

Overlord 1701

Chapter 1701: Mouth Slapping

"Tsk, tsk, the people with the silver-scaled elephants seem to be members of Southern Wasteland's Tai Clan. Only they can train such powerful demonic elephants. I heard that a fist genius had appeared in their clan. Around 500 years ago, he had surpassed all his peers in the Southern Wasteland."

"Is Tai Qianquan, the one who had obtained a guardians token, here? He's an exceedingly outstanding young God."

"Yes, it's Tai Qianquan. The eight riders are probably his followers. It is said that he's very protective of his own. All who dare to show him disrespect will not be spared. I wonder who that person is, for him to show no fear toward Tai Qianquan."

"He looks familiar. I don't think he's someone unknown. I guess a good show is about to unfold."

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Sounds of discussion broke out among the people near the guild. None of the people who could reach here would be weaker than the Saint Realm. All of them were people with strong backgrounds. Thus, they did not move away at the first sign of conflict. Rather, they all remained to enjoy the show.

The Gods mounted atop the eight elephants all soared into the sky. They were all dressed in animal skins, their attire greatly different than that of a regular person. With one look, it was clear they were barbaric individuals.

These people were from the Southern Wasteland's Tai Province. The blood of Tai Barbarians coursed in their veins, and they called themselves the Tai Clan, forming an ancient organization comparable to the Yu Clan.

"Audacious! You dare startle our mounts? Kneel down and await your death!" demanded a Tai Clan member, proudly hovering high in the air.

The eight Tai Clan members were decently strong, with the leader even more impressive. He was at fourth-stage Rebirth Realm. The others were between first- and third-stage Rebirth Realm. Each of them was glaring at Huang Baiwu fiercely, as though they would attack at the sign of any refusal.

Instead of replying, Huang Baiwu respectfully stood beside Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Overlord, what do you think?"

"Slap their mouths," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

He had just arrived at the Guardians Guild, yet he had been provoked repeatedly. He decided to no longer put up with it. Otherwise, everyone would think that they could push his buttons without consequence. At his command, Huang Baiwu shot forth like a gust of wind. He moved so fast that the eight Tai Clan members were slapped before they could react.

Pa! Pa!

Their faces were swollen before they even knew what was happening.

"With the little strength you have, you dare act arrogantly here? Piss off!" berated Huang Baiwu as he released his aura of a sixth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. The eight were unable to maintain their flight, and they all dropped onto the ground. They were completely helpless before him.

Their expressions changed rapidly as they finally realized that they had provoked someone beyond their league. However, they wouldn't submit so easily. They were resolute and stubborn and were never afraid of trouble. In any case, they still had a backer behind them. Thus, the leader said, "Do you know that we're members of the Tai Clan? For daring to insult us, you will suffer a miserable fate!"

"This place does not belong to the Tai Clan," said Huang Baiwu coldly as he sent a heavy kick at the speaker's face, sending that person flying and coughing blood.

The other Tai Clan members drew their weapons and attacked, but they all suffered the same fate as their companion.

"Alright, Baiwu. Let's leave," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, overlord," Huang Baiwu answered.

That one exchange told everyone nearby who they were.

"So it's him? No wonder they're acting so unyieldingly. Those Tai Clan people are truly unlucky to encounter a monster like him."

"Is that the overlord, Xiang Shaoyun, the sole disciple of Deputy Ge Yi?"

"Yes, it's him. When he arrived yesterday, even the city guards were on their knees. This is a domineering individual."

"The man who attacked is probably Huang Baiwu of the Dusk Dynasty. I did not expect that he would become Xiang Shaoyun's follower. He will be quite a helper."

"Look, they are heading toward the Inspection Hall. Looks like he's going to start his bid to become the young guild master. This is getting exciting."

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At one of the guild side halls was the guild's ad hoc inspection department. The place was managed by God Realm cultivators who were also in charge of verifying the identity of the young Gods who came with guardians tokens. Three tests were involved in the process.

Firstly, the Bone Measuring Test to make sure that the token holder was below 1,000 years old.

Secondly, the Heart Asking Test to verify the character of the token holder. Someone who did not care about the dominion would naturally be unqualified to be the young guild master.

Thirdly, the Martial Test. Those below the God Realm would not be able to keep the young guild master position even after obtaining it.

The three tests were enough to disqualify many people, and they also served as a reflection of the guild's principles. Ahead of Xiang Shaoyun, several youngsters shrouded in divine auras were

awaiting their turns to be inspected. All of them were heroic and handsome. Each of them was a giant among men. And without fail, all of them were Gods.

Hostility flickered in their eyes when they saw Xiang Shaoyun, and their faces turned more solemn than before. Evidently, Xiang Shaoyun was giving them a rather heavy pressure.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored them. Instead, he had Huang Baiwu deliver his token to the God on duty in the hall.

The God hurriedly and fawningly walked over upon seeing the token. "Young Master Xiang, you're here! Come, you only need to register yourself here."

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun skipped the line. The others looked confused, and one of them said, "Lord, is this in accordance with the rules?"

"He has a deputy's token. What do you think?" replied the God.

That person instantly stopped speaking.

However, someone else was still unhappy. "I thought the Guardians Guild has always been fair? Is he better than us just because he has a deputy's token? In that case, how can we continue to have faith in the Guardians Guild?"

Everyone present was proud and arrogant, so a few more people voiced their agreement. They were all unhappy that someone was skipping the line.

"Hehe, you're actually right. Every deputy is a lord guardian. If not even a lord guardian can have some special benefits, how can they hope to control the guild? How can they hope to control their subordinates? Stop making trouble without any reason, or you can just leave," said the God with a sneer.

Those youngsters all stopped talking because they did not want to lose the chance to compete. However, they also remembered the face of this God. If they could really become the young guild master, this God would be their first victim.

Xiang Shaoyun did not mind their complaints. However, it would be too insulting if he couldn't even get the prerogative to skip the line after using his master's name.

"Old Zhou, it is fine to give someone with a lord guardian's token some privileges, but the three tests can't be skipped. Otherwise, the guild will lose the public's trust," an indifferent voice rang out.

Chapter 1702: Bone Measuring

When the God Realm inspector heard the voice, his face showed nervousness. He plastered a look of respect on his face, faced the voice, and said, "Young Master Jiu is right. The three tests can't be skipped." He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "I believe Young Master Xiang won't make things difficult for me, right?"

The newcomer was none other than Deputy Qin's successor, Qin Jiu. Behind him were more than 10 youngsters of great fame. Evidently, they were all his followers. Xiang Shaoyun looked at Qin Jiu, and Qin Jiu looked back at him. Two sharp gazes collided, and proverbial sparks erupted from where their gazes met.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the heavy sense of oppression in Qin Jiu's eyes. Even his soul suffered some oppression, as though Qin Jiu was going to make him submit with a mere gaze. With a frown, Xiang Shaoyun's clone crushed that sense of oppression. He then glared at Qin Jiu, releasing a formidable soul oppression that gave even Qin Jiu a sense of pressure.

"You're quite a gutsy one," remarked Qin Jiu with a prideful attitude.

"I have always been gutsy," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"At times, guts will only make one die faster. On the other hand, cowards can live longer," said Qin Jiu with his eyes narrowed.

"Is that so? If there's anything I'm not afraid of, it's death," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Although this was his first time meeting the so-called Young Master Jiu, he already had a feeling that he was meeting his nemesis. He sensed that friendship would not be possible for them.

