

Overlord 1551

Chapter 1551: God Realm Formation Master

Nearly 30 Heaven Battling Realm experts charged out alongside Di Mie, with none of them weaker than fifth-stage Heaven Battling Realm. Additionally, they still had a group of Heaven Battling Realm cultivators below the fifth stage on standby in the city. This was the kind of strength the Di Clan had.

Di Mie had once suffered a crushing defeat in Xiang Shaoyun's hands. Thus, he greatly hated Xiang Shaoyun. He wouldn't have sent Eunuch Dong after Xiang Shaoyun otherwise. However, Xiang Shaoyun seemed incredibly resilient to death, and it was instead Eunuch Dong who had perished. As a result, Di Mie had been punished by the Di Monarch. Now that Xiang Shaoyun had come to his turf, he was determined to kill Xiang Shaoyun to vent his anger.

The Di Clan members surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's group. Comparatively, the Di Clan seemed to hold the advantage, as Xiang Shaoyun only had about 10 people with him. Xiang Shaoyun, Devil Concubine, Devouring Ghost, Liu Qingchen, Despair, Bing Busi, Tie Ta, Li Juetian, and three Ghostface Sect Saints made up for their group of 11. However, each of the 11 was a first-class expert who did not fear the Di Clan.

"Everyone, keep your distance from him. That kid is an imperial nether devil and can use the Imperial Nether Domain. Work together and destroy all of them," said Di Mie.

It was no secret that Xiang Shaoyun could use the Imperial Nether Domain. The Di Clan had to be careful against such a powerful trump card. All the Di Clan members carefully surrounded Xiang Shaoyun and his group, aiming to kill all of them.

As Xiang Shaoyun's gaze landed on Di Mie, a sneer formed on his face as his clone appeared noiselessly and turned invisible. Completely unseen, the clone headed toward Di Mie.

Sky Measuring Step!

Possessing the strength to contend against Gods, Xiang Shaoyun's clone was fast enough when using a movement technique that even if a God was present, the God wouldn't be able to stop him in time. All Di Mie felt was a sense of crisis out of nowhere before an invisible hand grabbed him. Instantly, an aura of death enveloped his body, causing his entire person to feel ice-cold.

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun's clone appear and say, "Move and your prince will die."

The Di Clan members looked over only to find that Di Mie had been taken hostage.

"Bastard! Release the prince, or you'll suffer a miserable death!" threatened a Di Clan member.

"Release him! We can talk this out!" said someone else.

The Di Clan's younger generations seemed to be getting worse. If it wasn't for the Di Monarch and their clan uncles in the God Realm providing them with cultivation resources, they would be far weaker than they were. As for Di Mie, he was the one with the strongest bloodline among the younger generation. As someone with the potential to be the next Di Monarch, he was extremely important to the clan.

"Hand Caidie over if you want to keep your life," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

He had already sealed Di Mie's energy circulation with his energy. If Di Mie really tried anything, he wouldn't mind killing Di Mie then and there.

"Sh-she's really not here!" replied Di Mie weakly.

"I saw your people capture her with my own eyes. Don't you dare to be funny with me!" berated Xiang Shaoyun as he slapped Di Mie, causing blood to flow from Di Mie's mouth.

Xiang Shaoyun had been on the defensive against the Di Clan all this while, and now, finally, he had gained enough strength to not be afraid of the Di Clan. Thus, he naturally needed to properly take revenge.

As the prince of the Di Clan, Di Mie enjoyed a high status in the clan. However, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't care less about that. He was going to properly teach this arrogant fool a lesson.

When the Di Clan members saw Di Mie being hit, their eyes burned with fury. However, none of them dared to move rashly, afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would do something even more drastic.

"Hand Caidie over!" demanded Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sh-she's really not here!" said Di Mie as his face turned red from his agitation.

"Looks like you'll remain stubborn until you suffer some more," said Xiang Shaoyun murderously.

Just as he was about to hit Di Mie once again, a terrifying God Realm energy ambushed him. Xiang Shaoyun swiftly moved away with Di Mie and evaded the attack by using the Phantom Shift technique.

"Huh?" The ambusher seemed astonished to find he had missed.

Unknowingly, a person of average build had appeared at Xiang Shaoyun's previous position. The man sported a loose robe and had a sloppy appearance. He looked incredibly normal, but his appearance caused all the Di Clan members to call out, "Greetings, grandmaster!"

The newcomer was Di Nian, the clan's God Realm formation master. He was a second-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator, but he wasn't the best at combat. Rather, he specialized in formations. The Divine Travel Diagram was a product of his creation.

"Release Di Mie, or none of you will be able to leave," said Di Nian.

Immediately after, he drew a large amount of energy from under the ground and formed a powerful suppression field in the area. Within the field, Di Nian's combat strength was greatly enhanced. He had done all that through a god-grade formation.

Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in praise, "Sure enough, this is an offensive formation."

In the hands of a God Realm formation master, a god-grade formation could maximize its potential. In his current state, Di Nian could stand fearless even if he had to face several Gods at the same time.

As a formation master himself, Xiang Shaoyun was naturally aware of that. They had to leave the formation if they wanted to deprive Di Nian of his ability to borrow strength from it. Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun released Chi Duo and Yuan Gang for safety measures.

"I repeat. Release him, or all of you will die," said Di Nian murderously.

"I'm here looking for someone. Release my people, and we'll leave. Otherwise, I'll turn your Di Clan upside down," said Xiang Shaoyun unyieldingly.

"Stubborn fool," said Di Nian as he waved his arms, sending wave after wave of God Realm energy toward the people behind Xiang Shaoyun.

"Devil Concubine!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

Immediately, a layer of energy erupted from Devil Concubine's body. An old man appeared, followed by a black hole that absorbed all the attacks.

"Sigh. Life sure is hard for an old man like me," wailed the tree spirit.

Chapter 1552: Mutual Reliance

Initially, the tree spirit only aimed to obtain some primal chaos energy from Xiang Shaoyun for his breakthrough. But now, he had transformed into their guardian. He felt rather helpless at how things had developed.

When Di Nian saw the old man, his eyes flickered with complicated emotions as he found that he couldn't even see through the old man's cultivation. Xiang Shaoyun started beating Di Mie up.

"Bastard! Stop it!" Di Nian roared as he sent a wave of God Realm energy toward Xiang Shaoyun.

However, the tree spirit stood in his way and said, "Have you asked for this old man's permission before trying to kill him?"

The celestial darkdevil tree was no ordinary divine tree. Rather, it was a tree that had reached great heights in the path of cultivation. He might look like a kind old man, but when he was furious, he could be extremely terrifying.

His dark energy surrounded Di Nian; he was prepared to kill Di Nian the moment Di Nian even thought of killing Xiang Shaoyun. When Di Nian sensed the tree spirit's strength, his face turned solemn. Still, he wouldn't be intimidated so easily.

A crimson feathered fan appeared in his hand. Under his manipulation, a phoenix flew out of it, its cry reverberating throughout the area. The fan was no ordinary weapon. Rather, it was a Phoenix Fan, the clan's unique treasured equipment made of phoenix feathers. It was incomparably powerful, capable of burning a large area into nothingness with a single wave. A power of extreme yang like this was what the tree spirit hated the most. His face fell, but he still showed no fear.

"I'm not here to fight the Di Clan to the end. I'm only here for my woman. If you refuse to return her, this will only end when one of us is dead," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly as he stopped beating Di Mie.

Di Nian could feel how determined Xiang Shaoyun was. However, this was their own turf. Before long, more of their experts would arrive. They basically held all advantages and would have the upper hand in the event of an all-out war. The only issue was the fact that Di Mie had been captured.

