

## Overlord 1331

### Chapter 1331: Profundity of Life and Profundity of Primal Chaos

While Xiang Shaoyun, Tuoba Wan'er, and Gong Qinyin were waiting for the brightflowers to bloom, the Brightflower Chamber sent another person there who would be joining them when the brightflowers bloomed.

The newcomer carried a slight sense of hostility. If Liu Yanran wasn't present, the person would have started bickering with Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun and company completely disregarded the newcomer. They waited silently for the brightflowers to bloom.

Seven days later, when the first ray of sunlight shone through the curtain of night, the five brightflowers slowly bloomed. Strands of empyrean energy spread out from within the flowers and merged with the sunlight, forming a unique forcefield. The five brightflowers seemed to have transformed into five endlessly wondrous flower beds.

"Enter the brightflowers immediately!" Liu Yanran's voice rang out.

She hurriedly charged toward one of the flowers. The other Brightflower Chamber member also hurriedly charged over. Xiang Shaoyun, Tuoba Wan'er, and Gong Qinyin did the same, choosing a different brightflower each.

The moment they landed atop their respective flowers, they found that each flower only had enough space for one. Strands of pure energy interweaved in the air around them. The energy did not seem to resist them. Instead, the energy gave off a serene sensation, causing one to feel a sense of closeness with it.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun sat down atop his flower, the world around him seemed to change. The scene of a slowly blooming brightflower appeared in his mind. The flower's thriving life force seemed to be giving birth to boundless power. When he looked at the surface of the lake, the reflection of the starry sky seemed to come alive. It was as though he was staring straight at the boundless universe, a scene that he would not be able to forget his entire life.

However, the scene did not last long. One blooming brightflower after another replaced the scene, forming an ocean of flowers. A certain rule of the universe seemed to be playing out before his very eyes.

It was said that the Brightflower Landscape could help one comprehend the dao and increase one's strength. But would such a scene actually be of help in one's cultivation? There was a saying that the benevolent see benevolence, the wise see wisdom. Each person would see something different from the Brightflower Landscape. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he had entered a state of comprehension.

Without knowing it, he started chanting the Desolation mantra. The mantra seemed to encompass the profundities of primal chaos, yin and yang, celestial lightning, storm, and so on. The many great daos started resonating with the scenes he was seeing.

Immersed in the Brightflower Landscape, the incomplete Desolation mantra was slowly being completed. Xiang Shaoyun's understanding of the various profundities and the connection between them deepened and increased. He was starting to reap the harvest of the Brightflower Landscape.

He forgot the world around him, fully focused on the brightflowers that bloomed and withered incessantly, the formation and destruction of stars, the changes of the wide universe, the start and the end of an era. Of everything he witnessed, the profundity of life was the clearest to him.

The profundity of life was a higher form of the profundity of wood. However, it had been elevated to something beyond merely the profundity of wood, as the profundity of life also encompassed the profundities of water and light. In short, the profundity of life was a combination of three different profundities.

With the profundity of wood as the base and the profundities of water and light as supplements, a cycle of life would form. Life after life would be created anew, maintaining vigorous vitality, allowing one to achieve eternal youth. This was the true form of the profundity of life.

In his wondrous state of comprehension, Xiang Shaoyun started combining the three profundities, slowly understanding the profundity of life. At the same time, the stars within his body were speedily absorbing the spiritual energy in the lake. Without realizing it, his stars were growing by themselves. This was a precious opportunity, as the expansion of one's internal stars was incredibly hard to come across.

Everything that was happening to him was due to the Brightflower Landscape and the Stargazing Lake. All five people atop the five flowers were experiencing different scenes. Naturally, what they comprehended was different as well.

Before they knew it, half a month had passed. The flowers slowly withered, and the energy around the flowers started dispersing. Deep in meditation, Xiang Shaoyun sensed what was happening. He was unwilling to stop his comprehension so easily. Apart from the profundity of life, he had also

gained a little comprehension of the profundity of primal chaos. If he allowed the brightflowers to wither away, his comprehension would stop.

Thus, he activated his Light of Wisdom and chased after the profundity of primal chaos according to what little he had comprehended thus far. When the others left their flowers, they saw that Xiang Shaoyun was still in a state of comprehension. They were astonished, especially Liu Yanran and the other Brightflower Chamber member. They couldn't understand how Xiang Shaoyun had managed to extend his comprehension of the flower.

"Hmph!" The Brightflower Chamber member snorted coldly, clearly trying to disrupt Xiang Shaoyun's comprehension.

Both Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin glared at that person murderously. It was extremely rare for a cultivator to enter a state of comprehension. The moment such a state was disrupted, nobody would know if one could enter such a state again in the future.

"Leave!" Liu Yanran transmitted to him.

He knew that he had been somewhat excessive earlier. He didn't dare to stay and hurriedly left. Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin were furious, but it was not the time for them to deal with him. Their priority was to keep watch over Xiang Shaoyun. Liu Yanran also stayed, as it would be improper for her to leave at this time.

Xiang Shaoyun's Light of Wisdom was an extraordinary power that could greatly increase one's comprehension capabilities. He was able to rapidly memorize what he had comprehended and comprehend the profundities others couldn't. Using the little bit of power remaining in the brightflower, he utilized the Light of Wisdom and successfully started comprehending the profundity of primal chaos.

The profundity of primal chaos encompassed the profundities of gold, wood, water, fire, and earth. To grasp the profundity of primal chaos, one needed to first comprehend the profundities of the five elements. Xiang Shaoyun had long comprehended the five elements, but combining all of them was no easy feat. Now that an opportunity for him to do so had arrived, he finally had a chance to evolve his comprehension of the five elements.

The five elements reinforced and countered each other. Gold reinforced water, water reinforced wood, wood reinforced flame, flame reinforced earth, and earth reinforced gold. Additionally, gold countered wood, wood countered earth, earth countered water, water countered flame, and flame countered gold.

The five elements formed a cycle that would result in two different effects depending on the flow of the cycle. When cycled in such a way that each element reinforced the next element, life would be created, reflecting the great dao of life. Different from the profundity of life, this was a process of creation! And when cycled in such a way that each element countered the next element, absolute destruction would be created, reflecting the great dao of death.

#### Chapter 1332: Direction Token

The brightflowers had withered, but the lake remained. Floating above the lake, Xiang Shaoyun was surrounded by a multicolored radiance, looking incredibly divine. When Tuoba Wan'er, Gong Qinyin, and Liu Yanran saw that, their eyes rippled with indescribable emotion. Xiang Shaoyun was akin to the child of heaven, boundlessly enchanting and charming.

Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin were both Xiang Shaoyun's women, so they felt proud for having such a man. As for Liu Yanran, she had a look of infatuation as her heart throbbed. No woman could remain indifferent before a man of such caliber.

Xiang Shaoyun had remained in the same state for three days. Even after the brightflower had withered, he was still comprehending the dao. Compared with all who had experienced the Brightflower Landscape, he had persisted for far longer than everyone else.

His entire brain was filled with the profundity of primal chaos. Although his comprehension was still rather shallow, he had still managed to get a glimpse at how boundless the profundity of primal chaos was, becoming fully aware of the prowess of the great dao.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun woke up. When he opened his eyes, he had a look of regret as he muttered, "It's a pity. If I could remain in this state of comprehension for longer, I would be able to gain even more understanding of the supreme great dao."

Liu Yanran had a complicated look when she heard his words. Inwardly, she sighed, No wonder he can command the numerous experts in his sect at such a young age. No regular person can compare with him in terms of talent.

"Congratulations, holy son-in-law, for your gains," said Tuoba Wan'er with a smile.

