

Overlord 1251

Chapter 1251: Colosseum

Imperial Nether Clan, one of the four paramount devil clans. They were an incredibly mysterious race of devils born with powerful abilities, granting them an advantage over many other races. However, their reproductive rate was far lower than other races. Thus, their numbers were still relatively low despite having existed for many years. Due to their low numbers, each Imperial Nether Clan member that had awakened their talent would receive great care from the clan.

Not every single member of the clan would be born with a powerful bloodline, and not all of them would grow into a powerful combatant. Like all the other races, some would be born with incredible talent, while some would be born with inferior talent. Those with great talent would naturally receive more care from the clan, while those with inferior talent would remain unremarkable and unimportant.

Understandably, not every Imperial Nether Clan member would awaken their unique bloodline abilities. For example, Ming Helian only had a single talent of invisibility. He had neither the Nether Soul Domain nor the Nether Yin Gate.

Most Imperial Nether Clan members would only awaken a single ability. Those with two abilities would receive care and protection from the clan. Only those whose bloodlines were the purest—those with the primordial bloodline—would awaken three abilities like Xiang Shaoyun.

That was why even someone as important as the Nether Monarch would send someone to take Xiang Shaoyun back to the clan upon sensing his existence. Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of that. He had assumed that all Imperial Nether Clan members would awaken the three abilities.

After all, he knew little about bloodlines. He had thought that it was only natural that anyone with the Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline would awaken all three of the abilities. Ming Helian brought Xiang Shaoyun along as they traveled rapidly toward the clan's heart.

But right as they were about to reach their destination, someone appeared before them. Ming Helian trembled and knelt down in fear. He greeted, "I greet Lord Cigeng."

Xiang Shaoyun saw that a group of Imperial Nether Clan members had appeared before him. There were 18 of them, and each had a powerful cultivation level, their enchanting eyes radiating an oppressive aura. The leader of the group was sturdy and tall. On his forehead was a rune shining with a dazzling radiance, a proof of his incredible strength.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun felt that person's gaze on him, he felt as though his entire person had been seen through. It was the kind of feeling he would only have when facing the Holy Hall's master and his master. He guessed that this person was an actual Devil God.

Ming Cigeng nodded and said, "Hand him over to me. I'll take him to the Nether Monarch."

Ming Helian did not dare to disobey just so he could take the credit for capturing Xiang Shaoyun. He hurriedly agreed, "Yes, lord. I'll have to trouble you."

"Um. Well done," praised Ming Cigeng. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "You actually have human blood in you. I wonder if the Nether Monarch will be infuriated after seeing you. Come with me, kid."

His hand reached out and sealed Xiang Shaoyun before he left with Xiang Shaoyun in tow. Xiang Shaoyun was completely helpless. He could only accept any arrangement these people had for him. Despite his helplessness, his mind was still constantly thinking of ways to free himself.

Before long, he was brought to a massive circular construct surrounded by chairs. Imperial Nether Clan members were seated on the chairs, cheering as they watched the battle ongoing at the circular construct.

After studying his surroundings, Xiang Shaoyun found that he was actually at a colosseum. A battle between an imperial nether devil and some other devils was ongoing in the middle of the colosseum.

He personally witnessed the imperial nether devil slaughter one opponent after another. The ability used by the imperial nether devil was none other than the Nether Yin Gate. He had an impressive mastery over the gate, easily shifting numerous attacks away before murdering his opponents.

The rune on his forehead seemed to possess a mysterious power. It constantly pulsed, seemingly capable of strengthening his devilish energy and maintaining the devil's ability activation for a long period of time.

However, the imperial nether devil had also sustained numerous injuries on his body. After all, he was battling those with higher cultivation levels all by himself. With so many of them surrounding him, it was already impressive of him to stay alive.

After the imperial nether devil withdrew, Xiang Shaoyun was tossed into the colosseum, catching him by complete surprise. He also found that his astral energy was completely sealed. His mind instantly blanked, not knowing what to do without his astral energy. The imperial nether devils all around the ring were astonished.

"Why is there a human here? And such a weak one at that? Which lord tossed him in there?"

"But he is quite a handsome one. I wonder what's special about him? It would be boring if he's killed immediately."

"It has been a while since I've last seen one of those tender humans. I suppose he will make for a fine meal."

"This human seems so weak. Is he here to serve as food?"

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"Silence. Send some Emperor Realm gladiators in to fight him," Ming Cigeng's voice rang out.

He seemed to be the master of this colosseum. At his command, the crowd sank into silence. Next, a Devil Emperor was released into the ring. The Devil Emperor was a powerful hawktiger devil. It had the body of a tiger and a pair of wings, looking exceptionally ferocious.

Its eyes were filled with bloodlust—most likely the result of being fed some devilish substance that turned it into an empty husk that only knew to kill. With a roar, it pounced at Xiang Shaoyun, trying to swallow him whole.

Xiang Shaoyun felt incredibly gloomy. Without access to his astral energy, how was he supposed to fight this hawktiger devil? Thanks to his rich combat experience, he was still able to evade the attack by pure instinct.

His body had been strengthened by the Limit Stimulation Technique and had also been tempered by lightning origin energy. Because of that, his body was almost as strong as the body of a Saint. Even without astral energy, he still had an incredible reaction time.

Roar!

The hawktiger devil roared furiously when it found that it missed. It flapped its wing and sent two clumps of energy shooting forward. Once again, Xiang Shaoyun dodged the attack. However, he wasn't fast enough and was struck by one of the energy clumps and was blasted away. He collapsed heavily onto the ground, cutting quite a sorry figure.

If his body wasn't resilient enough, that attack alone was enough to tear his body apart. The surrounding Imperial Nether Clan members were finding the match boring. But since they knew that this human was brought here by that lord, they still held some expectation for him. Therefore, none of them left. The hawktiger devil pounced on Xiang Shaoyun again, aiming for his heart.

Chapter 1252: Bare-Handed Devil Vanquishing

Xiang Shaoyun had never felt so sullen ever since he started cultivating. He was actually helpless against a hawktiger devil that was weaker than him. Fortunately, he still had his gift of instincts. The moment the hawktiger devil pounced on him, he jumped away and pounced on the devil as if he was a tiger himself. He landed on the devil's back and then gathered all his strength on his fists and rained down punches.

Even without astral energy, his punches were still strong. He was able to break the devil's neck with just his punches. He wanted to punch the devil to its death, but the devil shook him off before swiping him with its wings, which were akin to sharp blades.

Xiang Shaoyun was thrown into the air, and the wings struck him before he could land and regain his balance. He felt terrible, but the strike wasn't able to leave any wounds on him. Instead, it provoked his bloodlust.

"You want to eat this overlord? This overlord will tear you apart before you can do it!" said Xiang Shaoyun as he grabbed the devil's wings and started tearing them apart.

His body erupted with boundless strength as he ripped the wings apart. Not even he himself had expected he could do that. The devil whined in pain and clawed at Xiang Shaoyun. Its claws were laced with powerful devilish energy and blasted him away. Several bloody wounds opened up on his chest.