Right that moment, terrifying energy undulations erupted in the sky as though the entire sky was about to explode. Everyone looked up in shock and was greeted by surging God Realm energy forming an astonishing spectacle in the sky.

"The young are truly formidable. You are actually capable of eliminating my clone? Wait until my main body is here. I'll see how capable you are then," the Di Monarch's voice rang out.

Next, the Di Clan Gods all retreated from the sky. Purple Lightning Marquis, Xiang Yangzhan, Scarlet Flame Monarch, and Yu Huayan also returned from the sky. Scarlet Flame Monarch and Yu Huayan looked somewhat miserable, but the other two looked perfectly fine.

As for the Di Clan Gods, none were killed. However, three of them in particular had suffered grave injuries, with almost half their bodies destroyed. If it wasn't for the Di Monarch's protection, they would have been killed.

"Di Monarch!" shouted the Di Clan members when they saw the monarch's translucent body, which seemed like it was going to fade away soon.

They could see that the monarch had suffered a defeat. Their morale suffered a great blow as a result.

"Release my daughter-in-law, or I'll flatten this place," said Xiang Yangzhan overbearingly with his spear in hand.

"We don't have her. If you want to fight, so be it. Di Nian, activate the formation. My main body will return soon. The other clan members will arrive soon as well," said the Di Monarch before fading away.

"Everyone, retreat back into the formation. They won't hold any advantage over us there," said Di Nian.

He then waved his arms repeatedly, accelerating the flow of energy beneath the formation. He drew out a large amount of God Realm energy. The energy surrounded the Di Clan people and further enhanced his strength. The space around him started warping from all the energy in the air.

Even Xiang Shaoyun started feeling doubtful as he muttered, "Is Caidie really not here?"

As Yu Caidie had her own trump cards, a single pseudo-God would have some difficulty capturing her. If the Di Clan really had her, it did not seem likely that they would be willing to fight him to the death for her sake.

"I'll ask you one last time. Is Yu Caidie really not here?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"No means no. What's the point of all the talk? Bring it on if you want to fight. When our reinforcements arrive, all of you will die," said Di Nian coldly as he continued manipulating the formation.

"In that case, I'll keep him as my hostage. I'll return him after I figure out Caidie's whereabouts," said Xiang Shaoyun as he started retreating with his people.

They were disadvantaged fighting on the Di Clan's turf. Unless absolutely necessary, he wasn't willing to escalate the situation to the point where both sides suffered.

"Stay!" Di Nian roared as he sent a large wave of energy toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Yangzhan naturally wouldn't watch on as his son was attacked. He charged ahead, and when he arrived before Xiang Shaoyun, he stabbed forth with his spear. Xiang Yangzhan was terrifyingly strong, and to him, it was like a taboo for anyone to touch Xiang Shaoyun. He would not spare

anyone who dared to harm his son. That one stab of his was akin to 3,000 lightning bolts, unleashing a rain of lightning akin to a natural disaster.

Di Nian's expression was solemn, and the radiance around him intensified as he waved his fan and unleashed a terrifying flame attack that could evaporate oceans.

The two attacks collided, causing the entire city to shake from the impact. The weaker cultivators dropped onto the ground in fear. If it wasn't for the formation's protection, the impact from the collision would have been enough to gravely injure them.

At the same time, other Di Clan members also tried saving Di Mie. Naturally, Purple Lightning Marquis wouldn't give them the chance to do so. Finally, Xiang Shaoyun's group safely retreated under the tree spirit's cover.

Di Nian had to rely on the formation to contend against Xiang Yangzhan. After leaving the formation's vicinity, he could no longer make use of the formation and was naturally having a hard time stopping Xiang Shaoyun's group.

"Y-you better release me, or all of you will die!" threatened Di Mie, who felt extremely sullen from being captured by Xiang Shaoyun's clone. He had never suffered so much humiliation in his life before.

"Still so mouthy even when you're in such a situation? Do you really think I wouldn't dare to kill you?" berated Xiang Shaoyun murderously.

When Di Mie sensed Xiang Shaoyun's killing intent, he shivered before saying indignantly, "We really don't have Yu Caidie. They would have taken her out in exchange for me otherwise."

Chapter 1553: Di Batian's Fall

"How do you explain what Eunuch Dong did? Don't tell me that he's not a member of your clan," questioned Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, I did send him out, but he didn't return with Yu Caidie!" said Di Mie. At this point, he no longer dared to lie because it was pointless to lie.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned as he thought doubtfully, Did Caidie really escape?

However, he still couldn't fully trust Di Mie. He used the Nether Soul Dragon Curse, trying to control Di Mie to find out if Di Mie was telling the truth. To his surprise, his curse failed to work. Something in Di Mie's soul seemed to be protecting him from the curse.

Looks like this fellow has quite a lot of secrets as well, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

He stopped trying and had Purple Lightning Marquis help his father retreat. Xiang Yangzhan was still engaged in an intense battle with Di Nian. Although Di Nian was only a second-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator, he could match Xiang Yangzhan equally with the help of his god-grade formation. He even planned to capture Xiang Yangzhan so that he could trade Xiang Yangzhan for Di Mie.

With Purple Lightning Marquis's help, Xiang Yangzhan was finally able to withdraw from the fight. Di Nian did not dare to give chase. If he went too far, he wouldn't be able to borrow the formation's strength anymore.

"Release the prince, or the Ziling Sect will be flattened!" threatened Di Nian.

"We'll be keeping this kid with us until we get my daughter-in-law back," said Xiang Yangzhan.

"Like I said, we don't have her! If you refuse to believe it, so be it. This won't end here!" replied Di Nian.

"You can have him back, but you need to trade two people for him," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He was already certain that Yu Caidie was probably not with the Di Clan. In that case, he might as well take a step back for now.

"Who do you want?" asked Di Nian.

Di Mie had a high status in the Di Clan. Di Nian wouldn't mind having someone else take Di Mie's place as the hostage. At that question, Xiang Shaoyun looked toward a certain person. That person instantly felt his entire body turn cold and started hiding among the crowd.

"I want Di Batian and his son Di Lin," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Di Batian and Di Lin?" muttered Di Nian doubtfully for a bit before he recalled something.

He knew what Di Batian had done to the Ziling Sect. Thus, it wasn't surprising that Xiang Shaoyun would make such a demand. However, he wasn't willing to agree so easily. After all, both Di Batian and his son were talented cultivators. That was especially true for Di Lin, who had won the acknowledgment of several clan elders. They intended to nurture him as Di Mie's replacement.

"How about this. We can offer some god-grade items for the prince instead. If you agree, this ends here. What do you think?" offered Di Nian.

Di Batian heaved a breath of relief. He could only hope that Xiang Shaoyun would agree, inwardly thinking, That little bastard better agree. I'll most definitely have all their heads after Lin'er returns.

"I repeat. I only want those two. Otherwise, prepare to receive Di Mie's corpse," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

Di Mie was having trouble breathing from the grip around his neck. With his face red, he shouted, "H-hurry and trade those two f-for me!"

Di Mie was someone who had enjoyed great prestige since he was a boy. He did not want to die so easily. As far as he was concerned, Di Batian and Di Lin were nothing compared to even a hair on his body.

Di Nian had a look of disappointment as he said, "Bring Di Batian and Di Lin over."

When a God brought Di Batian over, Di Batian had no fear on his face. Rather, he was wearing a bleak smile.

"Grandmaster, are you really trading us to them?" asked Di Batian.

"You will have to suffer for us. I'll double the compensation to those from your branch," said Di Nian.

Di Batian himself was a rather talented cultivator and was also an ambitious person. It was unfortunate for him that he was from a branch family. Thus, he had been chased out of the clan long ago so he could build something for himself. Only upon him seizing the Ziling Sect did the clan take him back.

