it one bit. The item looked like sculpted black jade. The sculpting done on it was exquisite and beautiful, and the jade looked like something a woman would love to keep on her body.

"Y-you're saying that this thing is the reason why there are so many shadow devouring devils after us?" asked Luo Ying in disbelief.

"That's right. This thing is called the yin shadow stone, a shadow devouring devil's most beloved material. It is rumored that with this stone, a shadow devouring devil can cultivate to a stage where they become completely formless. I don't know how true this is, but with that on you, the shadow devouring devils won't stop coming the moment they notice it. If you don't believe me, keep holding on to it. However, I won't be staying around any longer," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was someone with three lifetimes worth of memories. Thus, he was extremely knowledgeable. This yin shadow stone was an extremely rare and very useful material. However, in the Devil Domain, it would only serve as a magnet for shadow devouring devils. It was now clear why there were so many shadow devouring devils after them.

"A-are you sure?" asked Luo Ying, completely stupefied.

"I'm in no mood to joke around," said Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

"Why don't you keep it in your storage ring? That might work, right?" suggested Jiang Qi.

"It won't. The moment the shadow devouring devils detect a yin shadow stone, they will be able to constantly sense its location. They will keep coming since this stone is basically a divine object for their race," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"H-Hu Ruhai gave this to me," Luo Ying shrieked before dropping the yin shadow stone.

Chapter 1226: You're a Peeping Pervert

Everyone sank into silence upon hearing Luo Ying's words. Since the yin shadow stone came from Hu Ruhai, was he aware of the stone's function? As an outsider, it wasn't proper for Xiang Shaoyun to comment on Hu Ruhai's character. However, this was a good opportunity for him to split with Jiang Qi and the others.

He picked up the yin shadow stone and said, "Watch. The shadow devouring devils will definitely appear again. With this stone in my hand, you'll see if they will instead chase after me."

"How can we do that? Just throw the stone away. Don't put yourself in danger," Jiang Qi hurriedly said.

"It's fine. Perhaps there's a conspiracy at play. I'll take it on for you guys," said Xiang Shaoyun in a carefree manner.

"No, don't do that. I trust you," said Luo Ying. She felt like crying.

"Enough talking. More shadow devouring devils are coming. Stay away from me," warned Xiang Shaoyun when he sensed more shadow devouring devils approach.

He then dashed away, giving the disciples a good look at what would happen next. Jiang Qi and the rest wanted to give chase, but Xiang Shaoyun told them to stay put through voice transmission. He did not want to be distracted by them. Sure enough, shadow devouring devils appeared and surrounded him.

"Take care. I'm leaving," said Xiang Shaoyun as he rushed away. The shadow devouring devils chased after him, completely ignoring everyone else.

Luo Ying cried bitterly, "How can this happen? How could Hu Ruhai lie to me like this?"

"Are you sure he lied to you?" questioned Jiang Qi.

"Definitely. He gave this to me a day before he left. I couldn't bear to hurt him, so I accepted it. Who would have guessed that this would happen?" said Luo Ying.

"We need to go looking for Hu Ruhai. This is unacceptable," said someone.

"Looking for him here is like fishing for a needle in the sea. Let's just focus on heading to the third layer. Don't put all of Shaoyun's effort in helping us reach this far to waste," said Jiang Qi.

She understood why Xiang Shaoyun insisted on leaving. He merely didn't want to be burdened by them. To be precise, he wanted to move alone. With his strength, the shadow devouring devils wouldn't pose a threat to him.

Jiang Qi understood that. She also agreed that they should stop holding him down. After all, her friendship with Xiang Shaoyun wasn't that deep. There was a limit to how much she could make use of their friendship for her benefit.

And thus, she had decided not to persuade him to stay. The other Sacred Deer Academy disciples weren't too happy about his departure, but it wasn't their place to say anything either. The group resumed their journey to the third layer.

Without Xiang Shaoyun's protection, their advance became like walking on thin ice. Everything seemed much harder than before.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun started fighting the shadow devouring devils after leading them to somewhere else.

He was finally able to fight freely. He boldly used all sorts of techniques, fully displaying the might of each technique, dealing the shadow devouring devils a crushing blow.

However, the shadow devouring devils were no pushovers. Two of them were high-level Devil Sovereigns. They moved undetected, displaying extraordinary agility. The wind blades they released were also dreadfully powerful.

