

## Overlord 1681

### Chapter 1681: The Occupied Imperial Dusk Palace

The Imperial Dusk Palace was the main place the devil invaders were occupying. They had more than 10 Devil Gods standing guard there. The palace had a high level of importance among all their conquests over humanity. It was the most guarded place after the Devil Domain's entrance.

In the past, the Imperial Dusk Palace was a glorious building. Now, it was barely recognizable from all the damage. It was filled with devilish energy, and only the main palace remained from the destruction caused by the devils.

Within the main palace was a secret place, a place the Dusk Dynasty had spent 1,000 years preparing in their God-creation plan. That place was very well hidden and was even sealed by a god-grade formation. Even a late-stage God would have a hard time discovering its existence. Only a God with the imperial bloodline would be able to gain access to that place.

After Huang Baiwu brought Xiang Shaoyun out of the Saintly Forest Courtyard, he withdrew his presence and started approaching the Imperial Dusk Palace. Their goal was the secret place in the main palace and to obtain the fortuitous opportunity the dynasty had spent 1,000 years preparing.

"Lord Baiwu, what did the dynasty leave there, exactly? It can even help push my cultivation by two levels?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"The God Realm energy we left behind was sealed there. The energy was not only left by the imperial family. All the Rebirth Realm experts loyal to the dynasty had also left their energy there. We had gathered all the energy using a god-grade formation to turn it into a divine source," said Huang Baiwu solemnly.

"You were able to form the long-lost Divine Source Formation?" Xiang Shaoyun was astonished.

The Divine Source Formation was one of the greatest god-grade formations to ever exist. It was capable of gathering a large amount of God Realm energy into a single chunk of a pure God Realm energy crystal. Any God Realm expert could directly absorb the crystal, and the crystal was much more beneficial than even a god crystal. After all, the energy crystal was the crystallized energy of actual Rebirth Realm experts.

Xiang Shaoyun had his book of formations, but the Divine Source Formation was not recorded in the book. It was rumored that the formation had been lost in the distant past. Surprisingly, the Dusk Dynasty actually had it in their possession.

"I had obtained it by accident 1,000 years ago," said Huang Baiwu. "There is an eighth-stage Devil God diabolic dragon in the palace and at least three seventh-stage Devil Gods. If the emperor emeritus was in his peak condition, he might be able to give you some help. Unfortunately, we can only rely on ourselves."

"Just tell me the spot, and I'll go myself," said Xiang Shaoyun as he seemed determined to obtain the opportunity.

"Did you not hear what I said? With your strength, it will be too dangerous," said Huang Baiwu.

"Don't forget that I have the Imperial Nether Clan's abilities as well," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Fine. I'll tell you the exact position," said Huang Baiwu with a look of realization. He then told Xiang Shaoyun the position and also asked that Xiang Shaoyun take the Dusk Dynasty's divine weapon, the Divine Dusk Truncheon, out of that place. With the truncheon, the Dusk Dynasty would have a higher chance of rebuilding their fallen kingdom.

Xiang Shaoyun could not understand why they had placed the Divine Dusk Truncheon in the secret place. Only after asking did he know that the devils had invaded too suddenly. None of them were prepared. The Divine Dusk Truncheon was too important because it was an item that held the fortune of their dynasty. It was not a weapon they could use lightly. Now that the kingdom had fallen, it was time for the Divine Dusk Truncheon to be put to use.

Huang Baiwu handed a token and a ball of blood to Xiang Shaoyun. The combination of the blood and the token would open the entrance of the formation. It would also activate the secret technique imprinted on the Divine Dusk Truncheon. So long as the Divine Dusk Truncheon was activated from its hibernation, they would be able to use it against the devils.

After stowing the two items away, Xiang Shaoyun concealed himself and headed toward the location he was given. As for Little Azure and Little White, they were left outside the palace in preparation to assist during his escape.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun, who had vanished into thin air, Huang Baiwu exclaimed inwardly, If he can retrieve the Divine Dusk Truncheon for us, we can even consider lending him our help in his fight for the young guild master position. That might also be a chance at a fresh start for us.

After turning invisible and entering the palace, Xiang Shaoyun saw many devils inside. These devils were clearly not used to the environment on the surface world and seemed rather irritated. They constantly damaged their environment in agitation, and some were even fighting each other.

Xiang Shaoyun could also sense a powerful devilish aura coming from deep in the palace. It was most certainly from the Devil Gods stationed in the palace. The secret place was located in the palace's back courtyard. He headed over carefully, not daring to strut inside openly as he was afraid that some of the devils would be able to see through his innate ability.

Soon, he arrived at the back courtyard. The place had suffered a lot of damage, so it wouldn't be so easy to locate the entrance to the secret place. The back courtyard was also being watched over by a powerful devil. The devil was some sort of lizard devil, and it occupied the entire back courtyard with its massive body. Even the entrance to the secret place was covered under its body, making it impossible for Xiang Shaoyun to enter without alerting the devil.

I need to think of a way to get rid of this fellow without attracting notice, thought Xiang Shaoyun to himself. The Imperial Nether Domain appeared noiselessly and enveloped the lizard devil.

The lizard devil was a second-stage Devil God. It had a fast reaction time, but it wasn't faster than the Imperial Nether Domain. By the time it attempted to retreat, it was already too late.

"Imperial Nether Domain? Who are you?" asked the lizard devil.

"You're not qualified to know," replied Xiang Shaoyun before suppressing the lizard with his soul.

The lizard devil might be strong, but it was completely helpless before Xiang Shaoyun's soul. It was quickly terminated.

However, the activation of the Imperial Nether Domain had also attracted the attention of the diabolic dragon in the main palace. He opened his eyes and muttered, "Why is there the aura of the Imperial Nether Clan?" He shouted at the door, "Search the place and see if any fellows from the Imperial Nether Clan are here."

"Yes, lord," a voice replied.

The diabolic dragon wasn't too worried. In his human form, he walked out of the palace and headed toward where he sensed the aura. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun had already withdrawn his Imperial Nether Domain while the lizard devil had been completely erased. Just as he was about to open the entrance to the secret place, he sensed the diabolic dragon's aura. In his panic, he hurriedly hid in a corner.

The diabolic dragon was a peak eighth-stage Devil God and was far stronger than Xie Lou. Even with his soul, Xiang Shaoyun would not be this devil's match.

"Why is it gone now?" The diabolic dragon frowned.

#### Chapter 1682: This Is The Divine Source?

Xiang Shaoyun withdrew his entire presence, becoming one with the world around him. That, in addition to his Invisible Nether ability, erased all traces of him. The diabolic dragon that had just arrived was extremely strong. His senses were sharp, and he constantly scanned the courtyard, scrutinizing even the ants crawling in the corner of the courtyard.

After a while, the diabolic dragon frowned before vanishing into thin air. Xiang Shaoyun still did not dare to move. He remained motionless because he did not believe that the diabolic dragon had left so easily. The entire courtyard was probably still under the devil's observation.

Sure enough, the diabolic dragon reappeared after an hour. "The lizard's presence is gone. Something is off."

Soon, the diabolic dragon sensed a powerful aura coming from outside the palace. That was actually Huang Baiwu releasing his aura to attract the devils' attention. The diabolic dragon rushed outside, and Xiang Shaoyun was able to sense that the devil had truly left this time. Only then did he approach the entrance to the secret place.

The entrance was actually a well. When he looked inside, he could only see flowing spring water. No traces of the secret place entrance could be seen. Xiang Shaoyun unhesitatingly took out the imperial blood and the token before sending tendrils of energy into the spring water. The water split apart, revealing a spatial portal.

The diabolic dragon immediately sensed the spatial undulations. He rushed back without any hesitation. Xiang Shaoyun knew how little time he had, so he immediately charged through the portal. Then, the portal closed up.

