

Overlord 401

Chapter 401: Imperial Nether Prison

In Bloodsin City's Yu Clan was a certain old woman. She spent most of her time in secluded cultivation nowadays, but today, she had suddenly appeared in the sky above the main hall of the clan after sensing a change in the city. She had a crooked figure and looked completely unremarkable, yet her eyes emanated an extremely sharp aura seemingly capable of piercing through everything.

She stared at the sky and observed the change happening. The look in her eyes changed as she muttered, "The devilish aura is stirring. Is the Devil Domain trying to attack the surface again?"

At a different spot in the city was a massive temple. Numerous monks could be seen chanting some religious scriptures; one Buddhist symbol after another formed in the air as they slowly purified the devilish aura hovering above the city.

An old monk who had been seated in meditation for an untold amount of years suddenly opened his turbid eyes and muttered, "Amitabha. The devilish aura is stirring. Looks like trouble is brewing for the Bloodsin City yet again."

Apart from these two, a few other concealed super experts had also sensed the change. They all did the same thing: tell their people to start paying closer attention to the Devil Domain. The moment anything happened, they would react immediately to prevent another devil invasion.

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Not one of them had noticed that the devilish aura had actually seeped into the ground and had all converged at a certain tiny restricted space.

Imperial Nether Prison.

This was a unique battle technique exclusive to the Imperial Nether Clan. Only those with a high-tier bloodline within the clan and the Nether Soul Domain would be able to awaken it.

The Imperial Nether Prison was an innate ability capable of summoning the Nether Soul Domain out of one's body and transforming it into a prison to trap one's enemies. The prison's owner would

be an absolute master of the space within it and would be able to freely do as he wished to those trapped within.

Any person who wasn't much more powerful than the prison owner would be completely helpless once trapped. This ability was in fact one of the main trump cards of the Imperial Nether Clan. Presently, Xiang Shaoyun was completely engrossed in the comprehension of this newly awakened ability.

The Imperial Nether Prison felt completely different to him than other battle techniques. He needed to train and comprehend any other battle techniques he wanted to use, but that was not the case for the Imperial Nether Prison. He only needed to accept these symbols for the comprehension to come naturally to him.

Finally, new ancient symbols stopped appearing. He then slowly urged his Nether Soul Domain to move. Instantly, the Nether Soul Domain flooded out of him and filled the room. It did not stop and even spread to outside of it. Both Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo were given a fright as they thought they were under attack.

Inside the room, Xiang Shaoyun was able to sense them clearly. He spoke to them through voice transmission, "Don't worry. It's me."

They calmed down after hearing Xiang Shaoyun's voice.

"Your highness, what power is this? It makes me feel very uncomfortable," said Jin Wo in agitation.

"I feel like I am being restricted by something," said Du Xuanhao with a frown.

"Y-young master, h-have you awakened the Imperial Nether Clan's innate ability, Imperial Nether Prison?" Devouring Ghost's surprised voice also rang out.

"You know about the Imperial Nether Prison as well?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Of course. This is one of the Imperial Nether Clan's strongest innate abilities. Looks like my decision to bring you here is correct. Continue your comprehension, but be discreet about it. Avoid attracting the attention of those old freaks in the city or things will become very troublesome for us," said Devouring Ghost.

"Ok," Xiang Shaoyun replied and started withdrawing the Imperial Nether Prison. He did not fully withdraw it, though. He maintained enough of it to cover his room and continued studying it.

"Prison, from its name, it is obvious this is used for imprisonment. The restrictive force from the Nether Soul Domain is the energy powering the prison. However, this is not its final form. Solidify!" Xiang Shaoyun continued studying the essence of the ability when he suddenly shouted and stirred his soul power. He started waving all 10 of his fingers, manipulating the nether soul energy around him.

Swish! Swish!

Strands of nether soul energy appeared and took the form of chains. Each looked like a real chain, swaying about as it changed freely in length, showcasing the ability to shackle anything. At the command of his thought, the 10 chains immediately shot toward a broken chair in the room.

Bang!

The chair was instantly crushed into pieces. Clearly, the chair was too badly damaged to handle the chains' might. Xiang Shaoyun used the same method to manipulate the 10 chains, sending them flying like 10 nimble dragons. They were extremely flexible and agile, capable of shrinking and extending freely.

Apart from that, he also learned that the moment one went inside the Imperial Nether Prison, one's combat prowess would drop by at least 30 percent. One's connection with spiritual energy and external astral energy would also be severed.

The nether soul energy was also capable of eroding the mind of those trapped within, causing them to completely lose themselves and eventually die through the complete erasure of their souls. These were the wondrous functions of the Nether Soul Domain, allowing one to become the master of the space within the prison.