"Young Master Jiu, looks like this person truly doesn't know what's good for him. Let Qianquan teach him a lesson," offered a shirtless, intense-looking man behind Qin Jiu.

The man had spiky hair and a bandana wrapped around his forehead. His upper body was bare, showcasing his explosive muscles, and he was outfitted with hemp pants and golden gloves. His entire body was shrouded in God Realm gold energy, and he had a pair of intense eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel an aura that was exactly the same as the auras of the eight silver-scaled elephant riders from him. They probably came from the same place. That person was none other than the Tai Clan's Tai Qianquan, a proud and talented young God known as the Fist God. From how he was behaving, he had probably submitted to Qin Jiu.

"This is the Divine Dominion City, the Guardians Guild, not some random place where people can do whatever they want," said Qin Jiu with a glare at Tai Qianquan. "However, the Divine Dominion City does have god-grade rings that can be used for spars. If he's willing, you can always challenge him to a spar."

Tai Qianquan immediately extended a challenge, "Kid, let's have a fight in the ring. I'll teach you how to behave."

Before Xiang Shaoyun could say anything, Huang Baiwu lost patience and said, "I'll fight you. I alone can defeat 10 bumpkins like you."

"Very well. You must be the one who had injured my men. I'll first beat you up before dealing with the kid behind you," said Tai Qianquan with his fists clenched tightly.

Huang Baiwu was about to agree when Xiang Shaoyun said, "Baiwu, you don't have to get angry at some mad dog. Let me finish my inspection first."

"Impudent!" Tai Qianquan was infuriated. With a roar, he stepped forth to attack.

Qin Jiu hurriedly said, "Qianquan, calm down. No private battles are allowed in the guild."

Tai Qianquan did not dare to disobey Qin Jiu, and he hurriedly stopped. However, he was so furious it was as though his eyes were spitting fire as he glared venomously at Xiang Shaoyun. "I hope you never leave the guild, because the first thing I will do after you leave is kill you."

Xiang Shaoyun merely smiled. He remained completely unbothered as he asked the God Realm elder, "Can I take my tests first?"

"Y-yes," replied the elder, finally recovering from his shock.

Both the individuals before him were successors of deputy guild masters. He couldn't afford to offend any of them. Otherwise, it would be the same as courting death. The elder brought Xiang Shaoyun into the hall. Inside the hall, a circular millstone could be seen. A complicated series of formation lines filled the surface of the millstone.

"Young Master Xiang, please step onto the millstone to go through the first test, bone measuring," said the elder.

Xiang Shaoyun did as told. Abruptly, strands of radiance descended upon him. Instantly, his god body lit up and turned translucent, revealing his muscles and bones. At the same time, numerous patterns rippled out of the millstone.

The God had a look of disbelief when he looked at the aura surrounding the millstone. "O-only 49 bone lines. H-how is this possible?"

Each line represented one year of age. Thus, the 49 lines around the millstone signified that Xiang Shaoyun was only 49 years old. It was unbelievable that someone could reach the Rebirth Realm at such an age. The elder even wondered if Xiang Shaoyun was actually an old monster who had possessed the body of someone young. After all, something like that wasn't unheard of.

"So are we done?" asked Xiang Shaoyun when he sensed the energy undulations stopping.

The elder recovered from his shock and nodded. "Y-yes. Young Master Xiang is truly a genius. You're not even 50 years old, yet you're already at your level. I'm afraid nobody in the entire dominion can compare with you."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "All sorts of people exist in the world. How would I dare to claim that I'm the best? Can we proceed with the second test?"

"You're too humble, Young Master Xiang," said the elder fawningly. He then brought Xiang Shaoyun to the second test.

Before long, they arrived at a place called the Heart Asking Hall. The place was enveloped in a righteous aura. Any evil would shrink at the sight of the hall. If a cultivator who had been possessed by an evil being stood here, that evil being would immediately be purified or expelled.

"Young Master Xiang, please enter. If you can complete the test in an hour, you will qualify for the next test," said the elder with an inviting gesture.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and took large strides into the Heart Asking Hall. The door opened noiselessly by itself, and a vast aura leaked out of the hall. Xiang Shaoyun showed no fear and stepped right into the hall. The door shut behind him.

He immediately sensed himself arriving at a space of pure darkness. The darkness was designed to invoke nervousness. It was so dark Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even see his own fingers.

"Impudent citizen, do you know your fault?" a voice abruptly rang out.

Chapter 1703: Asking Heart in Hell

The voice was sinister, and it seemed capable of reaching the depths of one's heart. Xiang Shaoyun felt his very soul shivering at the voice. When he looked ahead, a Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva stood before him. The ferocious expression of the bodhisattva was enough to invoke fear in the hearts of cowards.

Xiang Shaoyun, however, was someone with a resolute heart. He knew that he was seeing an illusion, but he did not expose the illusion immediately. Rather, he accepted the trial and answered, "What fault do I have?"

"You are unjust, disloyal, unfilial, and not benevolent. Kneel down and confess your sins!" The Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva had an enchanting voice that seemed capable of touching one's soul, causing one to unknowingly recollect everything one had done in life.

Xiang Shaoyun did not resist the influence and allowed the scenes of all he had done to wash over his mind. The bad things he had done during childhood, his enmity with Di Lin, his separation from his father, all he had killed, and many other experiences related to the concepts of benevolence, justice, loyalty, and filial piety. They surfaced in his head, giving him a feeling that he had truly sinned.

He was feeling that way because he was indeed at fault for some of those incidents. Every single incident could be viewed from a different perspective to create a different outlook. For example, his conflict with Di Lin. Although he had always viewed Di Lin as a brother before the betrayal, he had also frequently pranked and lost his temper around Di Lin.

For example, his father. He had made many irrational requests of his father and had never exercised his filial piety as a son. There were also the people he had killed just because of some disagreement between them. In fact, he couldn't even decide if it was him or the other party at fault for many of these incidents.

"Get on your knees and confess your sins. Otherwise, you will be forever barred from reincarnation!" the solemn voice of the Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva rang out once again.

At that voice, Ox-Head and Horse-Face, the legendary guardians of the underworld, appeared. With hell chains in their hands, they walked up to Xiang Shaoyun, looking like they were about to capture him.

Abruptly, Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter. "Hahaha! I, Xiang Shaoyun, can look in the mirror and say that I have never done anything I'm ashamed of! I treat my brothers with righteousness. I treat my parents with filial piety. I judge my enemies fairly based on their deeds. I do not regret anything I have done. Who are you to claim that I'm unjust, disloyal, unfilial, and not benevolent? What a joke! You are the one incapable of separating the fake from the truth. You are unworthy of being a Bodhisattva."

"Audacious! You dare question the judgment of this bodhisattva? Arrest him!" said the Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva furiously.

The Ox-Head and Horse-Face then reached out for Xiang Shaoyun.

With a smile, Xiang Shaoyun lightly pointed at the bodhisattva and roared, "Perish, all who try to affect my mind!"

The jab contained an imposing aura of righteousness, a power he had comprehended during his time at the Righteous Buddhist Sect. So long as he carried a just heart, he would be able to call upon the power of righteousness anywhere to get rid of all evil.

Panic appeared on the ferocious face of the bodhisattva when he sensed the righteous aura. The moment the finger beam touched the bodhisattva, he transformed into a clump of black gas. As he

faded, his voice of indignance rang out, "A person like you who can kill even a Bodhisattva has no mercy in the heart. You do not have a righteous heart!"