Boom!

The moment Xiang Shaoyun vanished into the portal, an explosion erupted in the courtyard, erasing everything there. That was the diabolic dragon's attack. He was sure that someone was hiding in the courtyard, and he was confident he had sensed an aura. Thus, he had decided to erase the entire courtyard regardless of whether anyone could be found.

Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had left quickly enough. If he was even a tiny bit slower, he would have been forced out of hiding.

"Gone again!" the diabolic dragon yelled in frustration. A large amount of baleful energy erupted from his body and covered a large area as he tried to force the concealed enemy out of hiding.

Unfortunately for him, he was unfamiliar with the art of formations. He was unaware that Xiang Shaoyun was truly gone.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun's surroundings changed completely after he entered the secret place.

The secret place was an independent space, and it was actually a massive mausoleum. Atop the mausoleum were nine dragons serving to stabilize the place's fortune. Two ferocious stone statues of unknown beasts flanked the mausoleum, serving as guards. From the entrance of the mausoleum, strands of yin energy were leaking out, and they planted fear in anyone standing before the mausoleum.

Xiang Shaoyun stood where he was instead of rushing inside the mausoleum. He was sure that the two stone statues were actually god-grade puppets, which was what Huang Baiwu had told him. If he attempted to enter by force, the two puppets would attack. They were strong enough to easily kill fifth-stage Gods.

With the blood and the token in his hands, Xiang Shaoyun walked toward the mausoleum one step at a time. When he walked past the two puppets, they moved. Their massive stone bodies turned to face Xiang Shaoyun, and a ferocious aura leaked out of their eyes to suppress Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately activated the token. A burst of power erupted from the token as though a flame dragon was roaring. The power was incomparably mighty, and the puppets immediately stopped moving and returned to their previous positions, as though they had never moved in the first place.

"Sure enough, this is a place only those from the imperial clan can enter," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in admiration before stepping into the mausoleum.

The mausoleum was gloriously decorated, and it was as lavish as any imperial palace. It was wide, luxuriously decorated, and bright. A decent number of memorial tablets stood facing the entrance. These were the tablets of the ancestors of the Dusk imperial clan. Behind the memorial tablets hovered a truncheon. It shone brightly as though it was a raging sun, making it hard for one to look straight at it. That was none other than the Divine Dusk Truncheon, the Dusk Dynasty's heirloom weapon.

With Xiang Shaoyun's keen eyesight, he was able to see from the workmanship of the truncheon that it was a peak god-grade weapon. Even if it wasn't as high quality as the Divine Yin Yang Sword, it wasn't that far off.

After all, the truncheon was forged by the first emperor of the Dusk Dynasty. After being nourished for so many generations, it had naturally been able to reach a remarkable level of quality. The truncheon was sealed by several god-grade chains, and retrieving it wouldn't be an easy feat.

Xiang Shaoyun's attention wasn't focused on the truncheon. Rather, he was focusing on the two massive cauldrons to the right and left of the memorial tablets. The two cauldrons looked crude and ancient, yet they were also both god-grade objects. Strands of God Realm energy were wrapped around the two, emanating an extremely pure, incredibly alarming power.

With Xiang Shaoyun's mastery over formations, he could feel countless god-grade formation lines all over the mausoleum. These formation lines were linked not only to the truncheon but also to the two cauldrons. At that point, Xiang Shaoyun realized that the two cauldrons were probably what he was here for.

He approached the right cauldron, and when he looked over, he saw that there was indeed some energy hovering in the cauldron. Within the midst of the swirling energy, a milky white crystal could be seen. The swirling energy was actually being emanated by the crystal.

"This is the divine source?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in astonishment.

He could sense how pure the energy within the crystal was. The energy was also incomparably boundless, and there was no doubt that a God would be able to advance rapidly after absorbing it. Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to retrieve the crystal. He approached the other cauldron and saw that a divine source of a similar size could be found within it as well.

"These two divine sources should be enough to push me to the next stage," muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

A regular God would be able to advance by two stages with only one divine source. However, Xiang Shaoyun's energy requirement was several times, or even tens of times, higher than a regular God's. Thus, the two divine sources were only enough to raise his cultivation by one stage.

Even so, that was still an amazing feat. After all, any advancement in the God Realm would normally take an extremely long time.

#### Chapter 1683: With Ability Comes Courage

Xiang Shaoyun stored both divine sources in his astral cosmos sea because he wasn't planning on staying any longer. He intended to take his time and slowly absorb the two divine sources, pursuing his advancement smoothly and naturally. There was no need to rush the advancement.

After all, if he advanced too rapidly, he would only hinder his own progress in comprehending the profundities of the God Realm. Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't damage anything in the mausoleum after retrieving the two divine sources. Even though there were other god-grade objects there, he did not want to maximize his gains in such a manner. He would leave those objects for the Dusk Dynasty, hoping that they would be able to create even more divine sources in the future.

"It's time to release the Divine Dusk Truncheon to the world," said Xiang Shaoyun after glancing at the truncheon. He then flicked the blood given by Huang Baiwu toward the truncheon.

The moment the blood touched the truncheon, a divine radiance erupted from the weapon, filling the entire mausoleum with a blinding light. Draconic roars filled the air as though a flaming dragon was awakening in the mausoleum.

Outside the imperial palace, Huang Baiwu was able to sense something, and an expression of rapt joy covered his face. "The Divine Dusk Truncheon has been awakened! Please return and help us exterminate these devils!"

Whoosh!

In the mausoleum, the Divine Dusk Truncheon heard the summons and immediately flew out, as though it was actually sentient. It sliced through space itself as it traveled toward Huang Baiwu.

Xiang Shaoyun did not choose to leave immediately, as he had to wait until the devils relaxed their vigilance. In any case, he also wanted to take some time to study the Divine Source Formation. If he could learn to lay out the same foundation, it would be incredible.

From the altar before the memorial tablets, he found the sole copy of the formation. He opened the book, intending to study it carefully. The Divine Source Formation was a lost formation. It was not an offensive or defensive formation. Its sole function was to combine God Realm energy and god crystals to create a crystal of high purity that could help any Rebirth Realm cultivator increase their strength.

This was an amazing formation. As long as one had God Realm energy and god crystals, one would be able to produce an unending supply of divine sources. With the sources, one would be able to improve rapidly.

Xiang Shaoyun activated his Light of Wisdom without any hesitation as he studied the formation. With the light and his mastery over formations, he was able to quickly figure out how the formation worked.

"The Divine Source Formation can purify any Rebirth Realm energy and transform the energy into pure God Realm energy, which it then uses to form a divine source in order to preserve the pure energy," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

He then shut the book. He did not intend to take the book out, as he already had everything memorized. After returning to the Ziling Sect, he would be able to lay out the same formation. Then, he only needed to have the Gods of the sect periodically feed the formation with energy to start producing their own divine sources.

After calculating the time, Xiang Shaoyun noted that three days had passed. It was time for him to leave. He did the same thing and turned invisible before leaving. He naturally didn't dare to leave openly.



He returned to the courtyard and found that the place had been flattened. Fortunately, the formation leading into the secret place had not been destroyed, or he would probably have found himself trapped with no way out.

He wasted no time and moved away as quickly as he could. At the same time, he slowly absorbed the divine sources in his astral cosmos sea bit by bit. His cultivation grew without stopping. On his way back to the Saintly Forest Courtyard, he sensed an intense battle high in the sky. After some hesitation, he flew into the sky, curious to see who the combatants were.

High in the sky, he found that the Dusk Dynasty's emperor emeritus was fighting against the peak eighth-stage Devil God diabolic dragon with the Divine Dusk Truncheon. As for Huang Baiwu, he was fighting several Devil Gods alongside several Gods. All in all, the sky had been transformed into a chaotic battleground.