Under the onslaught, Xiang Shaoyun was struck many times, and his blood spilled. After three days and nights of fighting, he finally killed the group of over 200 shadow devouring devils. After the battle, he laid his weary body onto the ground and activated his nine stars one after another to replenish his energy.

Even when lying on the ground, he circulated his cultivation method, not allowing himself to slack for even one second. This was the best time for him to strengthen himself, and he did not wish to let go of this opportunity.

After each full circulation, the energy within his meridians, acupoints, and stars recovered and grew. Eventually, he reached late third-stage Soul Foundation Realm, a step away from the peak of the third stage.

Once he was almost fully recovered, he took out the yin shadow stone and studied it. The yin shadow stone was fatally attractive to shadow devouring devils, and there had to be a reason for it.

However, he couldn't find anything from studying the stone. Thus, he gave up and tossed the stone back into his astral cosmos sea. He wasn't afraid of being chased by more shadow devouring devils. He would kill however many that came.

Xiang Shaoyun resumed his journey. As he traveled, he gathered a considerable amount of devilish materials, and his contribution points rapidly grew. He wasn't even aware of how many points he currently had, as he had never checked. After choosing a direction, he traveled in a straight line.

Time passed as his life revolved around killing devils. It reached a point where he became completely jaded toward his current lifestyle. One day, he arrived before a certain lake. The lake's surroundings were strangely quiet, and not a single devil was to be found. At this discovery, he grew vigilant. The quieter a place seemed, the more dangerous it could be.

After scanning his surroundings and making sure that there were no hidden dangers, he stretched his senses toward the lake. He found something. There seemed to be some movements within the lake. Either devils or something else was inside.

He swept his saint soul's senses over to get a more precise look only to discover a humanoid silhouette, causing him to be stunned. The person inside was actually an old acquaintance. He had once met her in similar circumstances. It seemed like history had repeated itself.

Within the lake was an extremely beautiful woman washing her body. She only had her underwear on, covering only certain parts of her body. Her long black hair cascaded down her waist, looking like a graceful waterfall. Her enchanting figure was flawless, and her skin was as smooth as ivory. In fact, her skin almost seemed translucent, and it mesmerized all who looked at her.

She had sharp senses. The short instant Xiang Shaoyun was stunned, she discovered him. She slapped the water surface, creating a massive wave that obstructed the view before putting her clothes on. She then dashed toward Xiang Shaoyun. She was astonishingly fast, as fast as a peak Sovereign. In the blink of an eye, she arrived before Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun recovered from his shock and said, "Lady, I'm only passing by. I saw nothing."

In a fury, the woman said, "I have yet to settle the previous incident with you, and you're doing the same thing again? You're a peeping pervert, and your sin is unforgivable."

Chapter 1227: Give Up

Xiang Shaoyun felt incredibly wronged. Why was he suddenly a peeping pervert? This was the Devil Domain, a place where one had to be constantly vigilant of devils. He had not imagined that someone would actually take a bath in the lake. It was too much of a coincidence that this person was actually an old acquaintance.

The old acquaintance was none other than Devil Concubine, the True Martial Academy's number two genius disciple who cultivated the powers of yin and yang. She definitely had the Yin Yang Physique, or she wouldn't have picked that path of cultivation.

During the competition of the four academies, she had showcased her incredible combat strength. At the time, Xiang Shaoyun had accidentally stumbled upon her when she was bathing. She had borne a grudge against him since then. If he hadn't just improved his strength when he had met her, he might have been defeated back then.

Now, Devil Concubine was no longer the same person. She had reached peak fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm and was only a step away from the fifth stage. Her cultivation speed was incredible, and her growth seemed even faster than Xiang Shaoyun's.

However, she only cultivated two powers. Unlike Xiang Shaoyun, she could advance without gathering nine different energies. Thus, it wasn't too surprising that her growth was faster than his.

After Xiang Shaoyun caught her bathing twice, her impression of him had dropped to the bottom. Back then, she couldn't do anything to him. This time, she vowed to herself that she would kill him. She thus drew her Yin Yang Sword and swung it at Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun fled at top speed. For some reason, he felt slightly guilty, so he decided to act like the bigger man and not bicker with her. He thus prioritized fleeing from her. With that, the scene of Devil Concubine chasing after Xiang Shaoyun formed in the Devil Domain.