When Di Batian heard Di Nian's words, his little bit of hope was extinguished. He said with great difficulty, "I'll have to trouble the grandmaster to take good care of them, then."

Di Batian had nine sons in total, while Xiang Shaoyun had only killed the fourth, fifth, sixth, and eighth sons. His other sons were still alive. Di Lin and his three brothers were all staying with the clan, whereas Di Tong had disappeared during his time at the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

As far as Xiang Shaoyun was concerned, Di Lin posed the most threat among them. Thus, his main targets were Di Batian and Di Lin. In any case, he also wasn't aware that Di Batian's other sons were also in the Di Clan.

"Release the prince, and you can have him," said Di Nian.

"One person seems to be missing," remarked Xiang Shaoyun in a displeased manner.

"Di Lin is not with us. If you're not happy with this arrangement, there's nothing I can do," said Di Nian with a shrug.

From how Di Nian had refrained from telling Xiang Shaoyun that Di Batian's other sons were with them, one could see that he still cared about his fellow clan members.

After some hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Fine. Seal his strength and toss him over. I'll release Di Mie."

Di Nian did not reject the request. He personally sealed Di Batian's cultivation while leaving a backdoor in the seal. He transmitted his voice over, "You'll have to suffer for us. I'll take good care of those from your branch. Of course, if you try something stupid, don't blame me for showing no mercy either."

Upon hearing Di Nian's words, Di Batian felt his heart freeze over. Over the years, he had strove unremittingly to return to the clan. He had thought that his talent would earn him a spot in the clan, but he was still nothing compared to someone from the main branch.

I never expected that I, Di Batian, would suffer such a fate in the end, thought Di Batian bleakly.

"We'll do the exchange at the same time," said Di Nian.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded in agreement as he threw Di Mie over at the same time.

As soon as he threw Di Mie out, Xiang Shaoyun's Death Eyes activated. He exchanged gazes with Di Mie, instantly extinguishing a portion of Di Mie's lifespan. He also imprinted some death aura in Di Mie's body, frightening Di Mie so much that all thoughts of revenge vanished from his mind.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to grab Di Batian, a malevolent expression appeared on Di Batian's face. Di Batian said, "Little bastard, come meet the maker with me!"

A strand of God Realm energy rushed out of his body, triggering a self-detonation.

"This is bad!" Xiang Shaoyun retreated unhesitatingly the moment he sensed that something was off. Alas, it was too late.

Boom!

As a peak Heaven Battling Realm expert, Di Batian's self-detonation was powerful enough to kill Great Saints. With the strand of God Realm energy Di Nian had left in his body, his self-detonation was further enhanced to the point even pseudo-Gods could be killed.

Chapter 1554: New Wolf Guards

"Bastard!" roared both Xiang Yangzhan and Purple Lightning Marquis furiously.

They both charged toward Xiang Shaoyun immediately, trying to protect him from harm. As for Di Nian, he hurriedly retreated back into the Di Clan with Di Mie. At the same time, he activated the god-gade formation and attacked both Xiang Yangzhan and Purple Lightning Marquis at the same time.

"You need to pay the lesson for attacking the Di Clan," said Di Nian coldly.

Facing such a powerful attack, Scarlet Flame Monarch and Yu Huayan brought the others high into the air and far from the city, afraid that they were still in the formation's range. As for Xiang Shaoyun, the explosion had struck him head on. Fortunately, the Nether Soul Dragon Headband had protected his soul clone. Otherwise, his soul would have suffered grievous injuries.

Xiang Yangzhan grabbed him and asked, "Yun'er, are you fine?"

"I'm fine. Help me over to my main body," replied Xiang Shaoyun's clone weakly.

"Ok. Just you wait. I'll destroy this place," said Xiang Yangzhan murderously.

He then tried flying high into the sky with Xiang Shaoyun, but the formation was too powerful, with strand after strand of God Realm energy shooting toward them. It wouldn't be an easy task for them to flee. To make matters worse, the other Di Clan Gods were also attacking, surrounding them with God Realm attacks that threatened to destroy the very space they existed in.

Purple Lightning Marquis unleashed his formidable strength, sending out numerous purple lightning bolts akin to purple dragons and serpents. The lightning bolts clashed with the attacks repeatedly, creating numerous explosions that nearly overturned the city.

Purple Lightning Marquis performed remarkably well by staying calm in the face of so many God Realm attacks. Anyone else in his position would have been killed immediately. Xiang Yangzhan wanted to fight the Di Clan Gods as well, but for Xiang Shaoyun's sake, he instead focused on escaping.

Instant Bolt!

Holding Xiang Shaoyun with one hand and his spear with his other hand, he stabbed at the sky, unleashing boundless lightning energy that blasted through the formation's energy. Even after unleashing such a powerful attack, he still had enough strength left to charge high into the sky. After charging out of the formation's range with Xiang Shaoyun, Xiang Yangzhan flew toward the main group, allowing the soul clone to reunite with Xiang Shaoyun's main body.

"I'll go back in there and mess them up!" said Xiang Yangzhan before flying away without even waiting for Xiang Shaoyun to say anything.

Xiang Shaoyun looked worried, but he knew he couldn't stop his father. Instead, he said to the others, "Let's leave."

"I'll stay behind and give them a hand," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"No. We leave immediately. They will be able to get away. There are definitely more Di Clan experts coming. We will only be a burden if we stay," said Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

After thinking about it, Scarlet Flame Monarch nodded and said, "Ok, let's leave."

The group thus started leaving quickly. As for Purple Lightning Marquis and Xiang Yangzhan, they could finally fight without any inhibitions. They bombarded the Di Clan with countless attacks.

The city might be protected by a god-grade formation, but the two were still able to kill some people with only the shockwaves of their attacks. The deaths filled Di Nian with regret for making Di Batian self-detonate, infuriating Xiang Yangzhan and Purple Lightning Marquis.

Di Batian had sacrificed himself to injure Xiang Shaoyun's clone. In a way, his death was worth it. However, if they had to pay the price of losing more of their clan members, it definitely wouldn't be worthwhile at all.

Xiang Shaoyun could rapidly recover from any bodily injuries with his profundity of life, but that was not the case for his soul. It would take him some time to heal his soul.

Xiang Shaoyun's group immediately returned to the Ziling Sect, and Xiang Yangzhan and Purple Lightning Marquis returned not long after.

Because Xiang Yangzhan and Purple Lightning Marquis were powerful Rebirth Realm cultivators, they could move at an unimaginable speed. It wouldn't be an easy feat for the Di Clan to prevent them from leaving. Of course, the two wouldn't have left so fast if they hadn't sensed more Di Clan experts arriving.

The first thing Xiang Shaoyun did after returning was reinforcing the formations around the sect. He had to first upgrade the formations to prepare for the Di Clan's reprisals.

As for Yu Caidie, she would probably return soon since she hadn't been captured by the Di Clan.

News of the chaos Xiang Shaoyun had caused at the Di Clan spread rapidly throughout the Western Desert. The Di Clan definitely wouldn't let the humiliation slide.

Back at the Ziling Sect, Lang Chen brought Xiang Shaoyun good news that Ge Yi had sent 100 additional wolf guards over to help him. The 100 new wolf guards were even stronger than the previous batch of wolf guards he received. Among them, three were Gods, six were pseudo-Gods, and the rest were Saints and Sovereigns.

There were 365 wolf guards in total, with 165 of them following Xiang Shaoyun. As for the remaining 200, only Ge Yi knew where they were. He would only send them over to Xiang Shaoyun when it was time to do so. That was his way of providing Xiang Shaoyun with a layer of protection and showing Xiang Shaoyun concern.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted all the new wolf guards unhesitatingly. About 20 of his original wolf guards had perished, but the surviving wolf guards had also improved greatly. The new wolf guards had arrived just in time to further strengthen the Ziling Sect's foundations.