Of course, for the Nether Soul Prison to be able to do all that, the Nether Soul Domain needed to first grow stronger so as to ensure the user had a sufficiently powerful soul to make use of such power.

After finding out about all that, Xiang Shaoyun burst out with laughter and said, "What a great ability. I can definitely catch any opponent by surprise with it."

He did not know if his Imperial Nether Clan bloodline came from the mother he had never met, but he did not intend to think too much about its origin anyway. He considered anything capable of helping him grow stronger to be something good for him. Finally, Xiang Shaoyun had the time to take a look at the gostrunes in his Nether Soul Domain. His eyes almost popped out in shock.

"There are only about 10,000 of them left? But not one of them is below the Transformation Realm anymore. There are about 300 or 400 Kings, and there are even two new Emperors!" a wide smile formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face.

When the gostrunes sensed Xiang Shaoyun's attention, they immediately knelt down and greeted him, "Greetings, master."

"Rise, everyone," said Xiang Shaoyun. He was quite surprised, as he had not expected that all these gostrunes would so easily acknowledge him as their master. He asked, "What do you think about living outside?"

"No, master. We wish to keep staying here. This place is very suited to us. We swear to remain forever loyal to you, master," vowed Gui Qi on behalf of all the gostrunes.

All the gostrunes had an expectant look. It was obvious none of them wanted to leave.

"Haha, sure. I was just joking," said Xiang Shaoyun. "You can stay here, but you will have to obey my every command in the future. Otherwise, I will either kick all of you out or directly kill all of you in here."

"Yes, master," the gostrunes replied.

"Splendid. I have a perfect chance for you to demonstrate your loyalty," said Xiang Shaoyun with a glint in his eyes.

Chapter 402: Han Clan Sisters

The Skeleton Gang was only a second-rate organization in the Bloodsin City, but they were still an organization that had established themselves. Just that feat alone proved that they were no pushover.

Their leader was a person called Tian Yiqi, also known as the Celestial Skeleton. He was a peak Emperor cultivating an extremely odd cultivation method granting him an extraordinary combat prowess. He had two powerful underlings known as Earth Skeleton and Human Skeleton, both ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators.

Presently, the Skeleton Gang members were gathered together. All of them were dressed in clothes with skeleton emblems, creating a sinister atmosphere at their place of gathering. Seated on the main seat was Celestial Skeleton, a tall and slim middle-aged man. A chilly, baleful aura lingered around him, and his eyes were constantly pulsing with a dreadful green radiance that made them look like two clumps of ghostfire.

Seated to his left and right were Human Skeleton and Earth Skeleton. Both were constantly emanating an aura of ruthlessness and bloodlust. Apart from them, about a dozen Emperors were also gathered in the room, each of them a late-stage Emperor. These were the elites of the Skeleton Gang. There had to be a reason for all of them to be gathered here today.

"Leader, based on the information we have obtained, a large number of Han Clan people have entered the Devil Domain, and the two sisters have been left behind," reported one of them respectfully.

"Where are they now?" asked Celestial Skeleton with a lusty look in his eyes.

He had noticed the Han Clan sisters when the two had first arrived at the city. Both of them were extreme beauties, and they also possessed the Yin Frost Physique. With the dual-cultivation technique he cultivated, they would be perfect to help him gather sufficient yang energy and push himself into the Sovereign Realm.

That was why he had been sending people to pay close attention to the Han Clan recently. The people in the gang thought that he coveted the two women for their beauty, oblivious to the fact that he had a completely different motive.

"They are currently at the Han Clan turf," replied the same person from before.

"Excellent. Tonight, we will purge the Han Clan. I want to capture the sisters alive," said Celestial Skeleton in excitement.

At this time, Earth Skeleton spoke, "Boss, the Han Clan ancestor is a Sovereign. How will we withstand his wrath if he finds out what we did?"

"This is the Bloodsin City, not their home base. Even if their ancestor does decide to come, they still won't be able to easily touch us. In any case, I might have already formed my soul foundation by then. What is there to fear about that ancestor?" said Celestial Skeleton in an overbearing manner.

"Boss, you found a way to build your soul foundation?" asked Human Skeleton in excitement.

"You will know the answer soon. Just get ready. We will make a move on them tonight," said Celestial Skeleton.

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Han Clan, Bloodsin City.

Han Clan was a top tier-5 organization from Yu Province. Their ancestor was a Sovereign, and they only needed another Sovereign to rise among their ranks to become a tier-6 organization. In comparison, the Dong Clan of the Five Denseforest Cities was only an early tier-5 organization. There was quite a gap between the two's strength.

