

## Overlord 1411

### Chapter 1411: Saintly Forest Courtyard

In the Dusk Dynasty was a certain incomparably luxurious palace. Atop the gate, the words "Imperial Teacher Residence" could be seen. These words were personally written by the emperor, and they emanated a majestic and graceful aura and represented supreme power and position.

The Dusk Dynasty's imperial teacher was a first-rank official and was on equal footing with the numerous princes and marquises. One could say that this was the highest possible position one could reach as an official.

Each imperial teacher was a good teacher and helpful friend of the emperor. Only when the current emperor left the throne would the imperial teacher be changed. At present, the seventh generation imperial teacher was in office. In the residence were numerous pavilions, rock gardens, ponds, beautiful flowers, and birds. This place was as luxurious as the royal garden.

In the main hall of the residence, a valiant-looking middle-aged man was seated atop the main seat. He was dressed in a yin and yang robe. His hair was tied up, leaving only a few loose strands hanging down his head, looking like a high priest of some daoist sect.

This person was none other than the Dusk Dynasty's current imperial teacher, Meng Youfang. He was a peak Great Saint and a formation grandmaster. Additionally, he was also extremely good at painting and calligraphy. He was known as the three-mastery imperial teacher, with the three masteries being formation, calligraphy, and painting.

The imperial guard leader who had his teeth slapped away by Xiang Shaoyun stood in the main hall, respectfully kneeling before the imperial teacher. With a pitiful appearance, he said, "Lord imperial teacher, that Xiang Shaoyun is already in the city. He refused to heed the summons and had even injured us. He is too arrogant!"

"He has quite a temper. But after killing my junior brother, he will be punished regardless of who his master is," said Meng Youfang murderously. He said, "Report all this to the emperor. Also tell the emperor that it has been confirmed that our court official, Hua Ruren, was killed by Xiang Shaoyun. Beg for the emperor to make a decision on this matter."

"Yes, lord imperial teacher," said the leader before leaving the hall.

After the imperial guard left, Meng Youfang returned to the rear court. A separate space had been created there, and that place was the personal cultivation spot of his master, the previous imperial teacher.

Upon arriving at the rear court, the imperial teacher knelt down and respectfully said, "Teacher, Xiang Shaoyun, the killer of my junior brother, is here in the city. I had some people go ask for the emperor's help in dealing with him, but I'm afraid that the emperor will have misgivings in dealing with him. Master, what should your disciple do?"

If it was any other person, the imperial teacher would definitely make a move personally to avenge his junior brother. However, Xiang Shaoyun was the disciple of that lord. If he was to make a move, he would offend that lord. The imperial teacher was not likely to be able to survive that lord's wrath.

Thus, he decided to report the matter to the current emperor. If the current emperor was to make a move himself, perhaps that lord would have some misgivings as well. However, he was also afraid that the emperor would hold back and fail to kill Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, he was here to ask for his master's guidance.

An elderly voice rang out, "If the emperor refuses to kill him, have the Four Night Saints execute that man."

"Yes, master," said Meng Youfang. He did not dare to ask too many questions and withdrew immediately.

...

Xiang Shaoyun was unaware that someone was trying to kill him. He was casually strolling around Imperial Dusk City. The city was expansive, filled with numerous interesting objects that served as a feast to his eyes. Of course, regular objects would not be able to catch his attention. Only saint-grade objects could.

At any other place, a saint-grade object would be a treasure the numerous organizations would hide as their prized collection. They would not easily take out such a treasure for any transaction. But in Imperial Dusk City, there was a certain place known as the Saintly Forest Courtyard. It was a place where saint-grade objects could be traded.

Apart from that, the Saintly Forest Courtyard also had a Saint Ranking that served to test the young Saints of the world. Those who passed the test and left their names on the ranking would receive a

gift that would either be saint-grade objects or saint-grade techniques. In accordance with one's placing, one would obtain different rewards.

Xiang Shaoyun had long heard of the Saintly Forest Courtyard. He planned to first pay it a visit before going to the Righteous Buddhist Sect. He wanted to witness the Saint Ranking for himself. It was rumored that those capable of leaving their names on the ranking were among the best young Saints in existence. Regular Saints weren't even comparable to them.

Standing before the Saintly Forest Courtyard, Xiang Shaoyun looked at the crude door and sensed the aura coming from inside. He gasped inwardly, Any organization would need to gather strength for over 100,000 years before it could progress into a dynasty. A regular organization wouldn't be able to make such a place public.

He recalled his previous life's ambition to create his own dynasty and gasped at how ambitious he had been.

Xiang Shaoyun started walking toward the Saintly Forest Courtyard. But right as he approached, he was stopped by the guards, who said, "Who are you? Please look at the guide and decide if you're qualified to enter."

Every single guard was a Saint. Witnessing such an impressive display of power, even Xiang Shaoyun felt his horizons broaden. He looked at the written guide on the board to the side and instantly understood the reason the guards stopped him. One needed to have certain qualifications to enter.

The first requirement was to possess a Saintly Forest Token. The second requirement needed one to at least possess the cultivation level of a Saint. Without meeting at least one of the requirements, one would not be allowed entry.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally did not have the Saintly Forest Token. Thus, his only option was to fulfill the second requirement. To fulfill the second requirement, he had to survive a full-powered attack from the Saint Realm guard before him.

"I don't have the token. I'll have to trouble you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ok. Please come this way. We will be exchanging some pointers in there," said the Saint.

Xiang Shaoyun entered the courtyard with the guard. Right after he entered his stance, the guard attacked.

"Take my punch!" the guard roared as a sparkling fist shot at Xiang Shaoyun like a flying mountain.

The punch was comparable to the attack of a mid-stage Saint. New Saints would have a hard time surviving this punch. Facing the incoming fist, Xiang Shaoyun casually sent his palm out.

Boom!

With a muffled rumble, a shockwave rippled out. Xiang Shaoyun remained still, whereas the guard was forced to take several steps backward.

A respectful look covered the guard's face as he said, "You pass. This is a Saintly Forest Token. After carving your name onto it, you'll be able to enter."

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the wooden token. The token was made of an extremely rare saint-grade wood. Regular weapons would not be able to leave any mark on it. To leave one's name on it, one had to utilize Saint Realm strength.

Right before the guard's face, Xiang Shaoyun drew on the token with his finger and wrote his name down. When the guard saw the name on the token, a look of astonishment covered his face.

## Chapter 1412: How Rich

The Saintly Forest Courtyard contained numerous ancient trees. The trees were so old that many of their barks had dropped off. Dried leaves fluttered about, covering the pavement in yellow, painting a bleak yet picturesque scene. The courtyard had thick spiritual energy, covering the place in a thick mist that only those at the Saint Realm and above could see through.

Upon sensing the pure energy in the air, Xiang Shaoyun gasped inwardly, What a fine place.

As he scanned the place, he saw that at the center of the courtyard was an empty ground. Countless dazzling treasures could be seen there, and a decent number of people were walking around as well. These were obviously the people here to trade for saint-grade objects.

Xiang Shaoyun slowly walked over. With his sharp senses, he could sense the energy around him changing, giving him a sensation that he was entering a different space. Before long, he had arrived in an independent space that was cut off from the rest of the world.

"Spatial manipulation?" muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

Upon entering a different space, Xiang Shaoyun found that the distance between him and the trading area had increased considerably. Thus, he had to increase his speed. With his current speed, even if he wasn't faster than a Great Saint, he was definitely far faster than a top-tier Saint. It did not take him long to reach the trading area.

A regular Saint would probably take about an hour or more. The Saintly Forest Courtyard might not look big from the outside, but upon arriving here, one would find that it was more than 10 times bigger than the city. This was the benefit of utilizing spatial manipulation.

About 30 people were walking about at the trading area. None of them looked young. Some looked ancient, while some looked to be middle-aged. There were also a few that maintained a youthful complexion. Every single person radiated the aura of a Saint.

