

Overlord 341

Chapter 341: Young Master Xiang, Just Call Me Qing!

"Big Sister Hua Cheng!" Xiang Shaoyun called with a big smile on his face.

Hua Cheng landed beside Xiang Shaoyun and looked at the almost dead Young Lightning King before asking, "You did this?"

"Yes. Some fools wanted to harm my brothers, so I had to teach them a lesson," Xiang Shaoyun admitted.

Hua Cheng was about to say something else when Yue Yuze came over with a gloomy expression and said, "You are Xiang Shaoyun? Did you kill all these people?"

"Well, my mount was the one who had killed them all, but I guess you can consider me the killer," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"How impudent! You dare commit murder in the Cloud Margin Pavilion? Do you think you can disregard our rules?" berated Yue Yuze as his emperor aura roiled out and pressed down on Xiang Shaoyun.

But before the aura could even reach Xiang Shaoyun, Jin Wo stood before Xiang Shaoyun and said, "You have to get past me if you want to harm his highness!"

Before Little White left, he had commanded Jin Wo to treat Xiang Shaoyun how he treated him. Thus, Jin Wo had been addressing Xiang Shaoyun as his highness.

"A mere Demon Emperor dares to create trouble in our Cloud Margin Pavilion?" Yue Yuze rebuked Jin Wo and prepared to attack.

Murong Qing suddenly shouted, "Yuze, stop this!"

"Old pavilion master, if I don't punish them, will anyone else still obey the rules of our Cloud Margin Pavilion?" Yue Yuze asked.

Rules are useful for others, but what in the f*ck do they mean for Young Master Xiang? Murong Qing couldn't help but to curse.

He then quickly stepped forward and smiled amicably before saying, "Young Master Xiang, why didn't you inform me that you were visiting? I should have been here to welcome your arrival!"

That stunned Yue Yuze. He couldn't understand what was going on.

"You know me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion.

"Hehe, of course I do. Back then when Young Master Xiang had unleashed your might at the Land of Soul Springs' entrance, Xuanhao, Brother Chen, and I were lucky to be there to witness your brilliance! Oh, right, I am Murong Qing, the previous generation pavilion master of Cloud Margin Pavilion. Young Master Xiang, just call me Qing!" flattered Murong Qing.

Even Hua Cheng was dumbfounded now. Was this still the same venerable previous generation pavilion master? Was this still the supreme Emperor of the Cloud Margin City? He was behaving like a deferential old servant!

When Young Lightning King, lying half dead on the ground, saw that, he gave up his struggle and directly fainted.

There was no justice!

Of the people present, only Du Xuanhao the Saber Emperor was aware of the reason for Murong Qing's attitude. He sighed inwardly, One has no choice but to bow before power.

"So it's the old pavilion master, pleased to meet you," Xiang Shaoyun greeted politely before explaining himself, "I am not here to offend the Cloud Margin Pavilion, but these people were pushing it. They were trying to slaughter my brothers! I was forced to fight back!"

"That is not your fault, Young Master Xiang. If anything, I am the one at fault for failing to discipline them. From today onward, they are all expelled from the pavilion!" Murong Qing quickly made his stand.

"I don't really care about that. I'm here today because I need your help with something," said Xiang Shaoyun, who did not wish to waste more time.

"What do you need, Young Master Xiang? We will do our best to help!" declared Murong Qing with a slap to his chest.

"I need the king medicine clearmoon vine," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"King medicine clearmoon vine?" Murong Qing was stunned. He replied, "I don't have one on me, but I will ask around if anyone in the pavilion has one."

"There's no need for that, the clearmoon vine is with me," said Yue Yuze.

Murong Qing was overjoyed and said, "Great! Quickly take it out and give it to Young Master Xiang!"

"Old pavilion master, the clearmoon vine is a top-tier king medicine. I had exhausted great efforts to get it. How can we give it out just like this?" complained Yue Yuze.

"Stop talking nonsense. Just do as I say. Have you lost all respect for me?" demanded Murong Qing furiously.

"Old pavilion master, why are you being so kind to him? He is the culprit behind the Cloud Margin Pavilion's current state! Have you forgotten?" Yue Yuze countered indignantly.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun interrupted, "Yes, that was my bad. But all that has already happened, and I can't change the past. The only thing I can do is give enough compensation for your trouble. Consider that my way of making up for your loss. As for the clearmoon vine, I need to have it. Please name your price."

Yue Yuze was about to speak when Murong Qing's face fell and shouted, "Yuze, come with me!"

He then dragged Yue Yuze away.

Away from the others, he talked through voice transmission, "Do you want the entire Cloud Margin Pavilion to perish with you?"

"Old pavilion master, why are you so afraid of him? He is the culprit for our decline!" questioned Yue Yuze.

"Are you dumb? Yes, those people had come for him, and that was the cause of our recent decline. But think about it. Who is he? Why were there so many experts here for him? Let me tell you something. All of the people who had created trouble here have all been killed by Xiang Shaoyun's subordinates. Do you want the entire Cloud Margin Pavilion to be destroyed as well?" rebuked Murong Qing with a look of disappointment on his face.

Yue Yuze paled. "Are you telling the truth?"

"Why should I even lie to you? I thought he would leave after recuperating at the Chen Clan. But since he needs something from us, we have to agree! Perhaps this will be a chance for our Cloud Margin Pavilion as well!" Murong Qing advised earnestly.

"W-why hadn't you told me earlier?" asked Yue Yuze gloomily.

"Can something like this be spoken of so casually? Alright, just hand over your clearmoon vine!" said Murong Qing.

This time Yue Yuze no longer dared to refuse. He followed Murong Qing back to the group and handed over the clearmoon vine. The clearmoon vine was a vine that looked like a crescent moon and had a sparkling and translucent surface. It emanated a thick medicinal fragrance, and the moment it appeared, it gave everyone an urge to directly swallow it.

The main function of the clearmoon vine was to help restore one's meridians. On top of that, it was also helpful in expanding one's meridians. It was a great herb for cultivators.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the clearmoon vine with no hesitation before saying solemnly, "As my thanks, I will leave a tier-6 cultivation method here. But before you grow strong enough, do not let outsiders know that you have something like this. Otherwise, that will be the end of the Cloud Margin Pavilion."

A tier-6 cultivation method was a high-tier cultivation method that was useful for even Sovereigns. It was extremely valuable, enough to drive countless Emperors mad.

Chapter 342: Seven Severing Tunes

Murong Qing, Yue Yuze, Hua Cheng, and Du Xuanhao were all shocked. They had never expected Xiang Shaoyun to be so generous with his compensation. Taking out a tier-6 cultivation method just like that was simply madness. For people like them, a tier-6 cultivation method was an invaluable sovereign-grade treasure.

"A-are you being serious?" Yue Yuze gulped.

"I never lie. Get me pen and paper, and I will write it down immediately. Or I can just pass it on to one of you if that is what you prefer," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

Although tier-6 cultivation methods and battle techniques were considered valuable even for him, he still had enough of them to not care much about this one cultivation method.

"Ok, I will get you a pen and a paper right now," said Yue Yuze. He took out some pen and paper from his storage ring and handed it to Xiang Shaoyun expectantly.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wait, and he immediately wrote down the tier-6 cultivation method for them. The cultivation method he was giving them was the most ordinary of tier-6 cultivation methods, but for the Cloud Margin Pavilion, this one ordinary tier-6 cultivation method was enough to serve as the pavilion's treasure.

Little did they know, what Xiang Shaoyun did today was to be the start of Cloud Margin Pavilion's rise to glory.

After writing down the cultivation method, Xiang Shaoyun handed it over to Yue Yuze and said, "Remember my words. Before you have the strength to protect this cultivation method, never, ever, let it be known that you have something like this."

"Yes, it is a sin for an ordinary man to possess an extraordinary treasure. We are aware of that," said Yue Yuze as he solemnly accepted the cultivation method.