Of course, these wolf guards weren't only sent over to serve as fighters. Ge Yi also hoped that Xiang Shaoyun would provide the wolfmen with a place to live and reproduce, which Xiang Shaoyun had learned from the letter his master had delivered to him through the wolf guards.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't have any issues with that. The Buried Monarch Mountain Range had plenty of space. He could easily provide the wolf guards a place to live. In fact, he didn't even need to do anything himself. The wolf guards had picked a mountain by themselves and had then settled down after chasing out the demonic beasts. The place wasn't even too far from the Ziling Sect.

The only thing Xiang Shaoyun did was lay down a formation to protect their living space and modify the area into a place better suited for cultivation. After he was finished, Yu Caidie returned. Sure enough, she had escaped the pseudo-God when they were on their way back to the Di Clan. She had been forced to release her sealed strength before she could force the pseudo-God off her and escape.

She had then returned to the Devil Domain's entrance in the Dusk Dynasty only to learn that Xiang Shaoyun had returned to the Ziling Sect. She had thus returned to the sect. All the traveling was why she had returned late. With her return, Xiang Shaoyun's worry receded. He was happy so long as she was safe.

Chapter 1555: Grandpa Grandson Meeting

With Yu Caidie's return and the lack of reprisals from the Di Clan, Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to introduce Tuoba Wan'er and Tuoba Lingtian to his father.

In the rear court behind the grand hall, Xiang Yangzhan was pacing back and forth. He was a God, yet he looked both nervous and expectant. It was worth noting that the willpower of a God was strong enough that a God could remain calm in almost all situations. But today was different. Xiang Yangzhan was going to meet his first grandson.

"I wonder how that kid looks. Even if he grows into half the person Yun'er is, I'll be happy," muttered Xiang Yangzhan to himself.

He didn't even dare to start comparing his grandson with Xiang Shaoyun. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was a genius who had fused nine powers to forge the Primal Inception Physique; he was a unique and unequalled cultivator in the dominion. Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun also had the innate abilities of the Imperial Nether Clan. In terms of talent, few could compare with him.

Before long, Xiang Shaoyun appeared hand in hand with Tuoba Wan'er. A delicate-looking child of about seven years old also trailed behind them. He looked incredibly lively, jumping about cheerfully like a bird that had been released from its cage.

Xiang Yangzhan completely ignored Xiang Shaoyun and looked at Tuoba Wan'er with a satisfied expression. Then, he shifted all his focus onto Tuoba Lingtian. His gaze was filled with so much passion that even Tuoba Lingtian started feeling nervous.

"U-uncle, can you not look at me like that? Don't tell me you have a fetish toward boys?" asked Tuoba Lingtian bashfully.

"Tian'er, do not be rude! He's your grandpa! Kowtow to your grandpa!" said Xiang Shaoyun.

Tuoba Wan'er took the lead and saluted Xiang Yangzhan as she said, "Your daughter-in-law, Tuoba Wan'er, greets you, Father-in-Law."

Xiang Shaoyun's other women couldn't address Xiang Yangzhan as Father-in-Law yet, but Tuoba Wan'er was already qualified because she was officially married to Xiang Shaoyun.

"Good, good. Stand up," said Xiang Yangzhan. "Wan'er, it must have been hard on you these years. Did that kid mistreat you at all? If he did, I'll teach him a lesson for you!"

"Tian'er, come greet your grandpa!" said Tuoba Wan'er as she beckoned to Tuoba Lingtian.

Tuoba Lingtian naturally didn't dare to disobey his mother. He hurriedly kowtowed to Xiang Yangzhan and said, "Tian'er greets you, Grandpa."

As this was his first time meeting Xiang Yangzhan, he wasn't exactly willing to perform this greeting. However, he was sensible enough to know that he shouldn't make things difficult for his parents.

"Good boy. Stand up and let your grandpa get a good look at you. Grandpa has let all of you down all these years," said Xiang Yangzhan with a sigh.

Tuoba Lingtian wasn't even eight, but he had already grown to a considerable height. His delicate eyes seemed filled with life, and from his childlike features, one could see that he would grow into an extremely attractive individual.

Even at such a young age, he was already a late-stage Astral Realm cultivator. He could probably reach the Transformation Realm before he was ten. He was remarkably talented and would most definitely reach great heights in the future.

Because this was Xiang Yangzhan's first meeting with his grandson, he naturally came bearing gifts. Even Xiang Shaoyun felt envious when he saw the gift. Xiang Yangzhan had prepared some top-tier 10,000-year-old star tempering spring water, a saint-grade water. This was a treasure that could triple the astral energy capacity of cultivators below the King Realm. It was also extremely beneficial for one's physical body.

"This is something I had obtained previously. I had wanted to save it for when you start cultivating, but it looks like my grandson will be the one getting it instead," said Xiang Yangzhan as he looked at Xiang Shaoyun.

The star tempering spring was not just a regular saint-grade spring. Rather, it was much rarer than other saint-grade springs. Even Gods would have to rely on luck to obtain some.

One ought to know that the capacity of a cultivator's stars would greatly determine the cultivator's combat strength. The bigger the capacity, the more energy one could store and the more strength one could exert from one's stars. With bigger capacity, one would be stronger than those of the same cultivation level.

The star tempering spring water was capable of expanding one's stars by at least three times. The lower one's cultivation level, the more growth one would obtain from the water. After using the water, as the cultivator advanced, the cultivator would continue enjoying an advantage over other cultivators of the same realm. That was a terrifyingly powerful way of excavating one's potential.

One ought to know that the treasures Xiang Shaoyun had consumed in the past were only those that could expand his capacity by one-third or a half. The difference between the treasures he had used and the one his son received was huge.

Tuoba Lingtian was no longer the same ignorant boy. Thus, he could see just how valuable to star tempering spring water was. He gratefully said, "Thank you, Grandpa."

"Good boy. You need to grow up into an even more remarkable cultivator than your grandpa," said Xiang Yangzhan. "Come, let's go play in the sky. We'll have our reunion after this."

"Ok! I love flying the most! In the past, Vicious One, Two, and Three would always bring me into the sky! But recently, Mother hasn't been allowing that," said Tuoba Lingtian.

"Who's Vicious One, Two, and Three?" asked Xiang Yangzhan in confusion.

"They're three big birds. They can fly very fast!" said Tuoba Lingtian proudly.

The three birds were the same three birds Xiang Shaoyun had brought back from the Dragon Phoenix Academy. They had long grown into Emperors and had probably become Sovereigns. The three were basically Tuoba Lingtian's personal mounts.

But since Tuoba Lingtian was still too young and Tuoba Wan'er did not want him to devote too much of his time playing and roaming around everywhere with the three birds, she had prevented him from flying around with them, depriving him of much entertainment.

Thus, Tuoba Lingtian was naturally overjoyed that Xiang Yangzhan had offered to fly with him into the sky. In any case, he felt a natural sense of closeness toward Xiang Yangzhan due to their blood relation, and he was able to warm up to Xiang Yangzhan quickly.

Neither Xiang Shaoyun nor Tuoba Wan'er stopped them. This would be the perfect opportunity for the two to deepen their relationship.

While Xiang Yangzhan was enjoying the company of his family, the Di Clan sent some people to the Yu Clan. Since they had failed to complete the marriage after sending over their betrothal gifts, they had to get the gifts back. It was either that or an explanation from the Yu Clan.