Xiang Shaoyun lifted his head and looked at them. His body flickered and reappeared before Tuoba Wan'er and Gong Qinyin. Looking at the two, he found that the two had also advanced greatly, especially Gong Qinyin. She had actually reached the seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, two

stages higher than before. As for Tuoba Wan'er, she had reached the peak of her previous stage and was only a step away from her next breakthrough.

"Both of you have gained a lot as well. Looks like this Brightflower Land is truly quite a wondrous place," said Xiang Shaoyun with a pleased smile.

Not only had he comprehended the profundity of life, but he had also gained partial comprehension of the profundity of primal chaos. His cultivation had reached the peak fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Before long, he would be able to step into the fifth stage.

Without the Brightflower Landscape, they would have taken a much longer time to improve that much in their cultivation. One could say that the Brightflower Land's existence was a great advantage for the Brightflower Chamber. Even if the Brightflower Land could only be used once every ten years, they could still obtain a considerable number of talents through it. If it wasn't for the fact that all their Saints had perished, Xiang Shaoyun probably wouldn't have gotten the chance to experience the wondrous Brightflower Landscape.

"Young Master Xiang, the brightflowers have withered and will bloom again after 10 years. Time for us to leave," said Liu Yanran.

"Um. Let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. "I'll forget about all that had happened previously. But I hope that you can keep your people in order if you don't want any unnecessary trouble."

"You're right, Young Master Xiang. We will learn from experience," said Liu Yanran.

"If you need any help, feel free to let us know. I can see that many in your organization aren't quite willing to obey your commands," probed Xiang Shaoyun.

Liu Yanran smiled and said, "You jest, Young Master Xiang. Despite the recent conflict, our Brightflower Chamber is still able to maintain our unity."

"Heh. I do hope that's the case," said Xiang Shaoyun with a laugh before leaving alongside Liu Yanran.

After leaving the forbidden zone, he went straight back to the Ziling Sect with his companions. He wanted to take this chance to temporarily go into seclusion and consolidate his gains while waiting

for the Saintforce Realm to open. He also aimed to enter the fifth stage before the Saintforce Realm opened.

Liu Yanran invited them to stay for a few more days, but Xiang Shaoyun had no interest in staying. He did not forget to remind her to ask for help upon encountering any trouble. Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling that Liu Yanran would have a hard time gaining control over the Brightflower Chamber. Those two old fellows would definitely create trouble for her. If Liu Yanran really asked for his help, he would then have a proper excuse to make the Brightflower Chamber his subsidiary organization.

After returning to Ziling City through Brightflower Chamber's teleportation formation, he returned to the sect and entered seclusion. He needed to fully consolidate his gains on the profundity of life and further study his understanding of the profundity of primal chaos.

He first focused on the profundity of life by fusing the profundities of wood, water, and light again and again. He also tried using the Secret Reversal Technique with the profundity of life, greatly boosting his vitality. The growth of his vitality was big enough that he could easily sense his boundless life force, causing him to be overwhelmed with joy.

He even started injuring himself numerous times before healing himself with the profundity of life. He discovered that this recovery speed was much faster than before when using the Secret Reversal Technique.

In other words, he only needed to activate the profundity of life after suffering any injury in the future, and he would be able to heal rapidly. This was a massive advantage over his opponents.

As for the profundity of primal chaos, he had also obtained some gains in his seclusion. His understanding of the relationship between the five elements deepened. If he continued practicing, a day would come when he fully fused all five elements and touched upon the dao of primal chaos.

Unfortunately, he had limited time, so he had to shift his focus to reaching fifth-stage Soul Foundation Realm. With his remaining time, he focused on absorbing astral energy day and night. With the Grand Astral Congregation Formation deployed on his place of seclusion, he could rapidly absorb astral energy. As time passed, a breakthrough seemed nearer and nearer.

Finally, just as he was about to reach the point of breakthrough, he sensed his saintforce token pulsing. He took the token out without hesitating. On the token, several words appeared: Northern Border's Heavenly Snow Mountain.

That was where the Saintforce Realm was located. All the token holders must head over there immediately. The Southern Wasteland, Northern Border, Eastern Pass, and Western Desert were all a part of the dominion. As for the so-called Heavenly Snow Mountain, it was the Northern Border's number one mountain. Thus, it wasn't surprising that the Saintforce Realm was also located there.

Traveling to a different region would require a lot of time. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun had no choice but to depart immediately. As for his breakthrough, he would attempt it during his journey. In any case, he was reaching the point of breakthrough, so there was no rush. He could use the journey as the chance to further strengthen his foundations before breaking through.

After leaving seclusion, Xiang Shaoyun called over Xiang Chenxi, Xiang Keren, and Xiang Feidian. They were all token holders and had to have received the notification as well.

"Be sure to work hard during this excursion to the Saintforce Realm. Try to gain as much as you can there," said Xiang Shaoyun.

They all nodded with a confident look on their face. And thus, the group's journey to the Northern Border began.

### Chapter 1333: Arriving At Glacier City

On the journey to the Northern Border, apart from the three people from the Xiang Clan, Xiang Shaoyun had also brought Hidden Rat with him. This capable assassin could be very helpful when required.

Since the Di Clan had hired the Rat Assassins to deal with him, he had to be careful. Additionally, the Yu Clan did not like him that well either. With so many enemies, he couldn't afford to be careless.

Riding on Money, Xiang Shaoyun traveled rapidly. Xiang Chenxi and the others had their respective mounts as well. After using several teleportation formations and traveling through several areas not connected through formations, they finally reached the Northern Border.

Of the five regions, the Northern Border had the coldest climate and was suited for ice cultivators. The Glacier Palace Han Chenfei came from was also located within the Northern Border.

The Heavenly Snow Mountain was the Northern Border's number one mountain and was located at the extreme north of the region. It was an incomparably large snowy mountain that looked incomparably imposing and spectacular. From afar, the mountain looked like a snow lotus that stood loftily all by itself.

A mountain so grand was logically a place numerous organizations wished to occupy, but not one organization had ever been able to occupy the entire mountain. The mountain and its surroundings were so fatally cold no human could stay there for a long period of time. One had to be no weaker than the Emperor Realm if one wished to survive there. However, without being at the Soul Foundation Realm, it was still better for one to not approach the Heavenly Snow Mountain, as even Emperors stood a chance to be frozen to death.

Because of that, the numerous organizations did not place their headquarters on the mountain despite knowing how valuable it was. Instead, the Heavenly Snow Mountain became a common training ground for all Northern Border cultivators. After all, the Heavenly Snow Mountain was merely the heart of an expansive snowy region. Countless ice-elemental beasts resided within the area.

Surrounding the Heavenly Snow Mountain were about a dozen organizations of different sizes, each occupying a different position. The Glacier Palace was one such organization. Xiang Shaoyun did not know if his decision was for the sake of Han Chenfei, but he chose to head toward the Saintforce Realm from the Glacier Palace's direction.

When they arrived before Glacier City, a city covered in snow unfolded before them. The city was incredibly beautiful and elegant, as though it was a frozen maiden that could pull at one's heartstrings. Xiang Shaoyun and company were strong enough to survive in the cold weather, so the climate wasn't an issue.

"So this is Glacier City? It does seem like a decent place," praised Xiang Feidian.

"It looks nice, but living here is probably quite troublesome. One needs to brave through thick snow just to find food. It's simply a life of suffering," said Xiang Keren.

"Every place has its own rules of survival. We don't need to be bothered about that," said Xiang Shaoyun. "The Heavenly Snow Mountain is not far away. We have enough time to rest here for a day. We can take the chance to experience life in this city."

"Yeah, one day won't matter much," Xiang Chenxi agreed.



"Let's go find some Jedefrost Liquor. I heard it's a very strong liquor that's very satisfying to drink," said Xiang Feidian, sounding like a liquor addict.