These were people that would occupy a high position and enjoy high status wherever they went. After all, Saints were extremely rare. Xiang Shaoyun's arrival did not attract much attention. Most of them were fully focused on the numerous saint-grade herbs on display.

Upon arriving at the trading area, Xiang Shaoyun was stunned by what he saw. He had never imagined that the saint-grade herbs that were being traded at the trading area weren't harvested herbs. Rather, these herbs were actually planted in the trading area, free for all to choose. The herbs were irrigated by spring water, creating an area so rich in spiritual energy that anyone who stepped into the farm would be flooded with a sense of comfort.

"How rich," Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in admiration.

In the herb farm were over 100 saint-grade plants. These plants differed in quality, but each plant would cost one a considerable sum to purchase. From how the Saintly Forest Courtyard was openly showing the farm to the public without being worried that the farm would be robbed, one could see how powerful the courtyard was.

"Low-tier saint-grade herb, purpleflame vine, capable of enhancing one's flame cultivation, also capable of helping one form a purpleflame that will enhance one's combat prowess. This plant is worth 2,000 low-grade saint crystals."

"Low-tier saint-grade herb, life return grass, capable of rapidly healing a damaged saint body and increasing one's life force. This plant is worth 2,000 low-grade saint crystals."

"Mid-tier saint-grade herb, windbreak grass, capable of enhancing one's wind cultivation, also capable of granting one the Windbreak Blade technique and enhancing one's affinity with the wind element. This plant is worth 2,000 mid-grade saint crystals."

"Mid-tier saint-grade herb, goldriver flower, capable of greatly increasing the gold energy within a cultivator, also capable of greatly enhancing one's gold element attacks. This plant is worth 2,500 mid-grade saint crystals."

...

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes were burning with desire as he looked at all the herbs. It was unfortunate that he had lost his astral cultivation. Otherwise, these plants were definitely worth buying.

He was quite a wealthy man currently. After killing so many Saints, he had plundered a considerable amount of wealth even though he hadn't been able to plunder many of his opponents. It was worth noting that just from Lei Wuqing, Hua Ruren, and Madam Yu Huan, he had plundered a massive number of saint crystals.

He did not think that he was the richest present, but he was rich enough to purchase at least 10 mid-tier saint-grade herbs. After giving it some thought, he decided to purchase some saint-grade herbs. Although he had no use for them right now, that did not mean that those around him wouldn't need these herbs.

After surveying the farm, his gaze landed on a certain translucent flower. The flower stood loftily, akin to the king of flowers. It was incomparably majestic, an incomparably rare nine-petal glaze flower.

The nine-petal glaze flower was among the best mid-tier saint-grade herbs in existence. Its medicinal effect was as powerful as regular high-tier saint-grade herbs. Each of its nine petals shone with multiple colors, and each petal was capable of greatly enhancing the strength of a Sovereign. If one was to consume all nine petals at the same time, one would be able to become a Saint straight

away. Even a Saint would further advance upon consuming nine petals. This plant was worth 5,000 mid-grade saint crystals.

Looking at the old man seated cross-legged in the farm, Xiang Shaoyun said, "I wish to purchase the nine-petal glaze flower."

The old man had his eyes shut. His long hair draped over his shoulders, and he was clad in a robe filled with creases, looking completely unremarkable. No energy undulation could be sensed from his body. It was obvious he was an expert good at hiding his strength. He wouldn't have been assigned to guard the herb farm otherwise.

The old man remained silent while the person beside him spoke, "Brother Xiang, would you consider accepting this nine-petal glaze flower as a gift from this prince?"

Xiang Shaoyun looked over in astonishment and saw a young man in his twenties. With a folding fan in hand, the young man had a genial smile on his face. The handsome young man had a jade crown on his head and was clad in a purplish gold robe. It was obvious the young man was someone of considerable wealth and status. Following behind him were three impressive-looking individuals. All of them were Saints, with one of them radiating an aura that even Xiang Shaoyun was fearful of.

Xiang Shaoyun asked, "Who are you, if I may ask?"

He was sure he had never seen this young man before. But for some reason, the young man gave him a familiar feeling.

"Huang Gaojin greets you, Brother Xiang," said the young man in a refined and courteous manner.

"So it's the second prince. Excuse my lack of manners," said Xiang Shaoyun as he returned the greeting.

The young man before him was one of the two princes with the highest chance of inheriting the throne, Huang Gaojin. He was Huang Tianji's brother who was born of the same father but a different mother. That was why he looked familiar to Xiang Shaoyun. His facial features shared some semblance with Huang Tianji. There was even the same majestic bearing about him.

Xiang Shaoyun could see that this second prince was definitely no older than 50 years old. For a person of this age to reach the second-stage Heaven Battling Realm, he was definitely a talented cultivator. It was no wonder he was one of the favorite candidates to inherit the throne. However, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't understand why this prince was gifting him a saint-grade herb. After all, he had just offended the imperial guard not too long ago.

#### Chapter 1413: Second Prince's Olive Branch

"Brother Xiang is too polite. My little brother can be considered your fellow disciple. Consider this nine-petal glaze flower my gift for our first meeting," said Huang Gaojin with a firm tone.

He then waved his hand and ordered to have the nine-petal glaze flower packaged.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly said, "Second prince, one shouldn't be accepting undeserved rewards. Xiang Shaoyun can not accept this gift."

He then took out 5,000 mid-grade saint crystals and offered them to the old man.

"Audacious! You dare reject a gift from the prince?" berated a Saint behind Huang Gaojin.

Huang Gaojin waved his hand and smiled as he said, "Looks like this prince was too direct. Since this is the case, why don't we grab a drink together instead?"

Xiang Shaoyun did not refuse that. "Sure. But can that wait until I'm done with my visit to the Saintly Forest Courtyard?"

"Of course. Allow this prince to accompany you on your trip. After all, I can be considered half the host here," said Huang Gaojin.

The three Saints behind Huang Gaojin looked astonished. They had not expected the second prince to attach so much importance to Xiang Shaoyun. A certain possibility surfaced in their minds, and their eyes were immediately filled with hostility toward Xiang Shaoyun.

In the Dusk Dynasty, everyone knew that the first and second princes were fighting over the throne. The first prince was the first son of the main line of descent and had obtained the imperial teacher's support. He definitely had more popularity than the second prince. However, the second prince also had a lot of factions behind him.



Of course, these factions were still somewhat lacking when compared with the imperial teacher. Unwilling to stay mediocre, the second prince established the Hero Assembly Pavilion, an organization gathering the heroes of the world to help him ascend to the throne.

The Dusk Dynasty did not mind what the second prince was doing. After all, the first prince had also established his own faction. Only with such competition would the Dusk Dynasty grow more and more powerful.

At present, there were 88 heroes in the Hero Assembly Pavilion. Some were Saints with astonishing combat prowess, some were expert formation grandmasters, and some were expert strategists. Naturally, with so many capable individuals gathered together, competition would ensue. This gave rise to the Hero Assembly Ranking. Those ranked higher on the ranking would receive more of the second prince's attention.

With how generous the second prince was toward Xiang Shaoyun, the three Saints could see that the second prince was attempting to recruit Xiang Shaoyun into the Hero Assembly Pavilion as well.

For now, Xiang Shaoyun had no idea what the second prince had in mind. But since the second prince had offered to be his tour guide, he did not reject the offer. He was also curious as to what the second prince was planning.

With the second prince as the guide, Xiang Shaoyun was able to witness how extraordinary the Saintly Forest Courtyard was. Not only was the courtyard a place to trade saint-grade herbs, but it was also a place where saint-grade techniques and weapons were traded. The trading areas were similarly designed with a unique aesthetic, completely unlike regular trading areas that would generally look inelegant. This trip had thoroughly broadened Xiang Shaoyun's horizons.