"If I can feel righteousness in my heart, then it means I have a righteous heart. You are nothing but a trick," said Xiang Shaoyun resolutely. His righteous aura surged, causing even the Ox-Head and Horse-Face to fade into nothingness.

Then, his surroundings changed. An aura of absolute frost enveloped him as countless ice blasts and blades swarmed Xiang Shaoyun, attempting to kill him then and there.

Eight Hells of Frost!

That was a hell prepared to punish those with great sins, a terrifying hell that tormented one with extreme cold and the suffering of having one's body break apart from frost. With the righteous aura around him, Xiang Shaoyun walked forward one step at a time. He was surrounded with boundless God Realm frost energy, but the energy was unable to lay any harm on his body.

At the same time, a questioning voice rang out, "Xiang Shaoyun, your hands are dyed red with blood. Kneel down and confess your sins!"

"Xiang Shaoyun, you have violated the laws of cupid, breaking the hearts of many maidens. Do you know your sin!?"

"Xiang Shaoyun, as a father, instead of treasuring your wife and child, you run around inviting trouble. Do you know your sin?"

"Your brothers had perished because you refused to help. Where is your conscience?"

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One question after another resounded in the depths of his soul, assaulting the weakest side of him relentlessly, convincing him that he had truly sinned.

"The heart is tranquil like ice, remaining calm even when the heavens are collapsing." Xiang Shaoyun started chanting a calming mantra. His mental state stabilized as he ignored all the questions. However, the righteous aura around his body was destroyed by the cold energy around

him. The cold invaded his body, bringing his body to the brink of collapse. Countless icy blades cut into him, causing him to bleed profusely. He suffered intense pain, a pain strong enough to drive someone crazy.

Xiang Shaoyun was confident that after the countless dangers he had experienced, his constitution had long reached an unimaginable level. One could only imagine how dreadful the Eight Hells of Frost was for it to be able to cause him to feel pain.

With every step he took, chunks of ice fell. A thick layer of frost covered his entire body. He ignored everything as he continued stepping forward. He had spent years reaching his current level, taking one step at a time. Nothing could cause his faith to waver, not even something like the Eight Hells of Frost.

The Hell of Bombardment was filled with countless icy tips and blades, torturing one with unmeasurable pain.

The Hell of Blisters assaulted one with an extreme cold that created numerous blisters on one's body, turning one's appearance into something truly disgusting.

The Hell of Clenching Teeth caused one's teeth to clatter constantly from the extreme chill, threatening one with the prospect of death at any moment.

The Hell of Wailing was so cold that it caused one to wail in despair, begging for death to come so that all the suffering would end.

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With great difficulty, Xiang Shaoyun walked through all eight hells. Toward the end, he had been reduced to an ice skeleton. His god body had been frozen and destroyed. His skin and organs had suffered necrosis. His person looked incomparably miserable.

"Don't think that you're without sin just because you have managed to walk out of the eight hells. You are never just in the way you do things. It's time for you to suffer the Eight Hells of Flame!" the same voice rang out. Xiang Shaoyun's surroundings changed into one that was filled with fiery heat waves. The suffering was intense, especially for someone like Xiang Shaoyun who had just suffered the Eight Hells of Frost. The intense heat threatened to melt his very bones.

It was unknown if he could also survive the eight hells: Hell of Living, Hell of Black Rope, Hell of Sum, Hell of Cries, Hell of Greater Cries, Hell of Heat, Hell of Greater Heat, Hell of Ceaseless Pain.

Chapter 1704: Passing the Heart Asking Test

"Xiang Shaoyun, you were unfair in rewarding and punishing your subordinates! Do you know your sin?"

"You never repay your benefactors! You took more than you were offered! Do you know your sin?"

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"Nobody is without mistakes. What is important is that one can recognize one's mistake and change into a better person. So long as I am willing to change, why do these mistakes matter? Furthermore, I do not think that I have done anything wrong. The worthy will be rewarded. The deserving will be punished. A favor will be repaid in kind. I, Xiang Shaoyun, might not be able to ensure absolute fairness, but I definitely treat all my people equally. In my interactions with others, kindness and hatred are most certainly clearly distinguished!" declared Xiang Shaoyun strongly.

He was now only a skeleton, and he continued walking unsteadily amid the sea of surging flame, flaming blades, and flaming meteors. After an indeterminate period of time, he walked out of the hell as a burning skeleton. It was at that moment that the flame on his body faded, and his flesh returned. It was as though everything he had experienced was an illusion.

Eight Hells of Frost, Eight Hells of Flame.

Those two hells weren't something an ordinary person could survive. Xiang Shaoyun only made things harder for himself by accepting the entire trial without resisting with his God Realm energy. He had also refrained from expelling the illusion with his divine dao eyes. He relied on only his perseverance to survive the torture, and that was an inconceivable feat.

Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath and opened his eyes. His mental state had changed completely from before. After the series of questions, he finally understood that he was lacking in many things he had done before. His heart was too small as the past him was too narrow-minded. He no longer had the same state of mind.

"Benevolence, justice, loyalty, and filial piety. It is difficult to balance all of them. Be fair in reward and punishment, clearly distinguish between gratitude and grudges. None of that is easy. All living things are equal. Everyone should be treated equally. Only someone of great kindness can accomplish that. What is the point of being a ruler who only knows kindness and benevolence? Aliens are invading, devils are running amok, the zombies have risen, and the non-humans are growing discontent. If humanity wants to survive, we have to accomplish that through might," said Xiang Shaoyun loudly toward the statue of the Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva in the Heart Asking Hall.

His voice resounded in the hall as though it would never fade. An indescribable resonance rippled in the air and landed on Xiang Shaoyun's body, bathing his body and mind in light, clearing all confusion from his being. A voice rang out, "The Heart Asking Test, passed."

The door of the hall opened, and Xiang Shaoyun stepped out easily. The God Realm elder hurriedly walked up to him and said, "Congratulations, Young Master Xiang, for passing the Heart Asking Test. You only have one test left before you can become an official young guild master candidate."

The God knew that most of the young Gods who had failed were disqualified at the Heart Asking Test. Passing the test, Xiang Shaoyun had proved that he was someone with a resolute heart. In contrast, the final test would not pose him much difficulty.

The God brought Xiang Shaoyun to the next test, a test of one's martial prowess. The only requirement was for one to be a God. Those that weren't even a God wouldn't be qualified to be a young guild master candidate.

Xiang Shaoyun was brought to a spacious and empty training field. The field was surrounded by a god-grade formation. All battles in the field would not cause any damage outside the field.

"Young Master Xiang, what is your current cultivation?" asked the God.

"Third-stage Rebirth Realm," replied Xiang Shaoyun.

He had reached peak third-stage Rebirth Realm and was only a step away from the fourth stage. If he had finished absorbing all the energy in the Celestial King Seal, he would have already entered the fourth stage.

"Ok. You only need to defeat someone of the same level to get through this test," said the God with a light nod. He clapped once and said, "Can one elder at third-stage Rebirth Realm step out?"

Immediately after, a voice that sounded more like a shriek rang out, "There's finally a third-stage kid? Finally, I get to have some fun!"

"That kid is mine. None of you can dream of taking him from me!" a different voice rang out.

"Don't frighten our young friend off. Let me deal with him. Look at his pretty face and tender skin. I doubt he can last long against your games," a third voice rang out.

Then, three figures appeared in the field. All three had odd appearances and were dressed sloppily. They did not look like Gods.