It was unknown what the result of their discussion was. After leaving the Yu Clan, they went to the Xiang Clan instead of the Ziling Sect. The Xiang Clan had also ended their seclusion and had taken over a city that they had then named Xiang Clan City. The surrounding organizations had all been subdued by them as well.

Unlike the Di Clan, the Xiang Clan did not have the courage to take over an entire province immediately. After all, they had suffered great losses in the past and had offended too many people. If they expanded too rapidly, they might attract some of their past enemies.

Thus, they had maintained a low profile after leaving seclusion. The Xiang Clan had been able to grow healthily thanks to their incredible bloodline inheritance that granted them lightning physiques, which were extremely rare in the first place. None of the organizations near them dared to offend them.

That day, the Di Clan Gods arrived at the Xiang Clan City, intruded upon their outer courtyard and destroyed it, causing a large number of casualties.

Chapter 1556: Dong Ziwan's Arrival

Fortunately, the Di Clan Gods did not know where the Xiang Clan's main base was at. Otherwise, they would have gone there instead.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I'll destroy your Xiang Clan for now. In the future, we'll also destroy your Ziling Sect. I'll see how you'll stay cocky then," said a Di Clan expert with a sneer before swaggering off.

When the Xiang Clan patriarch learned of that, he was infuriated. When he rushed over to the Xiang Clan, he found that the outer clan had been flattened. The devastation drove him crazy with anger.

Immediately after, Purple Lightning Marquis's clone appeared. He said, "The Di Clan decided to attack the Xiang Clan as well? How did they find out about the relationship between the Xiang Clan and the Ziling Sect?"

Purple Lightning Marquis's main body was staying at the Ziling Sect, and he had left only a clone at the Xiang Clan. Not even he had expected the Di Clan to attack the Xiang Clan.

He suspected a certain possibility. Di Batian was supposed to be the only outsider who knew about the relationship between the Xiang Clan and the Ziling Sect. Di Batian was dead, but nobody knew if he had told the Di Clan about it before. The other possibility was the Yu Clan. Due to Xiang Shaoyun's relationship with Yu Caidie, the Yu Clan had long guessed of Xiang Shaoyun's background.

"Lord Marquis, we can't let this slide!" said the Xiang Clan patriarch, Xiang Gaoming.

"Don't worry. Someone will pay for this," said Purple Lightning Marquis. "Have the clan be on alert for now. I'll personally keep an eye out for the Di Clan's people."

Xiang Shaoyun was also informed of the outer clan's destruction. His face turned unsightly.

"Looks like the Di Clan really needs to be destroyed," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

The Xiang Clan might already be connected to the Ziling Sect through teleportation formations, but the Di Clan had caught them by complete surprise, not giving them even a chance to provide any help during the attack.

"That Di Monarch's main body has probably returned to their clan. I might be able to deal with him if I work with Purple Lightning, but the other Gods will be hard to deal with," said Xiang Yangzhan with a heavy tone.

"The Di Clan is a bereaved imperial clan. They definitely won't be as simple as they look. We need more help if we really want to destroy them. We can't allow them another chance to rise back," said Purple Lightning Marquis coldly.

Everyone knew how strong the Di Clan was and couldn't think of a good way of dealing with them. In comparison, they were only strong enough to defend themselves. To attack the Di Clan, they had to first break through the god-grade formation. Apart from the formation, the Di Clan also had Gods no weaker than the ones on their side. An attack would be no easy feat.

"Overlord, I can have the Darkdevil Sect help!" said Devil Concubine.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up, but his face fell again as he said, "This is a fight to the death. It will have great repercussions."

The participation of any big organization in a war of such a level would be a major incident. The Darkdevil Sect might not be willing to get involved in something like this. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was hesitating, he was informed that Dong Ziwan had arrived and was requesting to meet him.

Xiang Shaoyun's mood improved somewhat upon hearing that, and he personally went out to greet her. When he arrived at the main gate, he saw a graceful Dong Ziwan standing there with an ordinary-looking middle-aged woman beside her.

"Ziwan!" Xiang Shaoyun called out joyfully.

Dong Ziwan was dressed in a green outfit that perfectly accentuated her flawless figure. A joyful smile hung on her gentle and refined face while her eyes rippled with emotions, as though all her longing for Xiang Shaoyun had been gathered in her eyes.

"Shaoyun!" she called out, her crisp voice seemingly making the world around her a much better place.

Xiang Shaoyun dashed forth and hugged her without a care for the crowd around them and said, "Finally, I see you again."

He had not seen her since the battle at the Heavenly Snow Mountain. Since she was here looking for him, it was obvious she had thought through things and found peace within herself.

"Sorry. I should have been here earlier, but I was delayed by something else," said Dong Ziwan. Her face was flushed red, making her look even more attractive than before.

"It's fine. So long as you're here, everything is fine," said Xiang Shaoyun. He then looked at the middle-aged woman and asked, "And how should I address this lady?"

He could sense traces of a rather extraordinary aura from the woman. She was most likely an expert of considerable strength. As for Dong Ziwan, she had reached third-stage Saint Realm. It was extremely shocking for her to reach such a cultivation level with her talent. She must have stumbled upon a rather decent fortuitous encounter. Or perhaps the middle-aged woman had played a role in her advancement.

Dong Ziwan hurriedly introduced, "Shaoyun, she's my master, Piao Ran."

"Lord Piao Ran. My apologies for my lack of manners. Welcome to the Ziling Sect!" said Xiang Shaoyun with his hands cupped respectfully.

Since she was Dong Ziwan's master, she was naturally worthy of his respect.

Piao Ran shot Xiang Shaoyun a glance before she nodded and replied with a single "Um" before going silent again.

Her indifference caused Xiang Shaoyun to blank out slightly. Fortunately, Dong Ziwan was quick to explain, "My master does not enjoy talking to strangers. Don't mind her."

"Don't worry. Let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun graciously.

He could sense that Piao Ran was most likely a God. As a God, the air of arrogance around her was understandable. Xiang Shaoyun then brought both Dong Ziwan and Piao Ran to the sect's honored guest area.

The moment Piao Ran stepped into the sect, she sensed several powerful auras, causing her to think inwardly, The Ziling Sect is actually filled with hidden experts!

At the same time, Purple Lightning Marquis and Xiang Yangzhan sensed Piao Ran's aura. They hurriedly swept their senses over, afraid that the Di Clan had come. Only upon sensing that the visitor was brought in by Xiang Shaoyun did they withdraw their senses. After all, it would be considered disrespectful to scan a guest with their senses.

Xiang Shaoyun had people prepare some spiritual fruits and spring water to serve the two. After casually sampling the fruits and water, Piao Ran sat aside silently. Seeing that, Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly had some people arrange the accommodation for Piao Ran before inviting her to rest first. After Piao Ran left, Xiang Shaoyun and Dong Ziwan could finally spend some time alone.

"Sorry, Shaoyun. My master might seem detached, but she is very warm inside. Don't mind her too much," Dong Ziwan apologized again.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "Your master must be a hermit expert. It is understandable for her to have a unique personality. Let's stop talking about her and talk about you instead. How have you been all these years?"

"I have been fine. My lucky break came when I met my master. Without her, I would have died long ago," said Dong Ziwan with a smile.

Chapter 1557: Trip to the Southern Wasteland

Evidently, Dong Ziwan had experienced much in recent years. However, she had survived the toughest time of that period and was now feeling fine. She gave Xiang Shaoyun a simplified story of what she had experienced.

In her heart, Xiang Shaoyun was someone who had experienced a trial of life and death with her. For her, he was someone extremely close. Since he was also willing to listen, he would be the best person to share her story with. Apart from him, she wouldn't be able to find anyone else to share her story with.