"Good. I will leave soon. I won't bring the Cloud Margin Pavilion any more trouble, so don't worry about it," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"No, no, Young Master Xiang, you are free to stay as long as you wish. We won't mind at all," Murong Qing quickly said.

"Haha, if I really stay here too long, I will really be the end of your pavilion," said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh.

Not even Murong Qing dared to say anything in reply. From Xiang Shaoyun's words, it was clear his enemies were not just the people who had come for him.

This time, Yue Yuze was the one to come with a quick reply, "Young Master Xiang is truly a person of honor. We shall prepare a feast for you. Please do at least attend this feast."

Although he was extending such a polite invitation, he was in fact agreeing to Xiang Shaoyun leaving. He was merely being very polite.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Ok, I will be troubling the two pavilion masters for a bit then. But for now, I wish to have a talk with Big Sister Hua Cheng."

Murong Qing and Yue Yuze tactfully excused themselves and took Lightning Emperor and Young Lightning King away with them. After everyone left, Hua Cheng stood in front of Xiang Shaoyun and thoroughly sized him up, looking at him with an odd glint in her eyes that caused his hairs to stand on end.

"Big sister, what are you doing? Is there something on my face?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his face.

"Hmph. You are a big liar. So you actually come from a big organization? You wasted so much of my time looking for a master for you!" said Hua Cheng grudgingly.

"Why are you saying that, big sister? When have I ever lied to you? You were the one who was too busy, so we did not have a chance to have an honest talk with each other," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"Fine. But how are you going to compensate your big sister? I was gravely injured because of you and nearly died!" said Hua Cheng, suddenly behaving in a mischievous manner.

Du Xuanhao couldn't stand seeing Hua Cheng speak like that to Xiang Shaoyun. He coughed, "Cough, cough."

"Big Brother Du, you agree, right?" said Hua Cheng with a crafty look in her eyes. She continued speaking to Xiang Shaoyun, "This is the master your big sister had found for you. He's a late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert with a much deeper comprehension of saber intent. But looks like he won't be good enough for you."

Before Du Xuanhao could say anything, Xiang Shaoyun bowed to Du Xuanhao and said, "Greetings, Senior Saber Emperor. Many thanks for the guidance you once gave me."

"Haha, I was the one who had thought too highly of myself for trying to make you my disciple. But you were right. Only those at the Sovereign Realm or above are qualified to be your master," said Du Xuanhao, mocking himself.

"Please don't say that, Senior Saber Emperor. Those words were mere random nonsensical ramblings," said Xiang Shaoyun humbly.

Hua Cheng blanked out slightly before asking, "You two know each other?"

"This is the young man I spoke of before, the one I wanted to accept as my disciple," said Du Xuanhao.

"So it's him!" Hua Cheng was hit by a realization.

Du Xuanhao had indeed mentioned to her that he had once met a young man who had comprehended saber intent. He had wanted to accept that young man as his disciple but was rejected.

So it turns out that the young man was Xiang Shaoyun. That is truly a coincidence.

"Big sister, what compensation do you want? If it is something within my reach, I will definitely satisfy your request," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Idiot. You are my little brother. I was only joking with you. Why are you being so serious?" grumbled Hua Cheng, still emanating the same boundless charm she always had.

"No, you are my big sister. Since I am leaving, I need to leave something for you," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly. "Big sister, you love the dao of zither. Let me hand you an incomplete musical composition. I hope you can one day return it to its glory."

As he said that, he passed her a zither composition named Seven Severing Tunes. Of those Seven Severing Tunes, only the first five tunes were available. It was a killing zither song that had been passed on from ancient times. According to the legends, it was a work of the Zither Devil, and it was a terrifyingly powerful composition.

This was one of the collections in Ziling Sect's Martial Skill Pavilion. Xiang Shaoyun had spent a lot of time looking for it back when he still practiced the zither. But since he was not a cultivator then, he had not been able to practice it. When Hua Cheng received the Seven Severing Tunes, she was immediately stunned by the marvelous and profound tunes.

Xiang Shaoyun reminded her, "Big sister, the dao of zither is one that is intimately linked to one's temperament. Using music to kill can easily cause one to descend into madness. You have to be careful when cultivating."

Hua Cheng quickly regained her calm. "Yes, I know. I will be careful. This composition is very precious. Are you giving it to me just like that?"

"Haha, you are after all my big sister," Xiang Shaoyun laughed generously.

"Fine, your big sister will not hesitate then. I will also teach this to Qinyin," said Hua Cheng.

"Sure, you can do whatever you want with it," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"Hey! I can see how much that girl likes you. After you leave, she will be heartbroken! Are you not going to see her before leaving?" asked Hua Cheng with a sigh.

"I need to check on my senior brother's injuries first. I will go see her after I ensure he is fine," said Xiang Shaoyun after thinking about it for a bit. He knew how Gong Qinyin felt about him as well, and it was time he faced it.

Chapter 343: Qinyin, You Like Me, Right?

After talking to Hua Cheng, Xiang Shaoyun entered Zi Changhe's estate to check on his injuries. After consuming the spring water Xiang Shaoyun had given him, Zi Changhe had recovered some of his vitality, but it would still take some time for him to fully recover.

Hua Cheng also offered a stalk of healing king medicine as her way of thanking Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun accepted the king medicine without hesitation and fed it to Zi Changhe as well.

In the eyes of many people, king medicines were extremely precious. That was not the case for Xiang Shaoyun. After consuming the king medicine, Zi Changhe had improved considerably. Before long, he would be able to regain consciousness.

To the side, Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan were behaving extremely obediently in the presence of two Emperors. They did not even dare to breathe too loudly. They increasingly grew curious about Xiang Shaoyun's identity, and for some reason, they started feeling distanced, feeling like they were from two completely different worlds.

"Ok, the two of you stay here to watch over my senior brother. We can leave after I return," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xia Liuhui asked blankly, "Boss, are you bringing us away from the Cloud Margin City?"

"That's right. I don't want to see something like this happening ever again," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly. After a short pause, he added, "Think over it. If you don't want to leave, I won't force you either. I will get my big sister, the Zither Empress, to take care of you two instead."

Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan nodded and sank into thought to contemplate their choice. Xiang Shaoyun then left Zi Changhe's estate and went with Hua Cheng to Gong Qinyin's place.

Du Xuanhao went along with them, and he seemed to have something to say yet was in hesitation. Soon, Xiang Shaoyun was standing before Gong Qinyin's residence. Hua Cheng and Du Xuanhao did not enter, giving some space to Xiang Shaoyun and Gong Qinyin.

A pleasant melody was coming out from the residence, a melody causing one's heart to be filled with worries. He could also hear the longing in the melody that painted a scene of a woman waiting outside her home for a husband who had been drifting about outside. The intense yearning in the melody was one that could touch anyone's heart.

The sensation seemed to be squeezing Xiang Shaoyun's heart, giving him a suffocating feeling. After the song ended, Xiang Shaoyun stepped inside the courtyard. A frail figure entered his vision. Her concentration, her bearing, and the faint sorrow she was emanating gave one the urge to step forward, take her into one's arm, and offer her comfort.

When Gong Qinyin saw Xiang Shaoyun standing at the entrance, she immediately stood up. A bright smile appeared on her face as she said, "Shaoyun, you're here!"

Her voice was as melodious as a singing bird, a voice filled with grace. Xiang Shaoyun felt a warm current envelop his heart when he heard her voice; his mood instantly lifted.

"I'm back," said Xiang Shaoyun with a faint smile.

Gong Qinyin stared at Xiang Shaoyun in daze while Xiang Shaoyun stood there with a brilliant smile, a smile capable of pulling someone into a trance.

After a long while, a flush crept up on Gong Qinyin's face as she lowered her head and said, "I'll make you a pot of tea."

It was at that moment that Xiang Shaoyun stepped forward and put his hands on her shoulders. His eyes were akin to the brightest of stars, causing Gong Qinyin's heart to flutter and her body to slightly shake.

What is he going to do? Gong Qinyin thought bashfully.