Xiang Shaoyun recovered his focus when the devil pounced on him yet again. He swiftly stepped to the side with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, completely dodging the devil's attack. The devil gave chase and repeatedly attacked with devilish energy and claw attacks, but not one of the attacks could reach him.

Xiang Shaoyun had always relied on astral energy. Now that he had no access to it, he finally noticed how strong his body was. He could erupt with the strength of a Sovereign by relying on just his body alone. If he could find an opening, it was very possible that he would be able to kill this devil.

Sure enough, the devil eventually grew impatient and revealed an opening. Xiang Shaoyun took the opportunity to make his counterattack. After dodging another attack, he moved to the devil's side, gathered all his strength into his fist, and punched the devil's lower abdomen.

The domineering punch was incredibly powerful. Even without any astral energy, it was strong enough to kill a Sovereign. The fist punched right through the abdomen. Blood spurted out, and the devil collapsed onto the ground. After several twitches, it died.

Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief as he muttered, "It really is uncomfortable without astral energy. Good thing this overlord is no pushover."

"Release three Emperor Realm gladiators inside," Ming Cigeng's voice rang out once again.

"No way. Are we really doing this?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm.

Then, three Devil Emperors were released in the ring. One apeman devil, one scaled-lizard devil, and one soil-swallowing devil. All three were peak Devil Emperors and were much more terrifying than the hawktiger devil.

The moment they were released into the ring, they charged Xiang Shaoyun. With the previous experience, Xiang Shaoyun felt that so long as his opponents were in the Emperor Realm, he would be able to kill them. Thus, he was able to maintain his calm.

The apeman devil spat a clump of energy at Xiang Shaoyun, the scaled-lizard devil swept its tail at him, and the soil-swallowing devil dove under the ground and shot toward him. The Devil Emperors were powerful enough to easily kill any peak Emperors when working together.

With his sharp senses, Xiang Shaoyun could detect all the incoming attacks. He instantly came up with a plan. First, he dodged the apeman devil. Next, he charged at the scaled-lizard devil's tail and hugged it.

The lizard devil's tail carried with it an overbearing might. However, it was so strong that it could overwhelm Xiang Shaoyun's physical strength. He locked his arms around the tail, roared, and threw the lizard devil at the apeman devil.

The apeman devil wasn't fast enough and was struck. Both devils collapsed onto the ground. At this time, the soil-swallowing devil arrived underneath Xiang Shaoyun. It opened its massive jaws to bite him.

Xiang Shaoyun had nowhere to go. He couldn't fly, and even if he jumped, the suction force from the jaws would still pull him down. He used the strength of his entire body before he could roll aside, barely avoiding the jaws. While he was rolling away, the soil-swallowing devil erupted with powerful earth energy. A wave of energy rippled toward him.

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had been fed a mouthful of soil. It wasn't a great feeling to have. The soil-swallowing devil bit at him again. Blocked on all sides by soil, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't able to move away and was instantly swallowed by the devil.

Fortunately, the soil-swallowing devil was big enough that Xiang Shaoyun could still move even after being swallowed. He started bombarding his surroundings. He was someone who had braved countless dangers. In this situation, he knew that he could only rely on his fists.

"Die," Xiang Shaoyun was furious. He really hadn't expected to be tossed here before he could even meet the Nether Monarch. He didn't want to die here. The most primal of survival instincts within him stirred as he threw his fists around repeatedly. Even the corrosive energy within the soil-swallowing devil's body was blasted away from him. Eventually, he punched his way out of the devil's body.

The soil-swallowing devil had a tough body, but it was not tough enough to withstand Xiang Shaoyun's strength. After all, his body was nearly at the level of a Saint Realm cultivator's. The power he could erupt with was not to be underestimated.

After punching his way out of the soil-swallowing devil's body, he dashed at the apeman devil. The apeman devil was the slowest of the three devils. This was his next target. The apeman devil faced him bravely and threw its fists at him.

Moving in an s-trajectory, Xiang Shaoyun ingeniously dodged the punches. He slammed his feet into the ground, propelling himself forward before sweeping both his legs at the apeman devil's neck.

The neck was the apeman devil's weak point. It had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to be so fast. Its neck was struck, tormenting it with so much pain it couldn't even breathe. After the kick, its massive figure collapsed onto the ground.

Chapter 1253: Boiling Devil Blood

Xiang Shaoyun's kick might have landed on the apeman devil, but it wouldn't die so easily. He jumped onto the devil and slammed his elbow into the devil's throat. After several elbow strikes, the devil's neck was deformed. The devil could no longer put up any fight. At this time, the scaled-lizard devil arrived behind Xiang Shaoyun, sending its tongue shooting toward him.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't able to avoid the tongue in time. The tongue wrapped around him and pulled him toward the lizard's mouth. He wasn't directly swallowed into the stomach like when he entered the soil-swallowing devil's mouth. Instead, sharp fangs were waiting for him. If he allowed himself to be pulled into the mouth, he would be directly ground into mincemeat.

"You want to eat me? I'll eat you first!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he bit the tongue wrapped around him. His bloodlust had stimulated his ferociousness.

He bit a chunk of flesh off the tongue. With blood dripping off his mouth, he looked incredibly sinister. The pain caused the tongue around him to loosen slightly, giving him the opportunity to move his arms. He instantly grabbed the tongue with both his hands and pulled.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't afford to hold anything back. He pulled with all his strength and tore the tongue apart. The lizard devil suffered intense pain from having its tongue ripped apart. It swung its claws at Xiang Shaoyun furiously. The claws were laced with boundless devilish energy. If Xiang Shaoyun allowed himself to be hit, he would probably be reduced into a pile of flesh.

But instead of dodging, Xiang Shaoyun recalled a scene from when he was still at the Astral Realm. He assumed a horse stance, focused all his strength into his fist, and threw it at the incoming claws. He was confident his body was strong enough to surpass all Emperors. The fist collided with the claws, creating an oppressive rumble. The lizard's paw was mutilated, causing it to wail in pain.

Xiang Shaoyun then charged forward and threw punch after punch at the lizard. The lizard had formidable defenses, but under Xiang Shaoyun's punches, its defenses crumbled. Unknown to Xiang Shaoyun himself, a thin layer of devilish energy was wrapped around his body, giving him a sinister yet strangely charming appearance.

"What else do you have? Bring it on. This overlord will never cower," roared Xiang Shaoyun furiously. At this moment, he had completely forgotten about life or death.

He longed to battle to his heart's content. Even dying on the battlefield was worth it. The surrounding Imperial Nether Clan members gained a whole new level of respect for him. Sounds of discussion broke out as everyone started talking about him.

"This human is not bad at all. Just his physical strength alone is already comparable with one of us."

"He seems incapable of making use of the power of those humans. If he can, his combat strength will probably be even higher."

"Did that lord toss him in there to show us that even a weak human can also be strong?"

"For some reason, I can feel the aura of our race from his body. Weird."

...

"Release 10 top-tier Emperor Realm gladiators," Ming Cigeng's voice rang out.