During the visit, Xiang Shaoyun also bought a weapon called the Celestial Devil Saber. The Celestial Devil Saber looked unremarkable, but if one paid more attention to it, one would notice that there were markings of draconic scales on it. The edge of the blade was designed like a saw, looking like the teeth of an extremely destructive dragon.

The saber was a mid-tier saint-grade weapon of the dark element. It was worth 7,000 mid-grade saint crystals and could greatly enhance the combat prowess of its wielder. Xiang Shaoyun intended to replace his chakram with this saber and temporarily use it as his main weapon. This weapon would be able to perfectly display the prowess of his devilish energy.

"What an excellent Celestial Devil Saber. Brother Xiang, you definitely need a good battle technique to go with this saber as well," said Huang Gaojin as he took out an ancient book. "I have the Primordial Devil Saber Technique here, a technique most suited for this saber. It is useless for me, so I might as well gift it to you, Brother Xiang. I hope you'll accept this gift."

The Primordial Devil Saber Technique was not a regular battle technique. Rather, it was a top-tier saint-grade technique. The second prince was truly generous.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Second prince, you're so generous that I'm becoming nervous. What can I do to repay you for this?"

At this point, Xiang Shaoyun no longer wanted to keep beating around the bush. He decided to go straight to the point.

Huang Gaojin laughed heartily and said, "Haha, Brother Xiang is truly a straightforward person. Everyone knows of your legendary battle at the Heavenly Snow Mountain where you slaughtered numerous Great Saints. Not long ago, you had even killed over 40 Saints. You are simply a king among Saints. I doubt any of your peers can be your match. This prince simply wishes to be your friend. I hope you won't reject this request."

The second prince was extremely eloquent, aiming to imperceptibly flatter Xiang Shaoyun. Anyone would grow complacent in the face of such praises, but Xiang Shaoyun was no regular person. As of late, he was even in the process of tempering his willpower. He would naturally not fall for such empty praises.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "You overpraise me, second prince. I was merely forced to defend myself. When I first reached this city, I accidentally offended the imperial guards. If the second prince really wishes to befriend me, I hope you can perhaps say something for me. That way, I'll be able to avoid unnecessary trouble."

Huang Gaojin raised his brow. First, a troubled look covered his face, but the look quickly faded away. He slapped his chest and promised, "Sure. That's nothing. This prince will handle it for you. I believe the imperial guards won't dare to offend this prince's friend."

"I'll have to trouble the second prince, then," said Xiang Shaoyun as he cupped his fists. "As for this Primordial Devil Saber Technique, keep it away first. It won't be too late for me to accept it after the imperial guards are dealt with."

The people behind Huang Gaojin were losing their patience. One of them berated, "Xiang Shaoyun, you're getting too full of yourself. The prince is showing you his kindness, yet you have rejected him again and again? Do you have any respect for the second prince?"

The person who had spoken was no weakling. He was a fourth-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, and his body radiated a rather impressive aura.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at him and said, "The second prince is an extraordinary individual. How will he care about a normal person like me? Of course, if you find me an eyesore, feel free to teach me a lesson."

"Back off, Zhao Chen! Do not speak like that to Brother Xiang!" said the second prince.

"Second prince, allow me to test the strength of this so-called king among Saints. He needs to be taught a lesson," said Zhao Chen.

"Second prince, it is normal for us cultivators to spar with each other. I believe Brother Xiang won't bear any grudges toward the second prince just because of a spar," said a different Saint.

The other Saint said, "That's right. Second prince, you always treat others with sincerity, yet he rejected you repeatedly. He is clearly treating you with disrespect. We need to discipline him!"

#### Chapter 1414: Entering the Saintly Forest Ranking

"Shut up! Brother Xiang is someone capable of killing Great Saints! What strength do you have? How can you be Brother Xiang's match? Stand back!" said Huang Gaojin.

The three Saints looked indignant, but they did not dare to disobey the second prince and could only do as told.

Xiang Shaoyun's mouth curved into a smile as he said, "Second prince, since they wish to teach me a lesson, give them a chance. Otherwise, they will constantly think that I'm someone they can bully easily."

"There is no need to keep talking about them, Brother Xiang. Let me show you the Saintly Forest Ranking," said Huang Gaojin, cleverly switching the topic.

Xiang Shaoyun did not push on either. He did not want to make an enemy out of the second prince. This person intended to befriend him, and it was up to him whether he wanted to accept this olive branch. Nevertheless, he did not hope to create unnecessary enemies. Otherwise, his trip to the Righteous Buddhist Sect would become even harder.

He wasn't so confident that he believed himself to be unrivaled. The Saintly Forest Ranking was located at the very depths of the Saintly Forest Courtyard. The ranking was located within a bamboo forest. With the gently swaying bamboo, the leaves swirling about in the wind, and the sunlight shining through the leaves, the place gave off a serene and comforting sensation.

The aura of Saints was branded upon the bamboo forest. Only those who had passed the bamboo forest could reach the Saintly Forest Stele, and only those who managed to leave their names on the stele could be ranked on the ranking.

The Saintly Forest Ranking would only preserve the brand of Saints below 200 years old. The moment one surpassed the age limit, one's name would be removed. It was no easy job to become a Saint before 200 years old. However, every generation, numerous new heroes would emerge throughout the dominion, accumulating to a large number of young Saints.

Only 1,000 names would be preserved on the Saintly Forest Ranking. In other words, the 1,000 Saints could be considered kings among Saints, individuals with strength far surpassing their peers.

On the stele was a certain miraculous power capable of evaluating not only one's strength but also one's potential. For example, a first-stage Saint capable of matching a third-stage Saint would be ranked far higher than the third-stage Saint. In other words, the ranking attached greater importance to one's talent. The higher one was ranked, the more terrifying one's potential would be.

Most young Saints would only attempt to challenge this ranking after reaching 100 years old. Some would even wait until they were nearly 200 years old. Only then would they have the confidence to enter the ranking. As Xiang Shaoyun wasn't even 50, the second prince had suggested that he only challenge the ranking in the future to have a better chance of entering the ranking.

"There hasn't been any new name on the ranking for about 1,000 years. Back then, the last person to leave his name on the ranking was my imperial uncle. Since then, numerous Saints have tried and failed to leave their names on the ranking. It is truly unfortunate," said Huang Gaojin with a sigh.

"Is the test really so difficult?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with astonishment.

"Of course. Half of those capable of leaving their names on the ranking are kings among Saints. The other half were already near the God Realm. These are the supreme experts of humanity," said Huang Gaojin with a look of yearning.

"Is the second prince not intending to give the test a try?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha. Of course I will. But like I said, it's better to wait until I accumulate more strength to have a better chance at leaving a name on the ranking," said Huang Gaojin with a chortle.

"I see," said Xiang Shaoyun. He then walked toward the bamboo forest.

"Brother Xiang is indeed a stubborn one," said Huang Gaojin with a sigh.

"I thought the second prince said that I was strong enough to kill Great Saints? It's not like I will lose anything challenging the ranking," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"But each person will only have a single attempt at the challenge. You won't be given a second chance after failing," said Huang Gaojin.

"That doesn't matter. It's not like I'll stay here forever," said Xiang Shaoyun as he continued forward.

Abruptly, a Saint Realm aura appeared and pressed down upon him. This pressure was stronger than what a regular first-stage Saint could emit, reaching the strength of a peak second-stage Saint.

Xiang Shaoyun showed no fear and continued his advance. After 10 steps, another aura pressed down upon him. This time, the aura was comparable with what a third-stage Saint could emit. Xiang Shaoyun remained fearless. His physical body alone was strong enough to resist such pressure. He didn't even need to make use of his devil pearl.

Let me see if this person is really worthy of being known as a king among Saints, thought Huang Gaojin.