How had the Han Clan grown so rapidly? By having the courage to temper their young at the Bloodsin City. They had a branch at the Bloodsin City and would periodically send some of their young there to enter the Devil Domain and hunt for devils.

Although the casualties had always been high, the survivors had all eventually turned into strong individuals capable of standing their own. This way of tempering had greatly boosted the number of Emperors in their clan.

Presently, a majority of the Han Clan people in the city had entered the Devil Domain on another tempering trip. Only a small number of them remained in the city. Among those who remained were two beautiful and alluring women. They were about 20 years old, yet both were already mid-stage Skysoar Realm cultivators.

They were Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei, known as the Dual Flowers of the Han Clan. They were among the clan's top beauties.

The elder of the two was Han Qianwei. She was tall, had a pair of lanceted eyebrows, single-edged eyelids, slim waist, towering chest, and a pair of slender legs. Her entire person radiated seduction and charm.

The younger sister, Han Xuewei, slightly resembled her elder sister. She was slightly shorter, her complexion rosy, her skin fair as snow, her temperament elegant, and there was always a pleasant fragrance lingering about her person.

Each of the sisters was beautiful in her own way. More importantly, both possessed the Yin Frost Physique, granting them great efficiency when cultivating energies of the yin, or cold attribute, which was part of the reason why they had such a high cultivation level at such a young age.

They initially wanted to join the others and head into the Devil Domain to temper themselves as well, but the clan had remarked that they still lacked experience and would not be able to handle the intense battles that would happen in the Devil Domain. Thus, they were told to stay behind and take some time adapting to the city before entering the Devil Domain.

"Big sister, everyone has gone to the Devil Domain. What are we doing here? Why don't we take a walk around the city? I want to see just how scary the villains in the city are," said Han Xuewei with excitement.

In comparison, Han Qianwei was much less bubbly than her younger sister. Even when speaking, she sounded cold and distant. "Did you not see them when we had first arrived? When they had set their eyes on us, it was as if they had wanted nothing else but to rip apart our clothes then and there. I doubt we will be able to return in peace after leaving."

"But what's the point staying home? How are we supposed to enter the Devil Domain if we stay here in the comfort of our home all the time?" grumbled Han Xuewei, becoming unhappy.

"I'm not saying we don't go, but we need to put on some disguises," said Han Qianwei.

"Right! We can dress up as men!" Han Xuewei exclaimed in excitement.

It was at this moment a wail was heard outside the Han Clan estate. Then, someone shouted, "Enemy attack!"

"Hehe, Han Clan, die!" A creepy screech rang out as if a ghost was speaking. Next, a large number of skeleton puppets rushed into the Han Clan estate.

They were the Skeleton Gang's puppets. The Skeleton Gang had deployed two deputy leaders—Human Skeleton and Earth Skeleton—and a large number of attacks in this assault. It was obvious they were determined to take down the Han Clan.

"Skeleton puppets of the Skeleton Gang? You dare challenge the Han Clan? You are courting death!" roared one of the Han Clan experts who had stayed behind.

A battle then erupted between the Han Clan and the Skeleton Gang. There were about 100 skeleton puppets used in the assault, and the puppets were all formed of human, beast, and devil bones. On the forehead of each puppet was a flickering ghostfire, serving as the core medium for controlling the puppets.

"Someone actually dares to attack us? Big sister, let's slaughter them!" Han Xuewei roared with a raging battle intent.

Han Qianwei nodded, and the sisters flew out to join the battle. As all that was happening, some other people were noiselessly approaching the Skeleton Gang's base, seemingly having their sights set on the gang.

Chapter 403: Night Attack

Tian Yiqi the Celestial Skeleton had remained at the headquarters of the Skeleton Gang while his men went out to attack the Han Clan. Lounging in the main hall, he was having a great time with a woman in each of his arms.

"Haha, before long, those two girls will also be my toys. After plucking their yin frost energy, I will be able to form my soul foundation and become a Sovereign," said Celestial Skeleton in excitement even as his hands were busy pinching the two women's towering chests.

He pinched hard, causing the two women intense pain, yet they still feigned happiness and did not dare to let any displeasure show on their faces. Before long, they were both stripped naked. Celestial Skeleton started his assault on them, filling the hall with moans.

The Skeleton Gang members all knew to not disturb their leader when he was busy with women. Those who did not know better would either be killed or refined into skeleton puppets. Thus, many

Skeleton Gang members started noiselessly moving away from the main hall for fear of somehow offending their leader.

"Why does the leader need to be so loud about it every single night? It feels terrible when all we get to do is listen."

