

Overlord 1301

Chapter 1301: It's Convenient That They're Here

Hu Ruhai was a disciple from the Sacred Deer Academy. Although he was still an Emperor, he had a decent background and had a crush on Luo Ying. He had almost won her heart previously, but everything was ruined by Xiang Shaoyun's appearance. Thus, before he left, he gave her a yin shadow stone, which could attract a large number of shadow devouring devils.

He had obtained the stone from the elders in his family. They had also taught him how to use it. That was why when he wielded it, he did not attract any shadow devouring devils. He had a simple goal when he gave the stone to Luo Ying. He wanted the shadow devouring devils to kill them.

One ought to admit that Hu Ruhai was truly a vicious person. When he failed to obtain something, he would strive to destroy it instead. He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would discover the stone and spoil his plan. However, he had a backup plan in mind. He was able to quickly find his cousin and join up with his cousin's group. Together, they had even entered the third layer.

At the third layer, they encountered Jiang Qi's group. It was then that they started pursuing Jiang Qi's group. If it wasn't for Jiang Qi's trump card, she would have been killed as well. Hu Ruhai was quite a bold one. Upon discovering Jiang Qi at the fort, he persuaded his cousin to look for more trouble for Jiang Qi.

There were about 30 people in Hu Ruhai's group. Apart from a small number of Emperors, the rest were Sovereigns. They could be considered quite a powerful group, and their leader was Hu Ruhai's cousin, Wan Kaishan. Wan Kaishan had just submitted his contribution points and was ranked above 10,000th place. That wasn't too bad a ranking.

Wan Kaishan was a sturdy person with a wide waist and broad shoulders. He wasn't too handsome, but he had an incredibly haughty expression on his face. It was clear he was an arrogant individual.

"Cousin, Jiang Qi is over there. Looks like she found herself a backer. That kid beside the backer is the same person who had snatched my ancestral plate. Please avenge me, cousin," said Hu Ruhai furiously as he pointed at Jiang Qi and Xiang Shaoyun.

Wan Kaishan didn't even spare Xiang Shaoyun a look. He only focused on Jiang Qi with a look of lust as he said, "Of course I'll help you."

The group then started heading toward Xiang Shaoyun's group. At this time, there weren't a lot of people around Xiang Shaoyun. He had sent the Overlord Legion away, leaving behind only Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, Tang Longfei, Zhuge Zhantian, and a few others.

They had stayed not only to catch up with Xiang Shaoyun but also to ask him about the ranking. They also believed that an even harsher competition would unfold after the ranking was announced.

Those ranked in the top-100 would be allowed to enter a holy land to cultivate. Of course, those in the top-100 could also vacate their spot for someone else. Because of that, many organizations were focused on the top-100, trying to see if they could snatch some spots for themselves.

Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and the others weren't hoping to enter the holy land, but they were still paying attention to the latest updates. No matter what, gaining more information would be beneficial for their future. The approach of Hu Ruhai and company had naturally attracted the attention of the people around the area.

"These bastards still dare to show themselves before me?" Jiang Qi was furious.

"It's convenient that they're here," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"That's right. I've been itching for a fight lately," said Ouyang Chuanqi.

After three years of tempering, Ouyang Chuanqi had reached peak fifth-stage Soul Foundation Realm. He was akin to a spear, firm and unyielding. His cultivation speed was the result of his fortuitous encounter in the Devil Domain and the numerous battles with his life on the line.

As for Han Chenfei, she naturally wasn't weak. Even Tang Longfei had reached second-stage Soul Foundation Realm. They were all growing rapidly. Of them, Zhuge Zhantian's improvement was the most surprising. He had grown even more than Ouyang Chuanqi. From Dragon Ascension Realm, he had reached third-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Focusing on the dao of formations, one could say that he had pioneered a new path. With his skill in formations, he had a bright future.

Despite the fact that all of them were Soul Foundation Realm cultivators, Wan Kaishan didn't think too highly of them. After all, he had over 30 people in his group, with the majority of them also being Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. Over half of them had reached late-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Wan Kaishan himself was a peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. He had nothing to fear from Xiang Shaoyun's group.

"Kid, I heard you snatched my cousin's ancestral plate. Return it and kowtow to my cousin immediately," demanded Wan Kaishan arrogantly.

He had just submitted his contribution points. As he was aware that he had no chance of entering the top-100, he naturally hadn't checked the top-100 list. He was completely unaware that Xiang Shaoyun was ranked first on the list. He wouldn't have dared to come looking for trouble otherwise.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored Wan Kaishan and sneered at Hu Ruhai as he said, "You have quite a way with women. I'm even more surprised by your courage to come looking for me."

"Cut the nonsense. You're a shameless bastard who had stolen my woman and ancestral plate. Today, my cousin is here to uphold justice for me. You will be torn into pieces!" said Hu Ruhai in a righteous manner.

His voice was loud, attracting quite a lot of attention. Jiang Qi was infuriated. She pointed at Hu Ruhai and roared, "You're the shameless one! I will report your crime to the academy. You will be expelled, and I won't spare you!"

"Senior Jiang, don't believe the lies of this pretty boy," said Hu Ruhai with a smirk.

"That's right. You're not bad, girl. Come with me. With my protection, nobody can bully you anymore," invited Wan Kaishan.

"Looks like we're facing a bunch of idiots," remarked Zhuge Zhantian flatly.

Jiang Qi was the Sacred Deer Academy's number one disciple, yet Hu Ruhai's group still dared to provoke her like this. The moment the academy elders arrived, they would suffer.

"Hehe, looks like you won't know who you're facing if I don't teach you guys a lesson. Men, take them down!" commanded Wan Kaishan with a sneer.

At his command, several people stepped forth and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's group. But before they could even attack, Ouyang Chuanqi transformed into a clump of flame and shot toward them. Han Chenfei did not hesitate either, and a burst of frost energy erupted from her. Naturally, Jiang Qi wouldn't sit back and do nothing with her anger. She drew her sword and charged forth. With three

geniuses making a move at the same time, powerful aftershocks rippled in all directions. Before Wan Kaishan's men could even react, they were all sent flying.

Chapter 1302: One Hit

Wan Kaishan and his people weren't pushovers. Those who had attacked first were merely the weakest among them, and they were only responsible for verifying the strength of Xiang Shaoyun's group.

Wan Kaishan had not expected the youngsters to be so strong. He frowned and shouted, "You dare resist? Take all of them down! Show no mercy!"

At his command, about a dozen people behind him released their soul foundations simultaneously and charged Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and Jiang Qi. They had all been baptized by blood in the Devil Domain. Their combat strength was not to be underestimated. With their higher cultivation levels, they were able to snatch the upper hand from Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and Jiang Qi.

Tang Longfei and Zhuge Zhantian wanted to help, but Xiang Shaoyun stopped them, saying, "There's no need. They are enough to deal with these people."

Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and Jiang Qi were all genius disciples from their respective academies with the strength to match peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. It wasn't possible that they wouldn't be a match for their opponents. It was more likely that they were holding back since there were two late-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivators who had yet to make a move beside Wan Kaishan.

Ouyang Chuanqi was originally no weaker than Xiang Shaoyun. Over the years, he had cultivated hard to keep up with Xiang Shaoyun. His cultivation level had surpassed Xiang Shaoyun's, granting him the ability to fight peak Sovereigns. As he spun his fiery spear like a flaming wheel, his opponents were forced to retreat again and again.