After listening to her story, Xiang Shaoyun had complicated emotions. What she had experienced might not be as intense as his experience, but they were still experiences on the edge of death. Her face had even been destroyed in the process. Any other woman in her position would have lost all hope in life. Fortunately, Dong Ziwan had survived and had even benefited considerably from her experience.

From Dong Ziwan's story, it was clear her master was an extraordinary individual. However, Dong Ziwan was still unaware of her master's actual affiliations. This time, Dong Ziwan had come looking for Xiang Shaoyun due to her longing for him. After this visit, she would accompany her master back to her master's organization. At that time, she would finally know her master's background.

Xiang Shaoyun had thought that Dong Ziwan had come for shelter. He was thus surprised to find that she was only here to visit. In fact, he was slightly disappointed to hear that she wasn't staying.

Nevertheless, he was still happy that she was willing to visit him. At the very least, her visit had removed some of his gloominess caused by his clash with the Di Clan. After spending three days at the sect, Dong Ziwan left with her master.

Prior to leaving, Piao Ran transmitted to Xiang Shaoyun, "If you want to become Ziwan's man, enter the Heaven Battling Ranking's top 10. Only then would you be worthy of her."

This was the second time Xiang Shaoyun had heard about the Heaven Battling Ranking. Previously, he had heard the term from his master. This time, it was from Piao Ran. It was said that the Heaven Battling Ranking Competition was held every 500 years. As for the venue and the method of competition, Xiang Shaoyun was completely clueless.

Fortunately, he still had eight years and wasn't in that much of a rush. For now, he was still focused on his crusade against the Di Clan.

After numerous discussions with his father and Purple Lightning Marquis, they decided that it still wasn't the time to act against the Di Clan. They needed more Gods and an expert capable of posing a threat to the Di Monarch. Only then would they be ready to face the Di Monarch. If they attacked immediately, there would be too many uncertainties, which was why Xiang Shaoyun decided to put his plan on hold.

It wouldn't be too late to declare war on the Di Clan after he became a God. In any case, the Di Clan would probably not dare to provoke them anytime soon. Otherwise, they could also go and destroy Di Flame City.

With a plan in mind, Xiang Shaoyun decided to enter seclusion and fully refine the two strands of God Realm energy in his body. But then, he received the signal sent by the Four Night Saints. The jade slip he had given them had been crushed. Evidently, they had either encountered danger or found what he had sent them to find.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun brought Scarlet Flame Monarch, Devouring Ghost, Liu Qingchen, Despair, and Despair's people to the Southern Wasteland. As for Yu Caidie and Devil Concubine, they had gained a lot from tempering at the Devil domain's entrance for a year. They needed some time in seclusion and would not be going with him.

Xiang Shaoyun hoped that the trip would bring him an unexpected surprise. The group tore through space and directly traveled through the void. Due to the distance between the Western Desert and Southern Wasteland, it would take Saints like them quite a while to make the journey. But with Scarlet Flame Monarch's lead, they could greatly shorten the time.

On the way, Xiang Shaoyun randomly recalled a close female friend of his, Lu Xiaoqing. He wondered how she was doing. In the past, the two had been reunited at the flower fairy race's place. At the time, she still wasn't particularly strong, but she did show signs of having the Pale Lotus Moon Physique, causing the flower fairies to put a much higher importance on her. After these years, she must have grown considerably.

I ought to pay Xiaoqing a visit after I'm done with this matter, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

One ought to admit that he had quite a lot of close female acquaintances. He felt a sense of guilt toward every one of them because he hadn't been able to spend enough time with them.

The Southern Wasteland was located at the south of the dominion. Filled with numerous desolate and wild mountains, it had preserved the primal form of nature. A large number of demonic beasts inhabited the region, making the Southern Wasteland a dangerous place no weakling would dare explore.

Tearing through layer upon layer of space, Xiang Shaoyun's group took three days to reach the Southern Wasteland. Upon arriving, Xiang Shaoyun quickly sensed the Four Night Saints' location. He pointed Scarlet Flame Monarch toward the location, and they started descending toward it. But after arriving in the sky just above the location, Despair and Bing Busi started emanating a unique baleful aura.

When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the change in them, he asked, "Despair, I remember that you came from the Southern Wasteland. Is this the place?"

Despair nodded and said, "This place is the Southern Mythic Province, ruled by the royal clan of Tiele. They are a self-proclaimed royal clan that does not dare to call themselves an imperial clan. Despite this, they are this territory's absolute tyrant. I used to be a member of the clan, but I suffered under the schemes of villains and was forced to leave with my trusted aides. We had eventually arrived at the Desert of Despair and had started making a living out of banditry."

"I see. After we're done with this, shall we go and retake what is rightfully yours?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Despair turned emotional as he asked, "Can we really?"

"Of course. I will never mistreat a brother who fights alongside me," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"I'll thank you in advance, overlord," said Despair gratefully. "The Tiele Clan does not lack experts. They have at least two Gods in their ranks. If we're going to move against them, we need to properly plan it out."

"Um. We'll act after gathering more information on the Tiele Clan," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

Soon, they arrived at an area at the edge of the Southern Mythic Province. In the area was a desolate mountain with messy underbrush and ancient trees growing everywhere. A large number of demonic beasts were also in the area, and the air was filled with poisonous miasma. A regular cultivator would have no way of approaching.

After landing on the ground, Xiang Shaoyun sensed the Four Night Saints nearby and summoned them.

The four flew over from four different directions. They bowed and said, "Greetings, overlord."

The people with Xiang Shaoyun were shocked to see four Great Saints coming out of nowhere. None of them had expected that Xiang Shaoyun would have such powerful followers hidden in the Southern Wasteland. Nobody knew how he had gathered such powerful followers.

"Alright. Tell me, what did you find here?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

Chapter 1558: Dynastic Remains

Ye Long gave Xiang Shaoyun a simplified version of the story, "We came here in accordance with the map you gave us. We also confirmed that the map is accurate. However, the Tiele Clan had also discovered this place. They seem to be searching for something and have sealed the entire area off. Since we can't approach the place anymore, we decided to inform you so you can decide on our next path of action."

"What a coincidence," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile. "Scarlet Flame, did you find anything?"

Scarlet Flame Monarch shut his eyes for a bit before opening them. "A pseudo-God, two Great Saints, and several thousand cultivators are hidden around the mountain ahead of us. They are spread all over the place."

"Looks like they must have discovered something if they have so many people here," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh. "Despair, do you know anything about this place?"

Despair replied blankly, "No."

"The aura surrounding this place is ancient. It must have existed for a very long time. Is there anything special about this place?" asked Liu Qingchen doubtfully.

Xiang Shaoyun did not answer. Rather, he took the map from the Four Night Saints. After glancing at the map, his eyes lit up, and he said, "According to the map, this is the remains of a bereaved imperial dynasty. I hope it doesn't disappoint."

Everyone was shocked. The so-called bereaved imperial dynasty was a dynasty that had been displaced or even destroyed. Such a dynasty had once enjoyed a time of glory before their eventual demise. Even so, the things they left behind would not be ordinary. If they could find the remains of the imperial dynasty, they might be able to obtain great benefits. That was why Xiang Shaoyun had come all the way out here.

"Hide yourself. I'll go take a look," said Xiang Shaoyun as he turned invisible before charging ahead.

At the same time, he activated his divine dao eyes, covering the entire area in his vision as he tried to see through the place. Not anyone would be able to cultivate something like the divine dao eyes. It was extremely rare even among Gods. With these eyes, one would be able to see through many things and search for things that had been hidden away.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun activated his eyes, the world was exposed before him in great detail. Not even the tiny ants on the surrounding tree leaves could hide from him. As for the Tiele Dynasty members who were searching the area, they were naturally exposed as well.