He had heard of Xiang Shaoyun's deeds and was extremely curious about Xiang Shaoyun. After all, a famous reputation would not come out of nowhere. Xiang Shaoyun would definitely not disappoint him. That was why he wanted to recruit Xiang Shaoyun.

When Xiang Shaoyun stepped deep into the bamboo forest, the bamboo trees suddenly started swaying madly, as though a powerful expert was attacking. The numerous bamboo trees started lashing out at a speed that no ordinary person could defend against. Even a third-stage Saint would be badly injured facing these bamboo trees. Due to the sheer number of bamboo trees, even dodging wasn't an option.

With his gift of instincts activated, Xiang Shaoyun saw through all the incoming attacks. He turned into a series of afterimages before vanishing into thin air, completely avoiding all the bamboo trees. When he reappeared, he was even deeper inside the bamboo tree.

"What kind of speed is this?" The second prince and the three Saints were all astonished. None of them could see how Xiang Shaoyun had moved. Evidently, his speed had surpassed even the wildest of their imaginations.

When it seemed like Xiang Shaoyun was about to pass through the bamboo forest, a boundless force descended from all directions. At the same time, countless bamboo trees whipped at him from all around him with an even stronger strength, causing even space to collapse. This was an attack with the might of a fifth-stage Saint—it was also the final test before one could reach the stele.

For many Saints, this was as far as they could go. This part of the test was also the reason why the second prince warned Xiang Shaoyun to only take the test in the future. This was merely a checkpoint for one to approach the stele, yet this attack was already so powerful. One could only imagine how hard it was to leave one's name on the stele.

Facing the powerful pressure and attacks, Xiang Shaoyun calmly roared, "Scram!"

With his roar, his devilish energy erupted and transformed into a storm that crushed the incoming pressure and bamboo trees, allowing him to easily step forward.

#### Chapter 1415: Worthy of Your Fame

"Something is happening at the bamboo forest. Who is challenging the Saintly Forest Ranking?" muttered a Saint in the Saintly Forest Courtyard after sensing what was happening in the bamboo forest.

"Looks like some overconfident fellow is challenging the ranking again," said someone.

"I think I saw the second prince go over there earlier. He can't be the challenger, right?" asked a different person.

"Come on. We'll know after taking a look," said someone.

Soon, dozens of Saints started heading toward the bamboo forest from different directions. They arrived just in time to see Xiang Shaoyun release his devilish energy and break through the bamboo forest with brute force. None of them recognized Xiang Shaoyun, but from the devilish energy, they immediately knew who he was.

"That's devilish energy! Why is there a devil here?" exclaimed someone.

"Stop making a fuss out of nothing. That is Xiang Shaoyun, the overlord," said someone.

"That's right. He's Xiang Shaoyun," the second prince stepped out to ascertain Xiang Shaoyun's identity.

Everyone's expression changed upon hearing that. They had long heard of Xiang Shaoyun's deeds. However, this was their first time seeing him in person. When they saw how easily he passed through the bamboo forest with his devilish energy, they felt that hearing of a person's reputation really couldn't compare with actually meeting a person. Just his imposing aura alone was something beyond many of his peers.

"It is said that Xiang Shaoyun is capable of killing Great Saints and has even fought Gods before. I wonder if he can enter the ranking," said someone.

"There are only 1,000 spots on the ranking. Anyone capable of leaving a name on it is a king among Saints. Xiang Shaoyun is still a tad bit too tender for that," said someone with contempt.

"Be patient, everyone. Let us wait and see," said the second prince.

Sounds of discussion stopped as everyone focused on Xiang Shaoyun, who was standing before the Saintly Forest Stele. Xiang Shaoyun was looking at the 1,000 names on the stele with a burning look in his eyes. He could see the names of some legendary individuals that he had heard of many times before. They were the supreme legends remembered by the world.

As a well-read person, Xiang Shaoyun had once read about the deeds of these legends. They were the outstanding heroes of the past. One could see just how long this Saintly Forest Stele had existed from the age of the names on it.

Of course, there were also some names that were from the not-very-distant past, such as the Immortal Emperor, the True Martial Academy principal, and the Dusk Dynasty's imperial uncle. These were current heroes whose names resounded throughout the world.

For example, that imperial uncle was a true martial addict. Hailing from the same generation as the current emperor, the previous emperor attached great importance to him. The previous emperor even intended to pass him the throne, but he did not care one bit about the throne and was only focused on his martial pursuits. Only then did the current emperor manage to ascend the throne. Eventually, the imperial uncle surpassed the current emperor and reached the God Realm, becoming one of the guardians of the Dusk Dynasty.

"Saintly Forest Ranking. Truly worthy of your fame," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. "Out of respect for the elders whose names are on the ranking, I need to do my best as well."

He then held his breath and started adjusting his condition. He started chanting the Desolation mantra and comprehending the great dao, pushing the prowess of his devil dao to the peak. Murderous intent, evil tendencies, berserk rage, and all sorts of sinister auras surfaced from his body. He transformed into a fiend, radiating an aura so evil the Saints present felt their hearts skipping a beat.

Although they believed that the lord guardian's disciple wouldn't be a devil, they couldn't help but waver upon sensing Xiang Shaoyun's aura. If even such a person wasn't a devil, who could be a devil?

Fortunately, the evil aura faded away rapidly. Xiang Shaoyun regained his calm and slowly became one with the world. He blended into the world as though he was now part of it. When the crowd looked at him, he seemed to have ceased to exist.

"Human heaven unity! How did he enter this state so easily?" exclaimed Zhao Chen in alarm.

"Refrain from making a noise, Zhao Chen!" berated the second prince through voice transmission.

It wasn't easy for anyone to enter the human heaven unity state. If this state was interrupted, it would be hard for one to enter it again. This was applicable even for all these Saints. All the Saints



present looked envious. They had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be able to enter the human heaven unity state right before the stele.

Since everyone knew that it wasn't easy to enter the human heaven unity state, they made no noise and waited in silence, trying to see how long Xiang Shaoyun could last in that state. This time, Xiang Shaoyun did not last too long in that state. As a nine-colored radiance shone from his body, a majestic and magnificent radiance caused everyone's heart to throb.

"Th-this is the fusion of nine powers! He's really capable of this?"

"I thought his astral cultivation was crippled? Why is he still capable of releasing such pure energy?"

"He truly is worthy of being the direct disciple of a lord guardian. He must have consumed astral grass to recover. He is going to create a new legend and forge the strongest physique!"

"I heard Xiang Shaoyun's not even 40 this year. A genius like this rarely appears from ancient times until now. Let's see if he can really leave his name on the ranking."

...

All the Saints had an expecting look. They wanted to see if Xiang Shaoyun could really enter the ranking. Xiang Shaoyun raised his fist and threw it out. He moved like a ferocious leopard and an imposing tiger. It was as though the stars were revolving around him as a desolate universe manifested around him. An imposing aura burst out of him and shot toward the stele.

Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

A boundlessly bright radiance erupted while an overbearing fist intent surged, flooding the world and threatening to punch through the blue dome of heaven. It was an extremely powerful attack, one that stunned everyone present. None of them had the confidence to resist such an attack. Perhaps only a Great Saint would stand a chance against it.

Several hidden auras in the Saintly Forest Courtyard stirred as several senses focused on Xiang Shaoyun's position. These were all pseudo-Gods and Gods that were in charge of guarding the Saintly Forest Courtyard. They generally ignored the affairs of the world, but even these people were alarmed by Xiang Shaoyun.

It was clear just how remarkable Xiang Shaoyun's punch was. After all, he was already a third-stage Devil Saint. His physical body alone was already incomparably powerful. Thus, it wasn't surprising that he was now able to muster even more primal inception energy than before.

Boom!

#### Chapter 1416: Nine Stars Become One

A massive explosion erupted, causing the Saintly Forest Courtyard to shake. It was as though the world was falling apart. If it wasn't for the formation around the courtyard, the entire imperial city would probably shake as well.