His gaze landed on the weakest of his opponents. He became one with his spear and transformed into a surging torrent of flame, crashing toward him. His opponent did not expect to be targeted. Before he could even put up any defenses, the fiery spear pierced through his chest.

At this time, two people charged Ouyang Chuanqi from his front and back, each sending a slash at him. Ouyang Chuanqi's opponent thought that the combined attack would work, but Ouyang Chuanqi reacted nimbly and bent down, avoiding the fatal attack. Ouyang Chuanqi then swept his

leg out with a bizarre posture. His kick struck his opponent's crotch, causing his opponent to wail in pain.

Ouyang Chuanqi roared, "Is this all you have, maggots? This is too disappointing."

As Ouyang Chuanqi revealed his strength, his opponents suffered a crushing defeat.

Han Chenfei and Jiang Qi also had impressive combat strength. Both of them had comprehended the profundity of powers, allowing them to maximize their respective element. Both had eight-star physiques, granting them a strength comparable to ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivators.

If they didn't have such strength, they wouldn't be qualified to be regarded as geniuses of their academies. If it wasn't for the fact that Wan Kaishan's side had more people, their opponents would have already suffered a complete defeat.

Wan Kaishan lost his patience and said to the two beside him, "You two, go take them down. Capture the two women alive. I'll let them suffer the consequences of offending me."

The two charged Ouyang Chuanqi and Han Chenfei.

Wan Kaishan looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Since you dare to steal from my cousin, I'll cripple you."

After saying that, he charged forth and grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's throat. Wan Kaishan was a peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. He definitely had impressive combat strength. As he charged, his aura surrounded Xiang Shaoyun, not giving Xiang Shaoyun a chance to escape.

Beside Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei and Zhuge Zhantian did not do anything to stop Wan Kaishan. Rather, they retreated while sneering. It was truly lamentable for Wan Kaishan that out of all the people present, he had picked Xiang Shaoyun as his opponent.

"Cousin, destroy that bastard!" Hu Ruhai cheered in excitement.

Just as Wan Kaishan's hand was about to reach Xiang Shaoyun's throat, Xiang Shaoyun moved. He activated the profundity of earth and created a powerful gravity field around him, forcefully slowing Wan Kaishan.

Wan Kaishan himself was an earth cultivator, but he had yet to comprehend the profundity of earth. Facing a gravity field, he could only resist with his body. With a vicious expression, he said, "Nothing can save you from me!"

"Idiot," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly as his hand shot out like a bolt of lightning. He grabbed Wan Kaishan's wrist and sent a kick out. Wan Kaishan couldn't even react when he was sent flying away.

He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be so strong. Only upon being sent flying did he realize he had provoked an enemy he couldn't defeat. Unfortunately for him, this was a mistake he couldn't recover from.

Like a specter, Xiang Shaoyun approached him. Before Wan Kaishan had even landed on the ground, Xiang Shaoyun kicked him again. With a unique exertion of force, he had kicked him toward Hu Ruhai like a ball.

Hu Ruhai had not imagined that his powerful cousin would be so useless before Xiang Shaoyun. He also hadn't imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would still be paying attention to him. He couldn't even react, and his cousin crashed into him, sending him flying away. Hu Ruhai was only a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He couldn't withstand such an impact, and he started coughing blood.

However, the collision allowed Wan Kaishan to regain his balance. He glared at Xiang Shaoyun and roared, "You're dead!"

He mustered all his strength, and his body started enlarging. His muscles bulged, erupting with an alarming strength. A two-handed axe appeared in his hands. The earth quaked as he stepped forward and swung the axe at Xiang Shaoyun.

Mountain Cleaving Axe, seventh stance: Hacking Mountains and Splitting Earth!

A projection of a collapsing mountain appeared in the air, and the ground below them cracked, showcasing the might of this attack. Powerful soul marks appeared on his nine-layered soul foundation, emitting a boundless power that sealed Xiang Shaoyun's escape route, not giving him a chance to escape the attack.

An attack like this would be troublesome for any Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, but it was nothing for Xiang Shaoyun. Boundless lightning gathered around his fist as he threw a punch out.

The destructive fist collided against the axe, instantly shattering the axe energy. The axe was sent flying from Wan Kaishan's hands while Wan Kaishan himself was blasted away by the lightning. With one hit, Wan Kaishan was defeated.

Chapter 1303: Sensation

"It's a complete waste of time dealing with small fries like you," said Xiang Shaoyun with disdain.

"P-please spare me," pleaded Wan Kaishan with fear plastered on his face.

He was someone who feared strength and bullied the weak. Before absolute strength, he lost all his will to fight. Not far away, Hu Ruhai was stunned. He hurriedly crawled back up and tried to escape. He had a feeling the next to suffer would be him.

Xiang Shaoyun swept his gaze at Hu Ruhai and said to Wan Kaishan, "Kill him, and I'll spare your life."

Wan Kaishan only hesitated slightly before he charged toward Hu Ruhai. As a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, Hu Ruhai had no way of escaping Wan Kaishan even though Wan Kaishan had suffered serious injuries. In a flash, Hu Ruhai was captured.

"Cousin, let's run together," said Hu Ruhai as his entire body turned cold.

Wan Kaishan wanted that as well, but he could feel that Xiang Shaoyun's aura was locked onto him. If he really dared to flee, a merciless attack would descend upon him. He didn't even dare to attempt an escape.

"Cousin, you're the reason all this is happening. You have to solve it," said Wan Kaishan as he tossed Hu Ruhai toward Xiang Shaoyun. "Here he is. Please spare us."

Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and Jiang Qi had already obtained the upper hand in their respective battles. They had killed several opponents in a row. It was only a matter of time before Wan Kaishan's people were completely defeated.

"Did you not hear what I said? I told you to kill him. I don't want to dirty my hands to deal with him," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently with his arms crossed.

Wan Kaishan's expression stiffened. He had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to be so ruthless. His little scheme had failed miserably. Hu Ruhai was his cousin. He couldn't bring himself to personally kill his own cousin.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you better let me go, or my Hu Clan won't spare you!" threatened Hu Ruhai with resentment.

"If you keep waiting, I'll just kill the both of you," said Xiang Shaoyun, completely ignoring Hu Ruhai.

Wan Kaishan shut his eyes and took a deep breath. The axe reappeared in his hand. He looked at Hu Ruhai and said, "Rest in peace, cousin. I'll give you a proper burial."

"Cousin, you can't—" Hu Ruhai paled as he tried to flee. However, Wan Kaishan gave him no chance. With a swing of the axe, a head was severed. The eyes on the head were still wide open with indignation.

"Well done. Everyone, stop," said Xiang Shaoyun with a satisfied smile.

Hu Ruhai was the culprit for all this. He deserved death. However, Wan Kaishan had also helped Hu Ruhai. He also needed to be taught a lesson. Xiang Shaoyun's manner of handling this matter seemed vicious, but this was already a very benevolent solution in this dog-eat-dog world. Any other person would have killed Wan Kaishan and all his people.

Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and Jiang Qi stopped. Less than half of Wan Kaishan's people remained. They had suffered a disastrous loss. Wan Kaishan left gloomily with his people with regret.

