

Overlord 1691

Chapter 1691: Within the Guardians Guild

Only one year was left in the competition for the young guild master position. Recently, powerful Gods had appeared all over the world. They all showcased an incredible level of influence as one powerful group after another was formed all over the world. These groups were all heading toward the Guardians Guild from all directions.

Regardless of how powerful these young Gods were, without the guardians token, they wouldn't qualify as a candidate. The token was one of the main requirements for anyone wanting to fight for the position.

Thus, many young Gods were searching for the tokens. The moment news of any token appeared, intense competition would erupt where the token was last seen. One incident in particular had caused great waves. A tier-8 sect had obtained a guardians token by fluke. As a result, a vicious young God purged the entire sect, sparing no one.

The cruelty of that incident alarmed many people. No matter how strong that young God was, nobody hoped to see someone so cruel become the Guardians Guild's young guild master. Subsequently, news spread that the cruel young God was Shu Tiansha, an individual known as the God of Slaughter.

Shu Tiansha was a genius who had made his name 800 years ago. In fact, he was the founder of the Rat Assassins, an organization that had become the leader of all assassination organizations 800 years ago. Nobody knew where he was based, and nobody knew how far his cultivation had reached.

He became a God 500 years ago. After so many years, it was obvious that he had only grown stronger. Apart from Shu Tiansha, an expert equipped with a devilish weapon had also risen up in fame. His name was Bai Fan.

Few had heard his name before, but about six months ago, he had slain three Gods while fighting over a guardians token. During the fight, he had displayed a lost technique called the Great Cosmic Heavenly Devil Manual.

The technique was created by an evil human in the past. At great mastery, the practitioner of this technique would become even more devilish than the devils. This technique would change one's character, sink one deep into the dao of devils, and turn one into a puppet of vice. A devilish technique that could affect someone unknowingly like this was incredibly scary.

If Xiang Shaoyun heard the name Bai Fan, it was unknown if he would remember that this so-called Bai Fan was actually one of his previous opponents.

Some other previously unknown young Gods also appeared, and they all created big scenes all around the world.

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At the very center of the dominion was a floating city. The city was the size of a province. It hovered in the sky without showing any signs that it was going to drop. This was the city known as the city that would never fall, the Divine Dominion City.

The Divine Dominion City was the headquarters of the Guardians Guild. A massive castle stood in the city, and that castle was where many of the major events of the dominion had originated.

Countless people wished to enter this city, but apart from the personnel of the Guardians Guild, everyone else had to be no weaker than the Sovereign Realm to enter. In addition to a sufficiently high cultivation level, one also needed to pay a toll of spirit crystals to enter. Every visitor would also need to have their background inspected prior to entry. One could say that the requirements for entry were extremely stringent.

The Guardians Guild had existed since ancient times, so their accumulation was at a level unimaginable to ordinary people. In fact, even after spending hundreds of thousands of years in internal dispute, they remained the strongest organization in the dominion.

The two deputy guild masters were powerhouses standing at the very peak of the dominion. They were Qin Hongyan and Gongsun Yingxiong. Like Ge Yi, the two were also lauded as guardian gods of the dominion.

Only five people in the entire dominion had managed to earn the title of guardian gods. Of the five, three belonged to the Guardians Guild, and the remaining two were unaffiliated individuals. The two were the strongest unaffiliated cultivators in existence, and they had contributed significantly to the dominion.

The left side palace was Qin Hongyan's place of residence. His residence existed as an independent space and was more than a simple side palace. At present, Qin Hongyan's clone was sitting at the

head of the main hall. Shrouded in a layer of God Realm energy, his appearance was indistinct. A unique aura emanated from his body, merging his presence with the palace, turning the entire palace into an extension of his body. There was no doubt that he was the absolute master of this place.

Apart from the clone, a heroic young man was also within the hall. He was standing respectfully, showcasing a perfect build and sporting a genial smile. Strands of God Realm energy swirled around his body, giving him an ethereal temperament.

"Jiu'er, there's only one year left before the competition. How is your preparation?" asked Qin Hongyan emotionlessly.

Qin Jiu answered calmly, "Ancestor, I'm ready. Nobody can stop me!"

"It's good to be confident, but you should never be careless. That Gongsun kid is not to be underestimated. I heard that he had reached the eighth-stage Rebirth Realm half a year ago. He had also obtained an exceptional divine weapon. With Gongsun's support, he is definitely no weaker than you," said Qin Hongyan.

"I know that fellow better than anyone. Between the throne and beauties, he definitely prefers the latter. Dealing with him won't be hard," said Qin Jiu confidently.

"Um. Do not fail," said Qin Hongyan. "Also, you need to pay attention to one more person. He's Ge Yi's disciple. If possible, make him disappear. His physique is something that should not have appeared in the first place."

"Yes, ancestor," said Qin Jiu as his eyes flickered murderously.

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The right side palace similarly existed as an independent space. That place was none other than Gongsun Yingxiong's residence. It was said that Gongsun Yingxiong had a fitting name—his name meant hero—and he was indeed a heroic person. He wouldn't have been able to become the deputy guild master otherwise. However, the curtain would set for any hero. After years of conflict, not much of his heroic heart remained.

Gongsun Yingxiong had short white hair, and across his square face ran a scar he had received during his youth. With his current cultivation, he could easily remove it. However, he did not do so because, for him, a scar was a man's badge of honor. It represented his gallant feats.

Before Gongsun Yingxiong stood a young man even better looking than Qin Jiu. In fact, his face was so flawless that even an absolute beauty would feel inferior when standing beside him. One could only imagine how good-looking he was. He was Gongsun Sanyang, Gongsun Yingxiong's most valued descendant.

"Sanyang, your ancestor has supported your growth for a very long time. You should be aware of your mission. Failure is not an option. You know the consequences," said Gongsun Yingxiong with his hoarse voice.

"Don't worry, ancestor. The world knows that I'm engrossed with the fairer sex, but who knows that I love the throne more?" said Gongsun Sanyang confidently with a flip of his long hair.

Chapter 1692: Saintly Forest Courtyard's Old Master, Xie Feng

Outside the dominion, Huang Baiwu finally completed his breakthrough. Worthy of being someone who had once placed on the Saintly Forest Ranking, his breakthrough had created a phenomenon of three suns and pushed his flame energy to a terrifying level. With his sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivation, even regular seventh-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators wouldn't be his match. He was even strong enough to put up a fight against regular eighth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel that Huang Baiwu's foundations were comparable to Purple Lightning Marquis's. If the two were to fight, it would be hard to say who would win. They were already as strong as Xiang Shaoyun during his previous life.

"Haha, I have finally broken through!" Huang Baiwu roared with laughter.

At the God Realm, each breakthrough required a long period of accumulation. He was already a sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator when he was only a little bit over 1,000 years old. That was a showcase of an incredible talent that many people could only look up to.

"Baiwu, come, have a spar," said Xiang Shaoyun as his battle intent surged.

"Sure. Here I come!" Huang Baiwu had long wanted to have a fight with Xiang Shaoyun. Now that an invitation had come from Xiang Shaoyun, he did not hesitate and swung his Dragon God Sword at Xiang Shaoyun.

The simple swing contained countless permutations and boundless might. It shattered space while the sword energy advanced in a manner that seemed capable of penetrating everything. Xiang Shaoyun spread the fingers of one palm, unveiling the primal chaos energy in his palm. His palm enlarged, confining a large area, and crushed the entirety of the sword strike.

Cosmos Within Palm!

When Xiang Shaoyun had grown in strength, he had obtained the ability to freely unleash powerful offensive and defensive techniques. Huang Baiwu knew how strong Xiang Shaoyun was and did not dare to hold back. With wide strides, he charged toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Advancing with the momentum of a fiery dragon, he let loose his domineering God Realm energy. Numerous stunning sword strikes were unleashed from his Dragon God Sword, tearing space around him. His attacks surrounded Xiang Shaoyun.