"Qinyin, you like me, right?" Xiang Shaoyun said, his magnetic voice striking straight into Gong Qinyin's heart.

At the question, Gong Qinyin looked up at his face, revealing the entirety of her beautiful face before Xiang Shaoyun. A firm look covered her face as she replied, "Yes. I like you, Xiang Shaoyun. I wish to be with you."

Gong Qinyin had never been one to hide her feelings. Since Xiang Shaoyun had already asked her so straightforwardly, she would not shrink away.

"I knew it. This young master is so handsome, how can you not like me?" remarked Xiang Shaoyun in a narcissistic manner. Slowly, his face approached Gong Qinyin's face.

Gong Qinyin instinctively shut her eyes, the blush on her face growing deeper. Looking at Gong Qinyin who was fully engrossed in the mood, Xiang Shaoyun spoke gently, "Qinyin, today, I am here to bid you goodbye. Forget me, alright?"

Gong Qinyin abruptly opened her eyes and grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's neck. She planted a kiss on his lips. She was a very inexperienced kisser, yet she was extremely bold and wild. She caused Xiang Shaoyun to have difficulty breathing, and her teeth knocked into his mouth so hard it hurt him. Suddenly, her tongue snaked through his lips to ravage his mouth.

Just as he was about to lose control and reciprocate, a sharp pain assailed his tongue, causing him to quickly push her away. He hissed as he rubbed the blood dripping out of his mouth. Staring at her, he said, "Have you gone mad?"

"Yes, I have gone mad! Why are you so cruel? Why do you give me hope only to crush it like this? Don't you know how heartless you are?" said Gong Qinyin with a sorrowful face.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled helplessly and said, "Listen to me. I am not from the Cloud Margin City, and I only came here for reasons out of my control. Now that my whereabouts have been leaked, it will be too dangerous for me to stay. I will cause you boundless trouble. You should know about the previous incident, right? All that was because of me. I am leaving not only to protect myself, but to protect all of you as well."

Looking at the sadness in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, Gong Qinyin felt her heart aching. She stepped forward and declared, "I don't care what trouble you are in, but I am willing to shoulder it with you. I don't want to lose you. What should I do without you in my life?"

As she spoke, scenes of their first meeting and their previous interactions flashed past her mind. From foes they became friends, and now, she was in love with him. Everything had happened so suddenly, and she found it hard to control herself.

She could no longer imagine a life without him. She jumped into Xiang Shaoyun's arms and hugged him tightly, her tears falling onto his clothes.

Gently, Xiang Shaoyun rubbed her hair and said, "My enemies are very powerful, and I can only run from them for now. Therefore, you can't come with me. I won't be able to focus on cultivation and protect you as well. If you really want to be with me, please cultivate hard. If in 10 years you can enter the Dragon Ascension Realm, you can help me have my revenge. We can then be together."

Gong Qinyin raised her head, a resolute look on her face, and said, "Becoming an Empress in 10 years? I can definitely do it!"

Chapter 344: I Have Wronged the Martial Hall Palace

At Hua Cheng's place, when she saw that Du Xuanhao seemed to be in deep thought, she asked, "Big Brother Du, what are you thinking?"

Du Xuanhao replied absently, "No, nothing."

"You can't lie to me. There must be something on your mind." Hua Cheng stepped closer and asked gently, "Can you tell me?"

Du Xuanhao heaved a long sigh before answering, "I need a better cultivation method. I need to enter the Soul Foundation Realm and become a Sovereign as quickly as possible!"

When speaking those words, his eyes shone with a radiance as sharp as the best of blades and burned hot with desire.

"You still can't forget her, Big Brother Du?" Hua Cheng asked resentfully.

Everyone knew Hua Cheng liked Du Xuanhao, and the two were indeed very close. But nobody knew that they were still not lovers as there was a woman Du Xuanhao had never been able to forget. Unfortunately, that woman was long dead.

"How can I forget about her before avenging her? She died because of me!" said Du Xuanhao with an intense hatred in his voice.

"Big Brother Du, you are hoping to get Shaoyun's help?" asked Hua Cheng in realization.

Du Xuanhao nodded. "Yes. Since he can casually take out a tier-6 cultivation method, it can only mean that he is at least from the main line of a tier-6 organization. If he can help me by giving me a tier-6 cultivation method, I will have a chance to enter the Soul Foundation Realm. I will then have a chance of avenging her!"

Just from the fact that Du Xuanhao needed to first become a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator before he could take revenge, it was obvious how powerful his enemy was.

"I will ask Shaoyun. He will definitely agree out of respect for me," said Hua Cheng after a slight hesitation.

Du Xuanhao shook his head. "No, he has already given you a zither composition. If you still ask for more, it will seem like you are greedy. I will do this myself. No matter what, I need a tier-6 cultivation method."

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Xiang Shaoyun stayed at Gong Qinyin's place for half a day. During this time, she brewed tea and played the zither for him, the two interacting like lovers. Just like that, they stayed together in harmony as if they were not going to part soon.

Gong Qinyin had thoroughly readjusted her mental state. Becoming an Empress in 10 years would be a difficult feat, but she had already decided to try her best no matter how hard it was. She did not know that it was merely an excuse Xiang Shaoyun had used to protect her feelings.

His actual plan was to return to his sect and take revenge in 8 years. The 10 years he gave Gong Qinyin was simply for the sake of giving her something to pursue for now. Perhaps she would forget him after a few years.

After half a day, Xiang Shaoyun left. Before leaving, he left some soul spring water and spirit crystals for her to help her in cultivation. As for the Seven Severing Tunes, he was confident Hua Cheng would not keep it from her. There was no need for him to do more than required and give her another copy. After all, the Seven Severing Tunes was not something a Transformation Realm cultivator could practice anyway. She needed to be at least a Queen.

Gong Qinyin sent Xiang Shaoyun off, her eyes filled with a reluctance to part. Inwardly, she vowed, I know I am still not good enough to be with you right now, but in 10 years, I will definitely find you wherever you are. Not only will I become your lover, I will also become your strong ally!

After leaving Gong Qinyin's place, Xiang Shaoyun went looking for Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou. During his trip to the Land of Soul Springs, the two had insisted to stay by his side, which was a gesture that had moved him.

Thus, he had to at least thank them and bid them his farewells. He returned to his previous estate and summoned Long Hui over. Long Hui was one who had the Nether Dragon Soul Curse planted in him by Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, his loyalty was unquestionable. He told him to call Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou over, and he did as told. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun was disappointed as he was told that neither of them were in the pavilion. They had been missing since the trip to the Land of Soul Springs.

It made Xiang Shaoyun anxious. "Had something bad happened to them?"

He remembered that when he battled Linggu Haonan's group, the two had slipped away. They should be safe.

"Oh, right, the Land of Soul Springs is actually quite far away from the pavilion. Without mounts, they are probably still on their way back," said Xiang Shaoyun in realization with a slap to his forehead.

Even on a flying mount, the trip would take half a month to cover. It had only been half a month since the incident with Linggu Haonan. It was understandable that the two had yet to make it back. After all, they did not have Demon Emperors as mounts like him. They wouldn't be able to return as fast as he did. At that thought, Xiang Shaoyun ceased worrying.

"Long Hui, after they return, you will be in charge of their safety. If I find out that you have been disloyal, I will immediately take your life," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't worry, young master. Long Hui will do his best to protect them," promised Long Hui.

Xiang Shaoyun then returned to Zi Changhe's place.

After about half a day of recuperation, Zi Changhe had regained his consciousness. However, he still looked somewhat pale.

"Senior brother, you are finally awake!" Xiang Shaoyun said joyfully.

Zi Changhe smiled bitterly. "Yeah, I nearly went to the afterlife. Good thing you came in time."

"I was the one who had brought trouble to you," said Xiang Shaoyun guiltily.

"What bullshit are you talking about? The Young Lightning King's group were the ones creating trouble," said Zi Changhe with a wave of his hand. He paused for a bit before asking, "I heard from Zhenchuan and Liuhui that you are leaving?"