A total of 10 powerful Devil Emperors were released into the ring. Some hovered in the air, some dove underground, some were surrounded in poison.... Each devil was stronger than all three of the previous devils combined.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun no longer remained in a reactive position. The moment the 10 devils appeared, he dashed forward like a cheetah. Every ounce of strength his body had was squeezed out, giving him an illusion that he had not been restricted at all, an illusion that he still had his full strength.

He started battling the devils. Punches were thrown, and kicks were sent as an intense battle erupted. As he squeezed out every bit of potential his body had, he found that the power dormant in his bloodline was being awakened. Strands of devilish energy started swirling around his body. A faint rune also started glowing on his forehead.

His strength grew continuously. Eventually, his attacks started being laced with devilish energy. Like astral energy, the devilish energy granted him boundless combat strength as he pulverized his opponents.

As more and more devilish energy swirled around him, his Nether Soul Domain and devil blood stirred violently. Something seemed to be taking form on his forehead, shining with a dazzling black radiance.

"Kill!" Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have turned mad. With a roar, he slaughtered all 10 of his opponents.

At this point, all the observing Imperial Nether Clan members were shocked. They could clearly feel that the aura radiating from him was the same aura as their bloodline. From the aura, they could sense a suppression originating from the very essence of their beings. It was as though they were facing a supreme monarch, causing them great discomfort.

"Five Sovereign Realm gladiators," Ming Cigeng's voice rang out.

With the inclusion of Devil Sovereigns, the battlefield seemed to have been elevated to an entirely new level. Xiang Shaoyun himself was only a Sovereign. With his astral energy sealed, could he even survive this encounter with five Devil Sovereigns?

All five of the Devil Sovereigns were nether prison devils. Even as members of a subsidiary branch of devils serving under the Imperial Nether Clan, they were reduced to mere gladiators here.

All five of them charged Xiang Shaoyun together, erupting with a strength far beyond the five Devil Emperors earlier. In a flash, they arrived before Xiang Shaoyun, bombarding him with a powerful field of devilish energy.

As nether prison devils, the forcefield they generated was naturally a nether prison forcefield. Numerous illusions appeared, making one feel as if one had been brought into the nether prison and was being tormented with the cruelest of tortures.

Anyone would collapse mentally in such a hell. However, Xiang Shaoyun had instead undergone some sort of change upon being brought into the nether prison. A dreamlike radiance shone from his forehead, granting him full immunity to the illusion.

Next, his Nether Soul Domain appeared and enveloped all five devils. They couldn't even put up any struggle before all five were pulled inside. Inside the Nether Soul Domain, the five nether prison devils that had gone mad felt their bloodline being suppressed. Fear plastered their faces as they started trembling.

"Die!" Xiang Shaoyun showed no mercy as countless chains shot up and tore the five devils into pieces.

By the time he withdrew the Nether Soul Domain, only chunks of flesh were left on the ground. Meanwhile, a massive commotion had broken out among the Imperial Nether Clan members.

Chapter 1254: Imperial Rune

The Nether Soul Domain was an ability exclusive to the Imperial Nether Clan. Apart from imperial nether devils, no other races could utilize this ability. As Xiang Shaoyun had demonstrated the Nether Soul Domain before so many Imperial Nether Clan members, the ability naturally hadn't gone unnoticed. If they couldn't even notice their own exclusive ability, they wouldn't be worthy of being imperial nether devils.

"W-what happened? How does he know our Nether Soul Domain ability? I'm not blind, am I?"

"No, you aren't. I sensed it as well. How else would he have instantly killed all five of the gladiators otherwise?"

"He is obviously human yet is emanating an aura that is the same as our clan's aura. What is going on here?"

"Is this a child of a human and one of our clan members that have settled at the surface world?"

"Just keep watching. That lord will give us an answer soon."

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"Ten top-tier Sovereign Realm gladiators," Ming Cigeng's voice rang out once again.

Ten top-tier Devil Sovereigns were enough to kill even a peak Devil Sovereign. Would Xiang Shaoyun be able to survive?

Ten Devil Sovereigns appeared in the ring. Apart from the nether prison devils, there were some other rare devils among their ranks as well. Each of them possessed an incredibly powerful combat strength.

It was no longer possible for Xiang Shaoyun to defeat his opponents with only physical strength. Thus, he released his Nether Soul Domain yet again. He couldn't be bothered with limiting his usage in his current situation, as his life was on the line. He had to do his best.

The Nether Soul Domain had a suppressive effect on all opponents, especially devils. Any devil trapped in the domain would be able to clearly feel the gap between them and a superior species, a sensation that would greatly reduce their combat strength.

Despite the suppression, it still wasn't possible for Xiang Shaoyun to kill all 10 of them instantly. None of them wanted to die. They struggled with all their strength, trying to break free and escape. One of the devils was a firebird devil. With the terrifying flame it released, it could easily break all the chains around it.

That wasn't surprising, as these chains were formed of soul power. They weren't actual corporate objects. The firebird devil flew around in the domain, burning even the chains shackling the other devils and freeing them. It was obvious this firebird devil had maintained its intellect. It was smart enough to know that only by working together would they be able to survive.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't give them a chance to break free. His saint soul personally stepped out and crushed the firebird devil with bare hands. The other devils weren't able to survive either. Before long, all 10 were slaughtered. As for the devil cores harvested from their corpses, Xiang Shaoyun tossed them all to the ghostrunes, allowing them to grow even stronger.

The 10 Devil Sovereigns were easily killed, creating an uproar among the Imperial Nether Clan members. They couldn't even begin to understand why Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Realm Domain was so powerful. It was also at this time that the rune fully formed on Xiang Shaoyun's forehead. In truth, this rune had appeared once many years ago after he consumed a drop of imperial nether blood during his previous excursion in the Devil Domain.

He had subsequently suppressed the rune and had never utilized it since then. With his astral energy sealed, he was forced to fight with only his physical strength. Unwittingly, the devil blood in his body was stimulated, allowing the rune to reappear. The rune was noble and profound, emanating

an indescribable power. The surrounding Imperial Nether Clan members were alarmed at the sight of that rune.

"Th-this is the imperial rune! Heavens! This is a prince!" someone exclaimed in alarm.

"That's right. This is a prince. I can feel the suppression from his rune. No wonder his Nether Soul Domain is powerful enough to easily kill 10 Devil Sovereigns. He is too strong."

"Heavens, that lord actually tossed a prince into the ring? Wouldn't this create a big uproar if the royal family finds out about this?"

"Greet the prince! He is someone who has a chance at inheriting the throne. It has been a very long time since someone had awakened the imperial bloodline. The heavens are blessing our race!"

...

The Imperial Nether Clan was separated into classes. The lower class was the commoners, the middle class was those with extraordinary bloodlines, and the upper class was those with the imperial bloodline. Those of the upper class had a bloodline of the highest purity, allowing them to maximize the might of their abilities. They were also the ones with the strongest combat strength in the clan. From Xiang Shaoyun's rune, they could see that he was also someone with the noble imperial bloodline. It had been a very long time since someone had last awakened this bloodline.

Their shock was understandable. Even Ming Cigeng's face twitched upon seeing that rune. Bloodline was extremely important in their clan. He had not imagined that a mixed-blood descendant would actually awaken the highest class bloodline of their clan. This did not bode well for him.