With the divine dao eyes, Xiang Shaoyun saw through the trajectory of Huang Baiwu's attacks. He sent several palm attacks toward their openings, causing all the attacks to collapse. At the same time, he moved with the Sky Measuring Step and appeared beside Huang Baiwu. He clenched his fist as his fist shone brilliantly, blanketing Huang Baiwu in a dazzling light. A solemn expression covered Huang Baiwu's face, and he moved through the air like a dragon, barely avoiding the punch before countering with a god-grade technique of his own.

Xiang Shaoyun had a look of astonishment. The Yin Yang Shield appeared before him. As the shield spun, the incoming attack was diverted away. The Tai Chi Yin Yang Palm then made an appearance.

The two fought without holding back, creating a massive ruckus. If this fight had happened in the dominion, they would have already flattened an entire province. Huang Baiwu was akin to both a dragon and a sun, his attacks incomparably ferocious and forceful. Xiang Shaoyun was akin to a celestial child of primal chaos. Each move of his was filled with power yet appeared casual. His offense and defense were simply perfect.

After a long time, the two finally stopped. They weren't actually fighting each other to the death. They merely fought enough to satisfy their craving for a good fight.

"Haha. That was satisfying!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh.

"Overlord, you are truly unrivaled. Baiwu is nothing compared to you," said Huang Baiwu with admiration.

He had thought that he would be able to pressure Xiang Shaoyun with his sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivation, but he was badly mistaken. Xiang Shaoyun had clearly not used his full strength in their spar earlier, yet he could already stop a majority of Huang Baiwu's attacks. It was obvious there was still a gap between the two.

"You flatter me, Baiwu. You weren't trying your best either. If you use all your strength, I would probably have a much harder time," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile. "It's time I go to the Guardians Guild."

All the Gods younger than 1,000 years old were already on their way to the Guardians Guild. It was time for Xiang Shaoyun to set off as well. After all, he still wasn't an official member of the guild. He had to submit his guardians token and report his identity before he could become a young guild master candidate. He would then be able to take the guild's test. The ultimate victor would be able to ascend to the throne.

"Um. I'll bid farewell to the emperor emeritus," said Huang Baiwu with a nod.

"Are you sure you want to come with me?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

With Huang Baiwu's strength, there would always be a spot for him at the top of the dominion. If he instead followed Xiang Shaoyun, he would forever remain beneath Xiang Shaoyun.

"Your talent is unrivaled. Even Baiwu can never hope to catch up to you. It is my honor to follow you, overlord. In the future, you will become the young guild master or even the guild master. At the time, I will benefit from it. I won't regret this!" said Huang Baiwu seriously.

"Fine. You won't be disappointed!" promised Xiang Shaoyun with a confident smile.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to return to the Saintly Forest Courtyard with Huang Baiwu, he raised his brow and looked to the side before asking, "Who is it?"

He then sent a finger beam shooting toward that direction.

"You're so young yet so alert," said a lazy voice.

Next, a youth dressed in a hemp garment appeared out of the void. The youth had two locks of white hair on his head, and he had a unique temperament about him. His eyes seemed to carry the weight of history, making it hard to believe that these were the eyes of such a young face. Xiang Shaoyun had keen eyesight, but not even he could see through the youth's cultivation. He was immediately on alert. This youth was probably far stronger than him. A person like that was probably someone standing at the top of the dominion.

"Y-you're Courtyard Master Xie Feng from Saintly Forest Courtyard?" asked Huang Baiwu in astonishment.

The Dusk Dynasty had a close relationship with the Saintly Forest Courtyard. Huang Baiwu was naturally aware that the Saintly Forest Courtyard had an old courtyard master with a deep and unmeasurable strength. He had even seen the portrait of that master. The youth before him resembled that mysterious old courtyard master.

"Hehe, do you think I'm old? I'm still a young man!" said Xie Feng in a frivolous manner.

"It really is you, Master Xie Feng! Huang Baiwu of Imperial Dusk greets you, Senior Xie," said Huang Baiwu with a respectful salute.

"A child of the Imperial Dusk? No wonder you know me," said Xie Feng in realization. After a pause, he said, "You're not bad, kid. But the kid beside you is even better. This must be Ge Yi's sole successor, Xiang Shaoyun?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "Yes, this kid is Xiang Shaoyun."

"You're going to make your bid for the young guild master position, right? I advise you to forget it," advised Xie Feng.

Both Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Baiwu were stunned.

Chapter 1693: Extreme Danger

It wouldn't be wrong if one said that having the position of the young guild master of the Guardians Guild was a supreme glory for the younger generation. It was a position all the young Gods longed for, and those with the capability would definitely try to fight for it. All candidates would also receive the full support of the organizations behind them. Whatever the cost one needed to pay for the position, it would be worth it.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't understand why Xie Feng, the Saintly Forest Courtyard's master, was telling him to give up on the position.

"Old Xie, why is that?" asked Huang Baiwu in confusion.

"Do you think I'm not capable enough, Lord Xie?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, who couldn't accept being looked down on.

"Haha. Kid, you're unhappy about this?" Xie Feng laughed. "If you were given a few hundred years, this position would definitely be yours. But for now, you stand no chance. Qin Hongyan and Gongsun Yingxiong will not give you any opportunity. Perhaps you will go missing before you can even reach the Guardians Guild."

"Old Xie, the Guardians Guild is publicly known as the fairest organization in existence. They wouldn't be so shady, right?" asked Huang Baiwu anxiously.

"Um, those two old farts have been fighting against each other for countless years, and they have always remained in an impasse. Now that an era of calamity is coming, they have no choice but to elect a young guild master. Thus, the position can only go to their successors. Nobody else stands a chance," said Xie Feng confidently.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into silence. He could see that Xie Feng was being earnest and wasn't exaggerating.

"Kid, you should just stay in the Saintly Forest Courtyard. I can even get someone to appoint you the new courtyard master. With your experience, after around 10,000 years, you will be able to reach my level. At that time, the young guild master position wouldn't matter anymore," said Xie Feng.

Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Baiwu instantly understood what the courtyard master was trying to do. It turned out that he was trying to poach Xiang Shaoyun. However, comparing the Saintly Forest

Courtyard with the Guardians Guild was like comparing the light of a firefly with the light of the sun and the moon.

However, there was no doubting that the Saintly Forest Courtyard had its own unique side. For example, the courtyard master, Xie Feng, was strong enough to be considered a powerhouse. For someone like him to personally poach Xiang Shaoyun, it was obvious how highly he regarded Xiang Shaoyun.

If Xiang Shaoyun could obtain the Saintly Forest Courtyard's support, after his strength progressed to the level of a powerhouse as well, he would be able to lead the Saintly Forest Courtyard to glory. Even if he wouldn't be able to surpass the Guardians Guild, he would definitely be able to build the Saintly Forest Courtyard into something comparable with the other three superpowers.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Thank you for the offer, Old Xie, but I must become the young guild master."

"Did you not understand me? Pursuing that position is extremely dangerous!" said Xie Feng unhappily.

"I know. However, I can not disobey my master's wishes. In any case, I'm not a greedy coward who fears death," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

"Sigh. Forget it. Since you're courting death, you can't blame anyone else for what's going to happen," said Xie Feng. He knew that further persuasion would be pointless. With a sigh, he vanished before the two.

Both Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Baiwu shook their heads before returning to the Saintly Forest Courtyard. There, they bid farewell to the emperor emeritus. The old man did not try to make them stay. After giving them some advice, he let them go.

Just as they were about to leave, Huang Xiaoyue mustered her courage and walked up to Xiang Shaoyun. "Xiang Shaoyun, I'm sorry for everything that had happened in the past. Please forget it all."