Abruptly, the stele shone with a dazzling radiance, flooding the Saintly Forest Courtyard with light. Eventually, the radiance broke through the seal around the courtyard and connected to the sky, manifesting an astonishing phenomenon that hung above the imperial city. First, the people of the city were amazed by the phenomenon they saw. Then, the amazement was replaced with sheer shock.

"Th-this light is coming from the Saintly Forest Courtyard. What's happening?"

"I remember that when the imperial uncle challenged the Saintly Forest Ranking 1,000 years ago, something similar happened as well. However, the phenomenon back then wasn't this bright."

"Has someone succeeded in challenging the ranking? If that is true, then this would be the biggest event in the city in the last 1,000 years."

"Who is the genius capable enough to enter the ranking? We need to go get a look!"

...

Numerous cultivators rushed toward the Saintly Forest Courtyard. All of them wanted to know the identity of the person who had just entered the Saintly Forest Ranking. After all, the appearance of a new name on the ranking signified the emergence of a new genius cultivator.

In the imperial palace was a middle-aged man clad in a golden dragon robe with a golden crown on his head. His gaze pierced through numerous obstructions to reach the sky. With a bright radiance in his eyes, he muttered, "It has been 1,000 years. Has someone finally broken the shackles?"

In the Imperial Teacher Residence, the current imperial teacher, Meng Youfang, had also noticed the phenomenon. As he stroked his beard, he said, "Chaotic times will give rise to many heroes. Looks like this saying is right, after all. I wonder who it is. If I can recruit that person to the Imperial Teacher Residence, it would be greatly beneficial for the first prince. With this new helper, the first prince will have an even greater chance at inheriting the throne."

The imperial teacher then sent some people to figure out the identity of the person who had just entered the Saintly Forest Ranking. Many hidden experts in the imperial city also noticed the phenomenon. All of them sighed at how the ranking was finally changing again after 1,000 years.

Little did they know, those in the Saintly Forest Courtyard were even more shocked than those outside. The phenomenon they saw was even more spectacular than what the others saw outside. Clumps of dazzling radiance swirled around the stele before converging on Xiang Shaoyun as though they were giving him a baptism of light. The entire scene looked incredibly sacred and filled the surrounding onlookers with envy.

They were sure that the dazzling clumps of radiance were the purest of energies that could strengthen one's body and cleanse one's marrow. These clumps could even have some other unknown functions. This process was basically the stele's reward to a successful challenger.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun, who was bathing in the light, felt extremely comfortable. Every inch of his body had been cleansed while his body was brimming with life. His flesh, meridians, and organs had all been strengthened, as though he had once again regained his filthless body.

If he was to take off his clothes right now, one would be able to see that his entire body had turned sparkling and translucent and that his flesh was as tender as a newborn. His flesh was also extremely durable. Not even saint-grade weapons could harm him.

In the midst of his transformation, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to hear sounds of chanting in his head, as though these were the voices that had traveled through the passage of time to the present. The voices resounded in his head repeatedly like the ringing of the bell in the morning. Eventually, the voices triggered some sort of resonance with the Desolation mantra.

Slowly but surely, the missing parts of the Desolation mantra started appearing. Without knowing it, Xiang Shaoyun started chanting the Desolation mantra. The Desolation mantra, an ancient scripture with vast knowledge, contained the supreme truth.

As Xiang Shaoyun chanted the mantra, he seemed to see through the long passage of time. His gaze eventually reached the beginning of time. There, nine supreme experts could be seen working together to create the Desolation mantra. The nine supreme experts were all the supreme geniuses of an era. They possessed unrivaled wisdom and strength, each representing the peak of a different power. Together, they created the Desolation mantra to serve as the hope of humanity.

Xiang Shaoyun started chanting the Desolation mantra alongside the nine supreme experts. As he chanted, his comprehension of the numerous powers deepened incessantly. Slowly but surely, he gained an understanding of how to regain his astral cultivation.

The Desolation mantra created by the nine supreme experts also had a deeper meaning. The nine experts hoped that those after them would be able to cultivate nine different powers and create the strongest battle physique a human could ever have. They named the physique the Primal Inception Physique. Primal inception, the most original and strongest of energies, was something that existed during the beginning of time. No other energy could compare with it.

Xiang Shaoyun had been cultivating nine different energies all along. Eventually, he relied on his astral cosmos sea to fuse the nine energies into primal inception energy. However, that wasn't the best method of utilizing the primal inception energy. As such, he wasn't able to forge the proper Primal Inception Physique.

Now that his nine stars had been destroyed, he only had his astral cosmos sea remaining. He could no longer absorb the ambient energy of the world. How should he regain his astral cultivation? How was he supposed to replenish his primal inception energy?

Reversing the cosmos, nine stars become one!

After chanting the Desolation mantra again and again, those words suddenly surfaced in his mind.

"Reversing the cosmos, nine stars become one!" Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun's mind became fully fixated on that single sentence. As he bathed in endless radiance, the broken pieces of the stars in his body started to shine brightly and slowly fuse with the dazzling radiance seeping into his body.

Xiang Shaoyun felt himself standing amidst the universe, witnessing numerous celestial bodies orbiting around him. He personally witnessed the birth and destruction of stars. No matter what happened to these celestial bodies, they would still remain in the boundless universe, forever unable to escape the prison of existence known as the cosmos.

Abruptly, the Light of Wisdom started shining. During that instant, he seemed to have seen through the truth of time and fully grasped the great dao. Countless strands of energy came pouring into his body. Even the ambient energy in the Saintly Forest Courtyard started converging on him, entering his shattered stars. Instead of coming together, the shattered stars headed toward the astral cosmos sea.

The first shattered piece to arrive adhered itself to the astral cosmos sea. In a perfectly natural manner, it became one with the astral cosmos sea, causing the astral cosmos sea to become even more corporeal than before. More and more shattered pieces adhered themselves to the astral cosmos sea, causing the astral cosmos sea to rapidly grow and become more and more corporeal. All lives in the astral cosmos sea also underwent a massive transformation. It was as though a brand new universe was rapidly taking form.

#### Chapter 1417: Robbing the World of Its Fortune, Ranked First on the Saintly Ranking

The birth of each star required a long process and a long passage of time. Of the many stars, there were life stars that could support a myriad of lives. Of the many stars, there were also death stars that could not support any life.

Death stars could come into existence easily, while life stars rarely came into existence as they required a massive amount of energy. Only with primal chaos energy and yin and yang energies would life be supported. After the nine shattered stars merged with the astral cosmos sea, a true life star had taken form.

Meanwhile, high in the sky, numerous phenomena manifested. The sun and the moon revolved while the river of stars surged. Dragon roars and phoenix cries reverberated in the sky while the mythical qilin and black tortoise also manifested in the sky, covering the world with a nine-colored radiance.

In the imperial palace, the person in the dragon robe shouted in excitement, "Men, prepare to head to the Saintly Forest Courtyard!"

Such a unique series of phenomena was destined to bring great fortune to the Dusk Dynasty. As the ruler of the dynasty, he could no longer maintain his calm. The imperial teacher also personally set

off from the Imperial Teacher Residence, and the other first-rank officials also headed toward the Saintly Forest Courtyard one after another.

One could say that this was the day worthy of being recorded in the Dusk Dynasty's history. Auspicious phenomena appeared one after another, the emperor personally left the palace, and numerous officials gathered. This was a scene that wouldn't appear even if a God was to personally appear in the city.

In the Saintly Forest Courtyard, the many plants started emitting life force. Even the spring water started pulsing with life force. This was something that had never happened before. As for the various Saints in the Saintly Forest Courtyard, they could all feel some sort of energy wash over them, giving them a comfortable sensation that caused them to be relaxed. Their cultivations started rising, and their comprehension of what they cultivated also deepened.