"Stop! I promise not to kill you!" Devil Concubine shouted as she gave chase.

She was incredibly fast, but she still wasn't as fast as him. She fumed as she thought, Just you wait until I catch you. I'll teach you a good lesson.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't allow himself to be caught. A race was the last thing he was afraid of. Then again, cultivating alone had been dull. Having a beauty chase after him was, in itself, a rather refreshing experience. Therefore, he intentionally slowed down, prolonging the chase endlessly.

"I know you wouldn't bear to kill me," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Stop, then. What are you waiting for?" said Devil Concubine furiously.

"I'm afraid that you might fall in love with me. I'm a married man," said Xiang Shaoyun in a righteous manner.

"Bastard! I won't spare you even if you run to the end of the world!"

"Stop! I won't accept your love! Just give up on me already!"

...

Many nearby devil hunters heard their exchange and were greatly astonished. Their astonishment only deepened when they realized that the woman was the True Martial Academy's Devil Concubine.

She was the famed True Martial Academy's number one beauty with countless pursuers. And yet here she was, chasing after a man who was apparently rejecting her love! The heavens were unfair!

They were unclear of what had happened, but news of this exchange still spread nevertheless. The True Martial Academy male disciples developed an intense hatred for the man she was chasing, hoping to kill him with their own hands.

As the pursuit continued, the two moved faster and faster. They no longer knew where they were going. They only knew that one was fleeing and the other one was chasing with all she had. Occasionally, some sword strikes were launched.

Even the devils in the area detected the commotion caused by the two. When they sensed the two humans, they joined the pursuit. The two completely disregarded the devils behind them and continued running for three days and three nights. Toward the end, a train of countless devils had formed behind them.

"You crazy woman! How much longer are you going to keep chasing me? Don't you dare think that I won't hit a woman!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun, who was finally losing his patience.

He had thought that she would give up after a while. However, she was too persistent, and he was becoming annoyed.

"Stop running and come hit me if you have the guts," Devil Concubine shouted back.

"Don't be too cocky. The devils behind you will rip you apart," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hmph. Before that happens, I will skin you alive," said Devil Concubine with a cold snort.

"Fine. This overlord is not going to continue playing with you. Bye," said Xiang Shaoyun as he decided to leave first.

Instantly, terrifying devilish energy erupted from both of their sides and crashed down toward them. Xiang Shaoyun reacted speedily and moved away like an eel, emerging completely unharmed.

As for Devil Concubine, she was less lucky. The attack was too concentrated, and she had been wholly focused on Xiang Shaoyun. Furthermore, the devils behind her attacked, and she was forced to block the attacks instead of dodging.

She had the combat strength to match a peak Sovereign. She activated her soul foundation and unleashed her Yin Yang Diagram, instantly diverting a large majority of the attacks from her back. Making use of a weak point, she tried to break free of the encirclement.

However, a centipede devil lying in wait under the ground suddenly burst out and spat a clump of poisonous gas at her. The centipede, a peak Devil Sovereign, was incredibly powerful. It had been hiding under the ground waiting for the perfect opportunity to attack Devil Concubine. She was caught by complete surprise.

Even though she stopped breathing the moment she noticed the poisonous gas, she still accidentally inhaled some. The little poison she inhaled caused her great pain. She did not dare to be careless and utilized a remarkable sword technique and sliced the centipede into two.

But the delay allowed the devils behind her to catch up with her, and a barrage of attacks was unleashed toward her. At first, she could still stand her ground, but the poison within her flared, and she started losing her endurance.

The poison was too powerful. Even after dissolving some antidotes in her body, she couldn't remove the poison. There were also more centipede devils around her, flooding her surroundings with poison and exacerbating her condition. She was unable to escape and sank into a predicament.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had completely broken free of the encirclement. He could easily leave, but when he sensed what was happening behind him, his departing figure stopped.

He spun around and saw the massive amount of poisonous gas and the devils around Devil Concubine. A sense of guilt welled within him as he sighed and muttered, "Fine, I'll be kind this one time."

He then charged into the midst of the battlefield.

Chapter 1228: Saving Devil Concubine

After charging into the devils, Xiang Shaoyun unleashed a slaughter. He released the most domineering of lightning punches and erupted with a terrifying amount of starfall lightning energy. The bombardment of lightning energy completely countered the devilish energy and poison..