"L-Lord, are we still increasing the number of gladiators?" asked someone from the colosseum carefully.

"Increase? Increase my ass," Ming Cigeng cursed.

Everyone sank into silence. Not a single person dared to make a noise. That lord had a rather high status in the clan, and he was also quite strong himself. With him being in a bad mood, nobody dared to provoke him.

The same high and mighty lord appeared beside Xiang Shaoyun. With a flattering smile, he asked, "A-are you fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied indifferently, "Still alive."

"Of course. It is only natural that you will be fine. Allow me to first remove the seal on you," said Ming Cigeng fawningly. He then hurriedly removed the seal from Xiang Shaoyun's body. Xiang Shaoyun might be someone with a human body, but now that it had been ascertained that he had the imperial bloodline, he would become their prince.

Facing a prince, even a Devil God had to show respect. After all, this was an existence above his class. Ming Cigeng finally understood why even the Nether Monarch's attention was caught by this human.

Xiang Shaoyun asked, "What else do you have? Bring it on. I won't blink even if I have to fight to the death."

"You must be kidding. I was only trying to ascertain your bloodline. I did not intend to offend you, prince. Let me bring you to the Nether Monarch," said Ming Cigeng courteously.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know why things would take such a sudden turn, but he was naturally unwilling to continue putting up a performance like a monkey in a circus. Thus, he nodded and went along with Ming Cigeng. Even if he was to die after this, it would be worth it as he would at least get the chance to meet an existence like the Nether Monarch.

"What's the rush? Let me spar with him. I'll personally verify his bloodline," a cold voice suddenly rang out.

Chapter 1255: Prince Ming He

Xiang Shaoyun had showcased his incredible talent. Not even Ming Cigeng would still dare to provoke him. Thus, it was surprising that someone would actually challenge him at this time.

One person stepped out among the crowd. It was an extremely handsome imperial nether devil. He was clad in thick armor, and thick devilish energy constantly swirled around his body. On his forehead was a dazzling rune, showcasing his extraordinary identity.

He was Ming He, a prince of the Imperial Nether Clan's royal family. He had a remarkable bloodline power and was someone who had awakened two innate abilities, granting him a high status in the clan. The surrounding Imperial Nether Clan members were greatly shocked to see his appearance.

Ming Cigeng hurriedly said, "Prince Ming He, this is someone the Nether Monarch had personally summoned. Should we put that on hold?"

"That is even more of a reason I need to personally verify his strength. Lord Cigeng, step aside. I'll take responsibility for this," said Ming He firmly.

He was filled with hostility toward Xiang Shaoyun because he could sense that this human had an even stronger bloodline than him. He had no choice but to step out and bring him down a peg or two. He was already a Devil Saint. With his higher cultivation level, he was confident he could deal with Xiang Shaoyun. His request placed Ming Cigeng in a difficult position.

"Let it be. This overlord has never feared anyone," said Xiang Shaoyun.

In truth, he also wanted to try pitting himself against a prince. He was curious as to what a prince was capable of. Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun could feel a large amount of devilish energy gathering in the rune on his forehead.

Even now, the rune was still madly absorbing the devilish energy in Xiang Shaoyun's surroundings. A clump of energy had formed within his head. Additionally, his awakened bloodline had caused him to burn with fighting spirit. Even when facing Ming He, he was still excited for a fight. He had a feeling he could really be a match for this person.

"Hear that? Lord Cigeng, please step aside," said Ming He smugly.

Ming Cigeng no longer had any excuse to stop the spar. He said, "Prince Ming He, please be lenient with him. The Nether Monarch is still waiting to meet him."

He reminded Ming He once again that this was someone the Nether Monarch wanted to meet. If something happened to him, not even Ming He would have an easy time dealing with the consequences.

"Don't worry," said Ming He as he flung his hair with a complicated look in his eyes. He beckoned at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "I have a higher cultivation level, so I won't be using too much strength. I only want to see the abilities you have awakened."

He then vanished into thin air. This was the Imperial Nether Clan's talent of invisibility. After turning invisible, he walked toward Xiang Shaoyun, trying to see if Xiang Shaoyun could detect him.

Any other person wouldn't be able to detect him. However, Xiang Shaoyun was someone with the same ability. He naturally understood the ability well. The rune on his forehead flickered. Soon, he found Ming He and launched a palm attack.

He attacked with full strength right away, holding nothing back. The profundity of darkness accompanied his attack and blanketed his surroundings in darkness, obstructing everyone's vision.

He was using the dark origin energy, an energy capable of completely sealing one's vision. Nobody could see through this darkness; not even the Imperial Nether Clan's gift of instincts could see through it. Ming He reacted speedily and dodged to the side after sensing the breeze resulting from the incoming palm.

"Interesting power, but it's nothing for me," said Ming He with a sneer. He attacked.

A powerful suction force erupted from his palm, pulling the darkness and gathering it into a dark sphere. The blanket of darkness was successfully removed. As a Saint, his control over energy was much more proficient than a Sovereign. Even Xiang Shaoyun, who had comprehended the profundity of powers, couldn't compare with him in terms of control.

The moment the darkness was removed, Xiang Shaoyun also turned invisible. He didn't know if it would work, but he was still going to try using it. His disappearance caused another uproar to break out among the Imperial Nether Clan members.

"He's capable of invisibility as well! He has awakened two abilities! He definitely has the imperial bloodline," someone exclaimed in alarm.

"Whatever his identity is, with those two abilities alone, the clan will acknowledge his status."

"Looks like Prince Ming He was only trying to force his ability out of him. How thoughtful of him."

"If this person has a third ability as well, it would be shocking."

"That can't be, right? How many years has it been since someone in our clan has awakened three abilities? Nobody since that princess has awakened three abilities."

...

After turning invisible, Xiang Shaoyun did not attack. Instead, he moved far away, trying to see if his opponent could detect him.

"Invisible Nether?" Ming He was astonished.

In the Imperial Nether Clan, the talent of invisibility was known as Invisible Nether. Ming He did not have the Nether Soul Domain ability. Thus, he was unable to immediately detect Xiang Shaoyun. However, that didn't mean that he was completely helpless against invisibility.

"You can't hide from me!" Ming He shouted as he pointed at his rune. The rune started shining, sending an indescribable energy rippling out.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately felt his rune reacting to the ripple. He hurriedly tried to suppress his rune in panic. Unfortunately, he was a step too slow as Ming He was already charging in his direction.

"Show yourself!" Ming He roared and slammed his palm at Xiang Shaoyun.

The palm attack was powerful. Even if it couldn't kill Xiang Shaoyun, it was enough to seriously injure him. Xiang Shaoyun could feel the space around him being frozen. Since he couldn't escape, he could only face the attack head on.

Yin Yang Shield!

With the energies of yin and yang, Xiang Shaoyun formed a Yin Yang Diagram before him. Ming He's attack descended on the shield, but the power behind the attack was diverted in a different direction.

However, not all the power behind the attack had been successfully diverted. Xiang Shaoyun was still sent flying with blood spewing out of his mouth. This was the attack of a Devil Saint. It was already impressive that he had partially diverted the attack. If he could fully divert the attack, it would be too terrifying.