"Junior Xiaoyue, what happened? I don't remember anything," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Huang Xiaoyue blanked out slightly before a wide smile formed on her face. She gazed at Xiang Shaoyun's departing figure, and only when he was far away did tears drip down her eyes.

The emperor emeritus appeared beside her and said, "Xiaoyue, just cultivate by my side from now on. With your physique, even if you can't catch up to Young Master Xiang, you will be at least as good as your imperial uncle. Only then will you have the confidence to chase after Young Master Xiang."

"Ancestor, do I have any chance at all?" asked Huang Xiaoyue softly.

"As long as you work hard, you will always have a chance. If you don't work hard, you will have no chance," said the emperor emeritus.

"Ok. Xiaoyue will not disappoint you, ancestor!" promised Huang Xiaoyue as a thick battle intent lit up in her.

Xiang Shaoyun's devil clone had finally reached his main body. Also arriving with the devil clone were Scarlet Flame Monarch, Devouring Ghost, and Green Ghost. After absorbing the clone back into his body, Xiang Shaoyun resumed his journey with them.

Defeating the devils that had occupied the Dusk Dynasty couldn't be done in a short period of time. With an old monster like Xie Feng around, humanity would at least be able to stop the devils from progressing further.

Before heading to the Guardians Guild, Xiang Shaoyun decided to pay the eastern sea a visit. He was going to retrieve all his belongings from two lifetimes ago from the Celestial King's Palace.

The things left in the Celestial King's Palace were only saint-grade items, but the palace itself was an amazing god-grade palace. He planned to absorb the entire palace into his astral cosmos sea, turning it into his astral cosmos sea's number one palace. In the future, it would become an astral palace and serve to anchor the existence of the entire astral cosmos sea.

Lonesoul Island was a desolate and uninhabited island where the Celestial King's Palace could be found. Relying on his senses, Xiang Shaoyun tore the space above the island and entered the Celestial King's Palace alone.

The space containing the palace was anchored by his bloody war banner, which served as the formation eye of the formation around the palace. The moment he entered, he sensed a bloody aura

in the air. Not even a regular Saint would be able to resist that aura, but it was nothing for Xiang Shaoyun.

With a wave of his hand, he grabbed the war banner. Inside it, he instantly sensed a surging battle intent that could lift one's morale. "If I can turn this into a god-grade banner, I will definitely be able to increase the strength of my companions."

At that thought, Xiang Shaoyun gathered all the bloody aura and condensed it into the war banner. Unfortunately, due to material limitations, the war banner could only be upgraded to the great saint grade. It was unable to be upgraded into a true god-grade banner.

"Let me try the profundity of creation here," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he focused his God Realm energy on the war banner. A power of creation formed in the banner as his primal inception energy branded the banner's pole. Slowly but surely, the banner started to upgrade.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun used a drop of his blood essence and merged it with the war banner. Instantly, the banner shone brilliantly and released the heroic spirits that were within it. "Battle!" "Battle!"

These were the souls of the heroic warriors who had perished on the battlefield. Their battle intent was powerful, and under the nourishment of Xiang Shaoyun's God Realm blood and energy, they were pushed to their limits, transforming the banner into a true god-grade banner.

Xiang Shaoyun then kept the banner away in satisfaction. He started heading toward the Celestial King's Palace. That was his true target.

Chapter 1694: Reincarnation

The Celestial King's Palace was a massive palace comparable to an imperial palace. Powerful formation lines surrounded it, and although most of the power of the formation lines had dissipated, the formation lines were still beyond an ordinary person's ability to destroy them.

Xiang Shaoyun felt a familiar sensation at the Celestial King's Palace. He found himself liking that place, as though he had returned to his own home.

He became one with the place and sensed every single formation line around him. He sighed, "This defensive god-grade formation is formed by combining ten great saint formations and two great god formations together, granting it a powerful offensive capability. I only need to slot in the saint

crystals and god crystals at the correct positions, and the formation will be able to protect the palace from even a top-tier God."

After taking a step into the palace, he found that the ancient coffin was still there. The traitor who had been stabbed to death was similarly still there as well. Everything he had experienced was still vivid in his mind.

The inheritance of his past life was hidden here. Back when he first awakened his memories, he could hear his own final words, which seemed to have traversed the river of time and space to reach him. At the time, he was confused. This time, he was going to get to the bottom of the matter.

He sat down cross-legged and immersed himself in the dao of time. He awakened his memories from two lifetimes ago and formed several hand signs while the Light of Wisdom lit up on his forehead. Time around him reversed, and he forcefully ripped apart a small part of the river of time.

That was an overwhelming display of power. Xiang Shaoyun then saw the him of the past. He was a true celestial king, someone who had undergone countless battles before becoming a powerful warlord. Unfortunately, he ultimately fell to a traitor. He could only watch on as the traitor seriously injured his previous reincarnation. There was nothing he could do to change it.

Moments before his previous self died, his heart seemingly turned clear as he saw a tiny fraction of the future. He seemed to see his future self traveling through time back to the past. He also saw some other things that others would never be able to see.

"I knew you would return. However, I did not know that you would arrive so early. Looks like the timing is still rather off," said the celestial king.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at his previous reincarnation and said, "How did you know I was coming?"

"Not only am I aware that you'd return, but I also know that you are me and that I am you. We have the physique of three lives, a physique of nine stars that requires three lifetimes of accumulation before we can break our shackles and form the strongest physique. Only then will we obtain enough strength to save humanity during the dominion's apocalypse," said the celestial emperor.

"It's like you know everything, yet it also seems like you know nothing. Why is that?" Xiang Shaoyun was still confused despite having the Light of Wisdom.

"Let me make this simple for you. Even during my life, I had already considered cultivating nine powers. Unfortunately, I had failed. That is why I shifted my focus to formations. Walking the path of formations, I forced a way into godhood and awakened the Light of Wisdom. During my final moments, I finally saw the future and realized the need for three lives of accumulation—the brand of the great astral dao—to form the Primal Inception Physique.

"The appearance of the Primal Inception Physique would signify the end of the dominion because it's a physique the heavenly laws can't tolerate. The dominion will be destroyed because of it, and all living beings will perish. Thus, only by becoming a new world will all these lives be saved. Of course, you can also opt to give up on those living beings, achieve the Reincarnation Realm, and become the Supreme God.

"Of course, the final result will depend on your mindset. For me, I'm happy enough to see that you have formed the strongest physique," said the celestial king. Slowly, he faded away, and the power of time started to scatter.

The river of time vanished, and Xiang Shaoyun's Light of Wisdom shut down. A strand of his spiritual power and Light of Wisdom from his past reincarnation traveled through time to arrive inside his head.

Instantly, fragmented scenes of the future appeared in his head. He could see the nine regions of the dominion in a state of destruction. He could see countless people living in suffering. Numerous aliens were invading, while the barrier between the dominion and the Devil Domain was broken. That was the true apocalypse.

That was what he had seen during his last moments two lifetimes ago. His heart was filled with shock as he muttered, "Will the dominion really be destroyed?"

He stood still for a long time as an indescribable emotion welled within him. The dominion was what humanity relied on to exist. Without the dominion, how would humanity continue to survive?

"Becoming a new world. Is that a reference to the astral cosmos sea in my body?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

He felt like that was the case. If he was strong enough to reach the fabled Reincarnation Realm, his astral cosmos sea would perhaps become unimaginably large. At that time, it might be possible for him to store all these life forms in his astral cosmos sea.

However, he found that hard to accept. He wouldn't mind everyone staying in his astral cosmos sea briefly, but he wouldn't be able to get used to letting others reside long-term within him.