The group entered the city and headed for the biggest restaurant in the city. The Glacier Restaurant was a restaurant directly run by the Glacier Palace, and it was the city's biggest restaurant. Generally, only the most influential and richest of the city could afford to visit the restaurant. After all, each meal in Glacier Restaurant would be priced in spirit crystals.

Xiang Shaoyun and company did not take long to reach the restaurant. They found that it was much warmer inside. Clearly, a formation was keeping heat within the restaurant.

The restaurant was decorated elegantly. Upon entering, one would feel like one had arrived at a completely different place. The place was snug and cozy, allowing one to completely forget about the snowy weather outside. Numerous customers could be seen happily eating and drinking.

Xiang Shaoyun noticed that there were quite a lot of female diners in the restaurant. Every one of them was a beauty, attracting all the male diners in the restaurant. It was worth noting that the denizens of the Northern Border were generally capable drinkers regardless of age and gender. Those from other regions were incomparable with the Northern Border people in terms of alcohol tolerance.

After Xiang Shaoyun and company found themselves a table, Xiang Feidian impatiently ordered several pots of Jedefrost Liquor and a few dishes, intending to reward himself after the long journey. The moment they started drinking, a comfortable and spicy warmth started spreading through their bodies.

"Original Jedefrost Liquor indeed. It's really satisfying," praised Xiang Feidian.

The others nodded in agreement. It was really good liquor. While they were drinking and chatting, the people at the other tables were also talking about numerous different matters. One certain matter managed to attract the attention of Xiang Shaoyun and company.

"Have you heard that an incredible sword cultivator has appeared from the Ximen Clan? He challenged 99 experts of the same cultivation level, defeating each of them with only one slash. I heard that he recently came to Glacier City to challenge the Glacier Palace's number one Sovereign, Han Jiang."

"You mean the Ximen Clan's Ximen Xue? The Ximen Clan had hidden him for 30 years before allowing him to show himself to the world. Reaching the Sovereign Realm at 30 years old, he is scarier than even those freaks from the four academies. Also, it was said that he had once triggered the phenomenon of 10,000 swords, proving his incredible talent in swordsmanship."

"It has been eight years since Ximen Xue showed himself to the world. Over the years, he had defeated 99 opponents. His 100th target is in Glacier City. I'm afraid Sovereign Han Jiang has no choice but to accept the challenge."

"That's right. I heard that Ximen Xue has yet to reach peak Soul Foundation Realm, but Sovereign Han Jiang is already a peak Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. If Monarch Han Jiang refuses the challenge, his reputation would be ruined."

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"Is that Ximen Xue really that amazing? What if the rumors are mere exaggeration?" said Xiang Feidian.

"You guys are obviously outsiders. The Ximen Clan is the strongest ancient clan in this region. Ximen Xue is an incredibly talented sword cultivator that would probably appear only once every 10,000 years. He has a very high chance of becoming a Sword God in the future. Just wait until you see him. His heroic exploits will definitely conquer you," remarked a woman resentfully.

"Hehe, it doesn't matter what you say. We'll know how good he is after we see him," said Xiang Feidian with a sneer.

Xiang Feidian himself was a genius cultivator in the Xiang Clan. As someone who had reached peak Soul Foundation Realm before 100 years old and was a top-100 participant in the Devil Hunting Expedition, he had the right to be arrogant. Thus, he felt challenged when he heard of Ximen Xue's exploits.

"If you really meet Ximen Xue, you will lose your head with one swing of his sword," said someone else.

Xiang Feidian wanted to retort, but Xiang Shaoyun stopped him. At the same time, they felt a gust of cold wind blow in from outside as a person dressed in a white outfit walked into the restaurant with a sword hanging on his back. Instantly, the newcomer became the center of attention.

## Chapter 1334: Ever-Victorious White Xue

The Ever-Victorious White Xue, the Ximen Clan's Ximen Xue. He was an absolute prodigy in cultivation. From the moment he showed himself to the world, he was known as Northern Border's number one sword. So long as he did not die young, he would most definitely grow into a Sword God in the future.

His arrival at the Glacier Restaurant signified that his battle with Han Jiang could no longer be avoided. He instantly became the center of attention when he entered the restaurant. Every single person was looking at him, bearing witness to his exceptional bearing.

He looked ordinary, and due to it, nobody would notice him if he stood in a crowd. He wasn't exactly tall either. However, he had a pair of bright eyes akin to two sharp blades that could penetrate everything. He was always clad in a completely white outfit so white that he almost looked dazzling. Hanging on his back was an ordinary-looking white sword. The sword felt like an extension of his body, being completely at home hanging on his back.

Despite his ordinary looks, he had the bearing of an extraordinary swordmaster. His bearing shone through everything ordinary about him, turning him into an existence akin to the brightest star in the starry night. This was Ximen Xue, the unrivaled sword.

"Lord Ximen Xue is here!" Someone suddenly cried out. A commotion erupted in the restaurant.

"Lord Ximen Xue, please take a seat here. Allow me to treat you to a glass of liquor," offered someone.

"Lord Ximen Xue, are you still looking for followers? I wish to be your follower," offered a person kneeling on the ground.

"Lord Ximen Xue, someone spoke rudely about you earlier," said someone while pointing at Xiang Feidian.

Xiang Feidian cursed, "The hell? What a vile person."

Ximen Xue acted like he had heard nothing. He walked toward an empty table and said nonchalantly, "Serve the liquor."

His words sounded as cold as his sword, as though a thick wall was keeping him apart from everyone else in the world. The moment he spoke, the entire restaurant sank into silence. Nobody dared to say anything else.

"Hmph. What's with that arrogance? He's only slightly capable," said someone offended by Ximen Xue's arrogance.

Whoosh!

The sound of the air being sliced rang out. Before anyone could react, the person who had spoken had his throat punctured by a chopstick. With his hands pressing against his throat, he collapsed onto the ground, his eyes wide open. When everyone saw this, they felt their bodies turn cold. Those with decent eyes could see clearly that it was Ximen Xue who had sent over the chopstick, but ordinary people couldn't tell because the attack was too fast for them to see anything.

"Looks like that fellow is quite capable," muttered Xiang Feidian.

"There must be some truth to his reputation," said Xiang Keren.

They could see that Ximen Xue was truly someone with incredible strength. Soon, the corpse was carried out of the restaurant. Someone was unhappy that Ximen Xue had committed murder in the restaurant and said, "Ximen Xue, you're being too rude. By killing in the Glacier Restaurant, you're completely disregarding the Glacier Palace."

Ximen Xue did not even spare the speaker any attention. He shut his eyes to rest as he waited for his liquor to be served. A few people in the restaurant had unsightly expressions. They wanted to arrest Ximen Xue, but they also had their misgivings.

Eventually, the person who had spoken earlier walked up to Ximen Xue and slammed his hand onto the table. "Ximen Xue, you're too arrogant!"

The moment his palm landed on the table, a chopstick flew over and nailed his hand onto the table.

"Ahhh!"

A mournful wail came out of his mouth, and everyone's hair stood on end when they heard his miserable wail. The man's companions prepared to make a move, their eyes flickering. But when Ximen Xue shot them a glance, it was as though all of them had been frozen over. None of them dared to make another move.

"Scram," said Ximen Xue coldly after pulling the chopstick out.

The man, pressing his palm against his injured palm, left gloomily with his companions without daring to make another sound. Before absolute strength, nobody dared to say anything. This restaurant belonged to the Glacier Palace, but Ximen Xue was strong enough to challenge the Glacier Palace's number one Sovereign, Han Jiang. Clearly, Ximen Xue was a peak Sovereign. Unless one was a Saint, one would stand no chance against him.