He had long known that Xiang Shaoyun had an extraordinary origin. Thus, he wasn't too surprised, but he did feel some reluctance to part with him.

"Yes. My whereabouts have been exposed, so I can't stay here anymore. It will only bring more trouble to the people here," said Xiang Shaoyun. With a gloomy tone, he continued, "I'm afraid the Martial Hall Palace is no more, and that is because of me."

"What?" Zi Changhe, Wang Zhenchuan, and Xia Liuhui were shocked. They all came from the Martial Hall Palace. Hearing about its destruction brought them sorrow and shock.

Xiang Shaoyun blamed himself. "I have wronged the Martial Hall Palace."

Xia Liuhui spat furiously, "It was those bastards! They actually vent their anger on innocents! How vile!"

"Martial uncle, who are they exactly? Why are they so ruthless?" asked Wang Zhenchuan.

"Sigh. They are the traitors of my family's sect, and I am the person they greatly wished to kill," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Zi Changhe, Xia Liuhui, and Wang Zhenchuan sank into silence.

They knew Xiang Shaoyun was the reason all that had happened, but he himself was also a victim. With their close relationship, they couldn't bring themselves to blame him, but they did not know who else to lay the blame on.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw them staying silent, he said, "I will be staying at the Chen Clan's place for a few more days. Consider it properly whether you want to leave with me or not. If you want to stay, nobody here will dare to do anything to you."

He then left. He could understand how they felt about the Martial Hall Palace, and in truth, he felt terrible for what had happened as well.

Chapter 345: Chen Zilong's Ambition

Xiang Shaoyun then went looking for Chen Zilong, preparing to return to the Chen Clan with him. He did not believe Chen Zilong had travelled with him just because he wanted to return to the Cloud Margin Pavilion. Rather, he was sure Chen Jiayan was the one who had arranged for them to travel together in hope that Xiang Shaoyun would give Chen Zilong some help. Since he owed the Chen Clan a favor, he did not mind returning it. On their way back to the Chen Clan, Hua Cheng and Du Xuanhao appeared before them.

"Shaoyun, you're leaving already?" Hua Cheng asked.

"Yes, it's better if I don't stay here any longer than necessary," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ok, remember to visit your big sister whenever you get the chance. Your big sister will miss you," said Hua Cheng earnestly. After a short pause, she continued, "But don't you remember you still owe me something?"

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before slapping his forehead. "Right, I nearly forgot about that." He then took out the soul raising stone and handed it to Hua Cheng. "Mission accomplished."

Hua Cheng was overjoyed. "So you did manage to find it after all. Great job!"

She had thought that Xiang Shaoyun had failed to find a soul raising stone, but it turned out he had actually succeeded.

But she did not accept the stone. Instead, she said, "Since you have already given me the Seven Severing Tunes, you can keep this soul raising stone."

She had ultimately decided to listen to Du Xuanhao and not demand too much.

"Big sister, finding this stone was my promise to you while the Seven Severing Tunes was my gift to you. Those are two entirely different matters. Take it. If you don't want it, I'll just throw it away," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

With Xiang Shaoyun's insistence, Hua Cheng had no choice but to accept the stone. "Thank you then, little brother."

"Alright. We will meet again if we have the chance. It's time for me to leave," said Xiang Shaoyun.

At this time, Du Xuanhao spoke. "I'll tag along to the Chen Clan as well."

Xiang Shaoyun and Chen Zilong had no excuse to say no. After all, Du Xuanhao and Chen Jiayan were friends, and it wasn't weird that he would make such a request. They continued on, and while traveling, Xiang Shaoyun asked Chen Zilong, "Have you ever thought of leaving and heading to a place with more geniuses to cultivate?"

"Are you talking about those tier-5 and tier-6 organizations?" Chen Zilong asked.

"Yes. Each one of the geniuses there is incomparably strong, and plenty of them are capable of punching above their weight. It is a stage for the strong," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"If that is the case, how did you end up here?" asked Chen Zilong.

"That's a long story, but in any case, I am leaving. If you are interested in heading to a better place of cultivation, I might be able to help you with it," said Xiang Shaoyun forthrightly.

"Hehe, that was also what my ancestor wanted," said Chen Zilong with a faint smile. A resolute look appeared on his face as he continued, "Thank you for the offer, but I will fight for my future with my own fists. I do not wish to grow by relying on others."

"Oh, you found a goal?" asked Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment.

"I am going to join the Dragon Society!" declared Chen Zilong with a firm confidence in his eyes.

The Dragon Society was a tier-7 organization comparable to the Ziling Sect. Dragon Society and Ziling Sect were from two different provinces, but many conflicts had arisen between the two over some resources. Thus, they had an unfriendly relationship.

Because of that, Linggu Haonan's group had maintained a relatively low profile when they came hunting for Xiang Shaoyun, as they were afraid to let the Dragon Society catch wind of them. Chen Zilong had no small amount of courage to set his eyes on the Dragon Society.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard this new goal, he raised his thumb and praised, "Good ambition! I support it!"

Although the Ziling Sect and Dragon Society were unfriendly toward each other, Xiang Shaoyun was not worried that he and Chen Zilong would become enemies in the future.

"We will battle to our hearts' content when we meet again in the future!" declared Chen Zilong. With a solemn look, he continued, "I like your sister. A day will come when I go look for her, and that will be a day when I am finally worthy of her."

Xiang Shaoyun was astonished as he had never expected that Chen Zilong had actually come to this decision because of his sister. But when he recalled the boundless charm Ye Chaomu had, he became less surprised. She was a woman not many men could resist.

"Haha, you will have to work hard then. My sister is a freakish genius in cultivation. In the entirety of the Nine Gods Dominion, very few people are comparable to her in talent. She is destined to be one of those at the very peak of existence in the future," Xiang Shaoyun evaluated Ye Chaomu's talent forthrightly.

He was speaking the truth. Ye Chaomu was so talented in cultivation, and even he, the elder brother who was also an extremely talented cultivator himself, felt pressured.

"Don't worry. I won't try anything before I reach the same level as her," said Chen Zilong confidently.

Looking at the serious Chen Zilong, Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly, Well, you will have no chance then.

When they were near the Chen Clan, Du Xuanhao talked to Xiang Shaoyun through voice transmission, "Young Master Xiang, I wish to have a talk alone with you."

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out momentarily before nodding. He dropped Chen Zilong nearby and went somewhere with nobody around to have a private conversation with Du Xuanhao.

There, Du Xuanhao took out two bottles of liquor, gave one to Xiang Shaoyun, and said, "Let's drink."

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the bottle and uncorked it without any hesitation. Immediately, a pleasant aroma of liquor drifted out of the bottle, causing him to praise, "This is the Green Bamboo Liquor of the Green Bamboo Town!"

"That's right. I occasionally go there when I have the time to get some of these Green Bamboo Liquors," said Du Xuanhao.

"Is that your hometown, Senior Saber Emperor?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Back then, he had contemplated saber intent at the Green Bamboo Academy. That was why he had always had a good opinion of Du Xuanhao.

Du Xuanhao shook his head. "Not really. I just like this Green Bamboo Liquor a lot."

Xiang Shaoyun did not continue asking and started drinking with Du Xuanhao.

Du Xuanhao was known as the Saber Emperor, one of the most prestigious people in the Cloud Margin City, yet Xiang Shaoyun was able to drink with him like they were of equal status even though he was not yet at the Skysoar Realm. Many people would be greatly envious of him. Nobody would expect that this high and mighty Saber Emperor actually needed something from this Transformation Realm young man.

"Young Master Xiang, I want a tier-6 cultivation method!" said Du Xuanhao after gulping down a few mouthfuls of liquor. There was a longing look in his eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't overly surprised. He chugged a mouthful of liquor before saying, "Senior Saber Emperor, you are someone who has helped me before. Without the saber intent you had left at the bamboo forest, I wouldn't have been able to comprehend saber intent. But I personally think the value of that is completely different from the value of a tier-6 cultivation method. Don't you think so?"