He stood there with his eyes shut for two hours. Finally, he opened his eyes when his mind regained its clarity. A smile formed on his face as he said, "Apocalypse or not, I, Xiang Shaoyun, will welcome any hardship and face it head on. I will forge a flawless physique and comprehend the profundity of primal inception. Even if the dominion is destroyed, I will be able to repair it. If the dominion really falls to a state beyond repair, I shall become the new dominion and bear the weight of all life."

Xiang Shaoyun was the man who was determined to become the young guild master of the Guardians Guild. He had a much bigger ambition than his two previous reincarnations. However, having ambition alone was not enough. Without a heart big enough to contain the world, he would not be able to become the true leader of humanity.

After figuring all that out, Xiang Shaoyun stopped hesitating. The only thing left for him to do was to grow stronger.

He hovered high above the independent space and covered it entirely with his senses. He then roared, "Come!"

Instantly, everything in the independent space was pulled into his astral cosmos sea. Anyone would be shocked by the sight of that. Not even regular Gods would be capable of such a feat. After pulling the entire Celestial King's Palace into his astral cosmos sea, he took out a god-grade object from below the palace.

The object was actually a god-grade seal known as the Celestial King Seal. It was a god-grade weapon he had created during his past life. Unfortunately, its grade wasn't high enough and wasn't too useful for the current Xiang Shaoyun. However, there was a battle technique branded within it, and the God Realm energy of his past life was also sealed within the seal. He was the only one who could absorb the energy. Nobody else would be able to do anything with it.

Chapter 1695: The Various Young Gods

Celestial King Seal.

It was only the size of a palm, but so long as Xiang Shaoyun wanted, he could enlarge the seal to the size of a mountain or an entire realm. An entire world seemed to be contained within it, and it also carried all the God Realm energy the Celestial King had stored within the seal prior to his

death. Of course, the energy was incomparable to what Xiang Shaoyun had, but it should still be enough to help Xiang Shaoyun enter fourth-stage God Realm.

He gently rubbed the seal as he absorbed all the energy stored within the seal into his astral cosmos sea. He had a natural affinity with the energy and was able to absorb it much easier than when he had absorbed the divine sources. Soon, he was pushed to peak third-stage Rebirth Realm. He only needed more time in seclusion before he could smoothly enter the fourth stage.

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed the imminent breakthrough and muttered, "I'll continue after reaching the Guardians Guild."

He then gathered up with everyone else before resuming his journey to the Guardians Guild. This time, he did not only have Huang Baiwu with him. Scarlet Flame Monarch, Devouring Ghost, Green Ghost, Lang Ya, and the others were also with him. This was an incredibly powerful group. Including the Devil Gods under Xiang Shaoyun's control, he already had a terrifyingly powerful force under his command.

However, that still wasn't enough because Xiang Shaoyun still did not have any top-tier Gods by his side. That would probably be his biggest weakness.

As the group traveled at their top speed, they did not take long to cross several regions. Finally, they made it to the center of the dominion and reached the city that would never fall, the Divine Dominion City. That was where the Guardians Guild was based.

Before the group could even enter the city, they sensed several powerful auras closing in from all directions. From the east, an immortal palace was flying over. Dragons and phoenixes were sculpted on the palace, and sounds of dragons and phoenixes seemed to accompany the palace wherever it went. The dragon and phoenix themes gave the palace an exceptionally majestic appearance.

Someone called out in surprise, "That's the Little Immortal Palace of the Immortal Road Chamber! The Immortal Road Chamber actually deployed something this valuable! I'm afraid that all 108 of their immortal children are already here. It is rumored that the number one immortal child, Zi Lingtian, is younger than 1,000 years old. He has undergone 999 battles without suffering a single defeat. Not long ago, he had even gone to the Zombie God's territory and crushed over a dozen God Realm zombies. The Zombie God tried to kill him, but he managed to escape with his life. It is obvious how strong he is."

"The gender of the immortal child is still unknown, but they are obviously here with the Little Immortal Palace. Looks like they are determined to become the young guild master."

"Look! A sedan is being pulled over by some ancient severing tune birds! Those from the Guangling Palace are here!"

"The severing tune birds are innately born with destructive voices. With one cry, they alarm the world. They are a perfect match for the Divine Guangling Tune. Look, the 36 palace maids are on the sedan. Each of them is incredibly beautiful. The guards by their side are probably the 36 guards of the Guangling Palace. They all look heroic and valiant."

"The Celestial Alliance is here as well. All 81 of their celestial children are here. Just what kind of a war chariot is that? It looks shabby, yet it has an ancient aura that gives off an extremely heavy pressure."

"Is that the legendary Eight-Pointed Dragons Chariot? Look at the eight-pointed shape of the chariot. Each point was made with unique dragon horns. This chariot is a divine object capable of offense and defense, the Celestial Alliance's precious treasure. I did not expect the Celestial Alliance to take this chariot out for this."

"With the Immortal Road Chamber, the Guangling Palace, and the Celestial Alliance taking part, will the other young Gods stand any chance?"

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The three superpowers were the strongest organizations after the Guardians Guild. However, there were also some other hermit organizations that could not be underestimated either. These organizations all took out their most valuable god-grade items to assist the young Gods they had kept hidden in order to win the position.

After the candidates of the three superpowers entered the Divine Dominion City, more and more young Gods arrived. One appeared riding on a demonic beast possessing a draconic ancestry. It was on the verge of turning into a true dragon and was already a Demon God. The person mounted on the beast was Dongfang Wudi of the Eastern Pass.

Another candidate arrived on a spectral horse. The man on the horse was brash and arrogant, emanating a domineering God Realm aura that sent everyone near him flying away and coughing blood. He had a massive sword hanging on his back, and he was none other than the Eastern Pass's Bai Fan.

There was also a young monk that had come empty-handed. On his journey, he had constantly chanted Buddhist scriptures, flooding his surroundings with Buddhist symbols. Anyone who approached him would be attracted by his chants and would unknowingly start walking with him.

Each of these individuals was a giant among men, born to stand at the pinnacle of humanity. Each had unique talents and numerous fortuitous encounters that had allowed them to become a God below 1,000 years old.

The Di Clan had also arrived.

Their representative was actually Xiang Shaoyun's nemesis, Di Lin. Behind Di Lin were 18 God Realm guards. Di Lin himself was mounted atop a God Realm tiger. Wrapped in a thick layer of god-grade flame, he looked rather overbearing.

After losing his life once to Xiang Shaoyun and undergoing rebirth, Di Lin had changed into an entirely different person. He had fused with Sima's soul, and the two had become one. It did not cause him any discomfort. Rather, he became even more talented than before. His luck seemed to have improved greatly as well. He constantly had fortuitous encounters, especially during his time at the ancient battlefield where he had obtained the inheritance of a powerful human expert.

That inheritance had helped him enter the Rebirth Realm. After returning to the Di Clan, he was further assisted by the clan's secret technique, allowing his strength to skyrocket into fifth-stage Rebirth Realm.

One could say that he was improving at a speed that not even Dongfang Wudi could compare to. After all, even Dongfang Wudi was still a peak second-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. It was no wonder why Di Lin was the second young genius to rise from the Western Desert after Xiang Shaoyun.

Not long after, the Yu Clan also arrived. Their arrival was accompanied by great fanfare. Nine phoenixes were pulling a luxurious carriage when they arrived by traveling through space. Seated in the luxurious carriage was a young man and a young woman. The man was Yu Tianhuang, the Yu Clan's hidden young genius who had created the phenomenon of a myriad of birds. The fact that he could use Tianhuang as his name, which meant heavenly phoenix, signified that he saw himself as a divine phoenix. As for the young woman by his side, she was none other than Yu Caidie.

Yu Tianhuang's appearance was akin to the appearance of a phoenix. A divine flame flickered around his body, presenting an unimaginable sight to everyone around him. He had a shocking cultivation level of sixth-stage Rebirth Realm, a stage higher than Di Lin.