The restaurant decided to not try anything and to let the waiter serve Ximen Xue what he ordered. Ximen Xue acted like nothing had happened and slowly drank and ate. Even when eating, he displayed a grace that belonged only to the nobility.

Initially, Xiang Shaoyun did not place much thought on Ximen Xue. But when he sensed that Ximen Xue was indeed no ordinary person, he couldn't help but shoot him several glances. He thought, This is simply a different version of Song Tiandao.

At the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he had once witnessed Baili Yixiao's sword of righteousness, which was an extremely powerful sword. He had then witnessed the swords of the Nine Palace Academy's Jiu Tian, the True Martial Academy's Devil Concubine, and Dugu Qiubai. Each of them was a prodigy in cultivation.

During the Devil Hunting Expedition, he encountered Song Tiandao and the other top-10 participants. Now, he saw Ximen Xue. He could clearly see that the world was truly filled with geniuses.

Meanwhile, Xiang Feidian was becoming restless, seemingly intending to pit himself against Ximen Xue.

"Feidian, calm down," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He knew Xiang Feidian's strength well. Xiang Feidian was still slightly lacking compared to Ximen Xue, and he did not wish to see Xiang Feidian receive a beating. Xiang Shaoyun's command had successfully calmed down Xiang Feidian.

Xiang Feidian did not dare to view Xiang Shaoyun as a regular peer. Xiang Shaoyun was their little ancestor, someone capable of killing Saints. Even Ximen Xue was incomparable to their little ancestor.

Xiang Shaoyun and company were about to continue eating when someone suddenly said, "Are you the Devil Hunting Expedition champion, Xiang Shaoyun?"

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before looking toward the person who had spoken. He had never seen them before.

"Yes. Who are you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Haha, I never expected to meet the number one expert below the Saint Realm here. It is my honor to meet you," they said with a smile. "Young Master Xiang, it's normal that you don't know me. I was also a participant in the Devil Hunting Expedition. At the time, I saw you from far away. You looked familiar, so I tried asking. Turns out it's really you!"

"I see," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Their exchange changed the way the surrounding people looked at Xiang Shaoyun. The four Bloodsin Cities had all held a Devil Hunting Expedition. Each city would have its respective top-100 participants. The top participants would receive rich rewards and a chance to enter the Saint Realm. It was only natural that the people in the restaurant had heard of Xiang Shaoyun's name. Even Ximen Xue, who had been minding his own business, looked at Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 1335: Ximen Xue's Sword

"He's that Xiang Shaoyun who cultivates nine different powers? The abandoned disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy?"

"That's right. It's him. I heard he was expelled from the academy because he had offended some elders. Otherwise, he would have become the academy's pride."

"Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition champion. He is definitely no pushover, considering he is definitely someone capable of killing Saints. Wait, so that means he's even stronger than Lord Ximen Xue?"

"It is rumored that he can kill Devil Saints. I suppose Lord Ximen Xue is slightly weaker than him."

"That Young Master Xiang is much more handsome than Lord Ximen Xue. I wonder if he needs a maid by his side."

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It was Xiang Shaoyun's turn to become the center of attention. His status as the Devil Hunting Expedition's champion had spread his name far and wide, making him an idol of many from the younger generation. Many people had never seen him before, and now that they had the chance to see him, they considered it an honor.

Xiang Feidian proudly said, "We're all top-100 participants in the Devil Hunting Expedition."

Xiang Feidian and Xiang Feidian were definitely no pushovers as ones who had entered the top-100. They were strong enough to face pseudo-Saints and were qualified to be proud.

"I don't think we can continue drinking in peace. Get the waiter to pack some liquor for the road," said Xiang Shaoyun with a helpless smile.

"Yes, little ancestor. We should leave," said Xiang Chenxi.

And thus, Xiang Keren ordered more liquor from the waiter to be consumed during their journey.

Just as they were about to leave, a voice rang out from outside the restaurant, "Ximen Xue, did you challenge me? Get out here and accept your death!"

Yet another disturbance broke out in the restaurant. Everyone knew that the Glacier Palace's Sovereign Han Jiang had arrived. Everyone poured outside the restaurant, eager to witness the confrontation.

Ximen Xue finished his food and drink in an unhurried manner. Then, he took out a handkerchief and slowly wiped his hands before leisurely leaving the restaurant. He was truly a weird person.

"Little ancestor, do we go watch the fight as well?" asked Xiang Feidian.

"Sure," agreed Xiang Shaoyun, as he did not want to dampen Xiang Feidian's enthusiasm.

They headed outside the restaurant. A large crowd had gathered outside, leaving an empty space in the middle of the crowd. A tall, middle-aged man with thick brows and a handsome face stood there. Dressed in a furry overcoat and a furry cap, he emanated boundless elegance.

This person was none other than the Glacier Palace's number one Sovereign, Han Jiang. As someone who could cross over to the Heaven Battling Realm at any time, Han Jiang had an extraordinary status in the Glacier Palace and was the target of Ximen Xue's challenge.

Ximen Xue walked out of the restaurant and stopped about 100 meters away from Han Jiang. When their gazes met, the temperature around them started dropping.

"Ximen Xue, as an up-and-coming youngster from the Ximen Clan, I'll consider the fact that you're still an ignorant youth and give you a chance to kowtow before me. If you do, I'll let this slide. Otherwise, don't blame me for showing no mercy," said Han Jiang coldly.

His peak Sovereign aura burst out and surged toward Ximen Xue. From his aura, he had actually reached peak pseudo-Saint Realm. It was no wonder that he was known as the Glacier Palace's number one Sovereign.

The eruption of his aura forced the crowd to move farther away from them. Those who weren't able to retreat in time were instantly turned into ice sculptures, serving as proof of how terrifying the aura was.

Facing the imposing aura, Ximen Xue advanced instead of retreating. He walked slowly, taking a long time between each step. He was using action to tell Han Jiang that he would not surrender.

"Stubborn fool. Die!" Han Jiang frowned and roared before sending a massive frosty palm toward Ximen Xue.

Han Jiang did not dare to be careless and held nothing back. He wanted to defeat Ximen Xue with one attack, not giving Ximen Xue the chance to attack even once. An avalanche formed on the street and rumbled forth. It was as though a natural disaster had formed right before their eyes and was crashing toward Ximen Xue with a terrifying might.



Even Xiang Shaoyun praised inwardly, He's not weak at all.

Xiang Keren and Xiang Feidian could feel that Han Jiang's combat strength was comparable with theirs. They wanted to see just how Ximen Xue was going to face this opponent. Ximen Xue maintained the same calm expression, as though he wasn't aware of the attack coming his way. Just as the avalanche was about to crush him, a sword ray swept forth.

The sword was so fast that many couldn't even see it. In everyone's eyes, the sword didn't seem to have done anything before it was completely submerged within the avalanche. Everyone watched on as the avalanche swallowed Ximen Xue, thinking that Ximen Xue was about to suffer defeat.

Right this moment, the color red intruded upon the world of white. Before everyone knew it, Han Jiang's head had separated from his body. Everyone was stunned. None had seen how Ximen Xue had severed Han Jiang's head. They had all thought that Ximen Xue was the one who would die.

But now, the avalanche vanished, revealing Ximen Xue completely unharmed. He maintained the same pose from when he swung his sword, looking incredibly carefree and heroic. Slowly, he pulled his hand back. However, instead of putting his sword away, he swung it another time.

Whoosh!

Several people had suddenly charged toward him, but all of them were killed with one slash.

"Ximen Xue! For killing Lord Han Jiang, don't even dream about leaving Glacier City!" someone roared as dozens of people appeared and charged Ximen Xue. They rained attacks down on him.