"I'll be fair. Use all your abilities, or you won't stand a chance," said Ming He.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally didn't need the reminder. He released the Nether Soul Domain and enveloped Ming He with it.

"You really think you're that impressive? This overlord is not afraid of you," said Xiang Shaoyun. In the Nether Soul Domain, he was the supreme master. With a roar, numerous chains shot toward Ming He.

Chapter 1256: Disgraced

Xiang Shaoyun had absolute confidence in his Nether Soul Domain, not only because of the domain's prowess but also because he had his saint soul in the domain.

"Imperial Nether Domain? You're not the only one with it. I have one too," said Ming He with a smile as he released his Nether Soul Domain.

The two Nether Soul Domains crashed into each other. Instead of an intense collision, the two domains fused into one single domain, with each of them on one side and controlling one side. They would have to rely on their capabilities to suppress the other.

Ming He was a pure imperial nether devil whose understanding of the Nether Soul Domain surpassed Xiang Shaoyun's. Using his rune, he seemed to have turned his domain alive and started devouring Xiang Shaoyun's domain. A powerful force crushed forward, trying to trap Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel a great pressure as his domain was being suppressed. If this continued, his domain would disappear, and his opponent would trap him. He immediately activated the Light of Wisdom to think of a solution while observing how his opponent controlled the Nether Soul Domain.

He found that his Nether Soul Domain was not weaker than his opponent's. In fact, his domain was much bigger. Logically, he should be the one doing the suppression.

Inwardly, Ming He was incredibly shocked. He was already a Devil Saint, yet his Nether Soul Domain was only this big. As a Sovereign, Xiang Shaoyun's domain was actually much bigger than his. If Xiang Shaoyun entered the Saint Realm, his domain would grow even stronger.

While Ming He was busy trying to devour Xiang Shaoyun's domain, he realized something as he muttered, "To truly display the Nether Soul Domain's might, I need to activate the power of my bloodline and dig out the potential of my rune."

He then fully unleashed his bloodline power. This was the very first time he had done so. The rune on his forehead became even clearer, emanating a noble aura that caused his bearing to change into something sinister yet charming.

The moment the rune was activated, Xiang Shaoyun sensed the profundity of his Nether Soul Domain. He instantly comprehended it and started counterattacking by controlling the domain with his rune. The so-called clash of two Nether Soul Domains was, in fact, a process of absorption. The stronger domain would hold the advantage and devour the other domain.

Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain had been growing nonstop since he had awakened it, growing to an inconceivable size. With his rune's manipulation, it started revolving and devouring his opponent's domain. He could feel that his domain was much more powerful than his opponent's, and his confidence grew.

"Bring it on! I thought you were challenging me? Let's battle to our hearts' content!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

Only the Imperial Nether Clan's unique rune could fully display the might of a Nether Soul Domain. After understanding that point, Xiang Shaoyun was confident that his domain would be even more powerful in the future.

The so-called Nether Soul Domain, as known by the humans, was also known as the Imperial Nether Domain by the Imperial Nether Clan. Xiang Shaoyun's body was only at the Sovereign Realm, but he had a saint soul. Thus, it was understandable why his Nether Soul Domain was so powerful. It had been weaker prior to this only because he didn't know that he needed to manipulate it using his rune. Ming He's face turned unsightly when he felt Xiang Shaoyun's domain start to devour his domain.

How did this kid learn how to use the Imperial Nether Domain so quickly? I refuse to believe I can't stop him! thought Ming He as he started countering with all his strength.

However, all resistance was futile before Xiang Shaoyun. With the awakening of his rune, his Imperial Nether Domain was unstoppable. The only thing Ming He could do was helplessly leave the domain before retreating far away to avoid being pulled into the domain. Otherwise, he would be fully suppressed in the domain, making his chances of victory even slimmer.

Xiang Shaoyun did not give chase. He withdrew his domain and said, "What else do you have? Bring it on."

He had a feeling that in terms of innate abilities, he wasn't inferior to any Imperial Nether Clan member. One could suppress him only if one had a much higher cultivation level.

"You're remarkable, but you're still not a pureblood. Even your cultivation is lower. Just accept your defeat," said Ming He as he attacked again.

Ming Cigeng wanted to stop the fight, but he decided against it after some hesitation. He also wanted to see Xiang Shaoyun's limits. Ming He attacked with the Netherhell Palm, unleashing a palm that seemed to have arrived from the depths of hell. Instantly, the palm reached Xiang Shaoyun. He was unable to escape in time and was caught in the palm. No matter how he struggled, he remained trapped in the palm.

Ming He was clearly determined to make things difficult for Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun was heavily slammed into the ground. Even his vision grew hazy. If his body wasn't tough enough, that slam might have shattered his bones. Ming He did not seem satisfied with that one slam. He grabbed Xiang Shaoyun and slammed him in a different direction.

"You really think you're a big deal just because you have a tiny bit of our bloodline in you? Before me, you are not qualified to be cocky," said Ming He arrogantly.

"This should be enough, Prince Ming He. Please stop torturing him," Ming Cigeng persuaded.

"Um. I only gave him a tiny lesson so that he knows to respect a prince like me," said Ming He, confident that this humiliation would teach Xiang Shaoyun humility.

Just as Ming Cigeng was about to step forth to help Xiang Shaoyun up, Xiang Shaoyun jumped back on his feet. His forehead was dyed red with blood while his bones felt like they were breaking. His entire body was aching. This person had clearly shown him no mercy. He felt incredibly gloomy.

"Trying to end this after giving me a beating? Dream on," said Xiang Shaoyun furiously.

"You're not Prince Ming He's match. Just come with me," Ming Cigeng persuaded.

The advice went ignored. Xiang Shaoyun released his soul clone and utilized another innate ability: Nether Yin Gate.

Abruptly, a black hole appeared out of thin air. An incredibly sinister and cold aura leaked out from the hole, causing everyone's hair to stand on end. When the surrounding Imperial Nether Clan members saw the gate, their eyes widened, and they stood up with their mouths agape in shock.

Chapter 1257: Shocking the Imperial Nether Clan

"Th-that seems to be our clan's strongest innate ability, Nether Yin Gate!"

"There's no mistaking it! He has awakened three abilities? He actually has the primordial bloodline. His bloodline is too powerful!"

"He is more than worthy of being a prince. He might even be a future Nether Monarch candidate!"

"Pay close attention to it. This Nether Yin Gate feels very powerful."

"Something seems to be coming out of the gate. It can't be the legendary nether yin devil, right? I thought only those who have reached the God Realm can summon nether yin devils?"

"Heavens, don't scare me like that!"

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Ming He's face turned incredibly unsightly. How would he have guessed that Xiang Shaoyun also had the Nether Yin Gate ability? One ought to know that of their three innate abilities, the Imperial

Nether Domain was the most common and practical, the Invisible Nether was incredibly effective despite its lack of offensive prowess, and the Nether Soul Domain was the strongest.

The Nether Yin Gate could divert all attacks and could even summon nether yin devils to fight on behalf of the summoner. Apart from that, it also had a mysterious effect only those who had fully comprehended the Nether Yin Gate's profundity could utilize—the ability to reach the Nether Realm through the gate.