He also saw Little Azure and Little White in the fight, facing Devil Gods that were even stronger than them.

With the Divine Dusk Truncheon in his hand, the emperor emeritus fought valiantly. Even though he hadn't recovered to his peak condition, he was still able to unleash a great amount of strength to fight the diabolic dragon to a standstill.

The diabolic dragons were one of the supreme devil races, and they could barely find any opponents among those of the same cultivation level. Thus, it was actually very impressive of the emperor emeritus to be able to fight the diabolic dragon evenly.

Fortunately, we already have the Divine Dusk Truncheon. Otherwise, I wouldn't be this diabolic dragon's match. Even if I have to risk my life, I have to deal him some actual injuries today, thought the emperor emeritus.

The diabolic dragon hadn't been able to put all his focus on the fight, as he was still watching out for the concealed enemy from days ago. He kept having a feeling that a human was hiding among them, which gave him a sense of unease.

Nevertheless, the devils still held the upper hand in the battle, as they had three seventh-stage Devil Gods among them, whereas the Saintly Forest Courtyard only had two seventh-stage Gods on their side.

The actual master of the Saintly Forest Courtyard had been in seclusion for many years, and he had remained in seclusion even after the devils invaded. If the old master was actually around, he would be strong enough to end the invasion on behalf of humanity. After all, that old master was someone almost comparable to the dominion's legendary nine powerhouses.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't idle around as everyone fought. After scanning his surroundings, he focused his gaze on the strongest diabolic dragon present. He muttered, "To defeat a group of enemies, I need to first get their leader. If I can seriously injure that diabolic dragon, I can probably increase the morale of those on our side."

After coming to a decision, Xiang Shaoyun released his soul clone and sent it toward the battle between the emperor emeritus and the diabolic dragon. That was a battle between two top-tier Gods, and regular Gods would get as far as they could from a battle of such a level. For Xiang Shaoyun to dare interfere in such a battle probably proved that ability and courage came hand in hand.

Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to attack. He kept his presence hidden as he waited for the best opportunity to attack.

The emperor emeritus fought fiercely. The Divine Dusk Truncheon in his hands shone like a bright sun. Numerous rays emanated from the truncheon as though countless dragons were flailing about, spreading massive destruction and reducing anything around them into nothingness.

The diabolic dragon had transformed back into his true form. His 10,000-meter-long body was incomparably powerful, emitting a large amount of baleful energy into his surroundings with every move. His limbs, torso, and tail were akin to weapons that could not only block the emperor emeritus's attacks but could also counterattack.

"Nationless humans, you have successfully angered me. I will reduce you to ashes," roared the diabolic dragon before soaring into the sky. A large amount of evil energy gathered to form an evil cloud, and as the diabolic dragon opened his jaws, numerous evil clouds spread in all directions.

Space Consuming Evil Cloud!

Instantly, the area was corroded into nothingness. Not even the emperor emeritus's flame energy could damage the evil clouds. The clouds rapidly surrounded the emperor emeritus. Once the process was completed, even the emperor emeritus would not be able to escape death. It was at that moment that Xiang Shaoyun made his move.

## Chapter 1684: Joining Hands to Defeat the Enemies

### Chaotic Spacetime!

The moment Xiang Shaoyun attacked, he held nothing back. With a swing of the Divine Yin Yang Sword, a slash rippled out and threw space and time into disorder, causing everyone to blank out momentarily.

The diabolic dragon was concentrating on fighting the emperor emeritus and could not afford to pay attention to his surroundings. He only sensed Xiang Shaoyun after Xiang Shaoyun had attacked, but that was too late. The chaos of space and time wasn't something anyone could resist. Even as an eighth-stage Devil God, the diabolic dragon wasn't immune to the power of time.

The sword ray sliced into the evil clouds and reached the diabolic dragon's body. The domineering slash cut through even the diabolic dragon's scales and sent the sword energy into his body, causing him to wail in pain. The concentrated evil clouds around him started loosening.

The emperor emeritus did not know what had happened, but he knew that this was his perfect chance to counterattack. If he missed this chance, it might not return.

### Dusk Revolution!

He put everything he had into the attack as he rapidly formed hand signs with his hands around the Divine Dusk Truncheon. A terrifying ball of flame manifested, and instantly, a setting sun appeared in the sky. It dropped down upon the injured diabolic dragon.

The setting sun carried an extreme level of power. Even a regular ninth-stage God would not dare to easily take the attack head on. The terrifying flame power could burn others with a mere touch.

As the sun pressed down upon the diabolic dragon, the evil clouds were burned into nothingness. The diabolic dragon was unwilling to accept his defeat just like that. Thus, he spat out the Diabolic Dragon Curse in an attempt to contend against the setting sun. At the same time, he swept his tail toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The desperate counterattack was extremely domineering. Xiang Shaoyun could sense the power behind the tail swipe, and he did not dare to take the attack head on. He hurriedly moved away at

the fastest speed he could and swung his sword repeatedly, unleashing even more time attacks at the diabolic dragon.

The emperor emeritus's full-powered attack was not something one could take lightly. As the diabolic dragon was already injured, his curse seemed lacking when the setting sun blasted it apart. Boundless flame power descended and swallowed the dragon. The only thing the diabolic dragon could do was enter his strongest defensive mode and protect his life.

Rumble! Rumble!

Explosion after explosion erupted, and numerous shockwaves spread out far. Finally, the attacks became too much for the diabolic dragon, and he started focusing on escaping.

"Just you wait! I will repay you for this!" roared the diabolic dragon indignantly.

Not even the emperor emeritus could stop this diabolic dragon if the diabolic dragon set his mind to escaping. He and Xiang Shaoyun could only watch as the diabolic dragon left. But fortunately, this battle had not been fought for nothing. At the very least, it was guaranteed that this diabolic dragon, in particular, would need a considerable amount of time before he could return to his peak condition.

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun's soul clone reveal itself.

When the emperor emeritus saw Xiang Shaoyun, he couldn't help but exclaim, "It's you, young friend? Looking at how you fight, this old man feels ashamed of myself."

Without Xiang Shaoyun's sneak attack on the diabolic dragon, the emperor emeritus would have probably had a hard time forcing the diabolic dragon to retreat.

"You're too kind, lord. I was merely successful due to some tricks I have. If I had joined the battle head on, I would have died the moment it began," said Xiang Shaoyun humbly.

"We'll talk later. Let's get rid of the rest of the devils here," said the emperor emeritus before charging toward the other devils.

Xiang Shaoyun's main body had long joined the battle against the other devils. He held nothing back as he trapped two Devil Gods in his Imperial Nether Domain before killing them inside it.

The Imperial Nether Clan was able to become one of the paramount devil clans due to their powerful innate ability. Regular devils were nothing compared to them. Xiang Shaoyun owned the strongest bloodline power of the Imperial Nether Clan, granting him an incredibly high level of talent in terms of combat.

With the diabolic dragon's retreat, the other Devil Gods lost the courage to stay. They fled as quickly as they could. The emperor emeritus and Huang Baiwu greatly loathed the devils, so they were able to kill two Devil Gods before they could escape.

They wasted no time and rushed toward the imperial palace and started killing all the devils there as well. Without the protection of the Devil Gods, these devils could be defeated easily.

Finally, the emperor emeritus and Huang Baiwu retook the Imperial Dusk Palace. Unfortunately, the palace was badly damaged and was not even fit for housing anyone anymore.

"Without fully eliminating the devils, we won't be able to rebuild the palace," said the emperor emeritus with a sigh.

"Don't worry, Emperor Emeritus. We still have survivors in the imperial clan. We can try to help them grow as fast as they can," said Huang Baiwu.