Ximen Xue showed no fear and swung his sword, breaking through all their attacks with one slash. The sword ray continued toward the attackers. An alarming sword intent surged into the heavens, and dozens of experts from the Glacier Palace perished under his sword.

All the onlookers were stunned. They knew that Ximen Xue was strong, but they had never imagined him to be this strong. Stepping onto the bloody street, Ximen Xue started leaving, his clothes still as white as snow.

Chapter 1336: Emotionless Sword Dao

"How powerful. Lord Ximen Xue is too amazing. If I can have even half his strength, I'll be perfectly content."

"He's quite a gutsy one. He even dared to kill Lord Han Jiang and so many Glacier Palace experts. I doubt he can leave this place safely."

"This is his 100th victory. Since he can survive until now, he definitely has his own trump card. How could he have stayed so arrogant otherwise?"

"That's right. Ximen Xue is strong enough to battle Saints. Unless his enemies send Saints against him, nobody can threaten him."

"He's still an eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, right? How is he that strong?"

...

Sounds of discussion broke out.

Xiang Feidian lowered his head and muttered, "That fellow is too scary. I'm not his match."

He was confident he could put up an even fight against Han Jiang. However, Ximen Xue had so easily killed Han Jiang, so Xiang Feidian had instantly lost all his confidence in fighting Ximen Xue.

Xiang Keren sighed, "The young are growing stronger and stronger."

"When I reach his cultivation level, I'll definitely be able to defeat him," declared Xiang Chenxi as he clenched his fists confidently.

Xiang Chenxi was one of the top three experts of the True Martial Academy. His Innate Lightning Physique was not to be underestimated either. As a sixth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, he could easily fight peak Sovereigns. However, his combat strength was still lower than Ximen Xue, and the biggest difference between the two was their cultivation.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Don't be disheartened. He was born with incredible talent in the sword, and his swordsmanship has reached an almost perfect level. He basically lives for the sake of his sword and follows the path of the emotionless sword. No ordinary person can replicate his feat. If you all had stuck to practicing only a single weapon since young and cared for nothing else in life, you might have reached his level as well."

"Emotionless sword dao?" the three exclaimed in alarm.

The emotionless sword dao was a type of attainment in the dao of the sword where one could truly put all emotions aside. With the emotionless sword, all emotions would be swept aside the moment the sword was drawn. Nobody could hope to stop such a sword.

The feeling Ximen Xue gave everyone was a chill that reached for one's bones. That wasn't only due to his cultivation but also because he had truly abandoned all emotions. He cultivated his sword dao in an extreme manner, with his sword being his sole attachment; therefore, one could say he no longer had any emotions.

Xiang Shaoyun had once met someone like that in his previous life. Unfortunately, that someone had ultimately died by a cultivation deviation before fully grasping the emotionless sword dao.

When he looked at Ximen Xue, he had a feeling that Ximen Xue would truly be able to reach the pinnacle of this path. Ximen Xue's emotionless eyes were proof of that.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun sensed the undulations of Heaven Battling Realm experts in the distance. Evidently, the Glacier Palace had been angered.

"Let's resume our journey," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Thus, they continued on their way to the Heavenly Snow Mountain. As for Ximen Xue's affairs, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't interested in getting involved in it. Despite his relationship with Han Chenfei, he had no grounds for involving himself since it would only create unnecessary misunderstandings. His current priority was to reach the Heavenly Snow Mountain.

The Heavenly Snow Mountain stood tall and aloof, its surface covered by dazzling ice as clear as a mirror. The extreme chill it emanated reached as far as tens of thousands of miles away and covered its surroundings with a desolate atmosphere.

As of late, more and more people appeared on the sparsely populated mountain. They were all here to enter the Saintforce Realm, for which each of the four Bloodsin Cities had selected 100 cultivators.

Some superpowers had also gained additional quotas into the Saintforce Realm. These superpowers were far more powerful than any of the other organizations in existence. It wasn't surprising at all that an exception was made for their members.

In total, about 1,000 cultivators would be allowed to enter the Saintforce Realm this time. Every single one of these cultivators was either a peak Sovereign or a prodigy where they came from. One could say that these were the stars of the current generation's Soul Foundation Realm. After a long journey, Xiang Shaoyun and company finally arrived near the Heavenly Snow Mountain. They were starting to shiver from the extreme chill the mountain was emanating.

"This place is truly worthy of being known as a place of extreme cold. It's so cold here," said Xiang Feidian, seated atop his lightning leopard.

"Little ancestor, you seem completely unaffected by the temperature?" said Xiang Chenxi in astonishment.

Even Sovereigns would have to circulate their astral energy to resist the cold here, but Xiang Shaoyun was acting like normal, astonishing them.

"Yeah, the little ancestor is truly a freak," said Xiang Keren.

Seated atop Money, Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Have you forgotten that I cultivate nine different powers? The frost energy here is like a tonic for me."

He spoke the truth. Of the profundities he had grasped, the profundity of frost was one of them. After all, water and ice were interlinked. He could easily make use of the frost energy in the area. After his recent journey, the sensation of breaking through had appeared within him. However, he had been suppressing the breakthrough.

After witnessing the world of frost around him, he had further deepened his comprehension of the profundity of frost, all thanks to the Light of Wisdom.

After nearing the mountain, they found themselves targeted by numerous ice wolves.

The ice wolves were extremely ferocious and strong, their eyes emanating thick bloodlust. Instead of attacking immediately, they waited for more of them to arrive. Only when there were about 100 of them did they surround Xiang Shaoyun and company.

"Ice wolves, don't look for trouble and piss off," warned Xiang Feidian, still seated atop his lightning leopard.

If these wolves were ordinary ice wolves, Xiang Shaoyun and company wouldn't mind mowing through them. However, they could sense some Demon Emperors, Demon Sovereigns, and even peak Demon Sovereigns among them. In their natural habitat, these wolves would be even stronger. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun and company had to be cautious.

"All humans who enter our territory will become our food. Get them!" shouted the wolf leader.

The ice wolves, numbering over 100, rushed Xiang Shaoyun's group. They advanced with great momentum as they spat numerous frost attacks at Xiang Shaoyun's group.

"Money, teach them a lesson. It's time you broke through," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently as he patted Money's back.

"Sure. Time for some exercise," said Money before charging forward. Lightning currents appeared around his body as a powerful demonic aura burst out of him. Black clouds gathered in the sky above him, and terrifying lightning bolts started raining down.

## Chapter 1337: Money's Eruption

Money had kept a low profile for quite a while and had spent most of his time absorbing the lightning origin energy in Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea. Just recently had he finished refining the power of his celestial horn. Even so, he had suppressed his breakthrough. Even Xiang Shaoyun started wondering why. Money replied that as a high and mighty celestial horned dragonsnake, each time he broke through, he aimed to break through several stages at once. Otherwise, he wouldn't bother.

In fact, Money was different from most other demonic beasts. Regular demonic beasts would automatically break through the moment they accumulated enough cultivation. As for Money, he could suppress his breakthrough until he thought the time was right.

Facing their current enemies, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to make a move himself. He wanted to see just how far Money could go. Money stopped holding himself back and unleashed all his strength, summoning numerous starfall and silver lightning bolts. The people around Xiang Shaoyun were greatly shocked. They had never expected Money to be so powerful, as he had kept a low profile.

"Little ancestor, is your mount trying to break through?" asked Xiang Feidian.

"Yes," answered Xiang Shaoyun.

"But this level of strength is a tad bit too terrifying, right?" asked Xiang Feidian.

"This is nothing. You'll see something even more terrifying in a bit," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

Money was still a third-stage Demon Sovereign. One could say that his cultivation level had remained the same for several years. Now that he had finally stopped suppressing himself, his new cultivation level would be no lower than fifth-stage Demon Sovereign after his breakthrough.