Chapter 346: A Saber to Kill For Me

Although Xiang Shaoyun had good opinions of Du Xuanhao, it did not mean he would offer a big help for nothing. After all, Du Xuanhao was not Hua Cheng. Neither was he a part of Cloud Margin Pavilion, which had suffered great losses because of him.

"I know. I only wish Young Master Xiang could give me an opportunity," said Du Xuanhao solemnly.

All these years, he had traveled far and wide, trying to look for some fortuitous encounters. Unfortunately, luck never seemed to be on his side, as he had never been able to get a tier-6 cultivation method. He did not wish to join a tier-5 organization and slave away there either. After all, even if he did so, there was no guarantee he could get the tier-6 cultivation method he wanted.

It was a different story with Xiang Shaoyun. Since he was willing to give the Cloud Margin Pavilion a tier-6 cultivation method and Hua Cheng a top-tier zither composition generously, it could only mean that giving those out did not mean much to him. That was why Du Xuanhao believed Xiang Shaoyun would be able to provide him with the fortuitous encounter he sought.

Looking at Du Xuanhao, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "I can do it, but the price might be a little bit high. Are you willing to pay it?"

"I am willing to pay whatever price to obtain a tier-6 cultivation method!" declared Du Xuanhao resolutely.

"Good. I want you to become a saber, a saber to kill for me! Can you do that?" asked Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"If that is what you want, I can agree to it right this moment!" said Du Xuanhao, his voice deep and sonorous.

"Ok. Just for this promise, I will provide you with a tier-6 cultivation method. In fact, even a tier-7 cultivation method won't be a problem," said Xiang Shaoyun. "But before that, can you first tell me the reason for you to give up so much just for a cultivation method?"

"I must repay the grudge of having my wife killed!" replied Du Xuanhao with a seething hatred in his voice.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow. Evidently, the answer was something he had never expected. A sense of respect started rising in his heart toward this man. A man willing to commit such sacrifice for his wife was a real and loyal man.

"Looks like your enemy is very powerful. Otherwise, you wouldn't have resorted to this," said Xiang Shaoyun with a slight sigh. "You cultivate the power of fire. I will give you a tier-7 cultivation method, the Scorching Sun Manual. I hope it can help you reach the Soul Foundation Realm as soon as possible. As for whether you can climb higher than that, it will depend on yourself."

Tier-7 cultivation methods were extremely rare, and even an organization like Ziling Sect would only have a few of them in their collection. This Scorching Sun Manual was a cultivation method suited for those cultivating the power of fire. It was clear how highly Xiang Shaoyun looked upon Du Xuanhao to give him a cultivation method this valuable.

"T-t-tier-7 Scorching Sun Manual?" Du Xuanhao cried out in shock.

"That's right. This cultivation method is also paired with a tier-7 battle technique, the Eighteen Scorching Sun Sabers. This is a perfect pair for you," said Xiang Shaoyun generously.

"Y-you have so much trust in me? This pair of cultivation method and battle technique is enough to cause even Sovereigns to spill their blood!" said Du Xuanhao in disbelief.

"There is no point in using someone if I am going to place no trust in that person. I believe in your character, Senior Saber Emperor," said Xiang Shaoyun. "In any case, although you might think that these two are extremely rare, they are really nothing for me. If you really do abandon me after reaching your goal, it won't be that much of a loss for me anyway."

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun's nonchalance, Du Xuanhao sighed, "Young Master Xiang is indeed a person of extraordinary vision. No wonder you cared so little when I had offered to take you as a disciple."

"You don't have to downplay yourself. Your saber intent is really quite powerful, and I had only rejected your offer because I had seen even more powerful existences before," said Xiang Shaoyun earnestly.

"True. The Cloud Margin Pavilion is merely an organization in some small city. Only those who do not know the world will think so highly of mere Dragon Ascension Realm experts. In truth, they are merely frogs in a well. The Nine Gods Dominion is boundlessly large with innumerable experts, and this is something they won't be able to even imagine," lamented Du Xuanhao.

"Yes, one's view will change depending on one's station in life," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Let's go to the Chen Clan first. I will pass you the cultivation method and battle technique there. I can also introduce a Soul Foundation Realm expert to you. He can share some of his previous experience in breakthrough with you, which will help you reach the Soul Foundation Realm as soon as possible. We will prioritize getting you your revenge."

"Thank you, Young Master Xiang," said Du Xuanhao solemnly with a bow.

He had never expected that Xiang Shaoyun would be so easygoing. The generosity displayed greatly increased his loyalty to Xiang Shaoyun, and he declared, "After I take my revenge, I will give my all to assist you, Young Master Xiang!"

By the time the two returned to the Chen Clan, Chen Jiayan had already arranged a feast for them. Xiang Shaoyun did not reject and attended it with Duo Ji and Devouring Ghost, which was his way of showing his respect toward Chen Jiayan.

Xiang Shaoyun did not bother to invite the Thirteen Eagles. Their only task was to guard Ye Chaomu at all times. Chen Jiayan felt extremely honored that Xiang Shaoyun was willing to attend his feast.

The atmosphere during the feast was decent, but most people revolved around Xiang Shaoyun and had somewhat ignored Chen Jiayan, the host. But Chen Jiayan did not mind it one bit, and he was also one of the people continuously toasting Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun drank to every toast he received, and after the first round, he was already feeling tipsy. His capacity for liquor couldn't really compare with these Emperors'. After the feast ended, the drunk Xiang Shaoyun returned to his room to be welcomed by a graceful figure. The pleasant fragrance of that person drifted into his nostrils, causing his heart to flutter.

"Big brother, why did you drink so much? You stink of liquor!" said Ye Chaomu, quickly stepping forth to help Xiang Shaoyun stand properly.

"Haha, because your big brother is very happy that he can finally see you again, little girl," said Xiang Shaoyun with a laugh when he finally saw who the person in the room was.

"Sure, sure. How many years has it been? You had not visited me once at Wuxie Valley!" grumbled Ye Chaomu grudgingly.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the little sister right in front of him and gently rubbed her head as he said guiltily, "Yes, it's my fault. In the future—"

Before he could finish, Ye Chaomu covered his mouth with her hand. "I don't want to hear your promises. I only want you to be safe and well."

Ye Chaomu's ice-cold palm had touched Xiang Shaoyun's face, causing his breathing to quicken. Looking at the flawlessly beautiful face before him and smelling the pleasant fragrance coming from her, he had the urge to take her into his arms.

Whoosh!

Ye Chaomu was the one to throw herself into his arms. She let off a gentle groan, a blush growing on her face. The sensation of the gentle and soft body pressing against Xiang Shaoyun instantly stirred the lust within him.

His eyes turned red as he stared at Ye Chaomu, his breathing grew hurried, and he tightened his arms around her as though he was going to blend her into his body. A certain part of his lower body became like a steel rod, as if he was going to lose control over himself.

Chapter 347: You Are a Little Devil

Ye Chaomu could sense Xiang Shaoyun's current condition, but she was not nervous at all. Rather, she enjoyed it and felt somewhat bashful. She had known they were not biologically related since young. They called each other brother and sister, but as they grew, she slowly started looking at him as her other half instead.

She enjoyed being pampered by him, liked how he yielded to her in everything, and loved his carefree bearing. Slowly, Xiang Shaoyun's face neared her face, to the point they were now breathing on each other.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to completely lose control over himself, the liquor he had drunk earlier started acting up on him. He quickly pushed Ye Chaomu away and threw up everything he had eaten.

Ye Chaomu was practically fuming as she stamped her foot and berated, "Bastard! Why did you drink so much?"

She might be scolding him, but she still held him up and patted his back, helping him feel better.

"Phew, I feel much better after throwing up. I'm all fine now," said Xiang Shaoyun after a while. "Get someone here to clean this mess up. I'm taking a short rest. We can catch up again later."