"This disaster to our Dusk Dynasty is merely the start of the chaotic times to come. Perhaps we need to make some choices if we want a chance to rebuild in the future," said the emperor emeritus. "Baiwu, you are the most talented member of our dynasty in the last 10,000 years. You should also be the one shouldering the burden of rebuilding the dynasty. However, the devils are too strong. It will be very hard for us to find a chance to rebuild. I wish to change the trajectory of your path. Only then will our imperial clan perhaps have the chance to continue existing."

"Emperor emeritus, I'll do anything you need me to," said Huang Baiwu solemnly.

The emperor emeritus had the highest status in the Dusk Dynasty. He was also the one responsible for the kingdom's past golden age. Because of that, Huang Baiwu held this emperor emeritus in extremely high esteem.

"The Guardians Guild is picking their young guild master. You are no longer qualified to fight for it. In that case, you should follow the young guild master. If you can become the young guild master's trusted aide, you will gain the ability to help the young of our clan rise again in the future," said the emperor emeritus with a sigh.

For people at their level, submitting to someone else was an extremely difficult feat, especially for a genius like Huang Baiwu.

After giving it some thought, Huang Baiwu said, "Emperor Emeritus, the young guild master will only be selected after another three years pass. Even if I want to follow him, I won't know where to start."

"Hehe. Countless geniuses are rising all over the dominion. Who among them do you think has the highest chance of winning the position?" asked the emperor emeritus with a smile.

"Naturally, the candidates of the two deputy guild masters naturally have a high chance. They had grown up living a life of glory that could give even me a sense of inferiority. There are also the three strongest successors. Each of them is a giant among men. There are also many emerging geniuses. As far as I'm concerned, the successors of the two deputy guild masters have the highest chance of winning the position," said Huang Baiwu. He then sighed and said, "I have no way to approach them. Besides, they might not even care much for me."

"Oh, Baiwu, you might be good at cultivating, but your vision is too narrow. The person with the highest chance of winning the position is someone right at our side!" said the emperor emeritus with a sigh.

## Chapter 1685: Lu Jiang

With the divine sources in hand, Xiang Shaoyun spent about half a month in seclusion at the Saintly Forest Courtyard. During that period of time, he absorbed the energy within the divine sources. The divine sources proved incredible as his cultivation rose rapidly. He was growing even faster than when he used a god crystal. At the speed he was growing, it wouldn't be long before he reached peak second-stage Rebirth Realm and could prepare to enter the third stage.

After ending the cultivation session, Xiang Shaoyun brought Little Azure and Little White out to hunt some devils.

For them, only Devil Gods could satisfy their itch for a good fight. It was better to leave the other devils to the other humans who wanted to train.

After the Diabolic Dragon Clan's defeat at the Dusk Dynasty, the devils seemed to have gone crazy. They kept sending powerful Devil Gods to slaughter humans, greatly increasing the pressure on the defending human army.

The majority of the human resistance active in the Dusk Dynasty were the Guardians Guild members. They even had a powerful God Realm elder there. The elder had a rather high status in the guild, and his name was Lu Jiang. He cultivated the powers of earth and water, and he was a peak eighth-stage God. His existence was the sole reason humanity had been able to resist the Diabolic Dragon Clan's attacks.

Lu Jiang was a legend. He started cultivating rather late in his life and was a late bloomer in terms of cultivation. He took the difficult path of cultivating two powers. Step by step, he grew into what he was after experiencing numerous hardships. He was ranked in the top 20 among the many God Realm elders of the Guardians Guild. It was obvious how high his status was.

Within the Guardians Guild, Lu Jiang belonged to the neutral faction. He had never participated in the conflict between the two deputy guild masters. He was also someone the two had always wanted to recruit. However, he had been firm and had never wavered in his belief.

But when the fight for the young guild master position began, he was finding it hard to keep himself neutral. Thus, he applied to have himself sent to the frontlines against the devils and distance himself from the guild conflicts. He had hoped that he would be spared from headaches by keeping the guild conflicts out of sight. It did not matter to him who the new young guild master was.

In the Guardians Guild's encampment, Lu Jiang stood atop a massive boulder. Gazing at the surging devilish energy far away, he sighed and said, "The guild has fallen into an inner conflict and isn't sending more God Realm elders over to fight the devils. If this continues, the devils will expand more and more."

He was an old man with waist-length white hair. Worry covered his wrinkled old face. People with his cultivation level could easily regain their youthful look, but Lu Jiang was already used to his current appearance. He did not have great ambitions, and he naturally didn't care about his appearance.

"Elder Lu, we have found out the reason for the devils' increased aggressiveness recently. The Dusk Dynasty has regained their palace and seriously injured the diabolic dragon stationed there. They have also killed many Devil Gods," reported a God.

"Did that old monster from the Saintly Forest Courtyard return? If that is the case, why couldn't I sense him?" asked Lu Jiang in astonishment.

"Based on what I know, someone called Xiang Shaoyun, who is also known as the overlord, arrived to help them. He even managed to retrieve their Divine Dusk Truncheon, helping them push the devils back," said the God.

"Number one Saintking, Xiang Shaoyun? What can he even do to help the Dusk Dynasty?" asked Lu Jiang, even more astonished than before.

He had long heard of Xiang Shaoyun's name, but he had never met that young man. Based on what he knew, Xiang Shaoyun was at most a pseudo-God. Even if he had entered the Rebirth Realm by fluke, he still shouldn't be strong enough to do much against the devils.

"He is already at the second-stage Rebirth Realm, and he also has an azure dragon and a white tiger with him," said the God with a slight look of envy.

The azure dragon and the white tiger were the kings among beasts. They had incredibly powerful abilities, yet both were following Xiang Shaoyun at the same time. If news of that spread, many people would be driven mad with envy.

"Azure dragon and white tiger? Are you sure?" Lu Jiang was speechless.

"Yes. Even now they are fighting some Devil Gods high in the sky. Elder Lu, if you—" suggested the God seriously, but Lu Jiang vanished into thin air before he could finish his words.

The next instant, Lu Jiang reappeared high in the sky. He spread out his senses before flying in one direction. Sure enough, he found Xiang Shaoyun fighting a fourth-stage Devil God.

Xiang Shaoyun had too many trump cards. Every move of his seemed capable of unleashing a terrifying force of God Realm energy. Wave after wave of attacks was sent out, keeping the Devil God flustered.

His opponent was not to be underestimated. The devil utilized a unique ability, nearly getting a hit against Xiang Shaoyun. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's rich combat experience, Xiang Shaoyun would have suffered serious injuries from it.



Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to waste too much time against his opponent. He pulverized the Devil God before quickly putting the devil under his control with the Nether Dragon Soul Curse.

During the recent period of time, he had placed no fewer than 10 Devil Gods under his control, with the strongest of them being a fifth-stage Devil God. So many Devil Gods definitely made for a powerful group.

"Old sir, are you enjoying the show?" asked Xiang Shaoyun toward the concealed Lu Jiang after he was done with the devil.

Lu Jiang had a look of astonishment as he showed himself. With a smile, he said, "Young friend, you were actually able to detect me? Truly impressive!"

"I wonder who you are, sir?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Guardians Guild, Lu Jiang."

"So it's Elder Lu. Greetings, elder," said Xiang Shaoyun with a salute.

During his time at the Saintly Forest Courtyard, he had learned the names of the major individuals stationed in the war zone from Huang Baiwu. The first name he heard was none other than Lu Jiang.

At this time, Little Azure, Little White, and Huang Baiwu flew over from different directions. Their opponents had either fled or been killed.

"Elder Lu," Huang Baiwu stepped forth and saluted.

"Be at ease. It is good to see people with your strength actually contributing to the dominion," said Lu Jiang. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young friend, do you mind stepping aside? I wish to have a chat with you."