The power of lightning was the most destructive of the nine major powers. The moment Money entered the midst of the ice wolves, the lightning bombardment caused the wolves to start escaping in chaos.

Of course, there were some powerful wolves who did not fear the lightning bolts. These wolves tried to approach Money to tear him apart. Unfortunately for them, Money could move freely amid the rain of lightning. His celestial horn granted him an indescribable power that multiplied his offensive strength, allowing his attacks to tear through the wolves like a hot knife through butter. Even the wolf leader was bombarded to death.

Money seemed to have transformed into a dragon that moved freely amid the ice wolves, killing them with the endless rain of lightning he had summoned. The imposing army of ice wolves was no longer as imposing.

After all, Money could smite any wolf he wanted with a bolt of lightning. Because of that, the stronger wolves didn't dare to attack, and the smarter ones took a detour around Money to attack Xiang Shaoyun's group instead.

"It has been a while since I fought. This will be a warm-up," said Xiang Feidian. He had always had a warlike personality. With a roar, he transformed into a bolt of lightning and shot toward the approaching ice wolves.

Xiang Chenxi did not slack around and advanced with his purple lightning horse. Meanwhile, Xiang Keren stood silently beside Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun could see that Xiang Keren was the calmest among the three Xiang Clan members and also stronger than Xiang Feidian. In this group, he had the highest chance of entering the Heaven Battling Realm during this trip to the Saintforce Realm.

As for Xiang Feidian, he still needed more tempering, while Xiang Chenxi was still too young. Like Xiang Shaoyun, Xiang Chenxi needed more time to accumulate more strength. Before long, Money broke through into fourth-stage Demon Sovereign Realm. However, his breakthrough did not end. Instead, it was just starting. A new round of lightning tribulation appeared.

"Is he going to break through two stages in a row?" exclaimed Xiang Keren in astonishment.

"This fellow has always enjoyed pretending to be weak to trick his opponents," said Xiang Shaoyun with a laugh.

Money was aiming to break through more than two stages. He wanted to soar like a rocket and reach the seventh-stage. After four rounds of terrifying lightning tribulations, about two-thirds of the ice wolves had been slaughtered. As for the rest of the wolves, they had either escaped or been killed by Xiang Feidian and Xiang Chenxi.

Money's breakthrough was simply terrifying. He seemed to have set a new record for all demonic beasts. Xiang Keren, Xiang Feidian, and Xiang Chenxi were completely stunned. They had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun's mount would be such a freak. Money was so powerful it wasn't even fair.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally did not explain that Money had suppressed his cultivation for years and had even consumed the celestial horn of his ancestors. He also didn't tell them that Money had also been absorbing his lightning origin energy and that this breakthrough was merely an accumulation of many years.

In fact, if Xiang Shaoyun only cultivated the power of lightning, his growth would be even faster. His cultivation speed was only limited by the fact that he cultivated multiple powers. Only after fully fusing all nine of his powers would he be able to advance rapidly. As of now, he had comprehended nine profundities, reaching a level few could reach, but fusing them all would be an

extremely difficult feat. Fortunately, the Brightflower Land had helped increase his confidence in accomplishing that feat.

Far away, some people had noticed the ongoing battle. Those people were none other than Xiang Shaoyun's enemies, Di Mie and Di Lin.

Di Lin still had the same mask on his face. His pair of cold eyes emanated a terrifying aura. He had surprisingly advanced rapidly, reaching peak eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm—all thanks to his fusion with the soul of Situ Mingyu's son. His enhanced soul had helped him grow speedily. With Situ Mingyu's full support, it wasn't surprising that he had grown so much.

Originally, Di Lin and Di Mie did not operate together. But since they were from the same clan and shared the same enemy, they had subsequently come together. Di Lin wanted to borrow Di Mie's strength. Thus, he willingly became Di Mie's attendant, waiting for the time when he finally surpassed Di Mie as well. He naturally wasn't willing to stay an attendant forever. In any case, this wasn't the first time he had betrayed his master.

"Xiang Shaoyun is actually still alive. The Rat Assassins are truly a pile of trash," said Di Mie resentfully.

"This isn't the first time he has escaped death. Unless you can kill him instantly, he will survive like a tenacious cockroach," said Di Lin.

"In the Saintforce Realm, I'll personally end him," said Di Mie with a ruthless glint in his eyes.

"There's no need to trouble yourself. It isn't hard to turn him into a stray dog," said Di Lin.

"What do you have in mind?" asked Di Mie.

"Force him to reveal his devil blood and expose him as a spy from the devil side. Naturally, at that time, there will be others who will deal with him for us," said Di Lin with a cold smile.

"That's a bad idea. He's the Devil Hunting Expedition's champion," said Di Mie.

"Don't worry, prince. I already have enough evidence to prove that he's a devil. Just wait for the show to start," said Di Lin confidently.



## Chapter 1338: Provocation Before the Heavenly Snow Mountain

Before the Heavenly Snow Mountain was a certain place where a massive flag was billowing in the wind. The flag acted as a signal for those qualified to enter the Saintforce Realm. Currently, about half of those qualified had gathered before the flag. As for the remaining half, they would probably arrive before long. After Xiang Shaoyun and company dealt with the ice wolves, no other demonic beasts attacked them, and they reached the gathering spot smoothly.

When they arrived, Xiang Shaoyun saw several familiar faces. They also saw him, so they approached him. Xiang Shaoyun wore a look of pleasant surprise as he said, "You're here as well? This is great!"

The ones he saw were Devil Concubine, Yu Caidie, Han Chenfei, and Ouyang Chuanqi. They had arrived separately and had only started moving in the same direction upon seeing Xiang Shaoyun.

Devil Concubine was dressed in a black outfit that perfectly accentuated her flawless figure. Coupled with her face, she was akin to a dark beauty. Yu Caidie was dressed in a bright outfit. She looked like a pure fairy unpolluted by the mortal world, peerless and magnificent.

Han Chenfei was slightly lacking compared to the two in terms of looks, but she seemed to be one with nature here, with the snow around her adding to her beauty and grace. The three beauties came from three different directions. They were akin to three bright stars, gracing their surroundings with a brilliant radiance.

Ouyang Chuanqi had a helpless smile when he realized that he had been relegated to a side character before the three beauties. None of the four had managed to enter the top-100 in the Devil Hunting Expedition. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was surprised to see them here.

"Overlord, I have been missing you," said Devil Concubine as she gave Xiang Shaoyun a big hug.

She had always been a straightforward woman. The other two beauties had unsightly expressions as they looked at her.

"Move away, Devil Concubine. Don't touch my man," said Yu Caidie with a frown.

"Hehe, you're going to get married into the Di Clan. Aren't you embarrassed to claim that the overlord is your man?" said Devil Concubine smugly.

"I won't enter the Di Clan even if I have to die. I belong only to the overlord, dead or alive!" said Yu Caidie as she walked over and hugged Xiang Shaoyun's other arm.

Han Chenfei was envious of the two women. After hearing their forceful declarations, she also wanted to say something. However, she felt helpless. She wasn't confident she could compare with them in terms of looks, background, or talent. Thus, she had no confidence in competing against the two. She had long expressed her feelings for Xiang Shaoyun, but he had been avoiding her. Moreover, he had no lack of women around him. She was starting to feel despair.

Perhaps I really should let go, thought Han Chenfei sullenly.

Xiang Shaoyun did not notice Han Chenfei's bleak expression. Just the two women beside him were enough to give him a headache. The surrounding people were filled with envy when they saw that Xiang Shaoyun was surrounded by beauties.