As for Yu Caidie, she was no longer at first-stage Rebirth Realm. Rather, she had improved and reached third-stage Rebirth Realm, showcasing an astonishing growth speed.

Chapter 1696: Divine Purple Jade Token

Xiang Shaoyun saw Yu Caidie, but she didn't notice him. He did not walk up to her because she seemed to be doing well at the moment. The Yu Clan wasn't restricting her freedom. He could also see Yu Huayan among the Yu Clan's entourage. It would be much easier for him to think of a way to meet her after entering the city.

More and more young Gods arrived, and the Divine Dominion City bustled with noise and activity. As a result, entry became much stricter. Xiang Shaoyun brought his people to the city's main gate. Everyone's identity must be verified, and sufficient spirit crystals needed to be paid before they could enter.

The main gate stood majestically. Atop the thick city wall, numerous Saints were standing guard. The city was also protected by a god-grade formation. Anyone who dared to enter without permission, including Gods, would pay a bloody price. The moment Xiang Shaoyun's group landed, a God stopped them.

Ordinarily, even Saints would rarely guard these walls. But because they were in a unique period of time, even Gods were relegated to guard duty to prevent any devils or aliens from sneaking into the city.

"Body inspection through the divine mirror," said the God.

Hovering above the city gate was a massive mirror. The mirror shone brightly and sent a ray of light toward Xiang Shaoyun's group. Any demon or devil would be forced into their true forms by the mirror. That was the mirror's special function.

The group did not have any issues with the inspection. One by one, they wrote their names on the god-grade stele beside them. And finally, they arrived at the part where they needed to pay spirit crystals before entering.

"If you have a guardians token, you can enter with your people. Without a token, you have to pay 100 low-grade saint crystals per person," reported the guard expressionlessly.

Standing guard near the main gate, they could encounter a God at any time. However, these guards seemed unfazed because not even Gods would dare to act rashly in the city.

In the past, one only needed to pay spirit crystals to enter. Now, the entry fee had been changed to saint crystals. The Guardians Guild wasn't actually taking this opportunity to make more money. Rather, the scope of this event was too big, and things were becoming increasingly complicated. To prevent the weaker cultivators from overestimating themselves and wasting everyone's time, a new entry fee was set to weed out some of the weaker cultivators.

Just as Devouring Ghost was about to step forth and make the payment, Xiang Shaoyun took out a guardians token and asked, "Are you talking about this?"

The guard appeared doubtful when he saw the token. "Show me the token."

Xiang Shaoyun handed the token over unhesitatingly. After studying the token for a bit, the guard appeared even more doubtful. He showed his companions the token and asked, "Have any of you seen a token of this color before?"

"No. The guild has Iron Jade Token, Silver Jade Token, and Gold Jade Token. I have never seen a purple token like this before," said one of them with a shake of his head.

A different person snapped, "Is this fellow trying to get through with a forged token?"

Immediately, the 72 guards in the area surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's group.

Xiang Shaoyun had heard their conversation. He did not think that the principal would give him a fake token. Thus, he said confidently, "Check properly. There is no way this token is fake."

"Hmph. How can we not know our own tokens? Your purple token is obviously a forgery. You still have the guts to argue even after we caught you red-handed? I advise that you surrender. Otherwise, you will suffer a miserable fate!" said the guard leader coldly.

The guard leader was a Great Saint. With his impressive combat strength, he showed no fear toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"I believe there is a mistake somewhere. The Overlord's name is Xiang Shaoyun. Don't tell me you don't know that name," said Devouring Ghost as he took a step forward.

"I don't care what your name is. Forging a token is punishable with death!" berated the guard leader loudly.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and asked, "Are you sure you did not make a mistake?"

At this time, the God from earlier returned and asked, "What happened? Who forged a fake token?"

"Why don't we pay and enter instead. It's not like we're lacking money," Huang Baiwu hurriedly said.

"It's too late for that," said the guard leader with a sneer. He then faced the God respectfully and said, "Lord, they actually have the guts to forge a guardians token. That is an insult to our Guardians Guild. Lord, please command us to arrest all of them!"

The God glanced at the token in the guard leader's hand and raised his brow. "Hand me the token."

The guard leader hurriedly handed the token over and said, "Lord, look, this token is purple. Since when did we have a token of such col—"

Before he could finish his words, the God slapped him heavily across his face.

Pa!

The guard leader was stupefied.

"Lord, y—" the guard leader gripped his aching face speechlessly.

The God carefully raised the token over his head, dropped down on one knee, and said, "This is the highest-level token in the guild, the Divine Purple Jade Token. Only the two deputies, no, the three deputies have them. You must be blind. Are you trying to get all of us killed?" He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "May I ask which deputy this token came from, young master? Do you have any orders for us?"

With the God kneeling on the ground, the other guards did not dare to hesitate and dropped down on their knees. Fear covered their faces. How would they have guessed that the young man before them would have the token of a deputy? That was too shocking for them. Even the other people outside the gate were curious as to which deputy's disciple this young man was.

"My master is Ge Yi," declared Xiang Shaoyun proudly.

Although he had not received much direct care from Ge Yi over the years, he still greatly respected his master. That was especially true after he learned that his master was a guardian god who had contributed greatly to humanity. He was proud to have a master like that.

His declaration slammed into the ears of everyone present. That was a deafening name. Ge Yi, someone who had not returned to the Guardians Guild for many years. However, everything he had done for humanity in silence was worthy of praise. Someone like him was worthy of respect and admiration even if he had never shown himself.

"So this is Ge Yi's personal disciple, Xiang Shaoyun? I was curious who this outstanding young God was."

"Overlord, Xiang Shaoyun, rumored to possess the strongest physique. After combining nine different powers, he became strong enough to fight beyond his level. He also occupied first place on the Heaven Battling Ranking."

"Lord Ge Yi had actually passed his token to Xiang Shaoyun. Does this mean that he wishes for Xiang Shaoyun to become the young guild master?"

"It's a pity. If this Xiang Shaoyun was born a few hundred years earlier, he might be able to get the position. As it is, he has little chance."

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Chapter 1697: Qin Jiu

Xiang Shaoyun had never considered throwing the weight of his master's name around. However, this was his first time at the Guardians Guild. If he allowed himself to be stepped on, he would embarrass not only himself but also his master.

After the God confirmed that Xiang Shaoyun had a deputy's token, the guards became terrified. If the higher-ups decided to question them, they would probably lose the qualification to become guards and suffer more punishment. They looked at Xiang Shaoyun anxiously and apologetically, hoping that he would not hold them accountable for the misunderstanding.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't blame them for something so trivial. He said nonchalantly, "Since you had no idea, you did nothing wrong. Stand up."

They were all gladdened, but they didn't dare to stand up immediately.

Only after showering Xiang Shaoyun with words of gratitude did the God dare to carefully stand up. "Young Master Xiang, is this your first time at the Divine Dominion City?"

"Yes."

"Shall I show you the way to the guild, then?" asked the God.

After some thought, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "It's fine. I wish to take a walk around the city first."

He was a newcomer and knew nothing about the city. He did not wish to enter the guild in his clueless state. He had to first gather more information before deciding on his next path of action.

"Of course. Feel free to reach out to me if you ever need anything, Young Master Xiang," said the God, who seemed somewhat disheartened after being rejected.

He might be a God, but he didn't exactly have a high status in the guild. Xiang Shaoyun might be a chance for him to gain more, but unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun was not a clueless youngster who could be manipulated easily.

After Xiang Shaoyun and company entered the city, they attracted considerable attention. Many people wondered if this outstanding young God would be able to prevail over so many young geniuses.

The Divine Dominion City was the size of a province. The buildings in the city were imposing and glorious, while the streets were much larger than in regular cities. People seated atop demonic beasts and luxurious carriages trailed along the streets. The streets were large enough for them to travel swiftly without bumping against each other.