It's these monsters, thought the God with a complicated look in his eyes. He regarded Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young Master Xiang, pick one from among them. You only need to defeat one of them for this test."

If they were any other third-stage Rebirth Realm experts, the God would not be worried for Xiang Shaoyun. But when it came to those three, he had to be worried. The three had reached the limits of third-stage Rebirth Realm and could, in fact, easily enter the fourth stage. However, they had remained in the same stage to continue to temper themselves. Because of that, they had built extremely solid foundations. They had even easily defeated fourth-stage Rebirth Realm experts before. One could say that among those of the same level, they had barely any matches.

"Kid, pick me. I will make you look good despite your defeat," shouted the weird man in red.

The weird man in green shouted, "Don't trust him. That fellow can never hold back. He will torture you badly."

"Those two are stronger than me. Kid, pick me. You might even win!" said the weird man in blue with a pitiful expression.

Not even the God who had led Xiang Shaoyun here dared to say anything. He knew how the three freaks had always behaved. They were, in fact, equally matched, and they all enjoyed torturing their opponents. One could say that each of them was deranged.

Xiang Shaoyun could naturally sense that the three weren't as simple as they looked. The thickness of their auras was not something a regular third-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator would have.

He walked toward the ring while saying, "Why don't all three of you come at once?"

"Kid, did you suffer brain damage from a fever or something?" asked the red freak.

"That must be it. Damn, mental damage is hard to heal. Come, let me give you a head massage," said the green freak.

"You're too arrogant. Generally, things won't end well for people like you," said the blue freak.

"All three of you are strong, but I'm no weakling either. None of you will be my match, I'm afraid. If you can really defeat me by joining hands, I will accept my defeat. But if I win, all three of you have to become my followers. What do you think?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a faint smile on his face.

Chapter 1705: Versus Three Freaks

Xiang Shaoyun released his aura, manifesting a dragon and a tiger around him. His temperament changed into one that was full of so much majesty that even the three freaks seemed slightly alarmed.

The three freaks knew that any of these young Gods possessed incredible combat strength. However, as veterans who had tempered themselves for many years, they were also confident in themselves. They did not think that some youngster below 1,000 years old would be able to defeat them.

"I can't take it anymore. This kid is too cocky. If you can really defeat us, so what if we become your followers?" said the red freak while pulling at his own hair.

The green freak also spoke impatiently, "When working together, we can defeat even fifth-stage Gods. This kid is courting death."

"No rush, no rush. This kid seems to have some sort of trump card. Don't get tricked by him," said the blue freak.

"Did you not claim that you were going to beat me up? Why are you afraid now?" challenged Xiang Shaoyun.

The elder nervously reminded him, "Young Master Xiang, according to the rules, you only need to pick one."

He knew how strong the three freaks were. Xiang Shaoyun was too careless. After all, this concerned the position of a young guild master candidate.

"Shut up. All three of us will fight!" said the red freak as he glared at the elder.

"Let's go. I want to see how strong this kid is," said the green freak eagerly.

"I'll go first," said the blue freak as he charged Xiang Shaoyun like a leopard. A powerful punch was sent toward Xiang Shaoyun's face.

The punch moved like a storm, arriving rapidly from a tricky angle that could catch anyone by surprise. No matter how one looked at it, this fellow had mounted a sudden attack. Too shameless. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had an outstanding reaction time and instantly evaded the attack. At the same time, he slammed his knee into the blue freak.

The blue freak's pupils shrank as he pushed with both hands, sending his body bouncing away like a leopard. "This kid is strong. Stop staring. I can't deal with him alone!"

While speaking, he unleashed a storm of palm attacks. His attacks were powered by strong God Realm energy. No ordinary cultivator would be able to unleash an attack of this level. The red and green freaks stopped staring and rushed over quickly. One threw a fiery red punch while the other sent a green claw raking through the air. Two entirely different energies were unleashed, and the phantoms of two different beasts appeared. One was a lion, and the other was a tiger. As for the blue freak, a leopard phantom had also appeared around him.

The lion, tiger, and leopard were the strongest beasts of the forest. The three each imitated one of these beasts while attacking. One used the Divine Fiery Lion Punch, one used the Violent Tiger Tearing Claw, and one used the Stacked Pouncing Leopard Palm in his attack.

When the three worked together, they became much more dangerous. Not even a fourth-stage Rebirth Realm expert would be able to easily deal with them. Xiang Shaoyun remained calm as he

easily saw through their attacks. With the Tai Chi Yin Yang Palm, he borrowed the force of their attacks and diverted it back to them.

In the blink of an eye, they had exchanged over a hundred moves. The three freaks were unable to gain any advantage over him. Rather, they looked more and more desperate, something that had rarely happened to them even when fighting against those with the same cultivation level.

"I refuse to believe you're really that good!" The red freak unleashed a lion's roar from his mouth. At the same time, he threw both his fists out, sending a rain of fiery punches toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The Divine Fiery Lion Punch contained a supreme fist intent and an unimaginably high-level flame that further empowered his punches, putting him at a level comparable to a late fourth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator.

"Let me crush his balls!" screamed the green freak as he aimed his claw attacks at Xiang Shaoyun's crotch. His attacks were sinister and vicious, and he displayed none of the grace that one would expect from a God Realm cultivator.

The blue freak made a hugging gesture, sending out two streams of blue energy that formed a powerful seal around Xiang Shaoyun, bounding him and creating an opportunity for the other two freaks to land their attacks.

The three displayed enough strength to kill even a fifth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. Their combination wasn't something a regular young God could deal with. After all, at the God Realm, punching above one's class would become an extremely difficult feat.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was no ordinary young God. His prowess had reached an unimaginable level. As he formed several signs with both his hands, the tiger and dragon around him converged into a seal that was then sent toward his three attackers.

Celestial King Seal.

The seal emanated a domineering and noble aura, as though it had gathered the power of an entire imperial dynasty. The aura spread out, clearing everything around it and turning the sky above the ring into a vacuum. Even the god-grade formation around the training field shook.

The seal then flew out and knocked against the three beast-shaped phantoms.

Rumble! Rumble!

As the powerful attacks collided, a massive explosion erupted. The Celestial King Seal was incredibly powerful, instantly reducing the three beastly phantoms into nothingness. The three freaks were sent flying away while coughing blood before crashing into the god-grade formation. Rivers of blood flowed out of their mouths as their God Realm energy started withering.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the three indifferently and asked, "Do you submit?"

"Don't get too cocky, kid. We were careless. It's your turn to suffer!" said the blue freak after getting back on his feet.

The green freak said, "That's right. Now that we're getting serious, you will suffer."

"Cut the crap. If we can't defeat this kid even after working together, we will be forced to obey him in the future," said the red freak.

The three then underwent astonishing changes.

"They're undergoing their beast transformation," muttered the elder with a complicated expression.

Yes, the three freaks were transforming into beasts. The clothes on the red freak's body were ripped apart as lush lion fur grew out of his skin. His body enlarged, and a lion mane grew around his face. His aura also increased sharply.

The green freak had green fur growing out of his body, and his arms turned into tiger limbs. On his forehead, tiger stripes became visible, showcasing the overbearingness of a tiger.

The blue freak grew leopard spots all over his body. His ears became sharp while his entire body became covered in thick fur. His body shape also became much weirder than before.