He was filled with resentment and was thinking of ways to take his revenge. But when he learned that Xiang Shaoyun was ranked first in the Devil Hunting Expedition, he completely erased any thoughts of revenge.

If anyone dared to tell him that Xiang Shaoyun had cheated to obtain first place, he would be the first to curse at them for being idiots. He was certain that Xiang Shaoyun was strong enough to obtain first place without cheating. When facing Xiang Shaoyun, he felt like he was facing a young Saint instead of a Sovereign.

The boundless strength at Xiang Shaoyun's command caused him to despair. This was an individual who would most definitely grow into a terrifying existence in the future. If such a person wanted to take revenge on him, he would not be able to avoid the fate of dying.

"Thank you for helping me yet again, Shaoyun," said Jiang Qi gratefully.

She had only met Xiang Shaoyun several times. The two were mere acquaintances. However, Xiang Shaoyun had saved her from danger several times, filling her heart with gratitude. She vowed to herself that she would repay Xiang Shaoyun one day.

Unlike many other women, she wouldn't fall for him so easily. Instead, she hoped to become his good friend. He already had too many women. Perhaps it was the pride she had as a genius cultivator, but she wasn't willing to share a man with so many women.

A few days passed. Finally, the end of the Devil Hunting Expedition arrived. As Lady Shura was nowhere to be seen, Xiang Shaoyun started becoming agitated. Lady Shura was his woman. If something bad happened to her, he would go mad.

That day, Tang Zhan reappeared before the public eye, officially announcing the end of the Devil Hunting Expedition. Over 50,000 people had participated in the Devil Hunting Expedition, but only one-fifth had survived. It was clear that entering the Devil Domain was no trivial matter. It was likely that there were more who were unable to return in time, but it was certain that most of those who had not returned had perished.

"The Devil Hunting Expedition has ended. Now, this governor will be announcing the names on the top-100 ranking. Ranked first is Xiang Shaoyun, with 16,800 sacred points and 480 billion contribution points. He has also taken the 9,990,000th place on the Contribution Stele. He is the Devil Hunting Expedition's undisputed king of devil hunters. Xiang Shaoyun, please step onto the stage."

Xiang Shaoyun stepped out of the crowd and landed on the stage. His appearance caused a sensation among the crowd.

"This is Xiang Shaoyun? He looks only in his twenties. How can he be so strong?"

"Someone who had won the favor of both Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie is most definitely no simple individual. It is rumored that he is an abandoned disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. I

wonder if the Dragon Phoenix Academy elders are all brainless. They actually abandoned a disciple so outstanding?"

"So this is Xiang Shaoyun. He is so incredibly handsome. But with only a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivation, how did he obtain so many points? He hadn't cheated, right?"

"During the competition between the four academies several years ago, he alone emerged as the champion. Today, he emerged as the champion of the Devil Hunting Expedition. His growth is really incredible."

"After a hundred years, he will probably be standing at the very peak of humanity."

Chapter 1304: Meeting Dong Ziwan Again

Xiang Shaoyun had never received so much attention before. He wasn't accustomed to such a feeling. If it wasn't for his strong willpower, he would have fled from sheer nervousness. After all, a majority of those standing below the stage were Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. Even the weakest among them were Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators.

The gazes of such experts were incredibly piercing. When combined, the gazes resulted in a pressure that no regular person could bear. After taking a deep breath, Xiang Shaoyun sat down cross-legged in a calm manner. He was someone who had killed several Great Devil Saints. Such pressure was nothing for him.

I am someone who will stand at the peak of humanity in the future. I fear nothing, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly as he calmed down completely.

Tang Zhan had a gratified look when he saw how fast Xiang Shaoyun calmed down. He continued his announcement.

Taking second place was Di Mie, who looked to be in his early thirties. He was dressed in a reddish-gold armor that accentuated his majestic bearing. Unlike Xiang Shaoyun, he wasn't young or handsome. However, he emanated a dependable sensation that could easily win the respect of others.

Taking third place was Dugu Qiubai. The sole defeat he had suffered in his life was in Xiang Shaoyun's hands. Despite this defeat, he had remained ambitious and hopeful. His defeat had taught him that there would always be a stronger person out there, causing him to cultivate even harder. He

had risen far above his peers, reaching seventh-stage Soul Foundation Realm, surpassing even Xiang Shaoyun in cultivation level. With the prowess of his Primal Chaos Physique and his cultivation level, defeating Saints wasn't a difficult feat for him.

After stepping onto the stage, Dugu Qiubai issued a challenge to Xiang Shaoyun, "Xiang Shaoyun, I wish to have another fight with you."

"We'll talk again when I have the time," replied Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

Dugu Qiubai did not try to force an acceptance. He nodded and sat down. Next, the fourth person stepped onto the stage. He was an old man clad in a gray outfit. He had a drowsy expression, but the look in his eyes was so sharp nobody dared to meet his gaze.

This old man was Hui Ming, a True Martial Academy overseer who was a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. He had failed to break through several times, but he was not willing to be stuck at the same cultivation level. Thus, this opportunity to cultivate at the holy land was extremely important to him. This was his final chance. He was ready to die if he still failed to break through this time.

Next, the Immortal Dynasty's He Changsheng, the Nangong Clan's Nangong Wudi, the Celestial Palace's Gong Yue'e, the Song Clan's Song Tiandao, Blood-Robed Xue Buyi, and the subsequent rankers stepped onto the stage one after another.

He Changsheng was handsome with a slim and tall figure. He was dressed in a gold outfit with a dragon embroidered on it. Resting on his head was a crown showcasing his royal heritage.

Nangong Wudi looked completely ordinary, but he had a look of absolute confidence in his eyes, as though everything was below him. Nobody could defeat him, and nothing could evoke fear in his heart.

Gong Yue'e looked incomparably pure with a beauty to match Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie. She was graceful and gentle, as though she was a wise and virtuous woman with no business on the battlefield.

Song Tiandao was cold and grim, his steadfast face emanating masculinity. Standing there with two sabers hanging on his back, he looked like an unparalleled blademaker and left a deep impression on all who looked at him.

Xue Buyi was a gloomy man who reeked of blood. Clad in a crimson outfit with a crimson sword hanging on his back, he emanated a sinister sensation as though he was a god of slaughter.

The moment he stepped onto the stage, his gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun. He licked his lips and said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I'm going to kill you."

The murderous intent he was blatantly emitting caused the surrounding people to shudder.

"Since you want to die, I'll give you a hand," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly as he looked at Xue Buyi.

"Hmph. After this is over, I'll be avenging my 18 brothers," said Xue Buyi coldly.

"Don't worry. I'll help you unite with them soon," Xiang Shaoyun replied.

Tang Zhan acted like he heard nothing, and he continued with his announcement, calling out one name after another. When Tang Zhan called out the 88th name, Dong Ziwan, Xiang Shaoyun's heart skipped a beat. He looked at the person stepping onto the stage.

A woman clad in green was slowly climbing up. Many in the crowd held their breath upon seeing the young woman. Her tall, slim, and hourglass figure evoked the most primal desire in all men. But when their gazes reached her face, they felt like vomiting.

"Holy shit, this is a super trap!"

"That's right. Why does someone with such an amazing figure have such an ugly face? This is too disgusting."

"What a pity. If she was slightly prettier, she would be absolutely tantalizing."