"Who is that fellow? Why is he so conceited? How can Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie revolve around him?"

"He is the Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition champion, Xiang Shaoyun, a well-known genius cultivator."

"You must be joking. That kid doesn't look strong at all. How did he become the champion?"

"Some geniuses can't be measured with cultivation level alone. Most of them are basically freaks who can deny the heavens. Do not look down on him."

"That's right. How can a man who had won the favor of those two beauties be a pushover?"

...

As the people started talking about Xiang Shaoyun, he became the center of attention. The admirers of Devil Concubine and Yu Caidie were naturally unhappy. The Gu Society's prodigy, Gu Ming, was the angriest of the bunch. Gu Ming was an up-and-coming youngster from the superpower Gu Society. With his astonishing talent, he had long reached ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm.

He wasn't even 50 yet and still looked only 30. In the cultivation world, he could be considered a youngster. The Gu Society had long planned to form a marriage alliance with the Darkdevil Sect, but before they could even propose the marriage, they found that someone else had won over Devil Concubine's heart. Gu Ming couldn't accept that.

Gu Ming was ranked 12th in the Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition. His strength was clear for all to see. Although he ranked much lower than Xiang Shaoyun, he was confident he wasn't weaker than Xiang Shaoyun, as he had held back during the Devil Hunting Expedition. If he had used all his strength, he could have easily entered the top-5 or even taken first place.

Mounted atop a goldscale snake, Gu Ming approached Xiang Shaoyun with his three underlings.

"Devil Concubine, how can you fall for a pretty face like him?" questioned Gu Ming unhappily.

Devil Concubine wasn't even bothered to give him a reply.

Yu Caidie hurriedly said, "Devil Concubine, your lover is here. What are you waiting for? Go with him."

She had just finished her words when someone else charged over and yelled, "Yu Caidie, you belong only to our Lord Di Mie. How can you involve yourself with a different man publicly like this?"

The newcomer was Xiang Nantian, 28th place in the Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition. As a peak Sovereign, he was one of Di Mie's followers.

"Scram!" shouted Yu Caidie unhappily.

"Xiang Shaoyun, disaster is coming for you. Get lost, or I won't mind personally taking your head," yelled Xiang Nantian as he pointed at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Audacious! You dare be rude to our little ancestor? Die!" Xiang Feidian roared and charged Xiang Nantian.

Xiang Feidian was no weaker than Xiang Nantian. With his warlike personality, he was the perfect person to fight on behalf of Xiang Shaoyun.

"I'll first kill you before dealing with Xiang Shaoyun," said Xiang Nantian as he faced Xiang Feidian. A fierce battle erupted.

At the same time, Gu Ming glared at Xiang Shaoyun and yelled, "Kid, Devil Concubine is not someone you can have. piss off if you know what's good for you. Otherwise, both you and the organization behind you will be eliminated!"

That was a very direct threat.

"Little ancestor, I can't stand that fellow anymore!" Xiang Chenxi was furious.

"I'll deal with him," said Xiang Keren calmly.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "We're entering the Saintforce Realm soon. I don't want anything to happen beforehand. Go and drag Xiang Feidian back as well." He then looked at Gu Ming and said, "As for that idiot, Money can deal with him."

#### Chapter 1339: Instant Tempo

Gu Ming was infuriated by the insult. At Xiang Shaoyun's command, Money charged forward. He had grown nicely, his body reaching about a kilometer in length. With his purple scales, single horn, and draconic claws, he looked like an actual dragon from far away. As his aura burst out, he displayed a strength comparable to a peak Demon Sovereign.

Countless lightning bolts were sent toward Gu Ming.

Gu Ming did not do anything. Instead, a follower of his charged toward Money with a club in hand. His follower, a peak Sovereign, was no pushover. In fact, nobody qualified to enter the Saintforce Realm would be a pushover.

An intense battle broke out between Money and the follower. After breaking through into seventh-stage Demon Sovereign Realm, Money was able to fight against peak Sovereigns with his lightning power. With his current strength, he could easily crush those with the same cultivation level.

Xiang Shaoyun seemed unsatisfied with Money's performance and said, "Money, if you keep messing around, you might as well sit there and die."

He had a feeling that Money was still holding back. As someone with the bloodlines of the true dragons and the celestial horned dragonsnakes, Money should have a much higher combat strength. Upon hearing Xiang Shaoyun's words, Money finally used his true strength. A terrifying draconic roar came out of his mouth.

Roar!

The peak Sovereign was momentarily stunned. Even his blood started stirring within his body. Money then shot forth like a bolt of lightning and swept his tail at the peak Sovereign. Unable to react in time, the peak Sovereign was sent flying while spewing blood.

"Impudent!" The two other followers beside Gu Ming roared and charged forth.

They attacked Money at the same time, displaying their strength as pseudo-Saints. Instantly, Money was faced with a difficult battle.

"Overlord, do we help?" asked Yu Caidie in a worried manner.

"It's fine. He has been slacking a lot. It's time for him to get some training," said Xiang Shaoyun as he shook his head.

Money was no ordinary demonic beast. His foundations were extremely solid. Xiang Shaoyun was confident Money would be fine. He only hoped that this tempering would allow Money to grow even more.

"Xiang Shaoyun, come fight me if you're a man," challenged Gu Ming as he pointed his golden spear at Xiang Shaoyun.

"It's not up to you to decide if I'm a man. It's up to my women," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smirk.

The two women beside him blushed. Gu Ming was so furious he started roaring before stabbing his golden spear at Xiang Shaoyun.

Golden Rainbow!

The moment he attacked, he used a saint-grade technique, showcasing his prowess as a top-20 participant in the Devil Hunting Expedition. A golden beam shot out of his spear and flew through the air with a boundlessly destructive might that caused space itself to tear and warp.

"You're courting death, Gu Ming!" Devil Concubine roared furiously.

"Just stand aside," said Xiang Shaoyun. He gently pushed the two women away before stepping forth with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps.

Gu Ming's attack crashed down into Xiang Shaoyun's previous position, smashing through the thick snow. Countless snowflakes were flung this way and that as the terrifying attack wreaked destruction on the ground.

Xiang Shaoyun's intention was to establish his dominance and not waste too much time with Gu Ming. Using his hand as a sword, he nonchalantly slashed at Gu Ming. The slash was slow, yet it seemed to carry the power of a certain natural law.

Instant Tempo!

For this attack, Xiang Shaoyun utilized the dao of time, which he rarely used. With one slash, time seemed to pause. Everyone around him also stopped thinking, including Gu Ming.

The delay only lasted for a split second, but that was more than enough for Xiang Shaoyun to deal with Gu Ming. Just as he was about to end Gu Ming's life, he sensed the aura of a Heaven Battling Realm expert lock onto him. Upon sensing that, he shifted the trajectory of his slash and struck Gu Ming's shoulder instead.

"Ahhh!"

Before Gu Ming even knew what had happened, an intense pain erupted from his shoulder and his blood sprayed out. He had been injured.

"Bastard! I won't stop until you're dead!" Gu Ming roared furiously.

"Return, young master. You're not his match," transmitted a Gu Society Saint hidden within the void.

"Dream on! I haven't even used my true strength!" Gu Ming replied resentfully.

"If it wasn't for me, you wouldn't have suffered a mere shoulder injury. Just wait until you reach the Heaven Battling Realm before taking your revenge," said the Saint.

Gu Ming hesitated slightly before glaring at Xiang Shaoyun, "After leaving the Saintforce Realm, I'll have a fight to the death with you!"

He then left with his followers. Money was in the midst of a fight and wasn't willing to allow his opponent to escape. If Xiang Shaoyun hadn't called him back, he would have given chase.