"I'll gladly oblige if it's you, Elder Lu," agreed Xiang Shaoyun readily.

The group thus returned to the nearby Guardians Guild encampment. Lu Jiang and Xiang Shaoyun went aside to have a private talk.

Lu Jiang went straight to the point, "Is Deputy Ge Yi still fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied honestly, "It has been years since I last met him. He had left the dominion to stop the invading aliens, so he's probably somewhere outside the dominion currently."

"Sigh. Deputy Ge Yi has always been contributing to the dominion behind the scenes without asking for fame or wealth. If the other two deputies had the same heart, how would the guild fall to what it is today?" said Lu Jiang with a deep sigh. His expression turned solemn as he said, "Are you willing to become the young guild master?"

Chapter 1686: Only Ten Percent

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Lu Jiang in astonishment and said, "Elder Lu, what do you mean?"

Once again, Lu Jiang asked solemnly, "I believe Deputy Ge Yi also intends for you to fight for the position. If you're confident, I can lend you some help."

Xiang Shaoyun was utterly confused. "Elder Lu, I don't believe anything ever comes for free. You wouldn't be intending to make me a puppet young guild master, right?"

He had just met Lu Jiang, so he naturally wouldn't agree so easily. Being so gullible would probably not end well for him.

"Looks like Deputy Ge Yi had not mentioned anything to you. I have always been in Deputy Ge Yi's faction, not the factions of the other two deputies. If Deputy Ge Yi actually wishes to be the guild master, I believe he will be able to gather countless followers with a wave of his arm. His prestige is far beyond the other two deputies. In fact, if the two deputies didn't have a sufficient level of prestige, they would have long been overthrown," said Lu Jiang.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun understood that Elder Lu was making the offer out of respect for his master. He still didn't agree as he said, "Elder Lu, I do intend to fight for the position. However, I wish to do it with my own strength. I believe that is what my master wants to see."

"Deputy Ge Yi has been away for too long. He is unaware that the guild has changed greatly. Many people are being forced to pick a side. Us of the neutral faction are being suppressed and weakened. If you don't gather any support, you will never be able to win that position," said Lu Jiang gravely. "But with the neutral faction's support, you will have a 10 percent chance at succeeding."

"Only 10 percent?" Xiang Shaoyun was speechless.

"That's right. The two deputies are the ones who had followed the guild master in countless past wars. The two are incredibly capable and powerful. In fact, if they had reduced their internal conflicts, the Guardians Guild's position would be unshakable," said Lu Jiang. "Thus, it will be impossible for you to become the young guild master without any help."

Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought before saying, "It is still too early to talk about all that with my current strength. We can talk again in the future."

Whatever his plan was, he still needed to grow stronger. He also needed to find his master and figure out what exactly his master wanted, or he wouldn't be sure what he should really be doing.

"That's fine. As long as you need my help, this old man will always be ready to help," offered Lu Jiang. He did not push on, and he was inwardly impressed at Xiang Shaoyun's firm resolve.

After separating from Lu Jiang, Xiang Shaoyun started contemplating about the young guild master. The Guardians Guild was the strongest organization in the world. The two deputies were powerhouses at the same level as his master. Both had their own candidates for the position, and the so-called recruitment was most likely a guise to get some followers for their favored candidates.

At that realization, indignation welled within Xiang Shaoyun's heart. Both his master and Wu Xie wanted to see him become the young guild master. He did not want to disappoint them, but what could he even do to win the position?

Looks like I might have to accept Huang Baiwu's offer, after all, thought Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

Prior to this, Huang Baiwu had hinted that they would be willing to help him in his fight for the position. However, he had not agreed because he knew that Huang Baiwu had his own reasons. But it seemed like he really had to consider the offer seriously.

After Xiang Shaoyun spent two hours in deep thought, his eyes abruptly lit up like bright suns, and he said, "In my previous life, I aimed to dominate the world. I was killed. In this life, I am with the experiences of three lifetimes, the strongest physique, and the best opportunity to rise in power. How can I be hesitant and scared like a little baby? Huang Baiwu looks highly on my chances, and even Elder Lu is willing to lend me his support. In that case, I will gather all the forces I have at my disposal and aim straight for the heavens, taking the young guild master position for myself!"

After reaffirming his faith, he looked for Huang Baiwu and accepted the offer. He agreed that after obtaining the position, he would help the Dusk Dynasty rebuild. Next, Xiang Shaoyun requested that he stay with the Guardians Guild's forces in the war zone, hoping that he could fight alongside them against the devils.

He planned to obtain tentative acknowledgment from the Guardians Guild through this war. Only then would he be able to gain the support he needed in the next few years. His presence had proven to be a big help to the Guardians Guild. With his ability to suppress any Devil God at the fifth stage and lower, apart from some of the stronger Devil Gods whom he needed his soul clone to deal with, he didn't have much trouble on the battlefield.

In the blink of an eye, a year passed. Xiang Shaoyun had participated in no fewer than 50 battles before the Devil Domain's entrance. He had not returned empty-handed from any of the battles he had participated in. He had accumulated over 30 Devil God puppets, with one of them being a sixth-stage Devil God.

That Devil God, in particular, was someone Lu Jiang had personally captured for Xiang Shaoyun after knowing that Xiang Shaoyun had a unique ability to control Devil Gods. Over the past year, Xiang Shaoyun had also encountered the diabolic dragons' strongest counterattack. During that battle, his soul clone was nearly destroyed. Even when Lu Jiang and the emperor emeritus worked together, they were only able to barely force the devils to retreat.

Xiang Shaoyun had also entered the devils' wanted list because his Imperial Nether Domain made him much more dangerous than any other human. Additionally, the identities of Little Azure and Little White were also exposed. One was an azure dragon, whereas the other was a white tiger. The two had incredible rallying power among demonic beasts, and many demonic beast races sent their experts over to protect the two after learning of their existence.

Little White came from the Hundred Beasts Mountain, and there were many powerful demonic beasts there. Thus, it wasn't surprising that Demon Gods appeared to lend him support. As for Little Azure, he was originally a dragonfish. However, the demonic beasts had always viewed the azure dragons as their leaders. Thus, his appearance had attracted some demonic beasts with traces of draconic bloodline.

That was how Little Azure and Little White came to gain 15 Demon Gods each. In fact, if it wasn't for the fact that they did not care much for the weaker demonic beasts, they would have been able to create an army of beasts.

That was a situation Xiang Shaoyun had never expected. If that continued, he would probably have a terrifying level of support by his side. Of course, those Demon Gods were no fools. All of them were trying to persuade Little Azure and Little White to leave the dangerous war zone. Or simply put, they merely wanted the two to leave Xiang Shaoyun. With their glorious bloodlines, they could easily become royalty if they wanted.

However, the two were filled with respect for Xiang Shaoyun. If he did not tell them to leave, they would never abandon him. But after thinking it through, Xiang Shaoyun decided to have the two leave. Of course, he did not just tell them to go away. Rather, he gave them the mission to gather the experts among the demonic beasts and help him against the aliens in the future.

#### Chapter 1687: Gathering of Myriad Stars

Little Azure and Little White left, one moving to the east, the other moving to the west. Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat lonesome with their departure. The two had been with him for several years, and they were basically his brothers. He fully trusted them, and they were his best helpers. With their help, his attempt for the young guild master position would be much easier.

However, the two were royalties among demonic beasts, and they each shouldered their respective destinies. Xiang Shaoyun could not bind them to his side. With the two's departure, it was time for Gui Qi and Money to step up and become his new helpers.

Under his support, Gui Qi had grown into a third-stage Devil God. With his unique soul attacks, he could fight even fifth-stage Gods. Additionally, his wings' illusory abilities were not to be underestimated either.