The three had the blood of beasts coursing through their veins. The transformation helped increase their strength considerably. In their current forms, they could easily contend against sixth-stage

Rebirth Realm cultivators. A regular third-stage God would have no chance against a sixth-stage God.

"Ok. Kid, this is where it ends for you. Let's attack together," said the red freak as he charged forth with his companions.

Divine Fiery Lion Punch!

Violent Tiger Tearing Claw!

Stacked Pouncing Leopard Palm!

Chapter 1706: Submission of Three Freaks

The red, green, and blue freaks transformed into beasts at the same time. Their combat strength increased, bringing their offensive prowess to a terrifying level. The elder paid close attention to Xiang Shaoyun, trying to see just how Xiang Shaoyun was going to contend against the three freaks.

When the attacks of the three freaks landed on Xiang Shaoyun, the elder sighed, "He's still too young and rash."

He did not think that Xiang Shaoyun would be able to resist the attacks of the three freaks. He believed that this would be the end of Xiang Shaoyun's bid to become the young guild master.

Suddenly, the weather changed, and a fist appeared out of nowhere. It punched through the attacks of the three freaks, causing them to instantly collapse into nothingness.

Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

That was an exceptional fist technique Xiang Shaoyun had learned from Ge Yi. He had achieved full mastery over the technique, and he had opted to use this technique instead of the Three Lives Fist because he wanted to use what his master taught him for his first fight in the Guardians Guild.

The three freaks had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be so strong. They entered their strongest defensive modes as they attempted to resist the punch. Unfortunately for them, the punch

was beyond their limits even in their beast forms. All of them were once again sent flying while coughing blood.

By the time the attack ended, the three had crashed heavily into the edge of the ring, stopped by the god-grade formation's barrier. Without the formation, they would have been blasted out of the ring.

"You lost," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

If he had not entered the third-stage Rebirth Realm, it would have been much harder for him to defeat the three freaks. After all, they were strong enough to deal with sixth-stage Gods, and just one of them was strong enough to match a fifth-stage God. Among third-stage Gods, they were considered the cream of the crop.

The elder's eyeballs almost popped out of his sockets from shock. He had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to be so strong. He couldn't help but compare Xiang Shaoyun with the two successors picked by the deputies. "Truly worthy of being Deputy Ge Yi's successor. He is not lacking even when compared with the successors of the two deputies."

The three freaks seemed to be in a state of shock as well. They had never been defeated so quickly by someone in the same cultivation level, not even when they had fought the two deputies' successors. They were sure that with all things even, Xiang Shaoyun would be much stronger than the two successors.

Unfortunately, things weren't even; Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation was still too low. The two successors had reached late-stage Rebirth Realm.

"You're very strong, but too bad you still won't be able to become the young guild master," said the red freak with a sigh.

"That's right. Even if you have defeated us, we still can't follow you as that would only result in our deaths," said the green freak honestly.

"I think that after agreeing to the bet, we must accept that we have lost. We should follow him. I have a feeling this kid hasn't even used all his strength," said the blue freak weakly.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and did not speak to them. Rather, he faced the elder and asked, "Did I pass?"

The elder nodded. "Yes. Congratulations, Young Master Xiang, for officially becoming a young guild master candidate."

Not many of the young Gods who had arrived could actually become a candidate. After all, the three tests only seemed easy but were actually difficult.

"What do I need to do next?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"You only need to wait. When the time comes, the two deputies and the elders will gather all candidates for the final competition," said the elder.

"Alright. I'll go back and wait," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

"You don't even need to leave. Accommodations have been arranged for you, Young Master Xiang. We will be in charge of your security during the waiting period," the elder hurriedly said.

"Sure," Xiang Shaoyun agreed.

Since the Guardians Guild had decided to appoint a young guild master, they would naturally provide proper protection and accommodation to all the candidates. They wouldn't allow any mishaps to happen to them.

Xiang Shaoyun followed the elder away, leaving the three freaks standing there blankly. What was going on? Wasn't he going to recruit them?

"Hey, kid, what is the meaning of this?" asked the red freak.

"Are you looking down on us? I'll have you know that you can't kick us away now!" shouted the green freak.

"That's right. We don't break our promises! Wait!" shouted the blue freak.

They hurriedly chased after Xiang Shaoyun.

The elder was dumbstruck as he thought, This works?

Everyone in the guild knew that the three freaks were eccentrics. The three freaks were also not known as the kind to honor their words. Thus, it was quite unbelievable that they would just go with Xiang Shaoyun like this.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at a place protected by spatial seals. The elder stepped forth and had a short discussion with the two old men stationed there before telling Xiang Shaoyun to take out his token for verification. Only then did they enter.

After going inside with the three freaks, Xiang Shaoyun found that the location looked entirely different from the inside. That was a place filled with bird songs and fragrant flowers. Hills and streams of water dotted the landscape. Kind spirit rabbits, sheep, and so on inhabited the place. It was as though this was a paradise isolated from the world, giving all visitors a sense of extreme comfort.

Delicate housing filled the place, and each house was fitted with a small energy-gathering formation, filling each house with thick astral energy that would be helpful for even Gods. It was obvious how extraordinary these houses were.

Xiang Shaoyun brought the three freaks to his personal house, house number 81, a house located at the remote corner of the housing area.

The red freak complained, "The 81st unit is the worst unit. What were the two old farts thinking? They are obviously bullying us."

"Don't you know whose men they are? How will they treat our young master well?" said the green freak.

The blue freak said, "It's fine. We're already here. Our young master only needs strength. Nothing else matters."

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun faced them and asked, "Are you really willing to follow me?"

"Of course. Us brothers never go back on our words!" said the red freak as he slapped his chest.

The green freak said, "That's right. Young master, you're talented and heroic. We naturally have to take this chance to help you become the young guild master and make it big!"

"That's right. With us here, nobody can stop you!" said the blue freak.

"How are you related to my master?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

An odd expression covered their faces, as though they had not expected him to shift the topic so quickly. Moreover, he had asked the most crucial question of all.

"You're truly wise, Young Master. You were able to so easily see through our relationship with Master," fawned the three freaks.

Chapter 1707: Number of Young Guild Master Candidates

During the three freaks' beast transformation, Xiang Shaoyun had sensed an aura that was similar to the wolfmen from them. However, he still wasn't sure yet that they were related to his master. Only after witnessing their fearful expression and their exclamation that he was using their master's divine punch when he used the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist was he sure of their relationship with his master.

Although Xiang Shaoyun's master had been away from the Guardians Guild for a long time, he had once stayed in the guild for an extended period of time. He was also the honored deputy guild master, so he would still have something left in the guild. The three freaks were part of what he had left in the guild. That was also the case for Lu Jiang.

That was also why Xiang Shaoyun had left without saying a word to the three earlier. He was confident that the three would definitely go after him if they were his master's followers. And he was right.

They arrived at house number 81. The place was rather remote, but its concentration of astral energy was still decent. It merely felt less important than other houses in more prominent locations.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't bothered about the location of the house. he planned to spend some time there and calm himself while focusing on his breakthrough. He could feel that all the young Gods that had arrived were no pushovers. He did not believe that he was already the strongest in the world. After seeing Qin Jiu, his desire for more strength had been further strengthened.

"You're now my followers, but you're still rather weak. I want to become the young guild master and I need even stronger helpers," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

He was speaking the truth. The three freaks were decently strong, but not strong enough. He needed stronger helpers.

"Don't worry, young master. We have been suppressing our breakthrough for so many years just for the sake of waiting for you," said the red freak.