It seemed like Xiang Shaoyun had created quite a karmic reaction. One ought to know that to influence the comprehension of others while one was comprehending the dao, one needed to first enter the God Realm. Nobody below the God Realm was supposed to be capable of such a feat.

All the old cultivators in the Saintly Forest Courtyard left seclusion. Looking at Xiang Shaoyun, who was standing before the Saintly Forest Stele, their eyes shone brightly. Those at their level would rarely be affected by the affairs of the world. Today, the phenomena created by Xiang Shaoyun had affected them.

Nobody knew what was happening in Xiang Shaoyun's body. If they knew, they would probably have the urge to dissect and study him. He was basically robbing the world of its fortune to create a never-before-seen star.

There were historical records detailing how one could reach the apex even with one star. However, it was never recorded that someone could actually form a true life star in one's body. This had never happened before.

At present, all the shattered stars in Xiang Shaoyun's body had fully merged with his astral cosmos sea. The astral cosmos sea had transformed into a single star. Within the star, all the spiritual plants were growing lushly on the ground. Up in the sky, primal inception energy floated about like clouds. The amount of primal inception energy increased as time passed.

All the different energies in his astral cosmos sea, such as his dark origin energy, flux goldthorn energy, lightning origin energy, mystic earth essence energy, and Yun Flame, had also converged upon the primal inception energy, helping the primal inception energy to rapidly grow. Eventually,

the entire star was filled with primal inception energy, shrouding the astral cosmos sea in a nine-colored radiance that looked incomparably beautiful.

While a large amount of energy was entering the astral cosmos sea, the stele finally changed. The token hanging on Xiang Shaoyun's waist suddenly flew out. The name carved on the token formed some sort of connection with the stele. Next, Xiang Shaoyun's name appeared on the stele, accompanied by a brilliant golden radiance.

The moment the name appeared, it started rising rapidly, surpassing one legend after another. All the surrounding Saints were stunned. Finally, the name stopped at the very top of the stele. The surrounding Saints felt like they were in a dream, unable to believe that Xiang Shaoyun had reached the top of the ranking just like that.

First rank on the Saintly Forest Ranking, Xiang Shaoyun!

News of his ranking rapidly spread throughout the Imperial Sunset City. Before long, the same news would probably spread throughout the world.

The radiance surrounding the stele slowly receded while the radiance around Xiang Shaoyun's body started slowly withdrawing into him. Numerous cracks sounded from his body. Those were the sounds made by the evolution of his meridians, organs, and bones. His saint body shone with a bright luster that filled the surrounding onlookers with envy.

At present, Xiang Shaoyun's saint body had surpassed that of a regular Saint. He had gained a filthless body comparable to the body of Great Saints. One could even say that his body was comparable to a semi-God's body. After all, no Saint had ever obtained such a body before.

Xiang Shaoyun was akin to a deity that had descended from the heavens. He had truly become an existence that stood aloof from the mortal world. He had fully recovered his astral cultivation. His meridians were once again filled with surging energy, which circulated rapidly within his body before converging on his astral cosmos sea. After absorbing the incoming energy, the astral cosmos sea responded by sending out primal inception energy, covering his body with a nine-colored radiance that made him look incredibly sacred.

The true Primal Inception Physique had finally come into existence. Rising from the ashes, he reversed the cosmos and converged the nine stars, achieving the supreme dao!

The Desolation mantra became Xiang Shaoyun's new cultivation method, and the nine different profundities formed a resonance with each other within his body. Any outside energy would instantly be transformed into primal inception energy upon entering his astral cosmos sea.

He no longer needed to use his stars as the filter to create new primal inception energy. To be precise, his astral cosmos sea had gained the functions of a star and an astral cosmos sea—it could carry his cultivation base and still maintain its storage capabilities.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes. It was as though various stars were revolving within his eyes, allowing him to see through the world. This was an ability far superior to his gift of instincts, an ability known as the divine dao eyes.

The divine dao eyes was an ability that even Gods would have a hard time obtaining. As for Xiang Shaoyun, his body had become completely different from before after gaining the Primal Inception Physique. Even his eyes became far more powerful than before. One could say that the Primal Inception Physique was a unique and unmatched physique capable of defying the natural law.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun stood up, the world around him changed. Black clouds covered the sky above him as though the monarch of devils had arrived, filling the hearts of everyone in the city with fear. A berserk rain of lightning started falling upon Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 1418: Primal Chaos Lightning

Reversing the cosmos was basically an act of defying the heavens. Thus, not even the heavenly dao could tolerate the existence of Xiang Shaoyun's physique. And therefore, the divine retribution had arrived for him. If he couldn't survive the tribulation, he would perish, and all his hard work would have all been for nothing.

"What a terrifying lightning tribulation. That is purple yang lightning. Not even Saints can resist such lightning," a Saint cried out in alarm.

"The lightning tribulation is merciless. We should get farther away," said someone else.

But before they could move, Xiang Shaoyun had already split the space and appeared high in the sky. His entire person radiated a dazzling nine-colored radiance as he threw his fist at the sky. With a boundlessly domineering fist, he welcomed the lightning tribulation! With a savage force, he punched the purple yang lightning bolts apart without suffering any damage.



All the Saints were stunned. Generally, lightning tribulations would only appear when demonic beasts advanced. Each lightning tribulation was terrifyingly powerful. Everyone was fearful of it, but Xiang Shaoyun was the opposite. He actually took the initiative to attack the tribulation and even successfully crushed the tribulation. What a monster!

What they didn't know was that an even more monstrous performance awaited them. After crushing the lightning bolts, Xiang Shaoyun inhaled deeply and absorbed all the lightning energy around him. His primal inception energy started growing rapidly. Was that something a human was supposed to be able to do?

Just because the purple yang lightning couldn't do anything to Xiang Shaoyun, it did not mean that the tribulation was over. On the contrary, the tribulation was just getting started.

Dual-colored lightning appeared in the sky. This lightning power was known as windsplit lightning. Not only did it contain the destructiveness of lightning, but it also contained the tearing force of wind. It was much more terrifying than purple yang lightning.

As Xiang Shaoyun's long hair whipped about madly, his eyes were as bright as the sun and the moon, and his entire person seemed to have transformed into a dragon. Facing the sky, he howled with laughter and said, "Since the heavenly dao is unwilling to tolerate this overlord, I shall break this heaven!"

He punched rapidly, each punch possessing an overbearing force that shattered one lightning bolt after another. The scattered lightning energy was all absorbed into his body to further enhance his combat strength. He was akin to a bottomless pit that could absorb all energy in existence.

With the splitwind lightning being incapable of harming Xiang Shaoyun, the tribulation changed again. A five-colored lightning power appeared in the sky, shocking all the people in the imperial city.

"That is the legendary primal chaos lightning! It has actually appeared?" someone exclaimed in alarm.

"Primal chaos lightning is one of the most terrifying lightning powers to ever exist. Even a Great Saint would fear such power! This lightning is as valuable as a second life for someone with a pure lightning physique!

"Unfortunately, this lightning power is part of a tribulation. Otherwise, we can try to get some for ourselves. What a pity. Truly a pity."

"Can that young king of Saints even survive this tribulation? If he can, then he will truly be worthy of being ranked first on the ranking."

"Truly worthy of being the direct disciple of a lord guardian. He has achieved the impossible and stepped on the path to the apex. Looks like chaotic times are coming."

...

The primal chaos lightning was something that would only occasionally appear beyond the heavens. Apart from Gods, nobody would dare to approach such lightning. For Xiang Shaoyun to attract such lightning as his tribulation, one could say that he was truly striving against the heavens!

Xiang Shaoyun felt a sense of danger from the lightning and started drawing even more of the primal inception energy from his astral cosmos sea. Phantoms of a dragon and a tiger manifested around his fist as he threw it at the sky.

Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

This was a fist technique meant to destroy daos, and it could smash even the sky apart. But when the punch struck the primal chaos lightning bolt, only half the lightning bolt was destroyed. The remaining half still managed to strike Xiang Shaoyun.

His filthless body started shining with a nine-colored radiance as he resisted the lightning bolt with his newly gained god body. His entire body was assaulted with massive pain, but this amount of pain was still within his limits.

"All of you, shatter!" Xiang Shaoyun roared domineeringly as he charged at the remaining lightning bolts while throwing out punch after punch.

The heavenly dao grew increasingly furious as the primal chaos lightning bolts became stronger and stronger. Xiang Shaoyun's entire body was torched black by the lightning bolts, and his blood flowed. Even his bones were visible from the deep wounds on his body. He looked incomparably sorry.

Even so, he continued pushing against the heavens as though he knew no pain. He punched again and again, incessantly drawing upon his primal inception energy while supporting his body with the profundity of life. Like an untiring barbaric dragon, he dove right into the ocean of lightning in the sky.

Not even a Great Saint would dare approach an ocean of primal chaos lightning. For many, Xiang Shaoyun was simply behaving like a madman. After diving into the ocean of lightning, numerous explosions erupted and massively damaged his body. It reached a point where not even the profundity of life could heal his body fast enough to keep up with the damage.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun activated the Limit Stimulation Technique and forcefully absorbed the primal chaos lightning into his body. With the primal chaos lightning and the Limit Stimulation Technique, he started tempering his astral cosmos sea, trying to complete the final parts of the astral cosmos sea's transformation.

The astral cosmos sea had become much bigger than before. It was as big as a city and contained all sorts of energies and items. Such an astral cosmos sea was beyond a regular person's imagination. Even so, Xiang Shaoyun was still not satisfied with it. He wanted to use the Limit Stimulation Technique to perfect his astral cosmos sea.

As the primal chaos lightning entered the astral cosmos sea and the Limit Stimulation Technique activated, the astral cosmos sea was greatly damaged. However, the astral cosmos sea that had taken a corporeal form had become incomparably tough. It was as durable as a god-grade stone. Not even the primal chaos lightning was enough to fully destroy it.

"Come in together!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he absorbed even more primal chaos lightning into his body.

Numerous explosions erupted within his body, almost blasting his body apart. An intense pain assaulted him, nearly knocking him unconscious. Under the relentless assault, cracks appeared on his astral cosmos sea. His act of tempering the astral cosmos sea was no different from suicide.

However, Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and chanted the Desolation mantra, fusing the primal chaos lightning with the primal inception energy, forcing the astral cosmos sea to expand even further. As that happened, he slowly gained immunity to the primal chaos lightning. This meant that he had already tempered himself as much as he could with the primal chaos lightning. It was time to harvest his rewards. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun's gaze landed on the drops of five-colored liquid in the midst of the primal chaos lightning. Instantly, he became spirited.

## Chapter 1419: Forging a God Body

Primal chaos lightning liquid!

That was a true god-grade liquid that was even better than those so-called top-quality liquids. Any God Realm expert would covet such a liquid. After Xiang Shaoyun dove into the sea of primal chaos lightning, his body was almost destroyed by the destructive lightning. But upon seeing the small amount of primal chaos lightning liquid, he felt that all his suffering was worth it.

His collapsing willpower surged, pumping him with so much strength he seemed to have transformed into a dragon as he rushed toward the liquid. He nearly destroyed his body in the process of braving through the endless lightning.

When he was about to reach his limit, he finally reached the liquid. As he started absorbing the liquid into his body, a boundless life force instantly flooded his body. His broken bones were reconnected, and his flesh was regrown. His body became whole once again. His brand new god body seemed even more perfect than before.

That wasn't too surprising, as he had just absorbed primal chaos lightning liquid, an extremely rare god-grade liquid. But before he could absorb it all, the primal chaos lightning started pulling away.

"Don't go!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out anxiously as he accelerated his absorption speed. Alas, he couldn't stop what the heavenly dao intended to do and could only absorb one-third of the liquid. The rest had disappeared alongside the primal chaos lightning.

The remaining primal chaos lightning bolts around him also started withdrawing because there were too few of them to pose any threat to Xiang Shaoyun. In other words, Xiang Shaoyun had successfully survived the tribulation. He had completed his Primal Inception Physique.

However, Xiang Shaoyun did not forget to absorb every last bit of primal chaos lightning he could. This was an extremely terrifying action that nobody would dare attempt. It was no wonder that he could grow into such a remarkable cultivator.

Originally, Xiang Shaoyun's soul foundation was forged with a primal divine stone. With the baptism of the primal chaos lightning, his soul foundation had also been enhanced significantly and was much more powerful than before.

As for his shattered stars, they had all entered his astral cosmos sea. Xiang Shaoyun's biggest transformation was his body. Additionally, his saint soul had also gained significantly as well as it had become corporeal once more. With the support of the primal inception energy, his soul seemed even more remarkable than before.

After undergoing the baptism of the primal chaos lightning, his saint soul had grown almost as powerful as his main body. One could say that he wasn't too far away from advancing his saint soul into a god soul.

When all the primal chaos lightning receded, Xiang Shaoyun took one last breath and started gathering all the primal chaos lightning into his astral cosmos sea. Inside the astral cosmos sea, he tossed his Overlord Skyslaying Saber into the clump of primal chaos lightning. Failing to resist the destructive lightning, the saber was destroyed.

Next, Xiang Shaoyun sent his primal inception energy over and fused the Overlord Skyslaying Saber with the primal chaos lightning. He also tossed some saint-grade materials into the mix, attempting to restart the process of nourishing his very own lifebound weapon.

By the time he was done, the sky had cleared, allowing the sunlight to shine upon the imperial city. As he slowly descended from the sky, he was akin to the prince of the sun. He emitted such charisma that the people in the city had the urge to kneel and bow before him.

In the Saintly Forest Courtyard, the second prince exclaimed, "Truly worthy of being a genius capable of killing Great Saints. Not even this prince compares to him in terms of bearing."

It was obvious just how majestic Xiang Shaoyun looked when even a prince felt inferior before him. The other Saints also felt a sense of inferiority before him, as though they were nothing when compared with him.

A certain God Realm expert in the Saintly Forest Courtyard looked at the brimming life force and dense energy in the courtyard and exclaimed, "Robbing the world of its fortune. This young king of Saints had forged a god body."

His words caused the people in the courtyard to be even more shocked. They could see that Xiang Shaoyun was impressive, but they had not imagined that he had reached the level of having a god body. What a monster!

As for Xiang Shaoyun's current astral cultivation realm, he was no longer the same fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Rather, he had also entered the Saint Realm, reaching the second-stage Heaven Battling Realm. In other words, his astral cultivation was only slightly lower than his devil cultivation.

Even so, his devil cultivation was probably far weaker than his astral cultivation due to his primal inception energy. With the primal inception energy and his god body, he could easily contend against Great Saints.

After falling to his lowest point and surviving the Heavenly Snow Mountain incident, Xiang Shaoyun had finally further advanced in his path of cultivation and reached the biggest turning point of his life.

Right after Xiang Shaoyun landed on the ground, a voice rang out from outside the Saintly Forest Courtyard, "His majesty has arrived!"

The only person that could be addressed as "his majesty" in this city was the current Dusk Dynasty emperor, the father of the second prince.

Next, a different voice rang out, "The imperial teacher has arrived."

"The Sacred Martial General has arrived."

"The first prince has arrived."

...

One could say that the elites of the Dusk Dynasty had all arrived. Such a gathering was something rarely seen. In the past, the gathering of so many elites would only happen in the imperial court. But today, even the emperor himself had come to meet Xiang Shaoyun, the one ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking.