"Lower your voice. This is someone capable of entering the top-100. If she heard what you said, she could easily rip you apart."

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Xiang Shaoyun stared at Dong Ziwan, discovering that despite some similarities with the Dong Ziwan he knew, she was also distinct from her. Apart from her different face, even her figure was different. He even wondered if this was simply someone with the same name.

But deep inside, he couldn't believe that this was a mere coincidence. He tried his best to see through this Dong Ziwan. Firstly, he confirmed that her face was not a disguise. She had indeed been disfigured. From the scar on her face, she seemed to have suffered a serious burn.

Dong Ziwan seemed to have noticed Xiang Shaoyun looking at her. She shot Xiang Shaoyun a glance before quickly moving her gaze away. Despite her indifferent expression, her heart was being assaulted by absolute grief, causing her body to tremble slightly.

If she hadn't controlled herself well, everyone would have noticed her change. However, Xiang Shaoyun had sensed her change with his sharp senses. He had not noticed her trembling body, but her eyes were incredibly familiar. It was the same pair of eyes he had seen before. He cried out in alarm, "Ziwan!"

As he called out, Dong Ziwan flinched slightly. She immediately suppressed herself, but Xiang Shaoyun saw it clearly.

He dashed over and stopped before her, asking, "Ziwan, w-what happened to you? Who did this? I'll destroy that person and his entire family!"

He was infuriated, his thick killing intent causing the temperature on the stage to drop.

"Please watch your manners. I don't know you," said Dong Ziwan coldly.

Chapter 1305: Xue Buyi

Xiang Shaoyun's conversation with Dong Ziwan attracted a lot of attention.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored everyone's gaze on him as he grabbed Dong Ziwan's shoulders and asked seriously, "Your eyes can't hide from me. You're Dong City's Dong Ziwan!"

"Hehe, yes, I'm Dong Ziwan. But I'm not the same Dong Ziwan you know. Of course, I can still be your friend if you don't mind my ugly face. I can even be your woman if you want. Do you dare to accept me with my face," said Dong Ziwan with an ugly smile on her face.

Xiang Shaoyun answered unhesitatingly, "Fine. From now on, you're my woman."

His words created an uproar.

"No way, this is Xiang Shaoyun's taste in women? This is really surprising."

"Perhaps he has a special fetish? No normal person can stand her face."

"He is really worthy of being the champion. His ability to accept what nobody can is truly admirable."

"I thought both Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie were in love with him? So is he uninterested in beauties and prefers uglies instead?"

"Regular people like us will never be able to understand an expert like him."

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Xiang Shaoyun heard the countless jeers, but he ignored all of them. His focus was only on Dong Ziwan as he waited for her to admit who she was. He did not know what she had experienced, but he had always viewed her as a good friend. Back when he was still trying to regain the Ziling Sect, he had also gotten involved with many women.

He had never found a chance to return to Dong City, and he had eventually decided to just forget her because he already had too many women around him. But when he saw how she was, his heart ached greatly. He had to do something for her to reduce the guilt he was feeling.

"Haha, are you hearing that? Everyone is laughing at you. Get lost already. I'm not interested in you," said Dong Ziwan as she roared with laughter.

Xiang Shaoyun refused to move. He said, "I don't care what others think. I only care what you think. It doesn't matter how you look. You will still be my woman. Who did this to you? I'll destroy that person!"

He then returned to his seat. He knew that Dong Ziwan needed some time to calm down and think about this. He did not want to pressure her too much. As he walked away, Dong Ziwan turned her head around as tears trailed down her cheeks uncontrollably.

H-he still remembers me! He doesn't mind how I look, thought Dong Ziwan with both joy and sorrow.

Alas, they could no longer return to how they were. Along with her face, her heart had been destroyed as well.

After Tang Zhan finished calling out the top-100 participants, he made the final announcement. "The names I called out are the top-100 devil hunters. They will be rewarded in accordance with their contribution. In a year, all of them will be granted entry into the Saintforce Realm. They will be allowed to train inside for a year."

Next, he personally handed the top-100 participants their rewards. All the rewards were stored in storage rings. Nobody would know what each participant had obtained. However, there was no doubt that the higher one's rank, the better one's reward.

After handing out all the rewards, Tang Zhan officially announced that the Devil Hunting Expedition had ended. Those who hadn't been able to enter the top-100 left with disappointment, but they were also aware that they had no one to blame but themselves for not being skillful enough.

In any case, just surviving the Devil Domain itself was a reward. Many had even earned numerous benefits from the Devil Domain. The contribution points they had earned could also be used to trade for what they wanted.

Xiang Shaoyun did not immediately check what he had received. He first put the storage ring away then went looking for Dong Ziwan. But before he could leave, Xue Buyi blocked his path and said, "It's time I avenge my 18 brothers."

A bloody aura surged out of Xue Buyi, displaying his peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivation level.

"Piss off," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xue Buyi answered with action. His palm shot toward Xiang Shaoyun's throat at the speed of lightning. Regular peak Sovereigns were incomparable with him in terms of speed. With a frown, Xiang Shaoyun evaded the attack and sent a kick at Xue Buyi's crotch, aiming to turn Xue Buyi into a eunuch.

The viciousness of Xiang Shaoyun's attack was a sign of how much anger he was feeling. As someone on the top-10, Xue Buyi was naturally no weakling. He deftly evaded the attack before unleashing 18 claw attacks at Xiang Shaoyun.

Bloodbone Claw!

The claw attacks flew forth, sending waves of bloody energy toward Xiang Shaoyun. The bloody energy was capable of causing one to involuntarily feel fear. The concentrated claw attacks were incomparably powerful, threatening to tear Xiang Shaoyun into pieces.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel the discomfort the claws were causing him. However, these attacks couldn't even threaten him or influence his will. They only made him more furious.

"All who stand in my path will die!" roared Xiang Shaoyun as he attacked with two powers. He urgently needed to see Dong Ziwan.

Golden Fury!

Two strands of energy swirled together and formed a dreadful attack of red and gold, clashing against the incoming claw attacks. Numerous explosions erupted, sending shockwaves rippling in all directions. The surrounding people hurriedly fled. The two combatants seemed evenly matched as they soared into the sky and started an intense battle.

Xue Buyi utilized astonishing claw attacks as he surrounded Xiang Shaoyun with the power of his peak soul foundation. He seemed infinitely close to the Saint Realm, displaying a strength that could cause one to surrender before even attempting to fight him.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, his fused astral energies were boundlessly powerful. The profundities of powers further increased the might of his attacks as numerous different powers fused and blasted his opponent, creating numerous explosions around them.

In a flash, the two had exchanged over 100 moves. It did not seem like a victor would be decided anytime soon. The onlookers all exclaimed in astonishment.

"This Xiang Shaoyun is capable indeed. As a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, he can actually match Xue Buyi evenly. I really wonder who will emerge victorious."

"It feels like they're already as strong as pseudo-Saints. Those in the top-10 really can't be underestimated."

"If Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level was one or two stages higher, Xue Buyi might not be his match."

"Xue Buyi hasn't even used his blood-soaked cloth. If he uses that, Xiang Shaoyun would be dead for sure."

"I believe Xiang Shaoyun also has his own trump cards. He is, after all, the champion. How would he have obtained so many contribution points otherwise?"