Acting like he had not remembered what he had almost done, he walked to the bed and directly collapsed on it before falling into deep sleep.

Ye Chaomu was left fuming as she pressed both hands on her waist and grumbled, "You're a pig! Just drink to your death!"

...

The night passed quickly, and it was morning again. Xiang Shaoyun woke up and was stretching comfortably when he suddenly sensed his nakedness.

Then, he saw Ye Chaomu lying by his side on the bed. His face shifted as he cried out in alarm, "AHH!"

His shout awakened Ye Chaomu. She looked at him blankly and said, "Big brother, what are you shouting for? Let me sleep a bit more."

"You! Why are you still sleeping? What happened last night?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he covered himself with the blanket.

Ye Chaomu's head finally cleared up a little, and when she saw Xiang Shaoyun behaving like he had just been molested, a mischievous smile appeared on her face. "Haha, big brother, you wouldn't have thought that I had molested you, right?"

"Stop joking around! I'm your big brother! I'm...I'm afraid that...when drunk...drunk..." Xiang Shaoyun couldn't finish his sentence. Ye Chaomu was his little sister. If he did something he shouldn't have, he would not be able to forgive himself.

"You're afraid you did something you shouldn't have when you were drunk?" asked Ye Chaomu as she slowly leaned forward with a mischievous smile on her face.

"Ye Chaomu, be serious! We can't joke about this! Tell me, did we...do that?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, shrinking even more into the blanket.

"Hehe, I am solemnly telling you that...yes, we did it. From now on, I am no longer your little sister. I'm your woman. You need to take responsibility for what you did," said Ye Chaomu with a smug smile.

"It's over! It's over! Why did that happen? Damn it!" Xiang Shaoyun pulled his own hair and grumbled in guilt.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun, Ye Chaomu said gently, "Foolish big brother, I am not that kind of woman."

"What does that mean?" Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and looked at her.

"What I'm saying is, you were drunk last night and threw up everywhere. You got your vomit all over yourself, too. So I had to take your clothes off and get the servants to clean them. Nothing happened between us," explained Ye Chaomu.

"Is that so? That's good to hear!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in joy.

"Don't you want anything to happen between us?" asked Ye Chaomu with a pout.

"Haha, I'm your big brother! It would be a mess if something did happen between us!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh. "Alright, can you go out first? I need to put something on."

"But we are not related at all! Do you remember father saying that he would marry me to you if you couldn't find a wife in the future?" Ye Chaomu pushed on stubbornly.

"You trust father's words? What a foolish girl." Xiang Shaoyun rolled his eyes.

"I don't care. I want to be with big brother forever. I won't allow any other woman to like you. Let's get it done right this instant!" said Ye Chaomu resolutely.

She then pulled Xiang Shaoyun's blanket away, revealing his firm, muscular chest.

"HEY! HEY! Have you gone mad?" Xiang Shaoyun screeched.

"Hehe, Big Brother Shaoyun, just take me. I will treat you well in the future," said Ye Chaomu with a devilish smile on her face.

"Ye Chaomu...you can get my body, but you won't be able to get my heart!" yelled Xiang Shaoyun with a resolute tone.

Crack!

...

After a long while, Ye Chaomu finally left the room with a satisfied look on her face. With the wide smile she had, it was clear she was in an excellent mood. Behind her was Xiang Shaoyun who had on a gloomy expression. "Ye Chaomu, are you a dog or a human? Why did you bite me that hard?"

"Hmph! If I don't bite hard, you won't learn your lesson!" said Ye Chaomu smugly.

"You are a little devil," declared Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, I am a little devil. You will never be able to escape me," said Ye Chaomu as she brandished her fist at Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered to continue bickering with her, and he headed to Elder Zhen Peng's room. Elder Zhen Peng was already awake. He was staring at the ceiling with a pair of empty eyes. No emotion could be seen in his eyes, as if there was no longer any meaning in life for him. Even when Xiang Shaoyun approached him, he did not react.

Looking at Elder Zhen Peng's condition filled Xiang Shaoyun with guilt. He spoke gently, "Elder Zhen Peng, I'm here to see you."

Finally, there were some movements in Elder Zhen Peng's eyes. Sorrow filled them as he said with a hoarse voice, "M-Martial Hall Palace is no more."

Xiang Shaoyun gripped his hand and said, "I am sorry, Elder Zhen Peng. It was my fault. Without me, this calamity would not have happened to the Martial Hall Palace, and you wouldn't have suffered this much either."

"Sigh," Elder Zhen Peng took a long sigh before shutting his eyes again, seemingly not having anything more to say.

"Elder Zhen Peng, this is a clearmoon vine. It will help restore your meridians. Here, eat it. I'll help you up," said Xiang Shaoyun as he took the clearmoon vine out.

Elder Zhen Peng opened his eyes and asked in agitation, "Will I recover?"

"Yes, you will be able to stand on your own feet again soon," Xiang Shaoyun solemnly promised.

"Ok! I want to get back up! I want to rebuild the Martial Hall Palace! I will not let the Martial Hall Palace end here!" said Elder Zhen Peng with a look of resolute longing.

For some reason, a sense of veneration rose in Xiang Shaoyun when he heard those words. He said solemnly, "Ok. When you get well again, I will do everything I can to help you rebuild the Martial Hall Palace. In the future, it will be even more powerful than the Cloud Margin Pavilion, becoming an organization that will last forever!"

He then fed Elder Zhen Peng the clearmoon vine.

Chapter 348: Parting

The clearmoon vine was worthy of being a top-tier king medicine. It worked excellently and immediately restored Elder Zhen Peng's crippled meridians. In fact, it did more than that. Elder Zhen Peng's meridians were also enlarged, pushing his second-stage Skysoar Realm cultivation level to the third stage.

But that wasn't too surprising since after cultivating a high-tier cultivation method given by Xiang Shaoyun, he had reached late second-stage Skysoar Realm long ago. The clearmoon vine gave him that little push he needed to enter the third stage.

Although Elder Zhen Peng had grown in strength, Xiang Shaoyun could sense that he was in a different frame of mind now. Back when Elder Zhen Peng had first entered the Skysoar Realm, he immediately wanted to become Xiang Shaoyun's follower to pursue more strength.

Now, the only thing he wanted was to return and rebuild the Martial Hall Palace. All his focus was on the Martial Hall Palace. The more Elder Zhen Peng behaved like that, the worse Xiang Shaoyun felt, feeling like he was the ultimate sinner who had caused the fall of Martial Hall Palace.

"Elder Zhen Peng, Senior Brother Zi Changhe and a few others will be here soon as well. Do you want to wait for them before leaving?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, trying to make Elder Zhen Peng stay for a bit longer.

"No, I will go back first to search for any surviving disciples and see if they are willing to return to the Martial Hall Palace," said Elder Zhen Peng stubbornly.

"Ok, then. I have some spirit crystals and other treasures here as well. Consider them my support in helping rebuild the Martial Hall Palace," said Xiang Shaoyun as he handed Elder Zhen Peng a storage ring.

It was a storage ring he had obtained from one of Linggu Haonan's subordinates, and it was filled with a decent amount of treasures.

Elder Zhen Peng rejected it. "No, I can't accept more things from you."

"Elder Zhen Peng, are you still blaming me? This will only make me feel worse," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

Elder Zhen Peng hesitated for a bit before answering, "No, I am not blaming you."

"If you really don't blame me, you should accept this ring. It won't be easy to rebuild the Martial Hall Palace empty-handed," persuaded Xiang Shaoyun.

"Fine." Elder Zhen Peng reluctantly accepted the ring. "If possible, I really don't want the same thing to happen to the new Martial Hall Palace."

He then flew away from the Chen Clan.

Looking at Elder Zhen Peng's departing back, Xiang Shaoyun said inwardly, Don't worry. I won't let those traitors have another chance to disturb your peace.

Not long after Elder Zhen Peng left, Zi Changhe arrived with Wang Zhenchuan and Xia Liuhui. As Xiang Shaoyun had previously informed the Chen Clan about their arrival, they were able to enter unimpeded and were brought to him.