A multitude of shops stood alongside the streets, all belonging to the guild. All sorts of herbs, cultivation resources, and weapon refining materials could be found in them. Even saint-grade, or even god-grade, items could be purchased if one paid enough.

That was an eye-opener for Xiang Shaoyun and company. Many of these high-tier items were things that wouldn't be easily taken out in other cities, even in the cities of other powerful organizations. One could only imagine how vast the Guardians Guild's accumulation was for them to so casually sell these items.

After roaming around the city for a bit, the group was about to look for a tavern to settle down when a group of people rushed toward them.

The people in the group were all riding powerful demonic tigers. Every one of them was at least at the Sovereign Realm. The leader was a pseudo-God. This was definitely not an ordinary group. They were obviously here for Xiang Shaoyun. After coming before Xiang Shaoyun, they stopped.

The middle-aged man leading the group gave Xiang Shaoyun a slight bow and said, "Guild overseer, Mo Duo, greets Young Master Xiang. I come on Young Master Jiu's order to invite you to his temporary palace."

"Young Master Jiu? I don't think I know such a person," Xiang Shaoyun blanked out.

"Young Master Jiu is the guild's youngest God Realm elder and the most popular candidate to be the young guild master. He is also a descendant of Deputy Qin's and is held in very high regard by Deputy Qin himself," introduced the pseudo-God proudly.

"Wow, amazing. Then again, I still don't know him. You may leave," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Audacious! You dare to refuse Young Master Jiu's invitation? The entire Divine Dominion City will not welcome you!" berated the pseudo-God furiously.

"What boastful words. You act like the Divine Dominion City belongs exclusively to your Young Master Jiu," a different voice rang out before Xiang Shaoyun could say anything.

From where the voice came from, a scholarly middle-aged man was walking toward them. The middle-aged man was dressed in a clean white robe. A divine radiance covered his body, and a genial smile hung on his face. It was obvious he was no ordinary person.

"Lord Zhuge!" The pseudo-God had a look of fear as he hurriedly saluted the newcomer.

The newcomer was none other than the one known as the Fox of Wisdom, Zhuge Zhi, Gongsun Yingxion's number one advisor. He was also an outstanding God Realm formation grandmaster. Someone like him naturally had a high status in the guild. No ordinary person could afford to offend him.

Zhugē Zhi ignored the pseudo-God. He clasped his hand in greeting to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "I'm Zhuge Zhi. I wonder if I can have the honor of meeting up with you, Young Master Xiang?"

Xiang Shaoyun gave Zhuge Zhi a glance before agreeing, "Sure. Please lead the way."

Zhugē Zhi smiled and made an inviting gesture. "This way, Young Master Xiang."

The group thus left with Zhuge Zhi. The pseudo-God had an unsightly expression, but he did not dare to say anything as he left gloomily with his people. Before long, Zhuge Zhi arrived at a palace by himself. After reporting his arrival through several messengers, he was finally allowed entry. Seated in the palace was none other than Qin Jiu. He was clad in a black robe with golden trim, showcasing his slender and tall figure.

"Greetings, Young Master Jiu," greeted the pseudo-God deferentially as he dropped onto his knees.

Qin Jiu had his back to the kneeling pseudo-God. Without even turning around, he asked, "You failed?"

"I was about to succeed, but Lord Zhuge interrupted," answered the pseudo-God nervously.

"Zhuge Zhi?" Qin Jiu muttered as he spun around with astonishment on his face.

"Yes."

"Why did he get involved in this?" muttered Qin Jiu doubtfully.

After thinking about it for a bit, Qin Jiu waved his hand. "Leave."

After the pseudo-God left, Qin Jiu looked in one direction and muttered, "Shadow, what do you think I should do about this?"

A shadow abruptly materialized from the corner of the room. "Young master, I'll do whatever you ask."

"I'm asking for your opinion," said Qin Jiu.

"Zhuge Zhi might be Gongsun Yingxiong's man, and Gongsun Yingxiong might intend to have him assist Gongsun Sanyang, but Zhuge Zhi holds Gongsun Sanyang in low regard. Thus, he is probably getting involved for Ge Yi's sake, wishing to give Xiang Shaoyun some help," analyzed the shadow.

"You are as keen as ever. It truly is a waste having you remain as a shadow assassin," said Qin Jiu. "This is the Divine Dominion City. Since Xiang Shaoyun dares to come, have him disappear forever."

"It will be easy to get rid of him in the city. However, it will also cause quite a ruckus," said the shadow.

"Haha, let's have someone else do the deed for us," said Qin Jiu with a hearty laugh.

"You mean..."

"You already know what I'm thinking, so stop pretending. Go arrange it. I want Xiang Shaoyun to turn into a corpse within seven days," said Qin Jiu as his eyes flickered murderously.

"Yes, young master. I know what to do," said the shadow respectfully before vanishing.

Next, Qin Jiu called over several groups of people and gave them their respective commands. Only then did he sink back into inactivity.

Sitting alone in the room, he rubbed his armrest while muttering, "Xiang Shaoyun is decently strong, but his cultivation level is not high enough. He won't be a threat. In fact, the biggest threat is the foundation left by Ge Yi. That foundation might cause some unforeseen changes. So long as Xiang Shaoyun dies, Ge Yi's followers will have their ambitions squashed. I can even turn them against old dog Gongsun. Then, who could compete against me? Haha!"

Chapter 1698: A Man Should Choose Bravely

In the city was a quiet restaurant with very few customers. It was a private restaurant that only its regulars knew about. That was where Zhuge Zhi had brought Xiang Shaoyun's group. An old man walked out to receive them. After serving them some food and drinks, the old man retreated.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wait for Zhuge Zhi to speak. He took the initiative and asked, "Are you someone from the Zhuge Clan?"

Zhuge Zhi stroked his beard and smiled. "You know our Zhuge Clan, Young Master Xiang?"

"I have a brother. His name is Zhuge Zhantian, a member of the Zhuge Clan. He also resembles you slightly," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"That kid? He's my great-grandson," said Zhuge Zhi with a smile.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out and said, "For real?"

"Hehe, of course. However, I never got the chance to teach that child anything. I knew that he would go further than me, so I left him in the clan so that he could have the chance to properly temper himself. Looks like I did the right thing," said Zhuge Zhi with a smile.

"Why so?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Because he managed to meet you," said Zhuge Zhi seriously.

With a frown, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Please tell me what you want from me. I won't blindly trust you just because you're Zhantian's grandfather."

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to waste any time, and he was more interested to know Zhuge Zhi's intentions. Zhuge Zhi did not say anything. Rather, he emptied his glass of liquor and then looked at those behind Xiang Shaoyun. Evidently, he did not intend to speak in public.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into silence before waving at his people. "Wait for me outside."

Everyone knew how capable Xiang Shaoyun was. They weren't afraid that anything would happen to him. Thus, they left readily.

After Xiang Shaoyun's people left, Zhuge Zhi solemnly said, "Young Master Xiang, you should give up on being the young guild master and leave the city. That is the only way you can preserve your life."

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow and asked, "Do you think that there are still people who would dare to harm me in the city?"

"The Divine Dominion City might be the guild's territory, but this isn't a peaceful place," said Zhuge Zhi with a sigh. "Young Master Xiang, you're someone who has combined nine powers to forge a physique nobody can forge. That is proof of your fortune. However, you are still too young. If you were given several hundred years, I don't think anyone would be able to compete against you for the position. But for now, you are not strong enough."

Xiang Shaoyun asked, "Why do you think that?"

"Take the incident earlier as an example. That Young Master Jiu was trying to make you dead. Those with you are far from enough to contend against the forces at his disposal. Furthermore, there are more people who want you dead. Listen to me and withdraw. You will have the chance to dominate the world in the future. If you remain here, it is unlikely that you will survive," said Zhuge Zhi.