With wide strides, the emperor appeared before everyone's eyes. His eyes were as bright as the sun while his aura was as imposing as a dragon. At one glance, one would think that an actual dragon had arrived. Nobody could resist the majestic aura he was radiating.

Behind him was an old eunuch with a crooked body. Despite his frail appearance, each step the eunuch took was firm and strong. His aura isolated all the surrounding people from the emperor, preventing anyone from approaching the emperor. Next, the imperial teacher Meng Youfang, the Sacred Martial General Huo Jingxiao, the first prince, and the other important officials entered the courtyard.

Meng Youfang had the appearance of an enlightened daoist. He wore a daoist robe emblazoned with the yin yang symbol and a trigram and had his hair tied up with only a few loose strands hanging down his head, giving off the sensation of someone who cared not for the affairs of the mortal world.

As for the Sacred Martial General, he was an important official with the same standing as the imperial teacher in the dynasty. He had the appearance of a middle-aged man and was clad in tiger armor and had bare scar-covered arms and a pair of ferocious eyes. A regular person would tremble in fear just by looking at him. He was an extraordinary general truly capable of defending his country.

As for the first prince, he was dressed luxuriously in a robe emblazoned with a jiao beast, and he carried a majestic bearing. With the air of arrogance around him, he did not look approachable at all, completely opposite from the second prince.

The first prince was 10 years older than the second prince and also had a greater combat strength than the second prince. As a third-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, he was the favorite candidate to inherit the throne.

Following behind him were several important officials, all looking incomparably impressive as well. Each of them held great power in the Dusk Dynasty and were existences that the common citizen could only look up to.

#### Chapter 1420: Appoint You As An External Prince

"The Saintly Forest Courtyard is honored to be graced with your presence, Your Majesty," said the current leader of the Saintly Forest Courtyard, bowing.

The courtyard leader might look unremarkable, but his eyes radiated a certain radiance that made it clear that he was actually a terrifying semi-God.

The emperor waved his hand and said, "You're too polite. This emperor was merely anxious to meet the young king of Saints who had surpassed all before him. Therefore, I was forced to intrude upon your courtyard."

"You are definitely not intruding upon us with your presence, Your Majesty. Please come inside," said the leader with an inviting gesture.

Next, the emperor and the others headed toward the Saintly Forest Stele. Soon, they arrived before the bamboo forest. Xiang Shaoyun had just walked out of the forest. Everyone's gaze immediately converged on him, causing him to feel somewhat awkward.

Fortunately, he had a resilient frame of mind. He met their gazes fearlessly as his divine dao eyes shone with a boundless splendor, forcing many of the Saints to look away from him. Only a few of them could withstand the pressure of his gaze.

When the emperor and the important officials saw the remarkable young man before them, they couldn't help but exclaim inwardly, What a fine young king of Saints! At present, Xiang Shaoyun's charm had reached a level far beyond a regular person. It was as though he was the favored son of the heavens, shining ever so brightly.

"Greetings, Imperial Father (Your Majesty)!" the second prince and the many Saints greeted the emperor.

The emperor waved his hand and said, "Rise." His gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun as he said, "This must be the lord guardian's disciple, the person ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking, Xiang Shaoyun."

Xiang Shaoyun cupped his fists in greeting and said, "Yes. Greetings, Dusk Emperor."

Since Xiang Shaoyun was not a member of the Dusk Dynasty, as a Saint, he did not need to drop onto his knees before the Dusk Emperor.

"Audacious! Why are you not on your knees before His Imperial Majesty?" someone stepped out and berated.

It was none other than the commander of the imperial guards, Gan Mingliang, a peak Saint Realm cultivator.



"It's fine. As someone ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking, the so-called etiquette can be excused," said the Dusk Emperor magnanimously. A genial look appeared on his face as he said, "I wonder if Shaoyun is interested in joining the Dusk Dynasty? I'm willing to appoint you as an external prince. In the future, you will enjoy the same treatment as this emperor's children, obtaining the qualification to rule over the world."

The offer stunned everyone present. Appointing Xiang Shaoyun as an external prince was the same as accepting Xiang Shaoyun as the emperor's adopted son. Although an external prince had no chance of inheriting the throne, he would still be a key member of the imperial clan. Even becoming a marquis of the dynasty was possible. A marquis enjoyed as much authority as the imperial teacher and the Sacred Martial General.

An emperor would speak no empty words. That saying was no joke. So long as Xiang Shaoyun agreed, his new identity would immediately be announced to the world. The various Saints were amazed by the emperor's generosity. One ought to know that this was the first time the emperor had ever met Xiang Shaoyun. A regular person wouldn't be able to make such a promise to a stranger.

The haughty first prince smiled and said, "Imperial Father is wise. I support this decision. I hereby welcome Xiang Shaoyun as the new prince of our dynasty. Us brothers should spend more time together in the future."

The second prince was surprised by the first prince's fast reaction. He hurriedly said, "Brother Xiang, what are you waiting for? Quickly thank my imperial father!"

Everyone focused on Xiang Shaoyun, curious as to what his choice would be. After all, this place was the heartland of the Dusk Dynasty. All would be fine if Xiang Shaoyun accepted the offer. But if he rejected the offer, it would be tantamount to insulting the emperor. Would he still be able to leave the Saintly Forest Courtyard alive then?

Xiang Shaoyun smiled calmly and said, "Thank you for the favor, Dusk Emperor. Unfortunately, Shaoyun's roots are in the Western Desert. For now, I do not intend to stay in the Central Region. I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you."

Everyone's expression changed. Who would have thought that Xiang Shaoyun would be brave enough to refuse the emperor right in his face?

"Impudent! Don't think that you can ignore the imperial decree just because you're slightly capable. I advise you to drop onto your knees and accept the decree immediately. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude," again shouted the commander of the imperial guards. At the same time, his aura locked onto Xiang Shaoyun as he said, "First, you killed a second-rank official of our court, Hua Ruren. Next, you refused the imperial guards' summon. Those two offenses are enough for you to be executed."

The commander was basically warning Xiang Shaoyun that if he remained stubborn, no mercy would be shown. The emperor remained silent, curious to see if Xiang Shaoyun would remain unyielding.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled calmly and said, "I don't know who Hua Ruren is. There were too many people chasing after me. I don't even know the names of those I had killed. If he is really one of you, I wish to ask a question. How have I, Xiang Shaoyun, offended your Dusk Dynasty? Why did one of you travel so far just to kill me?"

Xiang Shaoyun's expression was cold, and his body emitted a righteous aura, causing the commander to be completely speechless. If Xiang Shaoyun was still considered a devil, they could continue punishing him based on his identity alone. But now, everyone knew that Xiang Shaoyun was no longer considered a devil. Moreover, he was the disciple of a certain lord guardian. That identity alone granted Xiang Shaoyun a status surpassing many others.

One ought to know that the lord guardian was an old monster who had lived for an unknown number of years. His seniority was frighteningly high. As his disciple, Xiang Shaoyun naturally had incredibly high seniority as well.

"Hmph. Hua Ruren is my junior brother. Whatever the reason, killing him is the same as making us your enemy!" said Meng Youfang with a cold snort.

"In that case, I have nothing to say," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug. His gaze turned cold as he said, "I'm standing right here. Feel free to do what you want with me. It's not like my master cares about me."

In a seemingly unintentional manner, he brought up his master, instantly causing everyone present to feel greatly pressured. His master was an existence at the very peak of the world. If Xiang Shaoyun was to die here, the entire Dusk Dynasty would probably cease to exist as well.

After all, that person had brutally charged into the sixth layer of the Devil Domain and slain five Devil Gods to prove that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't a devil. It was obvious that the lord guardian was extremely protective of his disciple.

"How about this—if you can resist a move from the imperial teacher, this ends here," said the Dusk Emperor.

Meng Youfang was the first to voice his agreement, "I shall follow the emperor's wish."