"Yes, yes. We can break through at any time and give you as much help as we can!" said the green freak.

"If we weren't afraid of that fellow's jealousy, we would have grown even stronger long ago," said the blue freak.

From their words, Xiang Shaoyun learned that the three had merely been playing the fool instead of being actual fools. They were only protecting themselves from any suppression in the guild. Xiang Shaoyun's appearance was a sign of Ge Yi's will, removing all their misgivings.

"Good. You three break through as well, then. I want to see how far you can go," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

The three freaks nodded solemnly before picking a training room and went into seclusion. The three had a similar tempo of cultivation, giving them an advantage of a great resonance between the three of them. Thanks to their resonance, they could break through together. Xiang Shaoyun sealed the entire house before entering seclusion as well.

It would probably take some time for all the young Gods to be tested. He believed that the two deputies would not call for him during his period of seclusion. After calming his mind, Xiang Shaoyun started refining and absorbing the Celestial King Seal's God Realm energy in his body. The energy had been left by him two lifetimes ago and had complete affinity with him. Thus, he was able to smoothly assimilate them into his astral cosmos sea. As the absorption began, his cultivation started rising sharply.

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Time passed, and eventually, all 1,000 of the young Gods were tested. Less than half remained as only 365 of them were able to get through the test. That was a rather interesting number, as it corresponded to the number of days in a year.

The 365 young Gods were elites among their peers. Not only were they strong, but they had strong willpower as well. These were the strongest Gods below 1,000 years old, their splendor overshadowing even some of the elder Gods.

The housing area for the young Gods was slowly filled up. As a result, the area also became bustling with activity. However, the young Gods all spent as much time as they could in increasing their strength. Thus, nothing excessive happened. Everyone was merely cultivating while waiting for the call.

Some of the young Gods who had failed left directly, but some opted to stay. Even if they weren't able to become candidates, they were still members of the Guardians Guild. These people had agreed to become God Realm elders of the guild and were granted residence and some other rewards. Some joined the deputy guild master that commanded the most confidence in them, assisting the respective successor in becoming the young guild master. Upon success, they would gain even more benefits.

With that, the various young Gods also started recruiting these young Gods who had failed the test. These people would be the best helpers for their pursuit. The two successors of the guild, Qin Jiu, Gongsun Sanyang, Immortal Road Chamber's first immortal, Ji Feixian, Guangling Palace's goddess, Ling Ziruo, and Celestial Alliance's number one immortal child, Mo Du were among the strongest young Gods present, and they all started gathering support untiringly.

In fact, they were even recruiting those who had passed the test. That was because there was still a gap between different young Gods. Some were clearly inadequate to become the young guild master. The young guild master would be picked from among the top five candidates. Thus, even being a dark horse would be an extremely difficult feat.

That day, visitors finally arrived at house number 81. Two people had arrived. They both looked middle-aged, and powerful God Realm energy rippled out of their bodies. They were around fourth or fifth-stage Gods.

"I heard this is the house of that overlord. We're already here for two months yet we haven't seen him at all. Is he in seclusion?" said the man with a balding head. Standing beside him was someone with a thick beard on his face.

They were respectively Yu Tiangan and Wei Quan, followers of a young God. They were on a mission to recruit more young Gods for their master.

"I'm sure. We have accurate information that the overlord is staying here. It is said that he's quite strong so he'll probably be good enough to be our young master's lackey," said Wei Quan.

"It won't be that simple. Each young God has their own pride. If this overlord is someone easily persuaded, things will be much easier for us," said Yu Tiangan. He then faced the house and shouted, "Celestial War King's envoy is here. Please come out."

His voice reverberated in the area, but no response came. Thus, he shouted a few more times. However, there was still no response. He refused to believe that the house was empty. He also refused to believe that those inside had not heard him. He was sure they were ignoring him.

"Looks like peaceful measures won't work. I'll go with force, then," said Wei Quan with his hand raised, prepared to blast the door apart.

"Scram! Don't disturb our young master's seclusion or I'll pluck every single hair out of your body!" an impatient voice rang out from within the house.

"That's right! Why don't you wipe your blind eyes and take a look where you are. Calling himself the Celestial War King here? Is he dumb?" a different voice rang out.

A third voice rang out, "Why don't you get that Celestial War King personally to come greet our young master. Perhaps our young master will entertain the idea of meeting that fellow."

Chapter 1708: Really Blind

"Audacious! Who dares to insult our lord?" questioned Yu Tiangan.

"They're definitely Xiang Shaoyun's followers," said Wei Quan.

At this time, the three freaks flew out of the house. They still looked as sloppy as ever. It did not seem like they had changed, but those who knew them well would notice that their auras were now so withdrawn that they were almost undetectable. The look in their eyes had also become much more oppressive. Those were signs of great growth in strength.

Yu Tiangan and Wei Quan did not underestimate the three freaks because of their appearance. Anyone that could enter this housing area would be someone of extraordinary willpower. Even their followers were all Gods. Any carelessness would cost one a great loss.

"Stop making noise. Get the hell back from where you came from," said the red freak without any trace of politeness.

"How impudent. We were trying to give your master a bright future out of the kindness of our hearts. Stop being stupid," said Yu Tiangan with a frown.

"You're acting like you're doing our young master a charity. piss off, or I'll make sure your only way out is by crawling on the ground!" said the green freak.

Wei Quan had a fiery temperament, and he finally lost his temper. "Die, freaks!"

He then released a fist the size of a mountain at the three freaks. A boundless God Realm energy erupted. The punch was powerful yet well-controlled, sallying forth without damaging its surroundings one tiny bit.

Battles were not prohibited in the housing area, but any damage to the area was to be strictly avoided. All who broke the rule would suffer miserably.

"You're acting up here with only this much strength? You must have a death wish!" said the blue freak before grabbing Wei Quan's fist in his palm. The God Realm energy covering Wei Quan's fist was completely suppressed. As the blue freak exerted some strength with his palm, Wei Qian's arm was snapped.

Crack!

The sharp sound of a bone breaking rang out.

Wei Quan was a fourth-stage God. Even after losing a limb, he would be able to regrow it. Thus, losing an arm wasn't a big deal for him. However, it did tell him how much stronger his opponent was. He hurriedly threw another punch with all his strength, hoping to break free from the blue freak's suppression.

Unfortunately for him, the blue freak would not give him any chance. Before the punch could be fully thrown, a heavy kick struck his stomach, sending him flying far away.

That was not the end of the blue freak's attack. He dashed forward, turned into a blue streak, and crashed into Wei Quan. As he sat atop Wei Quan, he rained down punches at Wei Quan's face.

A tragedy befell Wei Quan's face.

Yu Tiangan naturally wouldn't just watch as his companion was beaten. But just as he was about to make a move, the red and green freaks moved, completely sealing his body, making any movement impossible.

After capturing Yu Tiangan, the two freaks started beating him. Even as a fifth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator, Yu Tiangan was completely helpless.

"Scram! Get your shitty Celestial War King over here. Or else, even he will receive a beating after our young master leaves seclusion," said the red freak with one last kick to Yu Tiangan's bottom.

Yu Tiangan felt extremely humiliated. Since he had become a God, he had never suffered such humiliation. He felt so ashamed that he wished he could dig a hole and hide in it. The only thing he could rejoice in was the fact that there was nobody around to see his current state. Right? Alas, just as that thought crossed his mind, he saw numerous heads stretching out of the nearby houses. Those people had witnessed the entirety of the incident.