Lightning power was the most destructive of powers. He flooded the sky with the profundity of lightning, further increasing the lightning energy's destructiveness as he released one heavy punch after another.

A certain Devil Emperor was struck by one of the lightning punches and was instantly scorched black. A different Devil Sovereign charged forward fearlessly and was pulverized into a pile of mincemeat by a single punch.

Xiang Shaoyun had yet to break through into the higher realms, but he had almost fully integrated his two lifetimes worth of combat experience into his current self. Not only did he have an incredible combat instinct, but he also utilized his fist intent with extreme proficiency. Each punch looked simple yet was boundlessly profound. He had already reached a level where a normal attack would be akin to a battle technique.

This was the essence of what the gravekeeper elder had taught him in the past. After spending several months tempering himself in the Devil Domain and integrating his two lifetimes of combat experience, he finally comprehended what his master had tried to teach him.

When killing enemies, one needed to be fast, precise, and ruthless. One should never hesitate and aim to kill an enemy with one hit. Xiang Shaoyun was fully immersed in that state. He no longer needed any high-level battle techniques. Each random attack of his could unleash his greatest potential, and nobody could stop him.

It was as though Xiang Shaoyun had transformed into a war god. He charged into the midst of the devils and instantly pulverized dozens of devils. Devil Concubine was still surrounded by enemies, and she did not understand why Xiang Shaoyun had returned. Her vision had turned fuzzy, but she gritted her teeth and continued resisting the devils around her.

A certain devil was able to move like a specter. It dealt Devil Concubine a heavy blow, causing her to lose her balance and begin to fall. When Xiang Shaoyun noticed, he pushed his speed to his limits and avoided many devils before reaching her side. He then wrapped his arm around her, stopping her fall.

At the same time, he swept his free arm out in an attack, hurling out a golden rainbow that blasted two nearby devils away. After he rescued Devil Concubine from the critical danger, she smiled and said, "Got you."

She then stabbed her sword at Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that she would attack him at a time like this. The sword successfully stabbed into his waist. In his fury, he tossed her aside.

But right after that stab, she fainted in his arm and failed to deal further damage. In fact, her stab was merely an instinctive reaction since she had chased him for so many days.

Xiang Shaoyun's heart softened when he saw the unconscious woman. Thus, he continued breaking free from the devils with her in his arms. Without holding back, he slashed his Overlord Skyslaying Saber around as he slaughtered out a path.

He had been nourishing the saber in his astral cosmos sea with his blood essence. During his time at the Xiang Clan's ancestral pond, he had also taken it out and reforged it. Thus, the saber's condition had been greatly restored. Although it still wasn't a saint weapon, it was not far from being one.

Compared with the few saint weapons he had, this saber felt much better to use as it allowed him to fully demonstrate the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique's might.

Using the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique and Overlord's Nine Nether Steps at the same time, he flooded the sky with destructive lightning energy. Numerous energy sabers tore through the sky, killing dozens of devils at once to create a storm of blood and flesh.

Numerous poisonous devilish bugs swarmed him, but they were all kept at bay by the lightning energy wrapped around his body. With the layer of lightning, no poison could invade his body.

If he didn't have to take care of Devil Concubine, he wouldn't mind staying around to have a great battle with these devils. Naturally, the wound on his waist was painful. However, his body was tough enough to allow him to continue battling despite the injury.

After breaking out of the encirclement, Xiang Shaoyun fled at his top speed. Only when there was no devil in sight did he find a place to hide. There, he laid Devil Concubine on the ground. Her entire face had darkened. It was obvious that the poison had seeped deep into her body.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun proceeded to absorb the devilish energy that had invaded her body. He then took out some top-quality lightning liquid and fed it to her. She had a tenacious life force. After receiving Xiang Shaoyun's help, she refined the liquid by pure instinct, and her injuries started healing.

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun have the time to take care of his injuries. The stab wound on his waist had pierced through his intestines. Even now, blood was still flowing. Even someone with a tough body like his couldn't afford to allow the injury to continue to fester. Using the Secret Reversal Technique, he started healing himself.

Xiang Shaoyun's mastery over the profundity of wood had continually increased, and so did his proficiency over the Secret Reversal Technique. His recovery speed was much faster than before. But while he was healing himself, Devil Concubine abruptly opened her eyes and pressed her Yin Yang Sword against his neck. Even someone as careful as Xiang Shaoyun would not be able to predict that Devil Concubine would recover so quickly.