The opposing side had a Saint. Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to escalate the situation for now, so he happily allowed them to retreat. In any case, he had achieved his goal of establishing his dominance.

Meanwhile, Xiang Feidian and Xiang Nantian were still engaged in an intense battle. As Xiang Keren and Xiang Chenxi advanced, more people stepped forth to help Xiang Nantian. A chaotic battle was ongoing between the two parties.

But with Gu Ming's withdrawal, Xiang Nantian did not want to continue the fight. His original intention was to make use of the chaos and create some trouble for Xiang Shaoyun. But upon seeing how strong Xiang Shaoyun's people were, he had decided to retreat as well.

"You think you can come and leave as you wish?" said Xiang Shaoyun coldly when he noticed Xiang Nantian's intentions. He transformed into a bolt of lightning and shot forth.

With his speed, nobody could see his movements clearly. Xiang Nantian and his people sensed the incoming danger and entered a defensive position, preventing Xiang Shaoyun from killing them off.

Unfortunately for them, Xiang Shaoyun once again utilized the dao of time. With Instant Tempo, they were all stunned for a split second. Xiang Shaoyun made use of the opening and slashed his finger toward their necks.

Whoosh!

Instantly, three heads were sent flying into the air as three headless corpses collapsed onto the ground. Gu Ming, still in the midst of retreating, witnessed their deaths. He felt a chill creep up his spine, finally realizing how close he had been to death.

#### Chapter 1340: The Four Champions

The surrounding onlookers stared at the three headless corpses in stunned silence. They all knew that Xiang Shaoyun was strong despite his low cultivation level, but only when he made a move did they realize just how strong he was. Those were three peak Sovereigns he had faced, but he had killed them as easily as taking a stroll in the park.

Xiang Keren, Xiang Feidian, and Xiang Chenxi looked at Xiang Shaoyun with reverence. Their little ancestor was too incredible.

"The Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition champion is indeed worthy of his fame."

"He's only a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. How is this fair?"

"I refuse to believe he's only a fourth-stage Sovereign. He is definitely using some saint-grade items to hide his cultivation. Yes, that must be the case!"

"A good show is about to unfold. Of the four champions, who is stronger? I believe everyone is interested in having that question answered. I wonder if the four champions will clash against each other."

"None of that matters. After entering the Saintforce Realm, nothing matters more than becoming a Saint."

...

Not far away, Di Mie's face twitched when he saw the deaths of Xiang Nantian and company. The followers he had gathered with much difficulty had been killed so easily. He was having a hard time accepting their deaths.



"Trash!" Di Mie cursed.

"Don't worry, prince. They are mere chess pieces. Their deaths don't matter. We'll let that kid stay arrogant for a bit. When his prestige reaches the peak, I'll make him fall to the bottom, turning him into a stray dog," said Di Lin ruthlessly.

"I hope so. You better not disappoint me," said Di Mie coldly.

After dealing with Xiang Nantian's group, Xiang Shaoyun looked for a place to sit down and rest. He wouldn't provoke anyone, but he wouldn't mind killing those who dared to provoke him to set an example.

"Sister, come with me. It's not proper for you to stay here," said Yu Ziyang, appearing out of nowhere.

"Stop trying. Nobody can change my mind," said Yu Caidie coldly.

"Looks like my identity as your big brother is worthless," said Yu Ziyang with a sigh. He glared at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Xiang Shaoyun, remember to take good care of my sister if you don't want to receive a beating from me!"

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before he smiled and said, "Don't worry. She's my woman. I'll naturally treat her well."

"That better be the case," said Yu Ziyang before returning to the Yu Clan's group.

For several days, nobody else came looking for trouble. More and more people arrived at the gathering place, including many famous geniuses. Of all the people present, the four Devil Hunting Expedition champions attracted the most attention.

The Eastern Pass's Devil Hunting Expedition champion was Dongfang Wudi, someone who had not suffered a single defeat in his entire life. He was the most talented cultivator to have emerged from the Dongfang Clan in the last 10,000 years. The four academies once considered making an exception to recruit him before their seasonal recruitment session.

However, Dongfang Wudi rejected their offer and resolutely traveled the world alone. He entered numerous uninhabited regions and faced numerous dangers, tempering himself with his life on the line.

The Southern Wasteland's Devil Hunting Expedition champion was Ru Nan, the Southern Heavenly Society's chief disciple. She was known as a female tyrant. Due to her masculine appearance, she was named Ru Nan, which meant "like a man." She was tall, sturdy, and strong. Of course, her pair of chests were massive as well. Like the Southern Heavenly Society she came from, she was aloof and arrogant, overlooking the world with a domineering bearing that could put all men to shame.

She once declared that she would give her body to any man who could defeat her with the same cultivation level. Half of the Southern Heavenly Society's wealth would also be offered as the dowry, which was a declaration that spread her name throughout the world.

The Southern Heavenly Society was a superpower. Half its wealth was basically half its empire. Nobody could resist such a temptation. Alas, all 188 men who had challenged Ru Nan thus far had been defeated. Nobody could defeat the female tyrant.

The Northern Border's Devil Hunting Expedition champion was Beiming Tianpeng, the holy son of the Northern Border's number one organization, the White Lotus Sect.

At Beiming Tianpeng's birth, a celestial phenomenon appeared, and a powerful kunpeng came forward to guard him when he was being born. He was thus named Tianpeng, which meant celestial peng, with the hopes that he would be able to freely soar the skies and overlook the world like the mighty kunpeng.

Beiming Tianpeng did not disappoint. After becoming the White Lotus Sect master's last disciple, he began his rise to power. At 40 years old, he reached ninth-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Although he had yet to reach the peak of the realm, he had a combat strength that even Saints feared. It was worth noting that he was also exceptionally beautiful, to the point even women would feel inferior before him.

As for the Western Desert's Devil Hunting Expedition champion Xiang Shaoyun, his fame was no less than the other three. Although his past accomplishments were largely unknown, his feat of cultivating nine different powers and his victory over Dugu Qiubai, the owner of a Primal Chaos Physique, were enough to earn him the respect of many.

Of course, the four champions weren't the only known names that had gathered here. A lot of names that nobody could afford to overlook had appeared as well. For example, the True Martial

Academy's Dugu Qiubai. With his Primal Chaos Physique, as long as he did not die prematurely, he was fated to grow into one of the main characters of the world.

There was a certain arrow cultivator from the Southern Wasteland, a self-proclaimed descendant of Houyi, the mythological archer. He was known as Hou Yi, capable of defying logic and releasing seven arrows at the same time. Equipped with the Soulchasing Arrows, each arrow he unleashed was unavoidable.

There was the Northern Border's Ximen Xue, the unrivaled sword who had won 100 consecutive victories. With his sword, he aimed for the peak. Not even Saints could suppress his emotionless sword dao.

There was the Darkdevil Sect's dark child, Mo Lie, who came from the same organization as Devil Concubine. He had long gained the ability to break through into the Saint Realm. However, he had been suppressing himself to build a strong foundation. Few in the Sovereign Realm could be a match for him. A self-proclaimed number one expert under the Saint Realm, he was extremely arrogant.

The Western Desert's Di Mie was also one of the more well-known names that had gathered here. Unfortunately, he had only recently left seclusion, so his fame was slightly lower compared to the other geniuses. However, someone once witnessed him easily reduce a Saint into ashes.

Apart from these people, there were still some other geniuses worth paying attention to. None of them could be underestimated.

Xiang Shaoyun never cared much for those people. However, Xiang Feidian was a busybody who had befriended a bunch of people. From his new friends, he had obtained all this information. He hid nothing and told Xiang Shaoyun everything. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was able to know all this without even trying.

While waiting, Xiang Shaoyun saw Dong Ziwan once again.