The three were astonished to find that Xiang Shaoyun was actually residing in one of the most important spots within the Chen Clan, but at the same time, they felt that this was how it should be. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was a person with a powerful background. Even with Emperors among their ranks, the Chen Clan would still have to serve him carefully.

"Senior brother, you're here," greeted Xiang Shaoyun.

The three were about to return the greeting when they saw Ye Chaomu standing behind Xiang Shaoyun. The sight of her stunned all three of them, as if they had been frozen. She was as beautiful as the luminous moon, filled with boundless charm that no men could resist.

"Hello, everyone. I am Ye Chaomu, his little sister," said Ye Chaomu with her arms wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun's arm.

"Yes, she's my little sister," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Ye Chaomu corrected, "No, I'm his godsister."

"Why are you speaking nonsense?" Xiang Shaoyun grumbled.

"But I'm telling the truth!" said Ye Chaomu with a pout.

"So pretty," Xia Liuhui couldn't help but to praise her.

"Hehe, thank you for your praise," said Ye Chaomu with a satisfied smile.

"N-no, you don't have to thank me for that. I'm telling the truth. You are the prettiest woman I have ever seen," said Xia Liuhui, speaking in a coarse manner.

"Is that so? But my big brother does not think so," said Ye Chaomu who shot Xiang Shaoyun a glare.

"Don't mind her. She has always been a naughty girl," said Xiang Shaoyun with an awkward look. He then introduced the three to Ye Chaomu.

As he made the introduction, she greeted them politely one by one without any air of arrogance a young lady of an influential clan would usually have. The three's impression of her improved, especially so for Xia Liuhui, who was completely smitten by now.

After serving the three tea, Xiang Shaoyun went straight to the point. "Have you reached a decision?"

"Both me and Zhenchuan have decided to not be a burden to you, so we won't be leaving. We know ourselves well. We will be nothing but deadweights if we go with you," said Zi Changhe seriously.

They knew that following Xiang Shaoyun might bring them more benefits, but they also understood they would only bring him more trouble because he would have to take care of them as well. That might not be what Xiang Shaoyun needed right now.

"How about you, Xia Liuhui?" Xia Liuhui asked.

"Boss, I...I want to go back home and see how things are there," said Xia Liuhui hesitantly.

"Go home?" Xiang Shaoyun blanked out. That was a decision he had never expected.

"Yes, it has been three years since I last went back. I really want to go back before deciding what to do next," said Xia Liuhui with a nod.

"That's understandable. I should have thought of that. Maybe I should visit your family with you as well," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"There's no need for that. My home is located in a remote village. It's practically a forest," said Xia Liuhui, lacking confidence.

Xiang Shaoyun grumbled resentfully, "Are you abandoning your boss? The parents of my brother are also my parents. What's wrong about me visiting them?"

"Ok, then," Xia Liuhui agreed reluctantly.

Next, Xiang Shaoyun looked at Zi Changhe and said, "Since you have already made up your mind, I will respect it, senior brother. I have some gifts for you two here. They will be helpful for your future cultivation."

Again, Xiang Shaoyun took out a storage ring. He was truly quite generous today. Zi Changhe was hesitant in accepting the ring, but he had no choice but to take it after Xiang Shaoyun stuffed it into his hand.

"Alright, we will drink to our heart's content today. May we meet again in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun, suddenly melancholic.

The three before him were the first friends he had made after leaving the Ziling Sect. He still remembered how he wanted to become Zi Changhe's disciple when they had first met. Wang Zhenchuan, the martial nephew he had gotten out of nowhere, had been a decent friend as well.

After parting, it would be unknown if they would ever meet again in the future.

Today, they drank.

The day after, it was time to leave.

Xiang Shaoyun did not forget the Chen Clan, as he gave Chen Jiayan a tier-6 battle technique before leaving. That would be considered his way of thanking them for hosting him.

"Senior brother, take care," yelled Xiang Shaoyun toward Zi Changhe and Wang Zhenchuan, who were now on their way back to the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

Chapter 349: Xia Hamlet

Xia Hamlet was a hamlet within Wu Town's territory. It was a very remote hamlet surrounded by mountains on all sides. In this hamlet, practically everyone had the Xia surname. Most of the inhabitants were hunters, and they lived simple lives.

Xia Datang, a Transformation Realm cultivator, was the head of the hamlet. He enjoyed great prestige, and his words were basically the law. Whatever he said, people followed.

He was a nice person who would be willing to suffer personal losses just so others in the hamlet could have some food on the table. He was strong yet did not bully the weak, and was ever willing to help others. He was a rarely seen genuinely nice person, and it was this very nice person that was currently in a troubled position.

Three days ago when he led a group of hunters from the hamlet out on a hunting trip, they had encountered a Great Demon, and in order to protect the others as they escaped, he had been gravely injured.

Presently, a lot of villagers were gathered in the hamlet head's residence. Everyone had arrived with their prized herbs, hoping to help Xia Datang recover from his injuries. It was evident that Xia

Datang enjoyed the love of the people. The moment something happened to him, so many people stepped up to help. It was quite a moving scene.

In the house, a slim young woman was sobbing beside a middle-aged man. The middle-aged man was none other than Xia Datang. He had an ordinary look and a robust body. His abdomen was currently bandaged, and there were numerous blood stains on it. It was quite clear that his injuries were not light.

The young woman beside him was about 15 to 16 years old. She had an oval, lively face. Her crude outfit showcased her slim figure and made it seem as if one could easily snap her slim waist. This was Xia Yingying, Xia Datang's daughter. She was currently weeping helplessly, looking incredibly pitiful.

Xia Datang, lying on a bed made of animal hide, opened his eyes and said weakly, "Yingying, what are you crying for? Your father is not as weak as you think. I will be well soon."

"Father, you need to get well soon! I'm very scared!" weeped Xia Yingying as she gripped Xia Datang's hand.

"What are you afraid of? I'm already awake. Everything will be fine," said Xia Datang. He then looked at an old man beside him. "Old Father, tell the villagers to leave. I won't die so easily. Tell them to not worry about me."

This old man wasn't exactly Xia Datang's father, but he was the oldest inhabitant of the Xia Hamlet, and everyone called him Old Father as a sign of respect. Old Father was about 80 years old. He was a hunchback and had a frail figure and looked incredibly weak. His pair of muddy eyes were looking straight at Xia Datang as he replied, "Ok. Since you feel fine, I will tell them to leave. Everyone is worried about you. You're very important to everyone here."

Old Father walked slowly and exited the room. Outside, he told the villagers, "Go back, everyone. The head is awake. He said that he won't die so easily. Don't worry, everyone."

"That's great news! I knew the head would be fine! He is so strong; nothing will happen to him!"

"That's right. The head is a kind person. A kind person usually enjoys a long life. Not even a demonic beast can hope to end his life prematurely! Old Father, I have some healing herbs here. I'll leave them here. Please pass it to the head."

"Old Father, I have a piece of snake meat. Make a soup out of it for the head. It will be good for his body."

"I have half a stalk of a 100-year-old ginseng here. It is very good for healing. Remember to get the head to eat it! He has helped us a lot these few years. We can't let him suffer alone without helping!"

...

One could say that help arrived from all directions. The Xia Hamlet was displaying an incredible display of selflessness. The villagers left their prized possessions one after another, leaving Old Father in tears.

"Xia Datang is the perfect example of how a head should be," he lamented.

Just as the villagers were about to leave, some noise suddenly rang out from outside the residence.

"Warning! Warning! Bandits are attacking! Everyone, kill the enemies!" shouted a villager.

The villagers all panicked and rushed outside, each carrying a weapon.

"Ahhhh!"

Soon, a miserable wail rang out from not far away. A mighty-looking group could be seen slaughtering the villagers without mercy. Not even the old, weak, women, and children were spared. Any woman who looked even slightly attractive was raped.