When he sensed her chilly killing intent, he hurriedly said, "Lady, calm the hell down. No matter what, I'm your benefactor."

Devil Concubine looked at him coldly and said, "Tell me, how do you want to die? I will allow you to die with your corpse intact to thank you for saving my life."

"I'm not interested in dying young. Put your sword down. We can talk this out. Why must you resort to violence? We are both civilized individuals here," said Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

With the blade pressed against his neck, his skin split, and he started bleeding. Devil Concubine only needed to slightly draw the sword across his neck, and his head would be severed.

"Keep spouting nonsense, and I'll kill you," Devil Concubine berated. She gritted her teeth and decided to make her move.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally didn't want to die. His saint soul instantly erupted with a boundless might and blasted Devil Concubine away. The instant she was pushed back, she tried slicing her sword through his neck. However, he took the chance to retreat and avoided the slash. While retreating, he kicked her wrist and sent her sword flying. He then bounced off the ground and grabbed the flying sword.

The instant he held the sword in his hand, he sensed the Yin Mother Sword in his astral cosmos sea tremble. It was as though the sword was about to charge out of his body. He exclaimed in astonishment, "Is this the Yang Child Sword?"

Chapter 1229: Crazy Woman

The Yin Yang Mother and Child Sword was basically a set of swords. Yin and yang, mother and son. When yin and yang were together, a supreme might would ensue. The Yin Mother Sword was short and curved, while this Yang Child Sword was slim, long, and slightly arced. The latter's blade was tough, and its markings flowed smoothly to give the sword a masculine and hard look. The sword's glossy tip was incredibly sharp.

Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling that this was the legendary Yang Child Sword. But when he summoned the Yin Mother Sword, it stopped reacting. During his momentary distraction, Devil Concubine charged him again. Her hand shot toward his wrist as she attempted to grab him. However, she had yet to fully heal, so she didn't pose him any threat. Xiang Shaoyun easily moved aside and struck her shoulder mercilessly, sending her flying.

"Crazy woman, are you done?" Xiang Shaoyun was furious.

Devil Concubine might be beautiful, but he wasn't exactly a desperate man that would worship any beautiful woman he saw. He had stumbled upon her bathing twice, but both were pure coincidences. He couldn't take the blame for that. Neither would have happened if she didn't have the habit of taking baths in random lakes.

Since Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat guilty, he had been very forgiving toward her. She had even stabbed him once, which should be enough to clear the grudge between them. If she continued bothering him, he would stop holding back.

There was a limit to his patience. He wouldn't treat someone differently just because she was a beautiful woman. The palm strike caused Devil Concubine to collapse onto the ground. With a pale face, she stubbornly glared at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Kill me if you have the guts."

The sight of her triggered his memory as her figure overlapped with a certain woman from two lifetimes ago, causing his heart to soften yet again. In his eyes, the fuzzy figure became clear and completely overlapped with Devil Concubine.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head helplessly and asked, "What do you want? I swear both times were pure coincidences. Do you really believe that I have been following you all this while just to peep on you?"

The events from two lifetimes ago were history. Not even he knew what era that was. Thus, he did not think that Devil Concubine was actually related to the woman in his memories. Perhaps it was yet another coincidence.

Devil Concubine was no fool. She naturally knew that both incidents had been pure coincidences. However, she couldn't accept the fact that a man had seen her bathing since it concerned her reputation.

To make things worse, both incidents had happened with the same man. She couldn't even begin to describe how she was feeling right now. Xiang Shaoyun might be an extremely attractive man, but she had also seen many handsome men. She had a strong willpower and would not show mercy just because he was good-looking. Unfortunately, she was completely helpless against Xiang Shaoyun.

"Return the sword and let me stab you one more time," she replied.

"You crazy woman!" Xiang Shaoyun cursed and tossed the sword at her. "Come at me. I'll consider this as a repayment for the debt from two lifetimes ago. In the future, I'll stay far away from you."

Xiang Shaoyun wondered if he had gone crazy for allowing her to stab him again. Devil Concubine was surprised that Xiang Shaoyun would actually agree. With the sword in hand, she stood up and stabbed her sword toward him.