The Nether Realm was an exceptionally mysterious place. Few Imperial Nether Clan members had been there, but everyone who had been there had returned with an incredible harvest.

That was also the main reason why the Nether Yin Gate was crowned as the clan's strongest innate ability. Of the many imperial nether devils, few could awaken this ability. Even saying that only one in ten thousand could awaken it wouldn't be an exaggeration.

When Xiang Shaoyun displayed that he had awakened all three innate abilities, all the imperial nether devils were shocked. Further shocking them was the fact that Xiang Shaoyun could actually summon nether yin devils with his low cultivation level. That was an extremely astonishing revelation.

After all, it was practically common sense in the clan that only those in the Devil God Realm could summon nether yin devils from the Nether Realm. However, Xiang Shaoyun had utilized only a Saint Realm soul to form a connection with the Nether Realm. This proved that it was only a matter of time before he entered the Nether Realm. According to the legends, the Nether Realm was the birthplace of the Imperial Nether Clan. It was a place every Imperial Nether Clan member longed to go.

"It really is the Nether Yin Gate! No wonder the Nether Monarch had summoned him!" Ming Cigeng exclaimed in alarm.

Xiang Shaoyun activated the Nether Yin Gate without holding anything back and summoned nether yin devils from beyond the gate. Two incredibly powerful nether yin devils stepped out. Their gazes instantly focused on Ming He as they started attacking him.

"Shit!" Ming He cursed as he hurriedly retreated. He could feel just how terrifying these two were. He wouldn't stand a chance against them.

Unfortunately, it was already too late for him to escape. The two nether yin devils had already locked onto him. Destructive attacks were already heading his way.

"You won't be able to defeat me so easily!" Ming He roared. When he saw that he had no chance of escaping, he released his Imperial Nether Domain and wrapped the two nether yin devils in it.

Unfortunately, not even his Imperial Nether Domain could trap the two nether yin devils. They blasted his domain apart, causing him to cough up a mouthful of blood. He had suffered a serious injury. He was completely helpless against the two nether yin devils.

Just as the nether yin devils were about to deal the finishing blow, Ming Cigeng finally made a move. A powerful force wrapped around the nether yin devils, completely freezing them in space. This was the strength of a God Realm expert. Everyone there felt it, realizing how tiny they were before such power.

"Your highness, please withdraw the Nether Yin Gate. I guarantee nobody will continue to create trouble for you," said Ming Cigeng, finally changing the way he addressed Xiang Shaoyun.

Only the most remarkable of the younger generation were worthy of being referred to as "your highness." At present, the entire Imperial Nether Clan only had a total of 18 princes. Xiang Shaoyun would be the 19th prince. It was clear how high Xiang Shaoyun's status was going to be in the clan. However, his human bloodline would also be his biggest obstruction. Furthermore, he still needed to obtain the Nether Monarch's acknowledgment.

It wasn't easy for Xiang Shaoyun to keep the Nether Yin Gate active. Since Ming Cigeng had promised him safety, he naturally wouldn't keep attacking. He still wanted to live. As he withdrew his energy, the Nether Yin Gate dispersed. The two nether yin devils were pulled back into the world beyond the gate.

Xiang Shaoyun's saint soul also returned to his body. An unyielding look filled his eyes. He was the overlord. Nobody could get off scot-free after insulting him. He then used the Secret Reversal Technique and started healing his injuries. Ming He glared at Xiang Shaoyun in an unresigned manner before leaving silently.

Ming Cigeng looked at the others and said, "Leave. The matches are over for the day."

Everyone started leaving. They all wanted to stay and get a better look at Xiang Shaoyun. After all, he was a prince. They might not get a second chance to meet a prince after this. That was especially

true for the female imperial nether devils. All of them seemed smitten with Xiang Shaoyun. If they could win the heart of a prince, a bright future awaited them.

Instead of directly leaving with Xiang Shaoyun, Ming Cigeng stayed and waited for Xiang Shaoyun to complete his healing. He could no longer treat Xiang Shaoyun with disrespect. This was a prince who had awakened three abilities, someone with boundless potential.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun finally opened his eyes. He felt much better.

"Do you feel better, your highness? I still have some healing items here. They can help you get better faster," offered Ming Cigeng.

Xiang Shaoyun looked over. Joy instantly covered his face as Ming Cigeng had actually offered him a saint-grade devilish fruit. Not only could this fruit increase one's lifespan, but it could also rapidly heal one's injuries. It could also strengthen one's devilish energy. It was a saint-grade fruit that all devils longed to have.

As a half-devil, Xiang Shaoyun was naturally capable of digesting this fruit. A regular human would only be devoured and killed by the devilish energy after consuming this fruit. He accepted the fruit unhesitatingly, but he kept it away for the future instead of using it.

Mi Cigeng did not question his action. Instead, he asked, "Shall we head over now?"

"Yes, let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun. He knew he had no other choices, anyway. It was time for him to meet the legendary Nether Monarch.

Chapter 1258: Audience With the Nether Monarch

Imperial Nether Palace, a place only the venerable Nether Monarch could reside in and the holy land of the Imperial Nether Clan. Hovering above the Imperial Nether Palace was a devil core emanating boundless devilish energy that spread through the entirety of the imperial nether territory. This energy constantly strengthened the clan and offered protection to each clan member.

The palace emanated an ancient aura, and it was unknown just how long this palace had existed. Upon reaching the palace, Xiang Shaoyun felt a sense of intimacy between his blood and this place. It was as though something was calling out for him. His mind went blank from confusion.

He had thought that the sensation originated from the bloodline he shared with the Imperial Nether Clan, but he soon found that that wasn't the case. In truth, the sensation originated from someone related to him by blood, and it was a sensation he would only get from a family member.

Unfortunately, that sensation did not last long. After he was brought into the palace, he seemed to have been completely isolated from the outside world.

Not far from the Imperial Nether Palace was a deserted palace where a certain imperial nether woman had been subjected to eternal imprisonment.

The woman was hanging on a pillar in the palace. She appeared completely still, showing no signs of life. Her presence made the building look more like a tomb than a palace. This was a palace of banishment, and imprisoned within was once the clan's most powerful princess. Unfortunately, she had been punished with imprisonment after committing a certain mistake.

With her talent, she was once the clan's brightest star and was hailed as the future Nether Monarch. She had the purest bloodline in over 10,000 years. Why would someone like this be imprisoned?

That was because of the forbidden relationship between her and a human. She had even given birth to a mixed-blood child. That was the biggest humiliation the Imperial Nether Clan had suffered in history.

The royal family initially wanted to punish her with execution, but they eventually spared her life due to the Nether Monarch's request. With the Nether Monarch's help, the little princess still had a chance to become the future Nether Monarch and be in charge of strengthening the clan and leading the clan to greatness.

Alas, she would rather accept the punishment than remain in the royal family. After losing her man and child, she no longer wanted to live. She had been waiting for her death in the palace all this time.

However, for some reason, she couldn't die even if she wanted to. An indescribable force seemed to be keeping her alive—the belief that she would see her child once again. Even if her child was human, she still wanted to see what kind of a man he had grown into. She only wanted to take a single look at him, and she would die without regrets.