As for Money, he had stayed dormant within Xiang Shaoyun's body and had constantly absorbed the primal chaos lightning produced within Xiang Shaoyun. The moment he left the astral cosmos sea, he attracted several lightning tribulations and stepped into the Great Demon Saint Realm.

Although there was still quite a gap between him and the Demon God Realm, he still grew much stronger than before. In fact, he had obtained a piece of dragon bone and some dragon blood essence from Little Azure. However, he had yet to absorb both because he hoped to look for some objects related to the celestial horned dragonsnake before cultivating both his bloodlines at the same time. He still had the ambition to become the strongest celestial horned dragonsnake in existence.

After a year of war, Xiang Shaoyun had won the recognition of the Guardians Guild members stationed there. There was no doubting his character and strength. Additionally, Lu Jiang had taken care of him well, helping him build his first foundations in his quest for the young guild master position.

Over the past year, he had reached peak second-stage God Realm. His growth was so fast it defied all beliefs. That was thanks to the divine sources. He was already planning to leave the dominion to make his breakthrough into the third stage. With Huang Baiwu by his side, he flew to the endless space outside the dominion.

The space outside the dominion was an unstable place where terrifying energy currents could appear at any time. Unknown meteors would also come flying when one least expected. There were also some other bizarre phenomena that could easily kill even a Saint. Only Gods could stay there for an extended period. The terrifying spatial currents that could appear at any time were something even Gods needed to tread carefully around.

Xiang Shaoyun had the strongest physique, the Primal Inception Physique. Upon arriving outside the dominion, he immediately sensed the powerful astral energies around him. If he cultivated there, he would be able to take in the astral energy of faraway stars to further his cultivation. That was just what he needed. After selecting a spot where space was stable, he created an isolated space and had Huang Baiwu stand guard while he entered seclusion.

"The energy of the world originates from astral energy, and in this boundless space, there are vast amounts of astral energy I can absorb. Breaking through won't be hard here!" muttered Xiang Shaoyun confidently as he adjusted his condition. He circulated his energy based on the Desolation mantra and absorbed both the faraway astral energy and the divine source energy within him.

With two sources of energy, his God Realm energy rose constantly, and before long, he started to break through to the third stage.

Standing guard outside the isolated space, Huang Baiwu suddenly saw a torrent of astral energy gushing over. He muttered in astonishment, "S-so much astral energy! This is too scary!"

The astral energy came in all the colors that represented the nine different powers and the other berserk powers foreign to the dominion. Any moment of carelessness when dealing with the energy would damage one's own stars after one failed to fully refine the absorbed energy.

The torrential energy naturally posed no issue to Xiang Shaoyun with his powerful physique. Whatever energy came, he could absorb it all. His Primal Inception Physique was capable of containing all energies. That was why his physique was known as the strongest.

As the massive amount of energy showered Xiang Shaoyun, the energy within his astral cosmos sea surged rapidly. Strand after strand of God Realm energy coursed through his meridians and circulated through his body again and again. The energy flowed like a raging river with roaring waves as his entire body shone in nine different colors. Behind him, the projection of a massive star appeared. One star after another lit up in the endless expanse of space, forming a gorgeous river of stars.

Huang Baiwu was alarmed by the sight. He had never seen a phenomenon like that before. It was too shocking. Within Xiang Shaoyun's body, his sole star was also shining brightly as it constantly increased in volume. It eventually grew to the size of about three or four provinces. More importantly, the brands of nine different powers had taken form on the star. The nine brands swirled around each other, creating a gorgeous brilliance around the star. That was the sight of a life-containing star evolving to the next stage.

Numerous celestial bodies existed in the endless space, but the appearance of even one that could contain life was extremely difficult. That was the change that Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea was going through, and it was also the trigger that caused the countless stars to light up, creating an auspicious sight of countless stars offering him their blessings.

At that moment, a shocking change was also happening to Xiang Shaoyun's body. He enlarged incessantly, and before long, he was the size of a mountain. He continued growing, reaching a point where he was tens of thousands of meters tall. His body was now much larger than even the giants as he approached the size of a regular small star.

If that was some sort of illusory technique, Huang Baiwu wouldn't be so shocked, but Xiang Shaoyun was actually growing bigger. It wasn't an illusion. Huang Baiwu could also see a clump of nine-colored radiance flickering in Xiang Shaoyun's abdomen, as though a star was emanating boundless radiance inside him.

Huang Baiwu nearly fainted from shock. He could actually see a star in Xiang Shaoyun's body. He wondered if he was imagining things. It was at that moment that Xiang Shaoyun suddenly opened his eyes. He then opened his mouth and pulled in all the astral energy around him.

Instantly, countless streams of astral energy rushed into his mouth. The myriad stars dimmed as though all their energy had been fed to Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun did not stop absorbing

energy. With his mouth opened, he breathed in, absorbing the astral energy of the stars from even further away.

The two mouthfuls of astral energy entered Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea. At that point, his astral cosmos sea had grown to an extremely massive scale. Not only had it broken through to a brand new level, but even his devil pearl had broken through, reaching third-stage Devil God Realm.

His devilish energy and astral energy could be freely replaced with each other, granting him unimaginable abilities. Thus, even without absorbing devilish energy or devil cores, he could still advance the level of his devil pearl. As his devil and astral cultivations advanced, he created a massive phenomenon that attracted even the vicious life forms in space.

#### Chapter 1688: Skybreak Spider

The space outside the dominion contained not only lifeless objects but also ferocious life forms. These life forms were born in space and possessed powerful physiques that no other race could compare to. One such life form was the skybreak spiders, an extremely powerful alien being.

The skybreak spiders were massive and capable of spitting spider webs that could traverse through space. Their spatial webs could even catch meteors. The skybreak spiders consumed the chaotic energy in space to live. They did not have high intelligence, but their energy was dreadful and chaotic, making them ferocious beings that did not fear death.

The massive phenomenon created by Xiang Shaoyun attracted the attention of a skybreak spider hidden within the cracks of space. The spider dashed forth from nothingness, moving with incredible dexterity despite its massive body. This was a spider that was as strong as a sixth-stage God.

After devouring two mouthfuls of astral energy, Xiang Shaoyun started shrinking. Even so, the aura he emitted did not weaken. He muttered in excitement, "The Primal Inception Physique is truly filled with boundless potential. It has actually allowed me to unleash such a powerful god body. It's a pity its active duration was so short. If it could last longer, I could have absorbed enough energy to enter the fourth stage."

He had fully absorbed the two divine sources in his body. Additionally, he had also absorbed a large amount of astral energy, pushing him to late third-stage Rebirth Realm, putting him far beyond ordinary third-stage Gods in terms of strength. The two mouthfuls of astral energy he had taken in earlier had gathered the energy of countless small stars to push him to his new cultivation level.



He was also finally starting to understand just how crazy the Primal Inception Physique was. The Primal Inception Physique could not only devour all energy but could also process all energy to unleash the strongest of attacks. If the owner of this physique had also comprehended the profundity of powers, they would be able to obtain a god body that could freely enlarge or shrink. That was actually a unique ability called World Pillar.

Apart from Gods with unique bloodlines, those with the Primal Chaos Physique could also obtain the World Pillar ability. As the owner of the Primal Inception Physique, Xiang Shaoyun naturally had access to the ability as well.

Earlier, when he had just awakened the ability, he had pushed it too much, nearly growing beyond his limits. That was why he hadn't been able to remain in that state for long. If he could have controlled himself better and limited his size, he would have been able to last longer.

He could feel that as his size grew, his combat strength had grown as well, granting him a combat strength beyond his level for a certain duration. That realization gave him even more confidence that he would be able to stand above all Gods in the future.