Chapter 1306: Blood-Robed Corpse

"Kid, today is the day you die!" The longer the battle dragged on, the more ferocious Xue Buyi became. His eyes turned red while his bloodlust turned thicker and thicker. He was wearing a pair of gloves, and as he unleashed his claw attacks, even space itself was ripped apart.

Such claw attacks could instantly rip any human apart. Xiang Shaoyun did not want to waste any more time. He directly moved to Xue Buyi's side with the Phantom Shift technique before releasing three different powers.

Fiery Lightning Storm!

With the Overlord Skyslaying Saber in hand and the three different powers infused into his blade, he swung at Xue Buyi madly. Xue Buyi was naturally surprised by Xiang Shaoyun's speed. When Xue Buyi sensed a suffocating attack descending upon him, his eyes turned cold, and he wrapped the blood-soaked cloth around his entire body. The cloth successfully protected him against the attack.

Nobody would think that a piece of blood-soaked cloth could do anything. However, this was Xue Buyi's blood-soaked cloth, and it had been dyed in the blood of countless experts during the ancient war. It had an extraordinary origin. Without such strength, the saying "When the blood-soaked cloth appears, the Saint retreats" wouldn't have existed.

Sure enough, when Xiang Shaoyun sent a barrage of attacks over, the blood-soaked cloth erupted with an overwhelmingly dreadful power. It was as though a massive army had stepped onto the battlefield, filling the air with roars, screams, and sounds of battle. Scenes from the ancient battlefield appeared, greatly shocking everyone in the area.

The illusion completely erased Xiang Shaoyun's attacks. Sensing a thick bloodlust that belonged to a battlefield, Xiang Shaoyun tried to retreat. Unfortunately, he was too late.

"You can't escape. Die!" Xue Buyi roared with a look of bloodlust.

His entire person shrank as his blood seeped into the cloth around him. The cloth seemed to have transformed into a curtain large enough to cover the sky, surrounding Xiang Shaoyun before wrapping around him.

Blood-Robed Corpse!

This was the most terrifying aspect of the blood-soaked cloth. The moment one was wrapped in it, one wouldn't be able to escape death even if one was a Saint. The blood-soaked cloth had feasted on an immeasurable amount of blood and contained a boundless bloodlust that could instantly kill Saints.

It's over, thought everyone when they saw the cloth wrap around Xiang Shaoyun.

Devil Concubine, Yu Caidie, Han Chenfei, and Ouyang Chuanqi wanted to give Xiang Shaoyun help, but the bloodlust emanated by the blood-soaked cloth was too powerful. They wouldn't be able to provide any help in time.

"If anything happens to the overlord, I'll slaughter your entire family!" Devil Concubine threatened.

"The overlord will be fine," said Yu Caidie with her eyes widened. Despite her confidence in Xiang Shaoyun, she was still worried.

Everyone close to Xiang Shaoyun was worried. None of them could accept that Xiang Shaoyun would be killed so easily. As for Dong Ziwan, she could no longer control herself. She drew her sword, intending to charge into the battlefield. She was already a ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. It was no wonder that she could enter the top-100.

But before she could do anything, someone suppressed her and said, "Don't go. You'll die."

"I need to save him," said Dong Ziwan resolutely.

However, the person suppressing her refused to relent. No matter how she struggled, she couldn't move. Meanwhile, the blood-soaked cloth was rippling with power, forming a terrifying force of presence that contained a boundless bloodlust originating from the ancient battlefield. Nobody could stop this presence, whose sole purpose was to eliminate all its enemies.

This wasn't an easy attack for Xue Buyi to launch. He had to exhaust his blood essence for this move. But for the sake of killing Xiang Shaoyun, it was worth it. Wrapped within the blood-soaked cloth, Xiang Shaoyun could feel that the bloodlust was corroding his entire body. Both his mind and physical body seemed to be on the verge of destruction.

Fortunately, his soul was well-protected by the Nether Soul Dragon Headband, allowing him to maintain his clarity. With this clarity, he could still think of a solution for his current predicament.

"Destroy!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he mustered his willpower and unleashed all his lightning energy, attempting to blast apart the cloth around him.

However, the blood-soaked cloth completely erased his lightning energy. He also tried using Yun Flame's energy, but the same thing happened. The bloodlust was powered by the blood of Saints. His lightning and flame weren't powerful enough to deal with this bloodlust. He needed an even more powerful energy.

The bloodlust was invading his entire body. If it wasn't for the fact that his body had been tempered by the Limit Stimulation Technique, he would have already turned into a pile of mincemeat. Of course, the devil blood that had reforged his body had also played a big role in his survival.

Nevertheless, it would only be a matter of time before he was killed if this continued. He went through all his trump cards and concluded that apart from the Yin Mother Sword, he didn't have anything that could damage the blood-soaked cloth.

"Stop struggling. You'll be a part of the blood-soaked cloth soon. Hahaha!" Xue Buyi was astonished to see that Xiang Shaoyun was still alive, but he was confident that Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be able to survive for long.

Not far away, Di Mie had a look of disappointment as he muttered, "So that's all he amounts to."

Elsewhere, Di Lin was staring at the blood-soaked cloth with a sinister gaze. He muttered, "Die already. Stop struggling."

Nobody believed that Xiang Shaoyun would survive. Only Song Tiandao was confident as he muttered, "I don't believe that you'll be defeated so easily. You wouldn't be worthy of being my rival otherwise."

Suddenly, the blood-soaked cloth shone with a golden radiance. The radiance grew in intensity, slowly weakening the bloodlust around the cloth. Xue Buyi was alarmed. He hurriedly mustered all his strength and roared, "You won't be able to escape! Stop struggling!"

He channeled more energy into his blood-soaked cloth while extracting more and more of his blood essence, causing his vitality to drop rapidly. He was determined to not stop before killing Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 1307: Value of Saintforce Token

Just as Xue Buyi was filled with confidence, his blood-soaked cloth was torn apart. The blinding golden radiance transformed into countless golden rays and shot toward him. Xue Buyi had just exhausted a large amount of his vitality to power the blood-soaked cloth. He hadn't even gotten the chance to recover, so he was completely incapable of resisting the sudden attack. Before he even knew what was happening, his entire head was turned into mincemeat.

And thus, a top-10 participant of the Devil Hunting Expedition had perished. The surrounding people didn't even get a clear look at what had happened due to the blinding radiance. Some started screaming in pain as a stinging pain assaulted their eyes. Only those at the Saint Realm could sense that an extraordinary energy had appeared, and only they could see how Xue Buyi had died.

Even Tang Zhan exclaimed in astonishment, "Is this the flux goldthorn energy?"

An energy of this level was fatally attractive to Saint Realm experts like him. One could say that the flux goldthorn energy was a saint-grade energy of the highest tier. Such an energy could only be found at unique locations. It was extremely hard to obtain one such energy. Therefore, all the nearby Saints were shocked to see the flux goldthorn energy appear here.

Xiang Shaoyun had relied on the flux goldthorn energy he had stored in the astral cosmos sea to break free of the blood-soaked cloth. Because of that, he had exhausted a considerable amount of the flux goldthorn energy in his collection. His heart ached at the loss.

"You bastard! It sure is expensive to kill you!" cursed Xiang Shaoyun furiously as he reached for Xue Buyi's corpse, trying to search the body for loot.