The villagers were completely helpless in stopping the bandits' advance. By instinct, they retreated back to Xia Datang's place and shouted, "It's bad! The bandits are attacking! They are going to slaughter us all!"

When Xia Datang heard that, he instantly jumped off the bed. The action tore open his wounds again, causing him to groan in pain as he broke out in cold sweat.

"Father, don't move! You are still injured!" said Xia Yingying sorrowfully.

"This is not the time for that. These injuries are nothing. I'm going to kill those bandits!" said Xia Datang with his teeth clenched. After stuffing a random ginseng into his mouth, he lifted the saber resting to his side and charged out of the house.

Xia Yingying chased after him, shouting, "Father!".

When the villagers saw Xia Datang, hope was reignited in their eyes. They all gathered around him and charged toward the bandits.

"Xia Datang is here! Bandits, die!" roared Xia Datang before running at the bandits with his saber with the ferocity of a tiger. He fought well, displaying the might a Transformation Realm cultivator should have. Even with his injuries, he was still a capable fighter as he was able to kill two Astral Realm bandits with only a few slashes.

"Audacious, you dare kill the members of the Mad Lion Hunting Group? Die!" shouted the leader before slamming his massive hammer down at Xia Datang.

The bandit leader was also a Transformation Realm cultivator. His forceful attack sent Xia Datang's saber flying. Even Xia Datang himself collapsed onto the ground.

"Father (head)!" Xia Yingying and the villagers cried out in alarm.

"Look, what a pretty girl. Come over here. You have been selected. From today onward, follow me and you will be able to live a good life," said the bandit leader with a perverted smile.

"D-don't even dream of laying your hands on my daughter!" Xia Datang crawled back up on his feet and threw a punch at the bandit leader.

Unfortunately, his punch was weak due to his injuries, and his fist was immediately caught by his opponent.

"A dying person like you dares run your mouth before me? Are you courting death?" said the bandit leader with disdain before sending Xia Datang flying with a kick.

"Father!" Xia Yingying cried.

"Come with me. I will treat you well," said the bandit leader as he stepped forth and reached for her.

A voice filled with grief and fury instantly rang out, "Lay a hand on my sister and I will rip you apart!"

Chapter 350: A Tiger Father Does Not Beget a Dog Son

"Sister? Soon, she will be mine!" The bandit leader paid no attention to the threat as he grabbed Xia Yingying.

"AHHH!"

Xia Yingying screeched in fear. The nearby villagers rushed the bandit leader with their weapons, but they were immediately beaten back by the other bandits.

"Hehe, what a tender girl. I like it," said the bandit leader in excitement.

Instantly, a finger beam streaked through the air and struck the leader on his arm.

"AHHH!"

A bloody hole appeared in the arm, and the bandit leader wailed in pain. Xia Yingying was freed, and she quickly ran to Xia Datang.

"W-who is the impudent ambusher! Show yourself!" roared the furious bandit leader.

"What an arrogant person. None of you can leave alive today!" a cold voice rang out. The same voice continued, "Liuhui, go take care of your father and sister. Let me deal with these scums."

"No, let me deal with them. Boss, I'll need to trouble you with my father and sister," replied a different voice.

Two young men appeared, both about 17 years old. One of them was heroic and handsome with a steadfast face and toned figure, looking like an extraordinary young man. The two were none other than Xiang Shaoyun and Xia Liuhui, who had arrived from Cloud Margin City.

As for Ye Chaomu, Duo Ji, Devouring Ghost, and the others, they were still standing guard outside the hamlet. Xia Liuhui had not expected that the first thing he would see when he returned after so long was his villagers being slaughtered and his father and sister being bullied. He was raging with fury, and he needed a venue to vent his anger.

"Ok. Be careful," said Xiang Shaoyun before heading toward Xia Datang and Xia Yingying.

As for Xia Liuhui, he drew two swords, wielding one in each hand and roared, "Scums! You dare attack the Xia Hamlet? All of you will die today!"

He was now a second-stage Transformation Realm cultivator, and his combat prowess was no longer the same. He charged into the midst of the bandits and attacked like a wolf that had charged into a flock of sheep. Two sword energies were sent out, one red and one blue, instantly killing three bandits.

Naturally, the bandits would not sit idly, and they fought back. However, Xia Liuhui proved to be a fierce combatant. He had spent quite a lot of time tempering himself in the Cloud Margin Pavilion and had even broken through a few limit rooms. He was one who had found his own path of cultivation and possessed extraordinary combat prowess. Before the bandits could surround him, he dashed about and severed the heads of two other bandits. The villagers all cried out in surprise at what they were seeing.

"Is this young man the son of Xia Datang, Xia Liuhui? He's so strong now!"

"Yes, he's Xia Liuhui. I still remember when he used to pee in my arms. I remember him being an incredibly naughty boy. Three years ago, Xia Datang had brought him to some town to cultivate. So, he has returned after finishing his studies. This is great! There is hope for our hamlet!"

"Good! A tiger son does not beget a dog son! Well done, Xia Liuhui! You did not betray your father's reputation!"

"What are you waiting for? Everyone, let's fight these bandits together!"

...

With Xia Liuhui joining, the tides of the battle turned in favor of the villagers. The bandits were forced to retreat repeatedly, and only the Transformation Realm bandits could put up a fight against him. There were two bandit leaders here in total. The first bandit leader was the one who had been injured by Xiang Shaoyun earlier, and he was one of the two Transformation Realm bandits.

Both of the Transformation Realm bandits were currently fighting Xia Liuhui together. These bandits were in truth members of the Mad Lion Hunting Group. They were only passing by and committing some banditry while they were on their way, their main goal being getting some pretty village girls to play around with.

Unfortunately for them, they had picked the wrong time as Xia Liuhui had returned just as they had arrived. That bad luck was the start of their doom. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun had arrived beside Xia Datang and Xia Yingying.

"Father, don't die!" Xia Yingying wept sorrowfully.

"You won't be of help crying here. Please move aside. I'll help," Xiang Shaoyun's magnetic voice rang out beside her ears.

She raised her head and saw a handsome young man standing beside her. He looked like he was shining with brilliance, his image instantly putting her heart at ease.

"C-can you really help my father?" Xia Yingying asked.

"Of course. His injuries are very bad. Move aside now, or it will be too late," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"Please save my father. As long as you can save him, I am willing to do anything!" begged Xia Yingying.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Haha, you are my brother's little sister so you are my little sister as well. I don't need you to do anything."

He took out a drop of spirit spring water and fed it to Xia Datang. He then took out a few stalks of spirit medicines before crushing them. Some of the medicinal liquid was fed to Xia Datang while the rest was used on his wounds. With the help of the high-quality medicinal herb and liquid, Xia Datang's condition quickly stabilized.

"Alright. He will be as good as new soon," said Xiang Shaoyun after he was done bandaging Xia Datang's wounds.

"Thank you! Thank you!" Xia Yingying thanked repeatedly.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand. "You're welcome. Alright, take good care of your father."

Xia Yingying nodded her head heavily and helped Xia Datang leave the battlefield. It was at this time that a random bandit suddenly attacked them.

"Don't even dream of leaving! Die!" shouted the bandit ferociously.

Just as the bandit's saber was about to hit Xia Yingying's head, Xiang Shaoyun appeared before her like a sturdy wall and caught the bandit's wrist.

"Scum," Xiang Shaoyun spat before snapping the bandit's wrist toward the bandit's own neck.

"AHHH!"

The bandit's saber swiped through his neck and slit his throat, killing him on the spot.

"Liuhui, let me give you a hand," said Xiang Shaoyun as he charged into the crowd of bandits.

He danced about the bandits like a drifting dragon. Everywhere he went, bandits fell. Not one of them could survive his attacks. The extraordinary and valiant performance of Xiang Shaoyun caused Xia Yingying's heart to thump.

Something seemed to bloom in her heart. He's so handsome! she thought to herself.

If Xia Liuhui heard that, he would probably howl in grief, asking her if she still remembered him, her gallant and mighty big brother who was also fighting the bandits.