Suddenly, two webs shot over. They arrived so fast that not even Huang Baiwu could react to them. One web immediately bound Huang Baiwu and dragged him away. Xiang Shaoyun suffered a similar attack, but he reacted much faster and was able to dodge the web.

"What is this? Piss off!" Huang Baiwu forcefully stabilized himself and swung his Dragon God Sword at the web, trying to cut it apart.

However, the thread was incomparably durable. It was actually able to resist the slash. A terrifying pulling force erupted, causing Huang Baiwu to lose his balance once again. He hurriedly slashed his sword 10 times in a row before he could cut the thread. However, more than 10 threads shot over immediately, all of them reaching him quickly.

Fortunately, Huang Baiwu was well-prepared this time. He moved repeatedly as he unleashed his powerful God Realm energy with the Dragon God Sword to split space and force the attacker out of hiding.

Xiang Shaoyun was also being attacked. He moved even faster than Huang Baiwu. His eyes lit up like two suns and saw through space itself to detect the skybreak spider. He roared, "A vicious spider? Come and let me test my strength!"

He then sent a palm attack flying through space toward the spider.

Divine Sinister Space Palm!

The palm landed accurately, instantly creating an explosion on the spider's massive body. Not even a fifth-stage God would be able to withstand that attack, but the skybreak spider had actually resisted it successfully. It did not even seem to have suffered any injuries. With a shrill shout, it spat out countless webbings to surround Xiang Shaoyun with a spiderweb.

The spiderweb was massive, making it impossible to escape. With a layer of primal chaos flame in his hand, Xiang Shaoyun swung at the spiderweb repeatedly. The primal chaos flame lived up to its reputation as a flame capable of burning everything. With his growth in cultivation, the burning power of his flame had also become increasingly terrifying. He successfully burned through the spiderweb.

The skybreak spider showed no fear despite the destruction of its spiderweb. It was born in space and had braved countless dangers to survive this long. Its physique was astonishingly strong. Its claws turned into a 10,000-meter-long scythe that it sent slashing toward Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Baiwu.

Not even a sixth-stage God would be able to withstand the attack. The Primal Inception Saber appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's hand. After he had nourished the saber, its quality had improved considerably. He swung the saber at the incoming attack as he said, "Let's see if your claw or my Primal Inception Saber is tougher."

He circulated the God Realm energy in his body, causing his Primal Inception Saber to shine brilliantly. The sharp blade clashed against the claw.

Clank!

A series of blinding sparks appeared as the saber and the claw clashed.

Xiang Shaoyun was surprised to find himself being pushed back. With a numb feeling in his hand, he cursed, "This fellow is quite a strong one."

The skybreak spider was only a sixth-stage God, but it was definitely strong enough to contend against seventh-stage Gods. After all, surviving in space wasn't an easy feat. After going through

numerous hardships just to survive, it had grown to possess a dreadfully powerful physique and combat strength. It swung its claw repeatedly, its attacks akin to countless terrifying scythes that shattered space as they advanced.

With a look of excitement, Xiang Shaoyun shouted, "I'll have a proper fight with you! I refuse to believe that I won't be able to defeat you!"

He was finally going to fight seriously. The primal chaos lightning erupted from his body as he unleashed countless primal chaos lightning slashes forward. An intense battle thus erupted.

Huang Baiwu observed the shocking battle from afar. Admiration covered his eyes as he muttered, "Young Master Xiang's combat strength has grown so much. I'm probably not his match anymore either."

#### Chapter 1689: Spider Clone

The skybreak spider was strong, but Xiang Shaoyun was also freakishly strong after breaking through. Eventually, the spider suffered a crushing defeat at his hands. The spider was a treasure trove in and of itself, so Xiang Shaoyun took in its entire corpse. He definitely wouldn't allow such a treasure trove to go to waste.

"I've grown considerably. If I encounter those top Devil Gods once again, I will be strong enough to face them," muttered Xiang Shaoyun with a pleased smile.

Huang Baiwu flew over and said, "Congratulations for growing even stronger, Young Master Xiang."

Huang Baiwu was confident in his own incredible talent, but Xiang Shaoyun was far more talented than him.

"How would I have broken through so fast without your divine sources?" said Xiang Shaoyun. "Baiwu, do you think that I've taken advantage of your clan?"

Huang Baiwu hurriedly waved his hands and said, "Don't say that. You did us a great favor by retrieving the Divine Dusk Truncheon for us."

"Um. I won't treat you unfairly. I have some milky way spring water here. It should be able to help push you to an even higher level," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod as he handed some milky way spring water to Huang Baiwu.

In recent years, Huang Baiwu had lived a life of constant battles. He had reached peak fifth-stage God Realm and was only a step away from the sixth stage.

If Huang Baiwu cultivated at his regular speed, he would probably take years or even more than 10 years before he could take that step. But with the milky way spring water, he would take a much shorter time to break through.

Huang Baiwu was overjoyed and said, "Thank you for the gift, Young Master Xiang!"

Since he had already decided to support Xiang Shaoyun in his bid for the young guild master position, there was no need for him to shy away from Xiang Shaoyun's favors.

"Enter seclusion immediately and attempt your breakthrough. I'll keep watch for you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"I'll be troubling you, overlord." Huang Baiwu changed the way he addressed Xiang Shaoyun. It was clear that he had finally fully submitted to Xiang Shaoyun.

Huang Baiwu constructed his own independent space. Inside it, he swallowed the milky way spring water and attempted to break through. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he sent his soul clone out and had his main body and clone train against each other.

In the past, his clone had always been hiding within his head to focus on comprehending the profundities of powers. That allowed his comprehension of the profundity of primal inception to deepen considerably. His mastery of shifting the nine powers and utilizing the profundities of powers had reached an unimaginable level.

His main body was able to immediately comprehend everything his clone had comprehended, giving him a massive advantage over other cultivators. Since his clone was still stronger than his main body, the training session between the two progressed through a unique method. His clone utilized the profundity of primal chaos, while his main body utilized the profundity of yin and yang.

The profundity of primal chaos had incredible powers of creation and destruction. As for the profundity of yin and yang, it was capable of accessing the power of time. Each profundity had its own advantage over the other.

"This is not enough. I need one more clone," muttered Xiang Shaoyun after a while. He stirred the devil pearl, and a clone noiselessly formed in the pearl. Next, a clone filled with thick devilish energy appeared before him.

That was a hollow clone. No matter how real it looked, unlike his first clone, it was not a body of flesh and blood. After all, the first clone was formed from a filthless soul, while this second clone was merely formed by the devil pearl. The two were essentially different levels of existence. The second clone only had about 10 to 20 percent of Xiang Shaoyun's strength. At most, it would only be able to fight a first-stage God.

"This clone is just like a regular consciousness clone. It's far from enough," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. He then pushed the devil pearl out of his forehead before sending it into the clone. The two merged, and the clone immediately looked more solid than before. Its strength also increased, reaching the level of a peak third-stage God.

Xiang Shaoyun's devil pearl was basically the same as a devil's devil core. Generally speaking, a devil core would not lightly leave a devil's body because it would be too vulnerable outside the body. However, it was different for Xiang Shaoyun. He had his astral cultivation to rely on so he wouldn't be weakened even after his devil pearl left his body.

"This clone is slightly weaker than my main body, but it is able to maximize my devil cultivation. It can even absorb devilish energy to continue growing. This is acceptable for a clone, I suppose," muttered Xiang Shaoyun, pleased.

He then had his main body and devil clone attack his soul clone at the same time. By sparring against himself, Xiang Shaoyun was able to deepen his understanding of his many battle techniques. He also gained additional understanding of his devil clone. In fact, there was a greater significance to the existence of that clone. It would be able to do many things for him.