Suddenly, someone rushed over and reached for the corpse as well. The newcomer moved nimbly and instantly reached the corpse, but Xiang Shaoyun discovered him before the thief could steal it. After all, Xiang Shaoyun's saint soul was no joke. But before Xiang Shaoyun could do anything, a different person launched an attack at the thief. The thief couldn't even avoid the attack. The kick sent him flying and coughing up copious amounts of blood.

"You dare steal my nephew's spoils of war? Are you tired of living?" Tang Zhan's voice rang out.

The thief didn't dare to say anything and retreated noiselessly. With Tang Zhan's protection, he wouldn't be able to obtain Xue Buyi's corpse.

Tang Zhan did not give chase. He knew what the thief's goal was. He turned around and asked Xiang Shaoyun, "Shaoyun, are you fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "I'm good. It won't take long for me to recover."

He then grabbed Xue Buyi's corpse and took out everything in Xue Buyi's astral cosmos sea. The surrounding people were looking at Xiang Shaoyun with reverence when they saw that he was completely fine. And when they saw him looting Xue Buyi's corpse, they were filled with envy.

Someone walked up to him and said, "Young brother, are you willing to sell me Xue Buyi's saintforce token? I'm willing to offer a saint-grade medicine for the token."

As far as the people here were concerned, the saintforce token was the most valuable of Xue Buyi's belongings. After all, the blood-soaked cloth had already been destroyed by Xiang Shaoyun. Before Xiang Shaoyun could give a reply, several more people walked up to him and offered to buy the token.

"Young brother, I'm willing to offer a saint-grade object and 100 million high-grade spirit crystals for the saintforce token."

"You guys are insulting the saintforce token's value. I'm willing to offer two saint-grade objects. Young brother, if you're willing to sell it to me, you'll win Echo Valley's friendship as well."

"Two saint-grade objects and 200 million high-grade spirit crystals."

...

All these people were Saints. They were the representatives of different organizations. Some of them were here to protect the young geniuses of their organizations, while some were here to hunt devils.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected the token to be so attractive. He soon understood the token's importance. He rejected the offers, "I'm sorry, but this is something I won with my life. I'm not planning to sell it for now."

The others were naturally unwilling to give up. Just as they were about to continue pestering, Tang Zhan stepped out and said, "Alright. Since Shaoyun has already come to a decision, stop bothering him."

The Saints knew that with Tang Zhan present, they wouldn't be able to force Xiang Shaoyun. They could only leave with disappointment. Even then, they did not give up and reminded Xiang Shaoyun to contact them if he changed his mind. Xiang Shaoyun sent everyone off politely, but he did not consider their offers. He intended to give the saintforce token to someone else.

After everyone left, Tang Zhan said, "Shaoyun, come with me. I have something to tell you."

"Can that wait, uncle? I have something urgent to take care of. I'll look for you later," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sure. I'll be at the usual place," said Tang Zhan.

Although Xiang Shaoyun had caught a lot of attention, with him making it clear that Xiang Shaoyun was his nephew, he was confident nobody would dare try anything against Xiang Shaoyun for now. After Tang Zhan left, Xiang Shaoyun scanned the crowd, searching for Dong Ziwan. However, Dong Ziwan had slipped away when he was surrounded by the Saints earlier.

After searching for a bit to no avail, Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly, Has she really left?

Xiang Shaoyun was a sentimental person. He had known Dong Ziwan for a long time. As the two had gone through dangers together in the past, he considered her an extremely close friend. When she expressed her feelings for him in the past, he did not want to accept them. But when he saw her disfigured face, his heart ached. He wanted to make it up to her, but from how she was behaving, it was clear she no longer needed him.

Devil Concubine said, "She left with some other people. I have someone tailing them. You'll see her again soon."

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before saying, "Forget it. Let her be. I believe she doesn't want to meet me for now. Give her some time."

"Are you sure?" Devil Concubine asked.

"Yes. We'll meet again in a year. At that time, I'll think of a way to heal her face. I'll be sure to exterminate the ones who had caused her such harm as well," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sinister look in his eyes.

"Is she really that important to you?" Devil Concubine asked.

"She is a good friend who had gone through some dangers with me before," said Xiang Shaoyun. "I need to meet Uncle Tang. We'll talk later."

He then left.

Chapter 1308: Celestial Alliance

Even though Xiang Shaoyun had decided to not meet Dong Ziwan, he hadn't changed his mind. The Saintforce Realm was going to open in one year. He could very well meet her then. He believed that she would have changed her mind at that time.

As for those who initially wanted to challenge Xiang Shaoyun, they gave up after witnessing his strength. It hadn't been easy for them to enter the top-100. They naturally weren't willing to die like Xue Buyi so soon after tasting success.

Di Mie also wanted to challenge Xiang Shaoyun, but he managed to keep a calm head and stop himself. For now, his first priority was to enter the Saintforce Realm and become a Saint.

After breaking through, he would be able to easily kill Xiang Shaoyun. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was only a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. The Saintforce Realm wouldn't be of much help for someone with his cultivation level. After all, they could only stay there for a year.

Dugu Qiubai also did not bother challenging Xiang Shaoyun. He knew that they would have a battle sooner or later, but now was not the time.

Di Lin wanted to kill Xiang Shaoyun badly, but he also knew very well how strong Xiang Shaoyun was. Instead of acting rashly, he was trying to think of a plan to safely end Xiang Shaoyun's life.

After arriving at Tang Zhan's residence in the fort, Xiang Shaoyun was led inside by the guard. The moment he stepped inside, an indescribable power enveloped his body, giving him an uneasy feeling. Then, a blurry figure appeared before him. He couldn't see who the person was, but he could guess that it wasn't Tang Zhan.

"Who are you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I'm an envoy here to invite you into the Celestial Alliance," said that person.

"Celestial Alliance!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in surprise.

Others might not know what the Celestial Alliance was, but Xiang Shaoyun knew. The Celestial Alliance was an ancient organization that had existed since ancient times. Back then, a self-proclaimed god had established this organization, aiming to become the protector of the dominion.

After establishing the Celestial Alliance, the so-called god had appointed nine generals as his representatives. Slowly, the organization grew while recruiting numerous talents from all parts of the world. Generally, one had to reach the Heaven Battling Realm to be qualified to join. However, exceptions would be made for up-and-coming youngsters with outstanding potential.

In his past life, Xiang Shaoyun had also encountered some Celestial Alliance members. At the time, they tried to recruit him as well. However, he was too arrogant and completely looked down on the Celestial Alliance.

Subsequently, during his endless war against the world, eight top-tier organizations banded together against him. Among the forces working against him, there were traces of the Celestial Alliance present. In short, the Celestial Alliance had also played a role in his death during his previous life.

Of course, it was also possible that some of those from the eight organizations were members of the Celestial Alliance. As his war had affected their benefits, it was understandable that they would move against him.

"Had Tang Zhan told you about the Celestial Alliance?" asked the envoy.

Xiang Shaoyun recovered from his thoughts and shook his head. "No, but this is quite a powerful name. I was just shocked to hear such a name."

"The Celestial Alliance is the strongest organization in the world. No other organization can contend against us. You should be honored to be offered a chance to join. After joining, you won't have any trouble becoming a Saint or even a God in the future," persuaded the envoy.