Xiang Shaoyun laughed and said, "I understand. If there is nothing else, I'll be taking my leave."

Prior to this, the Saintly Forest Courtyard's master had told him the same thing. He had long thrown all caution to the wind. He would not back away just because of the threat of death. He would not disappoint the hopes of his master.

"Young Master Xiang, do you know that the guild has already picked two candidates internally? Apart from them, nobody has any chance to become the young guild master," said Zhuge Zhi. He stared right into Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, searching for any trace of fear.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his glass of liquor and said, "Shaoyun thanks you for the warning. However, a man should choose bravely and do what's right. If I withdraw, I will lose the courage to fight for the world. Therefore, whatever stands before me, I will proceed with no regrets. Only death can stop me."

He then stood up, drained his glass, and left. Zhuge Zhi did not stop Xiang Shaoyun from leaving. He narrowed his eyes as they flickered with unknown emotions. Inwardly, he thought, Well said. Looks like Zhantian has far better insight than me.

After Xiang Shaoyun left, he brought his people to a tavern called East Wind House. There, he met the shopkeeper and took out an item. The shopkeeper showed a look of astonishment at the sight of the item. He then arranged the accommodation for Xiang Shaoyun and company.

"Young Master Xiang, is Lord Lu well?" asked the shopkeeper while they were on the way to their rooms.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Old Lu is well. I believe he will be back soon."

The so-called Old Lu was none other than Lu Jiang. Lu Jiang was the one who had given Xiang Shaoyun the token to be shown to the shopkeeper. Lu Jiang was also the one who had told Xiang Shaoyun to go to the East Wind House. He knew that in the Divine Dominion City, it wouldn't be easy for Xiang Shaoyun to find a safe place of dwelling. The East Wind House was under Lu Jiang's management, so nobody would dare to create trouble there.

After Xiang Shaoyun and company settled down in the tavern, Xiang Shaoyun started asking the shopkeeper about the city. Lu Jiang had told Xiang Shaoyun about the city, which includes Young Master Jiu and Zhuge Zhi, whom Xiang Shaoyun had just met. He had merely been acting clueless.

The shopkeeper updated Xiang Shaoyun on all that had happened recently. After listening to the full report, Xiang Shaoyun finally understood just how powerful his opponents were. The young Gods

of the entire world seemed to have arrived. The competition to become the young guild master would be incredibly intense. The moment one participated, withdrawing would no longer be an option. He also learned that the two internal candidates were busy recruiting the talented individuals of the world to increase the chips in their hands.

If Xiang Shaoyun wanted to participate in the fight for the young guild master, he had to first join the Guardians Guild. To join, he had to go through three tests that were designed to reveal one's character. The Guardians Guild was a righteous organization that existed to serve the world. If one did not have the right character, how would one be able to serve the dominion?

Xiang Shaoyun decided to verify his identity the next day. He wanted to get it over with as soon as possible so he could obtain the qualification to fight for the position. After the shopkeeper left, Xiang Shaoyun gathered all his people. He assigned all of them missions, telling them to investigate the ongoing in the city. Only by knowing themselves and their enemies would they be able to react to everything accordingly.

Everyone left with their respective missions, leaving only Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Baiwu in the tavern. Huang Baiwu was a sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. He voluntarily took on the role of being Xiang Shaoyun's personal guard. He would not allow anything to happen to Xiang Shaoyun.

That night, Xiang Shaoyun was cultivating in his room while Huang Baiwu was standing guard outside when the wind suddenly started blowing. Spatial undulations appeared around the tavern, noiselessly sealing the entire tavern.

Huang Baiwu immediately sensed the seal. He shouted, "Who is it? Show yourself!"

He sent a palm attack in one direction. That attack was not to be underestimated, yet it was completely swallowed by a gust of dark energy that had suddenly appeared.

"Hehe, not bad at all. Unfortunately, it's useless before my devouring formation," a smug voice rang out.

Next, 18 individuals wrapped in black death energy appeared from the darkness. They were completely covered in black, revealing only their emotionless eyes, giving off the impression that all of them were cold-blooded individuals. In fact, they were no ordinary people. These were all assassins.

The shopkeepers and the employees of the tavern were no weaklings. The moment the space around the tavern was sealed, they noticed what was happening. However, they were all bound before they could do anything.

The shopkeeper might be a God, but before a stronger God, he couldn't do anything. Each of the dark assassins was a top-class God Realm assassin. The leader was a seventh-stage God, stronger than even Huang Baiwu.

Not only were the 18 assassins strong, but they also cultivated a formation called the Eighteen Asura Infernal Formation. Only those who cultivated the power of darkness could be part of their formation.

The powerful formation had sealed the tavern, making sure that any fight in the tavern would not be detected outside. These people were here to assassinate Xiang Shaoyun. They were trying to prevent him from joining the Guardians Guild.

When Huang Baiwu sensed the murderous aura on them, the Dragon God Sword appeared in his hand. He unhesitatingly mustered all his strength and charged toward the enemies. A powerful fiery dragon flew out, emanating a violent and domineering strength that caused even the seventh-stage God to be astonished.

The leader did not underestimate Huang Baiwu, and he ordered his people accordingly, "Get into position and kill him."

The 18 assassins had excellent teamwork. They each stood at a different position before releasing their energy, sealing Huang Baiwu's surroundings as a large amount of dark energy formed a scene from hell. It was as though countless asuras had emerged from hell, each with a terrifying appearance as they bared their fangs and brandished their claws. With their mouths breathing out baleful energy and sharp weapons in their hands, they charged Huang Baiwu.

The scene created by the Eighteen Asura Infernal Formation was incredibly vivid. Even Huang Baiwu felt all his hair stand on end. Fortunately, he had plenty of combat experience and was able to unleash three burning slashes with his Dragon God Sword. With his slashes and the fiery dragon around him, he burned the scene from hell into nothingness.

However, the Eighteen Asura Infernal Formation was too powerful. The combination of the formation, a seventh-stage God, and other Gods of varying levels was not something an ordinary person could handle.

Huang Baiwu's attack might be fierce, but he was unable to fully destroy the hell around him. He became battered and exhausted as wounds appeared on his body. An intensely corrosive energy invaded him, causing him to start losing control over his god body.

Why is this formation so strong? Huang Baiwu exclaimed inwardly before taking out his trump card. He was not going to allow himself to be defeated so easily.

He attacked fiercely, and as the burning sun and fiery dragon crisscrossed before him, countless sword rays shot out and destroyed the asuras. His combat strength reached the level of seventh-stage Rebirth Realm, and even the 18 Gods were having a hard time defeating him immediately.

Inside the room, Xiang Shaoyun had long sensed the disturbances outside. However, he did not do anything as he was confident Huang Baiwu would be able to deal with it. It seemed he had underestimated his enemies; the assassins sent his way were even stronger than expected. Not even Huang Baiwu could defeat them.

As the divine dao eyes spun, Xiang Shaoyun scanned the entire Eighteen Asura Infernal Formation. He was unable to find any weakness in the formation. "A regular sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator will probably die helplessly once trapped in this formation. Baiwu is doing very well to last this long."

He could sense that the formation was strong enough to kill seventh-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators. In fact, it could even deal with eighth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators.

"Stop wasting time. Use all your strength and kill him," said the leader, clearly becoming impatient. With a roar, he unleashed all his strength. He transformed into an asura and slammed the club in his hand at Huang Baiwu.

The other 17 assassins also attacked from their respective positions. Attacks rained down upon Huang Baiwu from all directions as though an entire hell was unleashing destruction upon Huang Baiwu.