Initially, Xiang Shaoyun did not notice anything. But it didn't take him long to discover something. His gaze landed on an inconspicuous mountain ridge. The ridge looked bleak with little flora

growing on it. In fact, there weren't even any demonic beasts residing on it. As for the Tiele Dynasty people searching the area, they had also completely ignored the mountain ridge. Such an inconspicuous mountain ridge actually hid something.

"So this is the place that has been suppressing the area. This mountain ridge definitely hides the secret of this place," muttered Xiang Shaoyun joyfully.

The mountain ridge wasn't big, but underneath it were countless formation lines, which were most definitely the lines of god-grade formations stacked together. Even God Realm formation masters would have a hard time unraveling them.

God-grade formations were capable of hiding even from Gods. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's unique eyes and his identity as a formation master, he wouldn't have been able to notice anything wrong with the mountain ridge either.

After arriving at the mountain ridge, he observed his surroundings and discovered something astonishing.

"This place is surrounded by three horizontal veins and six vertical veins, forming an aura of nine converging dragons that is even more powerful than what the Dragon Society had. Unfortunately, the entire place had been reduced into a valley. Looks like the foundations of this dynasty have been completely ruined," gasped Xiang Shaoyun in alarm.

A terrain of nine converging dragons would be a holy land of cultivation with countless mountains. However, such terrain couldn't be found so easily. After confirming that this place was indeed the site of a ruined imperial dynasty, Xiang Shaoyun calmed down. The only thing he needed to do next was to find a way to uncover what was hidden here.

He returned to the group and said, "I found the location, but to avoid exposure, we need to first deal with the Tiele Dynasty."

Despair offered, "Let the Army of Despair handle this."

The killing intent in his eyes was clear for all to see.

"You guys won't be enough. We need to do it fast without giving them any chances to try anything. Otherwise, we will only garner unwanted attention," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Everyone will act together."

Everyone present was a top-tier expert. They even had a God like Scarlet Flame Monarch around. A group like this would be hard-pressed to find a match. Xiang Shaoyun then let the group move out while he flew toward the mountain ridge.

There, he utilized the profundity of earth and spread his senses through the ground. At the same time, he activated his divine dao eyes and looked right through the mountain. The mountain ridge was merely a distraction. The formation was actually located at the foot of the mountain. Using the profundity of earth, Xiang Shaoyun opened a tunnel right below him and sunk into the ground.

Gods specializing in the power of earth could all freely travel through the ground. Although Xiang Shaoyun was only a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, he had high mastery over the power of earth, making him capable of such a feat as well.

After he went several hundred meters into the ground, he sensed a thick layer of earth energy beneath him.

The energy was hidden rather well, but it couldn't escape his senses. With the Desolation mantra, he absorbed some of the energy and found that the energy was actually produced by saint crystals.

"Looks like a saint crystal vein had formed underneath," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in joy as he continued sinking deeper into the ground.

After sinking for about 1,000 meters into the ground, he finally sensed some change in the soil around him. The soil was so hard he could hardly split it with only his Saint Realm energy. He had no choice but to use brute force and dig his way through instead. Before long, the sight of a saint crystal vein greeted him. He did not do anything to it as he had noticed that the formation lines were all carved onto the vein.

"How opulent. Using a saint crystal vein as the formation eye? Anyone greedy enough to steal these crystals will be immediately pulverized," exclaimed Xiang Shaoyun.

He then started clearing his surroundings, forming a cave above the vein. Only by clearing the god-grade formation based around the vein would he be able to enter the site of the dynasty.

"The god-grade formation here is not to be underestimated. I need to study it carefully before trying anything," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. He was in no rush to break the formation as it was too complicated for him to take light of it.

Chapter 1559: Breaking the God-grade Formation

Xiang Shaoyun sat down cross-legged and started slowly sensing the formation lines carved atop the crystal vein, etching every single one of them into his brain. Meanwhile, a slaughter was progressing all around him. Scarlet Flame Monarch had set his eyes on a pseudo-God and two Great Saints. As a God, he mounted a sneak attack on them, easily defeating them.

However, he did not kill them; Xiang Shaoyun had requested that they capture the pseudo-Gods and Great Saints alive. As for the other enemies, none of them could escape. All of them perished under the hands of Despair, his men, and the Four Night Saints.

One of the top-tier Saints recognized Despair. A look of overwhelming shock covered his face as he exclaimed, "Y-you're the crown prince!"

"What a surprise. There is still someone here who remembers me? Good for you. At least you won't die a clueless death," said Despair as he locked onto the Saint with his aura of despair.

He then started madly slashing at the Saint. One saber of despair after another flew toward the Saint, instantly seriously injuring the helpless Saint and pushing the Saint to the brink of death. Quick-witted, the Saint quickly begged for mercy, promising to reveal the Tiele Dynasty's current situation. Only then did he gain the chance to live.

Since Despair wanted to reclaim everything that was his, he needed to understand the dynasty's current circumstances. Thus, he spared the Saint for now. Soon, he learned of the dynasty's latest updates. He also found out that the king had killed all his fellow clan members from his branch. Upon learning of that, he almost lost control over his killing intent.

Tiele Daxiong, I won't spare you! roared Despair inwardly.

Tiele Daxiong was none other than the king of the Tiele Dynasty. What grudge did he have with Despair? In truth, Despair was the descendant of the previous king and had been appointed the crown prince. Unfortunately, Despair was still a young boy when the king passed away from some accident.

The current king took the chance to steal the throne and proclaimed that he would return the throne to Despair when Despair reached adulthood. As Despair grew, he became a renowned general and crown prince that enjoyed the support of the masses. At that point, the king was naturally unwilling to pass on the throne that the king had snatched with great hardship. Thus, he schemed against Despair and almost killed Despair.

With great difficulty, Despair escaped with his life. However, he had become a wanted fugitive and could only live in the Western Desert. He started cultivating hard, hoping to one day take his revenge against the king.

Despair was now a Great Saint that even a peak Great Saint would have a hard time defeating. In fact, one needed to be a pseudo-God to stand a chance against him. However, he alone still couldn't take back everything that was his. Thus, he placed his hope on Xiang Shaoyun.

So long as Xiang Shaoyun agreed, Gods would move out against the Tiele Dynasty's Gods, giving Despair the chance to reclaim his throne.

After cleaning up the battlefield, Despair and his men arrived at the mountain ridge Xiang Shaoyun was at. He became increasingly hopeful that he would be able to take his revenge.

After two days of silent sensing, Xiang Shaoyun had finally finished investigating the god-grade formation.

After letting out a long breath, he said, "I never expected this to be three formations placed atop each other. How complicated. Furthermore, it covers a large area. This formation's creator is truly a monstrous genius."

With his memories from his previous two lifetimes, Xiang Shaoyun was extremely proficient in formations. Even so, he had no choice but to admit that the creator of this formation was an incredible expert. He stood up, released his clone, and flew out of the cave. He could sense that the aura of all the Tiele Dynasty members had disappeared.

With a satisfied expression, he looked at the Army of Despair standing guard around the mountain ridge and said, "Split into small groups and spread out. Don't allow anyone to approach this place."

"Yes, overlord."

Xiang Shaoyun then transmitted to Scarlet Flame Monarch, "Scarlet Flame, seal this place up. I might create quite a big scene later. I don't wish to attract any unwanted trouble."

Scarlet Flame Monarch nodded and sealed the area, making it so that an ordinary person would have no way of sensing or approaching the area. As for Xiang Shaoyun, both his main body and clone started working in tandem to break the formation.