"J-just you wait! The Celestial War King will not spare you!" threatened Yu Tiangan as his face flushed red with shame. He hurriedly left with Wei Quan. The two cut rather sorry figures as they left.

"Remember! Get that Celestial War King to come and submit to our young master! Otherwise, we'll go looking for him!" shouted the green freak.

"Youngsters nowadays are so rash. They actually dare to provoke our young master? They must be blind," said the blue freak with a sigh.

"Alright. Continue keeping watch. Don't let anyone disturb our young master's seclusion," said the red freak.

Right afterward, a voice rang out, "It's fine. Let's take a walk outside."

Then, a figure appeared before the house. It was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. He had been in seclusion as of late.

That day, he was clad in a purple outfit with bright, golden trim. With the outfit, he was shrouded in a noble aura that changed his temperament entirely. He used to dress much more casually. Sure, he was still handsome and elegant in a casual outfit, but when he was actually making an effort to dress, his appearance was brought to a brand new level.

"Young Master, you're out of seclusion?" asked the three freaks with a respectful salute.

The three had broken through two stages in the short span of three months. They were now fifth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators, yet they still remained loyal to Xiang Shaoyun. Their devotion to him was clear for all to see.

"Obviously?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his nose.

"No, we meant to ask if we had disturbed your seclusion?" asked the red freak nervously.

"It's their fault! We shouldn't have spared them so easily!" said the green freak.

The blue freak suggested, "We need to catch them! Also, we can catch the Celestial War King while we're at it! Have them all apologize to our young master!"

The three seemed completely serious.

"Settle down. I left seclusion two days ago. I had merely remained in the room," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Come with me. Let's greet our neighbors. Perhaps we will be brothers and sisters on the same battlefield in the future."

"Sure. Have all of them follow you, Young Master," said the red freak.

"Our young master is truly generous. With all of us personally paying them a visit, they will be touched by our young master's grace," said the green freak.

"That's right. They will all acknowledge our young master as the young guild master," said the blue freak.

One ought to admit that the three's intelligence couldn't be judged by their appearance. The way they spoke differed greatly depending on who they were speaking to. Xiang Shaoyun slowly became used to their antics. With the three in tow, he started heading toward house number 80.

All the houses were filled with guests, so house number 80 naturally would not be empty. In fact, standing before the house were two guards. When Xiang Shaoyun approached, they glared at him, warning him not to approach.

Just as the three freaks were about to speak, Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "Xiang Shaoyun is here to visit. I wonder if the one residing in this house is willing to accept guests?"

Chapter 1709: First Palace Lady, Ling Ziruo

Xiang Shaoyun's visit was rejected. He proceeded to visit one house after another, but everyone refused to meet him. Many saw what happened to him and had a toying look on their faces as they watched him. As far as they were concerned, he was embarrassing himself. Did he really think that he was some sort of a big shot?

The three freaks behind Xiang Shaoyun were saddened on his behalf. They felt that he shouldn't have lowered himself that way and visited these people one by one. It should be the other way around.

Xiang Shaoyun merely smiled at their remarks. He wasn't going from house to house out of pretense. He truly wished to find himself an ally or two. He hoped to face the aliens alongside these allies in the future. Unfortunately, all his efforts had gone to waste.

Just as he was about to return to his residence, Guangling Palace's Ling Ziruo from house number 8 agreed to meet him. And thus, Xiang Shaoyun stepped into the house. The three freaks also wanted to enter, but the guards stopped them. Just as they were about to use force, Xiang Shaoyun stopped them and had them wait outside.

House number 8 was indeed much better than Xiang Shaoyun's assigned residence. Not only was the house much more expansive, but it also had a thicker concentration of astral energy. Naturally, it also had an excellent environment.

Soon, nine women appeared before him. The women seemed to be spending a time of leisure in the courtyard, forming a picturesque scene that was enchantingly beautiful. These were all the palace ladies of the Guangling Palace. Each was extraordinarily talented and beautiful enough to charm any man.

Xiang Shaoyun, with his firm willpower, remained unaffected despite their beauty. Apart from the initial admiration for the beauty before his eyes, he immediately returned to complete calm. The nine palace ladies leisurely walked up to him, gazing at him with seductive eyes that could drive many men crazy.

"What a handsome man. I think my heart is fluttering," said the woman in purple coyly.

The woman in pink nibbled her lip and said, "He's exactly my type. Anyone qualified to become a young God is a giant among men. However, a flawless man like him is very rarely seen."

"Stop scaring him. He's the one the goddess wishes to see. This much teasing is enough," said the woman in green.

At this time, one of the nine walked up to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young Master Xiang, how have you been?"

The woman was none other than Yue Xi, whom Xiang Shaoyun had once met in the ancient battlefield. Yue Xi was herself a first-class beauty, but the other women with her were beauties of a similar level. One ought to admit that the Guangling Palace's palace ladies truly were incomparable in terms of appearance.

"Hello! My apologies for the intrusion," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

"There's no intrusion to speak of. Senior Ling herself wishes to see you. We're only the welcome party," said Yue Xi.

She was no longer the pseudo-God from before. Instead, she had advanced into first-stage Rebirth Realm.

"So it's Sister Yue's ex, seems like we have been too rude," teased one of the women.

"What nonsense are you saying! Th-there's nothing between me and Young Master Xiang!" denied Yue Xi with a slight blush on her face.

In the ancient battlefield, without Xiang Shaoyun's help, she would have died. Apart from gratitude, she also felt adoration for Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun remained silent because he did not see them teasing him when so many of them were together. In any case, it didn't take them long to bring him into a building.

Upon entering, he saw a woman dressed in a plain, simple outfit. She was seated before a small side table, preparing tea with smooth motions that were pleasing and calming to behold. She had become one with the world, her presence completely withdrawn. It was an eye-opening experience to feel her temperament and witness her work.

At first glance, the woman did not look like anything special. At a second glance, one would notice that she was quite special. At a third glance, one would feel that she was mesmerizing. Like a lotus hidden amidst a sea of blooming flowers, her beauty was concealed. One had to take the time in order to discover her uniqueness.

Without realizing it, Xiang Shaoyun was staring blankly. He had seen many beauties, especially with the likes of Yu Caidie, Ye Chaomu, and Devil Concubine. Each of them was an absolute beauty, but they seemed to still lack something. The woman before him had something that could put him in tranquility, a sensation where he would only dare to admire her from afar and not spoil her purity with his presence.

This woman was Ling Ziruo, Guangling Palace's first palace lady, the number one beauty among the young guild master candidates. A majority of the candidates were men. The few female participants did not command much confidence from the observers either. As for Ling Ziruo, she was the woman that stood the highest chance against the male candidates. With her mighty cultivation and the backing of the Guangling Palace, she had a high chance of becoming one of the top-five candidates.

When Ling Ziruo was done making tea, she lifted her eyes. They were as bright as a pair of stars. "Young Master Xiang, please taste the tea."

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun recover from his reverie. He took a seat opposite her and lifted the cup of tea. First, he lightly sniffed it and said, "10,000-year spring water, 10,000-year tea leaves, and a skilled tea maker. This tea is divine."

Only then did he slowly drain the cup. The moment the tea slid into his throat, a boiling sensation rose within his throat. It was as though he was drinking some boiling water. The sensation was terrifying, but Xiang Shaoyun remained silent as he swallowed the tea. When the tea reached his stomach, a powerful wave of heat spread from his body as though his skin was steaming. It was a rather mystical experience.