After blocking repeated attacks, Huang Baiwu was finally caught off guard. The seventh-stage God had appeared behind him unknowingly. He smashed his club at Huang Baiwu's head. Huang Baiwu was too preoccupied with the attacks in front of him, and he was losing focus due to the corrosive energy in his body. Huang Baiwu had no way of defending against the attack coming from behind.

During that moment of crisis, a crack appeared in the air and swallowed the entire Eighteen Asura Infernal Formation. The 18 assassins were greatly alarmed. They all blanked out in shock. At the same time, countless chains shot toward them.

"What gives you the courage to attack this overlord?" Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out.

The seventh-stage God reacted immediately. He roared at the others, "This is the Imperial Nether Domain! Everyone, get into position and break free!"

Limitless Asura!

They reacted in a way befitting their identities as veteran combatants. Their energy fused, and 18 asuras combined into a massive asura so strong it broke free of the Imperial Nether Domain's suppression. It then swung its club at the border of the domain, intending to smash the domain apart.

When Xiang Shaoyun sensed how powerful the asura was, he raised his brow and sent his soul clone flying out. He immediately utilized the dao of time, creating a flow of yin and yang as time reversed, returning the asura to the exact moment of its formation. The time disturbance caused the flawless formation to collapse, and Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to send countless chains shooting over. The formation was completely destroyed.

Whoosh!

The weaker ones of the 18 assassins were directly crushed by the chains, their divine blood splattering everywhere. Even the stronger ones were suppressed by the Imperial Nether Domain, causing their combat strength and defensive prowess to greatly weaken. They seemed completely helpless against the domain.

The seventh-stage God was in great fear. He had clearly sensed the formation of the Limitless Asura, but Xiang Shaoyun had somehow disrupted the formation with some weird technique. He had a hard time believing that had happened.

"What is happening?" asked the seventh-stage God in alarm.

Standing atop the nine-colored lotus, Xiang Shaoyun flew over. The boundless energy emanating from him was beyond what a seventh-stage God in peak condition could withstand, not to mention when one was being suppressed in the Imperial Nether Domain.

Boom!

Chapter 1700: Before the Guardians Guild

Xiang Shaoyun's Imperial Nether Domain was too powerful. Within the domain, he was the absolute master. Nobody could escape his grasp, not even the 18 God Realm assassins. Countless power chains lashed out at them while the nine-colored lotus suppressed them. Even the seventh-stage God was helpless when faced with such forces.

However, the seventh-stage God was no pushover. He was unwilling to accept his defeat so easily, so he utilized a secret technique to gather all his strength and erupt with even more power.

Most people at their level would have some final trump cards to preserve their life. Someone without any trump cards wouldn't be worthy of reaching such height in cultivation. The seventh-stage God's secret technique was supposed to grant him the strength of an eighth-stage God for an hour. However, he was within Xiang Shaoyun's Imperial Nether Domain. Even after using the secret technique, he had only gained enough strength to neutralize Xiang Shaoyun's suppression and regain his original strength.

Slamming his club at the nine-colored lotus, he roared, "Break!"

It was as though a dark wolf was roaring while pouncing forward, delivering a powerful force that caused the entire Imperial Nether Domain to shake.

Power at that level was strong enough to kill even those with the same cultivation level. However, Xiang Shaoyun's soul clone was also freakishly powerful. Not even the club attack posed much threat to him.

The soul clone continued sending the nine-colored lotus down at the enemy. Strand after strand of primal inception energy descended while boundless energy rippled in the air. The dark wolf was obliterated. Then, the nine-colored lotus dropped down on the seventh-stage God, crushing him and sending his blood splattering everywhere, presenting a miserable and bloody scene.

The other assassins also took out their trump cards, but it was a pity that none of their trump cards worked. Xiang Shaoyun was unequaled in his Imperial Nether Domain. Even if they had the numerical advantage, they still weren't his match.

After fully suppressing all 18 of the God Realm assassins, Xiang Shaoyun gladly put them all under his control.

"I'm lacking helpers at the moment. This is wonderful! It's like a gift of a pillow just when I'm sleepy," remarked Xiang Shaoyun in a pleased manner.

With the addition of the 18 Gods, Xiang Shaoyun's confidence was bolstered. He believed that losing the 18 assassins would probably hurt the culprit quite badly.

After putting all of them under his control, Xiang Shaoyun questioned them. He learned that they were the subordinates of the Dark Emissary under Deputy Gongsun. In other words, Deputy Gongsun might be the one who had planned this assassination.

At that conclusion, Xiang Shaoyun felt his entire person turn cold. He had not imagined that the other party would try to take his life so soon after his arrival. He was practically being viewed with contempt.

"No wonder Old Xie said that this would be dangerous. Looks like he was completely right," said Xiang Shaoyun to himself.

He did not act rashly and go looking for the other party immediately. He knew very well that with his strength, going against a deputy guild master was akin to smashing an egg against a stone. Even his master might not dare to act too rashly against a deputy guild master.

Deputy Gongsun had been in the guild for countless years. He had numerous capable subordinates, and if one wanted to challenge someone like that, sufficient strength was imperative. Xiang Shaoyun could feel clearly how lacking he still was. Perhaps he really should have accepted Lu Jiang's offer.

"The other party only dares to act against me in the dark. If I get a chance, I might as well make a major ruckus out of it. I refuse to believe the great Guardians Guild will not react to something like that." Xiang Shaoyun quickly thought of a solution.

On the next day, Xiang Shaoyun brought Huang Baiwu to the department responsible for identity verification in the Guardians Guild.

The Guardians Guild had issued 1,000 guardians tokens. Those with the tokens would qualify as candidates for the young guild master. Xiang Shaoyun had not snatched any of the issued tokens, but he had the deputy's token given by his master. That token was enough to make him a candidate.

When he arrived at the guild, a massive and imposing palace stood before him. A vast aura surged into the sky, making the palace look like a celestial palace, presenting a scene that shocked one's heart.

Every individual qualified to enter this palace would be a big shot in the dominion. This place was the holy land all cultivators of the dominion yearned to enter. Even Xiang Shaoyun grew excited at the sight of the palace. He had a feeling that he would be able to overlook the entirety of the dominion when standing atop the massive palace. That would most certainly be a splendid feeling.

Abruptly, a series of noises erupted. It was as though a magnificent army was riding toward him, rousing Xiang Shaoyun from his thoughts. He turned around and saw eight people mounted on eight silver-scaled elephants galloping toward him.

The eight silver-scaled elephants were the size of hills. Each of them emanated a tyrannical aura. Their scales were thick and strong, flickering with a dazzling light. These were rare elephants with an ancient bloodline. Ordinary demonic elephants could not compare with them. With each step they took, the earth seemed to shake. Even if a Saint stood in their path, the Saint would be trampled into mincemeat.

"A good dog never gets in anyone's way. piss off," demanded one of the people mounted atop the elephants.

"Audacious!" berated Huang Baiwu as he stood before Xiang Shaoyun. A massive dragon phantom manifested from his body and suppressed the eight elephants.

The eight elephants might be powerful, but Huang Baiwu was strong enough to suppress the elephants, causing them to slow down considerably.

"You dare stop our mounts? Trample over them!" roared one of the elephant riders as he channeled his energy into his mount and urged it to charge forward.

That man was demonstrating the state of man mount unity. In that state, the rider and the mount would become one, allowing them to unleash incredible strength.

Huang Baiwu showed no fear as the aura around him thickened. He then unleashed a roar at the incoming elephant, "Scram!"

Dragon Roars to the Sky!

The sound attack rumbled forth ferociously. It was as though a true dragon had descended, spreading oppression in all directions and smashing all eight elephants flat onto the ground. The surrounding people were astonished at what they were seeing. None of them had imagined that the eight elephants would be flattened so easily. After all, they had all sensed the man mount unity state earlier. Those eight elephants were supposed to be strong enough to force even a third-stage God to retreat.