Xiang Shaoyun shut his eyes because he did not want to see the ruthless expression on her face. However, he only felt an incoming wind blast against him. The sharp pain he was waiting for did not arrive. Curious, he opened his eyes to find Devil Concubine staring at him with her big eyes. She had not attacked.

"Do it. I guarantee I won't strike back," said Xiang Shaoyun. He felt like slapping himself, hearing how pathetic he sounded.

Devil Concubine continued staring at him without saying anything. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help rubbing his face before waving his hand in front of her. He asked, "A-are you fine?"

Devil Concubine avoided his gaze and said, "I forgive you."

Xiang Shaoyun was stunned. Her abrupt change made him completely confused.

"Bye, then," said Xiang Shaoyun as he turned around to leave. He did not want to continue staying beside this crazy woman.

"You can't leave," Devil Concubine's voice rang out.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped and asked, "I thought you had forgiven me? Why can't I leave?"

"Since you have already seen my body, you have to become my man," said Devil Concubine seriously.

Xiang Shaoyun staggered and nearly fell from shock. He had seen many blunt women, but he had never seen one so blunt before. She was actually directly demanding that he be her man.

"Lady, this isn't proper. I'm a married man," said Xiang Shaoyun awkwardly. Did his luck with the ladies suddenly improve?

He had just freed himself from the Sacred Deer Academy's Luo Ying, and now, the True Martial Academy's Devil Concubine had come. Neither represented good news for him. A different man would faint from sheer joy hearing the same demand from Devil Concubine. Xiang Shaoyun was probably the only person who would react this way.

"Just dump your woman and follow me," demanded Devil Concubine nonchalantly.

Xiang Shaoyun had the urge to knock his own head against the wall. How could this woman say something like that?

"You're really a crazy woman," said Xiang Shaoyun before leaving.

He did not want to waste any more of his breath on her. She was too stubborn to change her mind regardless of what he told her.

Just as he started moving, she chased after him. He ignored her while she remained silent. She only stuck close to him. When he moved faster, she also moved faster. When he moved slower, she also moved slower. They looked like a playful couple joking around with each other.

"Can you stop this?" Xiang Shaoyun asked solemnly.

"No," Devil Concubine gave a simple reply.

Xiang Shaoyun said helplessly, "Do you know that for two people to be together, they need to have feelings for each other. You were still trying to kill me not long ago. You should hate me instead. Don't you think it's improper for me to suddenly become your man?"

"I only hated you because you weren't my man. Now that you're my man, I don't hate you anymore," declared Devil Concubine confidently.

Xiang Shaoyun felt that the world was collapsing around him.

He palmed his face and said, "Fine, follow me if you want. I'm going to the third layer. I won't be able to take care of you anymore."

Chapter 1230: Brother in Trouble

A large number of human experts had stayed near the third layer's entrance. They could enter, but they had instead decided to stay and wait for victims. Their so-called victims were the devils coming up from the third layer. By killing these devils, they could similarly accumulate a large number of contribution points.

Of course, they could kill the devils, but the devils could also kill them. This was the cruelty of a battlefield. When two opposing parties met, one would perish. In fact, the humans were also attacking each other.

After all, there were many valuable treasures to be found in the Devil Domain. Any treasure one obtained would grant one considerable wealth. Thus, it wasn't surprising that the humans would also rob each other.

At this time, Xia Liuhui and Liang Zhuangmin were being robbed. Prior to this, Xia Liuhui, Liang Zhuangmin, Wu Zhijun, and a woman called Min Rourou had entered the Devil Domain together.

Min Rourou was a Sacred Deer Academy disciple. She had a gentle and pleasant appearance as beautiful as her name, a woman Xia Liuhui had fallen in love with at first sight.

She was the granddaughter of a Sacred Deer Academy elder and had always kept to herself. One time, Xia Liuhui had met her by coincidence and found himself completely smitten.

He then tried everything he could to approach her. He even shamelessly became her grandfather's disciple just so he could get close to her. If Duo Ji discovered his disciple's shameless deeds, he would probably have a stroke due to sheer anger.

Fortunately, Xia Liuhui's decision had proven to work. After he received a new master, he was able to spend more time with Min Rourou. Eventually, she also developed some feelings for him.

As for Liang Zhuangmin, out of his affection for Wu Zhijun, he followed her into the Sacred Deer Academy.