She had been imprisoned for nearly 30 years, signifying that her child was almost 30 years old. One day, she abruptly bounced off the pillar. Her long, messy hair covered her face, giving her a sinister look. She exclaimed in alarm, "My child! I can feel his arrival!"

The Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline had an incredibly powerful connection with each other, one that no other races could compare to. As a mother, so long as her child came near her, she would be able to sense his existence. That was how she was so sure that her child had arrived. She tried charging out, but she couldn't break free due to the seal around the palace.

She started shouting, "Release me! I want to see my son! I want to see my son!"

The once-venerable little princess was now shouting like a lunatic. Alas, her plea remained unanswered.

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Meanwhile, after entering the Imperial Nether Palace, Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had arrived at an entirely different world. Under his feet was the starry sky, and above his head was the blue dome of heaven.

This was a shocking yet beautiful sight to behold. Even with the addition of two lifetimes of memories, Xiang Shaoyun had never been so shocked before. He was sure that this Imperial Nether Palace was more than an independent space. It might even be a god-grade tool of the Imperial Nether Clan.

Only someone with capabilities at a level that defied the natural order could create a palace like this. Here, Ming Cigeng became even more humble. His back was constantly bent, and he didn't even breathe too hard. He spoke softly, "Nether Monarch, the person you seek is here."

The moment he said that, a voice rang out, "You may leave."

After giving a bow, Ming Cigeng left without saying another word. Right after he left, Xiang Shaoyun felt a certain power descend upon his head. He lost control over the Nether Soul Dragon Headband within his head, and it directly flew out.

It settled atop his head and started emanating a certain power. The power resonated with the palace, completely changing the scene within the palace. It was as though a spark of light had appeared in the darkness. The entire palace brightened up.

Two roaring dragons flew out of the Nether Soul Dragon Headband, looking incredibly valiant and ferocious. Next, a figure appeared out of nowhere. He grabbed the Nether Soul Dragon Headband in his hand, instantly erasing the two dragons.

The only thing Xiang Shaoyun could see was a hazy yet lofty figure. He was completely incapable of getting a clear look at this person. From the very depths of his heart, reverence toward this person rose. This person felt as though he had crossed the long river of time to arrive at the present time, someone belonging to a completely different era.

Is this an existence of that level? thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly in alarm.

That level was a level where one truly rose beyond life and death, a level where one could defy time itself, a realm even higher than the Rebirth Realm. Even in his previous two lives, Xiang Shaoyun had never met someone of this level. He did, however, hear of some legends regarding them. However, he had been too far away from that level, so he couldn't get a better understanding of it.

These existences were almost unheard of. However, that wasn't because they did not exist. Rather, existences at that level were no longer confined to the world. As a paramount race among the devils, it was only natural that the highest leader of the Imperial Nether Clan was an existence at that level as well. Otherwise, the humans wouldn't have had difficulty stopping them during the ancient war.

"The lost headband?" Nether Monarch muttered. His gaze then landed on Xiang Shaoyun. His penetrative gaze seemed capable of seeing through his entire being.

Before this person's gaze, Xiang Shaoyun had an uneasy feeling, as though he was completely naked.

"What is your name?" Nether Monarch asked. He spoke softly, yet his voice seemed to contain an indescribable power that compelled one to obey.

Xiang Shaoyun answered honestly, "I'm Xiang Shaoyun."

The name Xiang Shaoyun was spreading in the Devil Domain because both Yu Caidie and Devil Concubine had issued missions looking for him with saint-grade items as the reward. His disappearance had thrown them into a panic. Thus, they urgently wanted to know if he was still alive.

They had already acknowledged Xiang Shaoyun as their man. They really didn't want anything bad to happen to him. Unfortunately, they received no useful information. They started sinking into despair. Even so, they still refused to believe that Xiang Shaoyun was someone who would die so young. They madly killed devils to vent their anger.

Little did they know, Xiang Shaoyun was at the lowest layer of the Devil Domain, meeting the Nether Monarch at the most mysterious Imperial Nether Palace.

"Human blood and human name. You are 29 this year, right?" said Nether Monarch.

Xiang Shaoyun was astonished. "H-how did you know?"

Right after asking that, he thought of something. Complicated emotions flickered in his eyes as he asked, "I-is my mother really here?"

He was confident his father was human. In that case, it was obvious his imperial nether blood came from his mother. Since the Nether Monarch knew his age, he probably knew about his mother as well.

"Has your father not told you anything about his past?" asked the Nether Monarch.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head blankly, "No."

"Oh, forget it then. None of that is important. What matters is the fact that you have our clan's purest bloodline. Even being part human, your blood is still as thick as ever, which is rather remarkable. You will be staying with the clan from now on," said the Nether Monarch.

He wasn't soliciting Xiang Shaoyun's opinion. His words were his command. Nobody could disobey him. Xiang Shaoyun could feel something deep inside him telling him to obey this person, as though this was what he was meant to do.

But just as he was about to agree, he blurted out his refusal, "I'm not staying! I'm a human!"

"Human? You won't stay one for long," said the Nether Monarch as a certain power descended upon Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even resist before he was knocked unconscious. He was then brought to the Imperial Nether Clan's forbidden grounds. Numerous towering mountains stood in the area, and thick devilish energy constantly drifted about in the air, causing the visibility in the area to be rather low.

On a certain mountain were numerous devil bones. In fact, this mountain looked more like a mountain of bones and gave off a sinister atmosphere. Also, a dark cave was on the same mountain, and it was spewing out dreadful devilish energy and a disgusting stench. A regular person would probably faint immediately from the stench or, at the very least, start vomiting the moment one arrived.

Xiang Shaoyun was tossed into the cave.

"After leaving this place, you'll no longer be a human," muttered the Nether Monarch before vanishing into thin air.

A chilly aura seeped into Xiang Shaoyun's body and awakened him. He found that he had been thrown into a nest of devils. Countless leeches were feasting on his flesh and blood, causing him to hiss in pain.

Xiang Shaoyun roared and tried mustering some strength to kill the disgusting leeches, but his strength had been sealed once again. He couldn't do anything to them. In fact, he couldn't even use any of his imperial nether abilities either.

His rune, his bloodline, and his abilities seemed to have been locked. This was a seal that was much more complete than Ming Cigeng's. Apart from his senses, everything had been sealed away.

Bastard! Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

Prior to meeting the Nether Monarch, he had thought of death. However, he had not imagined that he would be tortured like this instead. This was way too depressing of a way to die. He could feel

his blood draining away from him rapidly. He couldn't stop it at all. His skin started withering away, making his handsome face look old.

Anyone would be shocked seeing his current appearance. Was this still the same heroic and gallant Xiang Shaoyun? He looked more like a dried corpse. He looked incredibly ugly and seemed to be on his last breath. Anyone who saw his current appearance would feel distressed on his behalf.

The leeches were basically blood-sucking maggots. They were reared here by the devils, and every single one had consumed the blood of countless Imperial Nether Clan members. Thanks to the blood, these leeches had undergone some evolutions as well.