He then summoned Gui Qi out and had Gui Qi bring his devil clone back to the Ziling Sect. He wanted to see if the devil clone would be able to bring him more surprises, such as finding out about the Ziling Sect through the clone. As Gui Qi was a Devil God of a decent level, he had an astonishing flying speed. Before long, he reached the Ziling Sect.

Xiang Shaoyun's clone returned to the grand hall. Nobody in the sect was able to see that it was just a clone. His main body was able to sense everything that was happening around the clone. His connection with his clone seemed to have remained through some unknown dimension.

In the grand hall, Devouring Ghost said to the clone, "Overlord, there is only one year before the young guild master is selected. Why are you back here instead of being at the Guardians Guild?"

"Haha. Devouring Ghost, even you can't see anything different about me?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh.

Devouring Ghost, Scarlet Flame Monarch, and Green Ghost appeared confused. Only after some time did they notice that this Xiang Shaoyun was only a clone. Their eyes filled with astonishment.

They all knew that Xiang Shaoyun had already formed a solid clone, but this was clearly not the same clone. It seemed like the two were completely different levels of existence, yet this clone was clearly stronger than them. Thus, they became confused.

"Is this a powerful new clone created by the overlord?" asked Scarlet Flame Monarch doubtfully.

"Haha. Yes. This is my new clone. My main body is still in the Dusk Dynasty," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Are my father and Purple Lightning back?"

"No," replied Scarlet Flame Monarch. "Overlord, everyone is fighting over the young guild master position. If you don't mind having my old bones around, I would like to go and help."

"Yes, I wish to help as well!" said Devouring Ghost.

"If possible, I do not wish to miss out on something this grand either," said Green Ghost expectantly.

## Chapter 1690: True Strength of the Wolf Guards

Once, Xiang Dingtian had led his Five Tiger Heaven Battling Generals in numerous wars. At the time, he and his brothers had lived a carefree life where the debt of gratitude and the duty of grudge would always be repaid so that they would be able to die without regrets even if they were to perish on the battlefield.

Now, they had all grown much stronger than before, but the dominion had also changed greatly. The world had sunk into chaos, and in this world-spanning chaos, their strength was insufficient. In this life, the overlord was much stronger than before, and his helpers were also much stronger than those he had in his previous life.

Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost were starting to feel a sense of inferiority. Even so, they still hoped to stand by the overlord's side once again as he fought against his enemies. Even if they had to die again, they would have no fear. So long as their blood continued to flow, their battle intent would never cease to be.

Green Ghost also wished to have a bigger stage with which to display his strength. He did not wish to miss out on a competition of the ages.

"Very well. This overlord definitely can't disappoint you if that is what you wish. Get your affairs in order and leave for the Guardians Guild with me," said Xiang Shaoyun. He could see the longing in their eyes, and he naturally couldn't disappoint them.

This fight for the young guild master position was not a competition between individuals. Thus, he needed many helpers to establish a good position for himself. Talented Gods younger than 1,000 years old all over the world were in the midst of recruiting help and expanding their influence. Only by forging a perfect public image of themselves would they be able to win more support and become the young guild master.

In fact, that was also what Ge Yi hoped Xiang Shaoyun would do when he had told Xiang Shaoyun to keep watch over the Dusk Dynasty for three years. Xiang Shaoyun understood what his master wanted, so he stayed at the Dusk Dynasty to fight against the devils. From there, his name would start to spread all over the dominion.

Of course, that much wasn't enough. After all, there was only so much he could do alone. If he couldn't build up a group of people who would contribute to humanity together, he would not be able to become the leader of humanity.

That was why he had also agreed to have Scarlet Flame Monarch, Devouring Ghost, and Green Ghost head over to the Dusk Dynasty to meet his main body. But just as the group was about to leave, a wolf guard came and sought an audience with him.

"Greetings, young master," greeted the wolf guard respectfully.

The God Realm wolf guards had long settled down at the Buried Monarch Mountain Range.

"Lang Zhan, is there anything I can do for you?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

This wolf guard was a third-stage God. He was one of the leaders among the wolfmen, but he wasn't the strongest among them.

"All the wolf guards have been assembled from all over the world. We are now awaiting your command, young master," said Lang Zhan.

Ge Yi had transferred the command of the wolf guards to Xiang Shaoyun, but only a group of them had been around. Finally, the strongest ones among them had arrived.

"Very good. Call everyone over and let me see just how strong the wolf guards are!" said Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

He had not expected that the wolf guards would be fully assembled at this time. They would be very helpful for what he was about to do next. Before long, Lang Zhan gathered all the wolf guards before Xiang Shaoyun.

A portion of the wolf guards had perished during Xiang Shaoyun's fight against the devils, but they had replenished their numbers. A total of 365 wolf guards stood before him, each with the head of a wolf and the body of a human. They all had a ferocious aura around them, and it was clear that they had all been tempered in blood before they were qualified to become a part of the wolf guards.

"The wolf guards greet the young master!" All the wolf guards dropped to one knee in greeting.

These wolf guards were well-trained, and they moved in an orderly manner, displaying incredible discipline. Their auras surged, and it was clear they were far beyond the level of a regular army.

"Be at ease, everyone. There is no need for too many formalities with me," Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly said.

He could sense that one of them was so strong that he couldn't even see through the wolf guard's cultivation. That wolf guard, in particular, felt like the same level of existence as Lu Jiang and the emperor emeritus. That wolf guard was Lang Ya, the wolf guard's leader.



Lang Ya was tall and sturdy, and his body was brimming with vitality. His body was muscular and strong, showcasing his extraordinary constitution. Apart from Lang Ya, there were also nine wolf guards above fifth-stage God Realm. Xiang Shaoyun was rather shocked to see how strong they were.

Is this the true strength of the wolf guards? thought Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment. He had known that the wolf guards were strong, but he had not imagined that they were this strong.

"Young master, Master sent us to you so that we can serve you. Feel free to contact us if you need us in the future. The wolf guards will carry out your command at all costs, including the cost of our lives!" said Lang Ya solemnly.

Xiang Shaoyun knew very well that the wolf guards had undivided loyalty toward his master. He did not stand on ceremony and gladly accepted their allegiance. Even the weakest among the wolf guards was no weaker than a late-stage Sovereign. The strongest was a peak eighth-stage God, while the main bulk of the group consisted of numerous Saints. Working together, they had enough strength to protect the entire tribe of wolfmen.

"All of you must have returned to help me in my bid to become the young guild master, right?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Lang Ya nodded. "Yes. We had received a transmitted message from Master. He wants you to snatch the position at all costs. The wolf guards are ready to do whatever is necessary."

"Sure enough," said Xiang Shaoyun in realization. "In that case, those at the God Realm remain while the rest return."

The other wolf guards said nothing and retreated as commanded, leaving only 30 of them behind. The wolf guards were truly powerful, as 30 out of all 365 were actually Gods.

"This competition over the position will not be the same as the regular battles you went through while tempering yourself. This time, we will face the strongest young Gods of the dominion. Any carelessness will probably cost all of us our lives. I know all of you are loyal to my master, but I have to think for you as well. Thus, I will only have the strongest ones among you come with me. As for the rest, they shall remain as the seeds of the wolf guards. You will be able to fight without worrying about your home," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Thank you for being so thoughtful, young master," the wolf guards were grateful.

Xiang Shaoyun had helped them preserve some hope. Even if they were to perish, the other wolfmen would still have a chance to rise again in the future.

"Alright. Get ready. We will leave shortly." Xiang Shaoyun did not waste any time and had them prepare for departure.

He was getting more and more helpers, but the Ziling Sect had also turned emptier as a result. He decided to pay the angels a visit and have their Gods watch over the sect in the meantime. He would not allow other organizations to take advantage of his absence to do anything against the sect. His departure would signify the start of his bid to become the young guild master.