At first, he didn't even qualify to step foot into the academy. He might be decently talented, but he had missed their recruitment. He had also started cultivating at a much older age than the other disciples, resulting in a lower cultivation realm.

However, he was also quite lucky. He decided to challenge the Sacred Deer Academy's ultimate trial. Those who managed to pass the trial would be accepted as the academy's disciple, but it was the Sacred Deer Academy's most difficult trial. In the academy's long history, very few people had passed it.

When Liang Zhuangmin challenged the trial, he was ready to die upon failure. However, he stumbled upon a massive fortuitous encounter. Not only had he survived, but his strength had also increased rapidly. Eventually, he passed the trial and became the Sacred Deer Academy's disciple.

Wu Zhijun could feel Liang Zhuangmin's affection for her, and she indirectly accepted his feelings. However, she still required that he surpass her in strength before she would agree to officially become his partner.

Since Xia Liuhui and Liang Zhuangmin knew each other from their time at Cloud Margin Pavilion and they were both Xiang Shaoyun's friends, they decided to link up. This time, they each brought their partner to the Devil Domain. After facing countless dangers, they finally reached the third layer's entrance.

Comparatively, they had been rather lucky in their journey so far. They had not encountered overly strong devils. Min Rourou had even obtained the seed of a certain devilish plant. This seed was extremely rare, and once absorbed, a cultivator would obtain an impressive combat strength. It would also grant some unique abilities. For wood cultivators, this seed was extremely desirable.

Generally, one would hide the fact that one had obtained a treasure like this. However, Xia Liuhui had become overly excited when they had obtained the seed, and he had started speaking loudly. A passing cultivator overheard their conversation and targeted them.

They were all Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. Even the strongest of them, Xia Liuhui, was only a peak Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. They couldn't defeat Soul Foundation Realm cultivators.

Fortunately, they encountered two Sacred Deer Academy overseers when their enemies were attacking. These overseers were here for the Devil Hunting Expedition. Fearing the two overseers, the attacker left.

But when the group came to the third layer's entrance, they found that the attacker had joined up with some other people. With renewed numbers, the attacker's courage rose, and he decided to attack once again.

The attacker's name was Lin Fan, and he was a peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. With his cultivation, he was firmly among the stronger participants in the Devil Hunting Expedition.

He had joined up with seven other people who were all late-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. One of them was a ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, giving him the confidence to attack Xia Liuhui's group.

The two overseers were only late-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. They could contend against the ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, but Lin Fan's side had the numerical advantage. The two overseers also needed to protect Liang Zhuangmin's group. Thus, the battle grew increasingly difficult for them.

"Hand over the seed obediently, and you'll be spared. Or else, die," said Lin Fan while battling one of the overseers.

"W-why don't we hand over the seed? We're dragging the overseers down," asked Min Rourou weakly.

Xia Liuhui hesitated as he said, "This devilish plant seed is extremely rare. If we hand it over, you'll be missing out on a massive opportunity."

"But if we keep the seed, all of us will die here," said Wu Zhijun.

"Those bastards. If I was already in the Soul Foundation Realm, I'd be able to defeat them with a single stomp," said Liang Zhuangmin in an unreconciled manner.

At this time, with a wail, one of the surrounded overseers died. The four academies might have a resounding reputation, but every single participant in the Devil Hunting Expedition was someone with a background.

"Stop. I'll hand over the seed," said Min Rourou when she heard the wail.

She was afraid that the other overseer would also be killed. She would feel too guilty if that happened.

"It's too late now. We might as well kill all of you," said Lin Fan.

He had not expected that someone from his side would actually kill a Sacred Deer Academy overseer. That was not a grudge that could be easily resolved. At this point, he might as well kill them all so that nobody would know about this incident.

"The Sacred Deer Academy will not spare you!" warned the overseer fighting Lin Fan.

"Hmph. You're the first person I'll kill," said Lin Fan coldly as he increased the intensity of his attack. He aimed to kill the overseer as quickly as possible. Xia Liuhui, Liang Zhuangmin, Wu Zhijun, and Min Rourou despaired. They couldn't even escape if they wanted to.

"Kill the men and leave the women behind to have some fun with," said Lin Fan coldly.

Just as Lin Fan's group was about to move in for the kill, a cold voice rang out not far away, "If you so much as harm a hair on them, you'll die miserably."