After Xiang Shaoyun had his blood sucked dry, his life force dropped to the very bottom. He was on the verge of dying. A regular person's body would fail after losing all blood. The end result would be death.

For Xiang Shaoyun to still be alive, albeit barely, was already proof of his extraordinary constitution. Instantly, the leeches scattered in all directions. A new batch of leeches appeared and crawled all over his body.

Logically, these leeches should have ignored him after sucking him dry of his blood. For some reason, they were still coming for him. When they bit him again, they didn't suck his blood. Instead, they transferred blood into his body.

Most people knew that leeches would consume one's blood, but few knew that they could also infuse one with blood. All these leeches would die after offering all the blood in their bodies. Sure enough, all the leeches withered and died after they were done offering Xiang Shaoyun their blood.

A new batch of leeches came and started infusing Xiang Shaoyun with more blood. All this sounded simple, but it was a long process. After receiving the blood infusion, the seal on Xiang Shaoyun's body vanished noiselessly. He regained a sliver of consciousness. With that little bit of clarity, he circulated his energy and controlled his blood circulation to expedite his recovery. He found that his blood had turned dark red. It was basically pure devil blood and was no longer the bright red blood that humans had.

Xiang Shaoyun found it hard to accept this. He roared, "Bastard! Why did you do this to me?"

He did not mind having devil blood in him, but he couldn't accept having only devil blood.

Chapter 1260: Devil Transformation

It didn't matter what Xiang Shaoyun wanted. The leeches continued infusing pure devil blood into him. If he wanted to live, he needed blood. Otherwise, he would eventually turn into a dried corpse. With his life on the line, he had no other option. Even if he hated this, he could only survive by absorbing the devil blood.

If not for revenge, he still had to live on so he could meet the mother he had never met before. He had wished to meet his mother since young. However, he had never gotten the chance. Even now, that longing still persisted in his heart.

He might have said that having a father was enough, but after knowing where his mother was, he still couldn't wait to see her—to know how she looked, to know about her life, to know if she still remembered him.

With that in mind, the rune appeared on his forehead. The devil blood in his body stirred, and a powerful suction force erupted from his body as he started absorbing the devil blood. With the infusion of devil blood, his withered body recovered. A vigorous life force spread throughout his body, allowing him to regain his previous looks with the addition of a thick devilish aura.

The rune on his forehead constantly absorbed devilish energy from the air. At one point, he even felt like his forehead was bloated with energy, causing him some discomfort. It was as though something was taking form in his head.

When he used his inner gaze, he found a black clump of energy revolving within his head. The black energy was still growing, and it was evident that this energy would soon reach a terrifying level.

He also learned that this black clump was the accumulation of his devilish energy. The devilish energy seemed to have been within him all along, but it had merely been scattered throughout his Imperial Nether Domain. With his rune and bloodline, the energy was finally gathered together.

Abruptly, Xiang Shaoyun thought of something and exclaimed in alarm, "Is this a devil core?"

Similar to how each demonic beast had a demonic core, each devil also had a devil core. The core was essentially a crystallization of their energy. If Xiang Shaoyun allowed this devil core to take form, he would truly turn into a devil, which was probably what the Nether Monarch was aiming for.

"No!" That wasn't something Xiang Shaoyun wanted to happen. He tried his best to resist and scatter the energy. Unfortunately, the core formation was beyond his control.

He had the purest of devilish energy around him, the purest of imperial nether blood in him, and a body forged by devil blood. Apart from killing himself, he wouldn't be able to stop this process. As more and more devilish energy gathered in his head, the clump of energy became denser and denser. It wouldn't be long before it took on a corporeal form.

Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation was also increasing sharply. This wasn't a growth in his astral energy. Rather, it was a growth of his rank as a devil. For some reason, the devil rank did not have any conflict with his human cultivation realm. That was because the devil core was taking form in his head where the Imperial Nether Domain was located. This was what every Imperial Nether Clan member should have.

Engulfed in thick devilish energy, Xiang Shaoyun eventually gave up struggling. If he had to transform into a devil to live, so be it. As someone who had lived three lives, he wasn't too stubborn about certain matters. When he reached the apex of cultivation, he would still be honored regardless of his bloodline. Who would dare show disrespect to an existence of that level? For now, he only needed to live. Nothing else mattered.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know how long he had stayed in the cave. In the blink of an eye, half the Devil Hunting Expedition's allotted period had passed. Many had perished, but many had also gained a large number of contribution points. One powerhouse after another also revealed themselves.

The Diabolic Dragon Clan had increased the intensity of their attack, sending more and more devils to the upper layers of the Devil Domain. The third layer had transformed into a living hell. Out of ten humans stepping foot into the third layer, nine would die. The danger forced many participants to return to the second layer.

Many Saint Realm humans still remained in the third layer. They had to stop the advance of the Devil Saints. The moment a large number of Devil Saints reached the second layer or even the first layer would be the start of the clash between the humans and the devils.

If the devils were allowed to reach the surface world, a disaster would unfold. During the past one and a half years, the four academies had lost about half their disciples who had participated in the expedition. This was the cruel reality that many couldn't accept. However, the survivors had also

grown greatly in strength. Only those who had been tempered in blood could truly grow into individuals capable of standing high above many others.

The Overlord Legion had also lost about half their members. People like Ma Qihao, Li Haonan, and some others who had once followed Xiang Shaoyun had all perished in the Devil Domain. Even someone as strong as Ouyang Chuanqi had suffered serious injuries and gone missing.

On the other hand, Zhuge Zhantian had reaped a great benefit. He was lucky enough to encounter a place of inheritance that he had an affinity with. Relying on the inheritance, he had reached the Soul Foundation Realm. He had also obtained a saint-grade formation tool, greatly boosting his capabilities in regards to formations.

Of course, the formation book he received from Xiang Shaoyun had also played a great role in helping him reach his current height. As for Han Chenfei and Tang Longfei, they were doing decently. However, many of those following them had also perished. At the moment, they had retreated to the second layer. There, they gathered all the surviving Overlord Legion members. By moving together, they hoped to reduce the number of casualties.

Xia Liuhui, Liang Zhuangmin, Wu Zhijun, and Min Rourou were also doing decently. They listened to Xiang Shaoyun and remained in the second layer. They were still able to handle the enemies in this layer.

They survived easily by picking their fights and fleeing when encountering enemies they couldn't defeat. Since there were only four of them, it wasn't too hard for them to escape either. Only in situations where they couldn't escape would they slaughter a path of blood to freedom.

One ought to admit that these four were quite lucky. They hadn't encountered overly strong devils, and they had even stumbled upon some fortuitous encounters. Through the tempering, the relationships of the two couples also grew rapidly. Unlike previously when the two couples were only together unofficially, they had officially coupled together.

As for Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie, after going mad from losing Xiang Shaoyun, they had made a name for themselves through their fighting prowess. They had become the brightest pearls of the Devil Domain, and the number of people courting them had increased sharply.

Alas, they scorned all their admirers. Even the most stunning participants in the Devil Hunting Expedition weren't able to win their favor. However, their aloofness only served to provoke their admirers' strong desire to conquer them.