The formation was not only located underneath the mountain ridge—many hidden formation lines were also beneath the nearby valleys. He had to work on the inner and outer formation at the same time before he could destroy the formation eye. Only then would he be able to slowly disable the formation. Otherwise, not even a God would be able to locate the entrance. In fact, the God might instead trigger the formation and turn himself into a pile of mincemeat.

Splitting his attention into two, Xiang Shaoyun utilized the divine dao eyes and profundity of earth to slowly destroy the formation eye. Despite his smooth progress, he still broke out in cold sweat, afraid that he would accidentally make a mistake. A mistake would cost him his life.

With his cautiousness and the divine dao eyes, he eventually broke the formation without any mishaps. He had taken seven days in total to achieve that feat. One could only imagine the feat's difficulty.

In his process of breaking the formation, he had also gained significantly, as his understanding on the combination of formations had deepened considerably. With the formation gone, the area around them underwent great changes. A terrifying dragon roar resounded from the valleys all around them.

Roar!

Nine energy dragons soared from the valleys. The dragons were stunning and lifelike, giving off a massive pressure to everyone in the area. Fortunately, everyone was an expert. They were able to resist such pressure, and no one was adversely affected.

"Sure enough, this is the aura of nine converging dragons. Even after being abandoned for so many years, these nine dragons are still considerably powerful. There is probably quite a lot of dragon liquid under the ground," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. He then reached out and absorbed the nine dragons into his astral cosmos sea.

The nine dragons were enough to help a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator advance rapidly. In fact, they were extremely helpful even for Money. Of course, Xiang Shaoyun did not plan to let Money have them.

Money was already a Demon Saint. The celestial snake and dragon bloodlines in his body had reached a perfect balance. Even if the energy dragons could increase his strength considerably, it would still be much better to use these energy dragons on the youngsters from the sect.

After all, the Ziling Sect youngsters were still somewhat weak compared to the youngsters of other tier-8 organizations. The nine energy dragons would bring them to a whole new level and shorten the gap between them and the youngsters of the other organizations.

Chapter 1560: Barbaric Dynasty

Naturally, after entering his astral cosmos sea and obtaining the nourishment of his primal inception energy, the nine energy dragons would probably undergo some enhancements, becoming even more useful than before.

With the formation gone, the mountain started sliding aside, creating a loud rumbling sound. The crystal vein cracked, and an entrance slowly appeared before their eyes. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to start gathering the saint crystals around him, he sensed a terrifying power surge out of the entrance.

"Shit!" He instantly activated his defenses and retreated.

A terrifying venomous energy soared out of the entrance. The energy was so poisonous even Saints would probably suffer from it. In fact, even Xiang Shaoyun felt himself go dizzy just from approaching the energy. At the same time, blisters started growing all over his body, and a large amount of poison invaded his meridians, attempting to poison him to death. He circulated flame and lightning energies through his meridians unhesitatingly, expelling all the poison from his body.

Upon going above the ground, he shouted, "Everyone, leave! A terrifying poison is coming!"

None of them dared to stay, and all of them soared into the sky. They had also sensed how terrifying the poison was. Soon, the poisonous fog covered the whole entrance. With energies of extreme yang, Xiang Shaoyun quickly recovered from the poison. He then had his people clear up the poisonous fog.

The poisonous fog might be scary to them, but they still wouldn't have any issues removing the fog. As they worked on clearing the fog, a figure shot up and threw an overbearing fist at Liu Qingchen.

Liu Qingchen reacted speedily and formed his Indestructible Avatar. However, the punch was too powerful, instantly punching through the avatar and sending Liu Qingchen flying away while coughing blood.

Liu Qingchen was a peak Great Saint. With his strength, he could even contend against pseudo-Gods. And yet, someone like him had been sent flying with one punch. One could only imagine how strong the attacker was.

Everyone was alarmed and hurriedly launched a barrage of attacks toward the attacker. The attacker seemed completely fearless and welcomed the attacks with a series of punches. Space collapsed, and all the surrounding Saints were sent flying. When Xiang Shaoyun focused, he found that the attacker was actually a god-grade puppet, which was why the attacker was so powerful.

"Looks like there are quite a lot of obstacles stopping one from advancing through the entrance. I hope the things I find inside won't disappoint," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he unleashed Yuan Gang upon the puppet.

Yuan Gang was a peak first-stage Devil God. With his physical strength, he could even contend against second-stage Gods. Thus, he would probably be able to suppress the puppet. While Yuan Gang was keeping the puppet occupied, Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to heal his companions.

After comprehending the profundity of life, Xiang Shaoyun had considerably enhanced his healing abilities. Thus, he was able to greatly support his companions during battle. Upon witnessing Xiang Shaoyun's healing prowess, their respect toward him increased. Not only was he strong, but he was also a capable healer. He was basically a monster capable of everything.

Xiang Shaoyun flew to Liu Qingchen's side and asked, "Still holding on?"

"That fellow is too terrifyingly strong. If he had continued coming after me, he might have punched me to death," said Liu Qingchen with a sigh.

"That's to be expected from a god-grade puppet. Come on, there shouldn't be any other dangers after this," said Xiang Shaoyun as he called out to the others.

Only a few people followed him under the ground. They were Devouring Ghost, Liu Qingchen, Despair, Bing Busi, and the other Army of Despair members. The rest stood guard outside the entrance. Even Scarlet Flame Monarch stayed outside to focus on sealing the area to prevent any unwanted attention.

Xiang Shaoyun and those he had chosen went deep underground. The entrance wasn't small. It had a diameter of over 10 meters. Some poisonous fog still remained, but Xiang Shaoyun's flame energy cleared it before it could pose any threat to the group.

With the divine dao eyes active, Xiang Shaoyun could see everything clearly. Before him was an incredibly deep tunnel. Ores and materials were lined neatly along the walls, and not far away was a wall cabinet containing a dim night pearl. Evidently, the pearl had stopped working due to the passage of time.

Some ancient carvings could be found on the walls as well. Upon closer look, one would find that these carvings depicted the day-to-day living of commoners. Each diagram depicted a different scene, but one could see that the people in the diagrams were happy with their lives.

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed the diagrams and sighed, "Are these depictions of the commoner's living environment in this dynasty?"

Suddenly, Despair exclaimed, "I-is this the Barbaric Dynasty?"

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Despair and asked, "Barbaric Dynasty? Do you know about them?"

Despair took a deep breath and said, "The Barbaric Dynasty is the first dynasty of the Southern Wasteland, and it's also the strongest dynasty in our history. Back then, they had almost conquered the entire Southern Wasteland. Even our ancestors were their mere descendants.

"The barbaric people were born with great physical strength and a powerful bloodline. Each of them was a powerful combatant. Subsequently, the alien races invaded. The Barbaric Dynasty formed one of the strongest resistances against the aliens, and it was during that war that they had sustained heavy losses. Eventually, a rebellion occurred, splitting the dynasty. Other organizations took the chance to attack while the dynasty was weak, ending the dynasty's reign."

"How do you know that this is the Barbaric Dynasty?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed at the diagrams.

"Look at their attire. All of them are clad in animal hides. Also, look at their sturdy bodies. From this, we can see that they were members of the Barbaric Dynasty," said Despair.

"So this is really the ruins of the Barbaric Dynasty?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

He then increased his speed as he traveled through the tunnel.

Along the way, the diagrams along the walls kept changing. Toward the end, the diagrams started portraying the Barbaric Dynasty's struggles against the aliens, proving that Despair was right. Xiang Shaoyun and his group wondered if the people in these diagrams were still alive. Otherwise, how would there be these diagrams?

By the time they reached the end of the tunnel, they found their surroundings brightening up. They had arrived at an enormous public square that could house thousands of people. The sight before them was incredibly majestic, and it greatly shocked them.