"What can I get after joining?" asked Xiang Shaoyun. He went straight to the point, ignoring all the fluff in the envoy's words.

The envoy was visibly surprised by the question. He blanked out slightly before saying, "For example, the Saintforce Realm quota everyone is risking their life to get can be easily obtained from us. Also, you will be able to obtain countless cultivation resources from us. All of this will be helpful for your growth."

"Not bad at all. What do I need to do for the alliance?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Simple. Agree unconditionally when the alliance requires you to do something," said the envoy.

"Agree unconditionally...," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he sank into thought. He then raised his head and solemnly said, "My apologies, lord. I am not interested in joining."

"Do not be in too much of a rush to refuse. The requirement might sound scary, but you won't be required to do much. On the other hand, you will receive a lot of assistance, such as saint-grade techniques, god-grade techniques, and more. These are all things that others dream of obtaining. Think it through," said the envoy.

Even after hearing all that, Xiang Shaoyun refused resolutely, "Sorry. I'm still not interested."

"Kid, don't get too cocky." The envoy was becoming annoyed.

"Lord, I'm weak and without ambitions. I only wish to remain where I am. Please don't make things difficult for me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a slight bow.

"Don't be stubborn like your father, or you won't have any future," said the envoy unhappily.

Xiang Shaoyun could guess that they had once tried recruiting his father as well. He remained silent, afraid that saying more would only aggravate the situation, causing the envoy to slap him to death.

Just as the envoy was about to continue speaking, Tang Zhan appeared and said, "Envoy, allow me to speak to him. He's still young and doesn't know the world well. Don't mind him."

"Hmph. Since he doesn't know what's good for him, we might as well let him be. He can die for all I care," said the envoy with a cold snort before vanishing into thin air.

After the envoy left, Tang Zhan looked at Xiang Shaoyun and sighed heavily. "Shaoyun, do you know how big of an opportunity you just missed?"

"What do you mean, Uncle Tang?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"You're asking despite knowing the answer. Many dream of having an envoy personally invite them to join, yet you refuse such an opportunity. I don't know what to say to you," said Tang Zhan with a slightly reproachful tone.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Uncle Tang, do you also believe that it would be good for me to join?"

"Of course!" said Tang Zhan.

"Pardon my rudeness, but were you happy all these years?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Tang Zhan was stunned, not knowing what to say.

"Yes, the Celestial Alliance is an enormous organization. However, each member would be restricted in some ways upon joining, forever living within the cage provided by the alliance. I believe that was why my father refused to join," said Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes flickering with wisdom.

Chapter 1309: Tang Zhan's Reminder

The Celestial Alliance was a massive and scary organization. Joining such an organization would grant one an unimaginable amount of resources, but Xiang Shaoyun knew that there was no free food in the world. The more he obtained from the alliance, the more he had to repay the alliance. He might even need to offer everything he had to the alliance.

From the "agree unconditionally" requirement mentioned by the envoy, that much was clear. Of course, that wasn't the main reason for Xiang Shaoyun's refusal. He refused because, deep inside, he did not have a good opinion of the alliance. Perhaps it was a feeling he had inherited from his previous life. More importantly, he wanted to remain free. As he had said, he only wanted to live a happy life instead of being caged.

Unlike in his previous life, he did not intend to conquer the world in this life. However, he had a new goal—to reach the apex of cultivation. He did not want any person or organization to have a say in his path of cultivation.

In Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, Tang Zhan could see the same stubbornness he once saw in Xiang Yangzhan's eyes. He knew that it would be pointless to continue persuading Xiang Shaoyun.

He patted Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder and said, "Perhaps you and your father are right. But whatever you do in the future, remember to never make an enemy out of the Celestial Alliance."

Tang Zhan gave several reminders in a row, showing how much he revered the Celestial Alliance. He was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would offend the alliance in the future, as that would only result in death.

Tang Zhan might seem powerful in the Bloodsin City he governed, but he knew that he was an unimportant individual in the Celestial Alliance. From his status in the alliance, one could see just how terrifying the alliance was.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Unless absolutely necessary, I won't provoke the Celestial Alliance. In any case, I'm just a nobody. I doubt I'm even qualified to offend them."

"Shaoyun, if you were really a nobody, you wouldn't have attracted the envoy's attention. You're someone who has fused nine powers. That was why the Celestial Alliance had decided to recruit you. Just be careful," reminded Tang Zhan.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel how much Tang Zhan cared about him. He was moved and took out the saintforce token. He said, "Uncle Tang, I wish to give this token to Big Brother Tang."

Tang Zhan smiled and said, "Hehe, you're as forthright as your father. As for this token, save it for someone else. As the organizer of the expedition, how could I not have a token for myself? In any case, Longfei is still too weak. Letting him into the Saintforce Realm would only be a waste of resources. Don't worry about him."

Xiang Shaoyun wore a look of realization and said, "Looks like I worry too much. If there's nothing else, I'll be taking my leave."

"Um. Go. The token will let you know where to go in a year. During this period, just wait in Bloodsin City. I'm afraid you will be surrounded and attacked by countless people the moment you step out of the city. You have quite a lot of enemies," said Tang Zhan.

"Thank you, Uncle Tang. I know what to do. If I'm someone who would die so easily, I wouldn't have survived the Devil Domain," said Xiang Shaoyun with a slight bow before leaving.

He knew that Tang Zhan was telling him the truth, but he had the confidence to not fear anyone.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun's departing back, Tang Zhan sighed inwardly, He's the same as his father, but this kid seems even more confident.

After leaving Tang Zhan's place, Xiang Shaoyun did not leave the fort immediately. Instead, he went looking for Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and the others. The expedition and the search for devils had ended. The time for them to part ways had arrived. After bidding them farewell, Xiang Shaoyun decided to wait inside the fort for Lady Shura to return from the Devil Domain. He believed that she would be fine.

Han Chenfei wasn't willing to part with Xiang Shaoyun, but she also knew that it was pointless to keep pestering him. She should focus on growing stronger. Only then would she have a chance to be with him in the future. If she allowed the gap between them to widen, she would have an even lower chance of being with him.

Before leaving, she did not forget to hug him and give him a kiss. "I won't give up!"

She then spun around and left resolutely. Xiang Shaoyun did not know how to handle this woman. He could only hope that time would solve everything. Next, Devil Concubine came to bid him farewell. She hoped that he could visit her at the True Martial Academy after leaving the Saintforce Realm.

Looking at the bold woman before him, Xiang Shaoyun hugged her gently and said, "Don't worry. After leaving the Saintforce Realm, I'll go visit you."

"If you dare turn back on your words, I will hunt you down wherever you go!" said Devil Concubine in a domineering manner.

"Haha, of course," said Xiang Shaoyun with a laugh.

Devil Concubine then left without showing any hesitation. Yu Caidie was nowhere to be seen. Xiang Shaoyun guessed that she had probably been placed under house arrest. Just as he was about

to head toward the Yu Clan's group, Xiang Chenxi walked up to him with some people from the Xiang Clan.

"Little ancestor!" The Xiang Clan people saluted him one after another.

"Why are you here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Two Xiang Clan members had managed to enter the top-100. One of them was Xiang Keren, a middle-aged man who looked simple and honest. He did not look like an expert cultivator, but a shrewd light would occasionally flicker in his eyes. He was an expert who was good at hiding his abilities. The second person was Xiang Feidian. He was about 30 years old and had a unique spiky hairstyle that looked like a broom. Clad in purple armor with a whip in his hand, he had a carefree air about him.