He shut his eyes and started circulating his energy in accordance with the Desolation mantra. The energy within the tea was slowly refined and absorbed into his astral cosmos sea. At the same time, he entered a mystical mode similar to what he experienced during his time at the Brightflower Land, where he saw the boundless universe. That sight of the cosmos, with the endless sea of stars, was a sight that changed his view and breadth of mind.

After a long while, Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes and asked, "Is this the legendary Divine Flame Tea?"

"Looks like Young Master Xiang is someone who knows his tea. Please take a second cup," said Ling Ziruo nonchalantly.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the second cup and drained it unhesitatingly.

This time, the tea felt completely different. It made him feel like he was soaking in a hot spring as a comfortable sensation washed over him, nearly causing him to moan in satisfaction. A sense of enlightenment also enveloped him, putting his mind in extreme clarity. Even his soul power clearly increased.

"This is the Divine Soul Cleansing Tea!" said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"That's right. Please taste the third tea," said Ling Ziruo, a slight trace of joy flickering in her eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun took the third cup. Immediately, his domineering God Realm energy surged, and he could no longer suppress his cultivation. He exclaimed in shock, "This is the Divine Battle Intent Tea!"

Chapter 1710: Battle of Battle Intents

Xiang Shaoyun's powerful battle intent surged into the sky, breaking through the confines of the god-grade formation around house number 8 and reaching beyond the isolated space hosting the housing area. All the young Gods in the housing area sensed the terrifying battle intent.

That battle intent was more than a regular battle intent. It was the battle intent of three lives, and it had also accumulated their domineeringness. The arrogance of a lone sovereign contained in that battle intent caused great displeasure among the young Gods.

"Whose battle intent is that? Is he provoking all of us? How audacious!"

"It seems to be coming from house number 8. Is it Ling Ziruo? That doesn't feel right."

"No, it's not her. This is the battle intent of a man. It is incredibly arrogant and domineering. Who's so rash that he would unleash his battle intent upon all of us? Is he courting death?"

"I don't care who he is, but if he keeps his battle intent out, I'll teach him a lesson."

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All the young Gods were indignant. Such a battle intent was the biggest provocation to them. They would not silently endure it.

In house number 8, Ling Ziruo had first-hand experience of Xiang Shaoyun's prowess. Her eyes lit up brightly as she gazed at the aura of dragons and tigers around Xiang Shaoyun's body. The majesty of his aura could not be hidden, and his overbearing God Realm energy was far beyond that of a regular fourth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. In fact, his energy seemed stronger than even a fifth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator.

What a powerful battle intent, she exclaimed inwardly.

The Divine Battle Intent Tea would bring one's battle intent to the peak upon consumption. At the same time, it would reveal one's hidden potential. Ling Ziruo had long known of Xiang Shaoyun, but she did not look highly upon his chances of becoming the young guild master. But when she heard about how he had visited the young Gods one by one, she couldn't hold her curiosity and decided to meet him.

She wanted to see just how special this person was, this personal disciple of a guardian god who also possessed the innate devil abilities. Sure enough, he was extraordinary. His pride and his overbearingness caused even her heart to flutter. A man like that had absolute confidence in himself. Nobody would be able to stand in his path.

"Xiang Shaoyun, fight me!" After draining a cup of Divine Battle Intent Tea, Ling Ziruo attacked.

Because Xiang Shaoyun's battle intent was surging, he would probably turn mad if he did not have an avenue to vent his desire for battle. Ling Ziruo served as the perfect sparring partner for him to have a good battle.

The moment the two attacked, the god-grade formation in the house turned on and isolated the house from the outside world. Nobody outside could sense anything from the house. Only those within could know what was happening.

Xiang Shaoyun was at fourth-stage Rebirth Realm, while Ling Ziruo was at peak sixth-stage Rebirth Realm. There was a big gap between them, but when they fought, they were evenly matched.

Xiang Shaoyun held nothing back as he utilized his Three Lives Fist and profundities of powers, unleashing a chain of attacks on her. Ling Ziruo was Guangling Palace's number one palace lady. She was born with the Ethereal Physique, a physique that resonated with the world the moment she was born. With her physique, she could draw boundlessly from the ambient energy around her. As she thrust her palms out repeatedly, it was as though a silver moon was spinning before her. She was incredibly strong.

She pushed her combat strength to a level that would match an eighth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator. That wasn't her full strength, but she believed that it would be enough against Xiang Shaoyun.

However, when her palm came in contact with Xiang Shaoyun's fist, she could feel a terrifying strength that not even her eighth-stage Rebirth Realm combat strength could overcome. She was forced to pour even more strength into her attack.

"Don't hold back. Use all your strength, or you will suffer a miserable defeat," said Xiang Shaoyun overbearingly.

He used the Three Lives Fist again and again, branding his punches with not only his fist intent but also the numerous profundities of powers. He was pushing his punches to an unimaginable level.

The power of his devil pearl worked together with his astral energy, granting him a terrifying strength.

"Fine. I'll see where your limits lie," said Ling Ziruo as she unleashed a series of palms. It was as though an immortal lotus was blooming, but at the same time, it was also as though a silver moon was rotating endlessly. Her attacks were incredibly destructive, threatening to destroy an entire world.

The nine palace ladies in the house hurriedly distanced themselves from the battle. They were forced to join hands to defend themselves against the battle's shockwaves. The two combatants were too terrifying. Working together was their only choice if they wanted to survive.

"Why did they start fighting? Did they have a conflict the moment they met?"

"Their battle intents are terrifying. I was so terrified I didn't even dare to open my mouth earlier. It truly is disheartening to learn of the massive gap between us."

"Xiang Shaoyun is courting trouble by challenging our senior. Senior Ling has a much higher cultivation level. I'm afraid he won't be her match even if they had the same cultivation level."

"But they seem to be evenly matched?"

...

Each house in the housing area could create a pocket space. Without that ability, the battle between Xiang Shaoyun and Ling Ziruo would have devastated the house.

Xiang Shaoyun attacked boldly without bothering to pull his punches. Ling Ziruo was doing the same. She might have a higher cultivation level, but she found that Xiang Shaoyun was an extremely thorny opponent. With Xiang Shaoyun's raging battle intent, he pushed his Primal Inception Physique to the limits, reaching a level that was beyond even the Ethereal Physique's ability to suppress. In fact, she would have been defeated long ago if it wasn't for her higher cultivation level.

Spatial Chain!

A white chain manifested beside Ling Ziruo. The chain stabbed through space, coiled around Xiang Shaoyun and formed an absolute seal around him. The spatial attack was extremely domineering. Even an eighth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivator would not be able to escape it. In fact, it was powerful enough to contend against ninth-stage Rebirth Realm cultivators.

That was Ling Ziruo's true strength. Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun mustered all his strength and blasted his palm at the empty air.

Divine Sinister Space Palm!

The palm transcended space and caught Ling Ziruo by complete surprise. A decent amount of the energy around her was scattered, causing her attack to weaken considerably. Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to unleash a primal chaos blade toward the chain around him, forcibly creating an opening. He charged toward Ling Ziruo.

"Time for your defeat!" said Xiang Shaoyun as he swung at Ling Ziruo's neck. He did not look like he was going to hold back.

Ling Ziruo's eyes shone brightly as she formed several hand signs, manifesting two silver moons that blocked the incoming slash. She then counterattacked.

Mirage of Twin Moons!