"Little ancestor, Xiang Keren is here to accompany you on the trip to the Saintforce Realm. Please allow me to stay by your side during this year while we wait for the realm to open. I am willing to follow all your commands during this time," said Xiang Keren with an honest smile.

Xiang Feidian said, "That's right, little ancestor. With us by your side, you won't feel too lonely."

After giving it some thought, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Ok. You may stay with me."

He did not refuse them because he also needed to slowly blend into the clan. It was only a matter of time before he led the clan out of seclusion. This was something he had to do. With the Di Clan leaving seclusion, many other organizations had begun to stir. Perhaps after another unrest caused by the Devil Domain, the power structure between the numerous organizations would undergo a change. Xiang Shaoyun wanted to take that chance to rapidly rise in power.

"Little ancestor, please forgive me for all my offenses in the past," apologized Xiang Chenxi solemnly.

"It's all in the past. Forget it. Cultivate hard in the True Martial Academy. The future of the clan rests on your shoulders," said Xiang Shaoyun like an elder. "Come, let's go to the Yu Clan's place."

Chapter 1310: Two Options

The people from the Yu Clan were still staying in their camp. They were currently in a discussion with the Di Clan about their cooperation. Seated on the main seat was Yu Huayan. Seated around her were Yu Caidie, Di Mie, Di Chuan, and some other people. This was the first meeting between Yu Caidie and Di Mie. Just this one meeting was enough to fill Di Mie's eyes with desire when he looked at Yu Caidie.

Not only was he attracted by her good looks, but he was also attracted to her phoenix blood. He greatly needed someone with her physique. When performing dual-cultivation with such a person, his cultivation would grow even faster. He made a firm resolution that he would definitely take Yu Caidie as his wife.

Against Di Mie's invasive eyes, Yu Caidie shut her eyes and ignored him. Apart from Xiang Shaoyun, she had no other man in her heart.

"Queen Yu, have you come to a decision regarding the marriage between the two clans? If you can't make a decision, we can also head over to your clan and talk more. We of the Di Clan are sincere in our cooperation," said Di Chuan.

"Back then, you promised to come with first place as your betrothal gift. You seem to have failed?" said Yu Huayan nonchalantly.

Di Chuan's face twitched as he said, "Our prince was careless. However, that ranking doesn't matter. Our prince is someone who will enter the Heaven Battling Realm, becoming a Saint. After entering the Saintforce Realm, he will definitely be able to take that final step forward. After taking that step, he will have boundless prospects. The future is more important, isn't it?"

"That's right. I'm already prepared to break through at any time. I'm merely waiting to build a better foundation. After entering the Saintforce Realm, a breakthrough is inevitable," said Di Mie confidently.

"The Heaven Battling Realm is akin to a wall separating the elite cultivators from the normal cultivators. Only after taking that step would one be able to aim for an even higher height in the path of cultivation. Sure, Xiang Shaoyun has taken first place, but he is still only a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. How long will it take him to reach the Heaven Battling Realm? He might not even live that long," said Di Chuan, his voice emanating a faint killing intent.

"If you dare touch him, I swear to one day destroy your entire clan!" Yu Caidie suddenly opened her eyes and snapped.

As she spoke, she emanated an aura that greatly resembled the aura of a Saint, shocking everyone present. She was only a fifth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. With such a big gap between her cultivation level and the Heaven Battling Realm, her powerful aura was proof of how strong her foundation was.

Just because both her and Devil Concubine had not entered the top-100 did not mean that they were weak. The two had merely been too preoccupied with searching for Xiang Shaoyun instead of hunting devils. Otherwise, the two would have been able to easily enter the top-100.

"How can you speak like that, Caidie?" berated Yu Huayan.

Yu Caidie made her stand clear, "In this life, only Xiang Shaoyun will be my husband. I'm his woman. Nobody can force me to act against my will!"

She then stood up and moved to leave the tent.

At this time, someone entered and said, "Caidie, don't be stubborn. The clan has decided that your marriage with Di Mie will proceed. Do not disobey the clan."

The newcomer was a slightly chubby middle-aged man with long narrow eyes. In his hand was a scroll of paper that he was carrying like an imperial edict. Hanging on his face was the bright smile of someone flushed with success.

He was Yu Youcheng, an uncle in the clan. His status wasn't too high in the clan, but it wasn't too low either. This time, he had made a great contribution to the clan as the marriage between the two clans was his handiwork.

Following behind Yu Youcheng was another person. That person was from the Di Clan, someone called Di Ganning. From his confident gait and the respect Di Chuan was showing him, it was clear he was someone with high status in the Di Clan.

Yu Caidie completely ignored Yu Youcheng. She stepped aside and continued heading toward the exit.

Yu Youcheng stood before Yu Caidie and questioned her while waving the scroll in his hand, "Yu Caidie, are you going to disobey the clan?"

"You're right. I'm disobeying the clan. From today onward, I'm leaving the clan," said Yu Caidie resolutely.

In her past life, she had compromised with the clan. In this life, she wouldn't repeat the same mistake. She would rather leave the clan than compromise. Everyone's expression changed upon hearing her words.

The old woman from the Yu Clan hurriedly said, "Young miss, do not say such words out of anger!"

"I'll decide on my own marriage. Don't even think of interfering," replied Yu Caidie unyieldingly.

"That's not up to you. Arrest her! I refuse to believe you can disobey the clan," said Yu Youcheng unhappily.

"Hold it. Let me talk with her," said Yu Huayan.

She stood up, walked up to Yu Caidie, and said, "Caidie, this is not the time for you to be willful. I'll give you two options. First, leave the clan as you said. Both you and Xiang Shaoyun will then be hunted by the Yu Clan and the Di Clan. Second, have Xiang Shaoyun fight Di Mie. The loser shall give up. What do you think?"

"No. The patriarch's command is already here. We don't need to waste any time with such senseless competition," Yu Youcheng disapproved.

Yu Huayan ignored Yu Youcheng. Instead, she looked at Di Mie and said, "Di Mie, if you're really sincere in taking Caidie as your wife, show some sincerity. She likes Xiang Shaoyun. If you can trample over Xiang Shaoyun, even if you obtain her person, you won't obtain her heart. What do you think?"

Di Mie met her gaze and smiled. "You're right. As a man, I should fight for my woman. I'm willing to accept the second option. I believe I'm the one fated for Caidie, not some random unknown person."

"Prince, there is no need for that," Di Ganning said.

"That's right. Both clans have already agreed to the marriage. She won't be able to refuse," Yu Youcheng agreed.

"You need to have confidence in me," said Di Mie as he flung his hair with a confident look.

"We're confident in you, but this is a waste of time," Di Ganning said.

"Caidie, have you made up your mind? Since Di Mie has agreed to fight for you, I believe Xiang Shaoyun is also not a coward. What do you think?" said Yu Huayan.

Yu Caidie was conflicted. Neither she nor Xiang Shaoyun had recovered their peak strength from their previous life. In fact, they were far weaker than their peak. If she chose violence, both she and Xiang Shaoyun would be endangered.

"If you want a fight, let's fight. I, Xiang Shaoyun, have never been afraid of nobodies," Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out from outside the tent.