"Shut your mouth. The leader has a sharp hearing. You won't have a good time if he hears you."

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The Skeleton Gang members whispered at some dark corner, completely oblivious to the fact that Badar had quietly brought two outsiders into their headquarters and had even reached the main hall.

Badar was supposed to be part of the force attacking the Han Clan, but he had used a random excuse to stay behind. The two people he had brought in were none other than Xiang Shaoyun and Du Xuanhao.

Badar had made Xiang Shaoyun aware of the Skeleton Gang's plan. Only a small number of them would remain tonight while the others would be away long enough for Xiang Shaoyun to deal with Celestial Skeleton.

"This is the perfect timing to deal with the leader. He is busy with pleasure, and all the guards have withdrawn. You won't find a better chance than this," said Badar through soul transmission.

Xiang Shaoyun did not act immediately after receiving the message. Rather, he used his Nether Soul Domain and sensed his surroundings. Everything nearby was laid bare before his Nether Soul Domain.

Not only could he see what Celestial Skeleton was doing with the two women, he could also see an unmoving figure hiding at an unremarkable corner of the hall. This figure seemed to be here serving as a guard for Celestial Skeleton as opposed to being an assassin.

Good thing I didn't tell Big Brother Du to go straight in. Otherwise, things would get troublesome, thought Xiang Shaoyun. He then said, "There is a different person hiding in there. Wait for my command before rushing in together. Subdue both of them. I will help both of you."

Both Du Xuanhao and Badar nodded and prepared to act. They did not know what Xiang Shaoyun could do against the two experts in the room, but they both believed that he would find a way.

Xiang Shaoyun no longer hesitated and summoned out three ghostrune emperors. Gui Qi was already a second-stage Emperor while the other two were first-stage Emperors. Despite their lower cultivation levels compared to the two experts in the room, they were excellent at soul attacks, and they would be fatal against even higher-leveled Emperors. That was perhaps why high-level ghostrunes were so feared.

"Gui Qi, attack the one out in the open. You two, attack the hidden one," commanded Xiang Shaoyun.

The ghostrunes had extremely sharp senses and were able to immediately locate the two targets Xiang Shaoyun had assigned them. Their incorporeal soul attacks noiselessly sneaked inside.

"Ahhhh!"

Suddenly, two wails sounded from the room. Although the wails were quite loud, the Skeleton Gang members nearby all assumed that Celestial Skeleton was merely moaning in pleasure. Thus, none of them was bothered.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes turned chilly as he commanded, "Go!"

Both Du Xuanhao and Badar rushed into the main hall. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun commanded the three ghostrune emperors to continue attacking, not giving the two in the room any respite. After all, the two were too strong. If they were allowed to battle without disturbances, they would be extremely tricky opponents for Du Xuanhao and Badar to handle.

Inside the hall, Du Xuanhao approached Celestial Skeleton, who was gripping his head in pain. When Celestial Skeleton sensed someone rushing into the room, he finally realized that he was under attack. He wanted to cry for help, but his soul was under an intense assault that placed him in too much pain to do anything.

Before Celestial Skeleton could do anything, Du Xuanhao used his hand as a saber and swiped it at his chest.

Sphhlt!

With his soul under intense assault, Celestial Skeleton was barely able to stop Du Xuanhao's attack, and he instantly crashed into the wall while coughing blood. As for the two women, they were both knocked unconscious on the spot.

Du Xuanhao pressed on with a series of attacks, inflicting heavy injuries. Du Xuanhao possessed a combat prowess comparable to a peak Emperor's. With his soul injured, Celestial Skeleton was completely incapable of putting up a fight.

The person hiding in the corner also suffered the same fate. With two ghostly emperors attacking him, he was unable to withstand Badar and instantly had his head sliced off.

Xiang Shaoyun's main goal was to put the gang leader under his control. Although the person hiding in the corner was also quite strong, he had no choice but to order that person killed to prevent any unexpected incidents.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun entered the hall with the three ghostly emperors. He talked to Badar through voice transmission, "Stand guard outside. Don't let anyone enter."

"Yes, master," answered Badar as he went outside.

Currently, Du Xuanhao was stepping on the badly injured gang leader who couldn't even scream due to the powerful presence Du Xuanhao was using to suppress him. Celestial Skeleton did not dare to shout anyway since the ghostly emperors were still tormenting him with their soul attacks. He could feel the clear threat of death.

"Big Brother Du, injure him a bit more," said Xiang Shaoyun. He gave that order to be even safer. The more injured Celestial Skeleton was, the weaker his soul would be, which would make it easier for him to put the gang leader under his control.

Du Xuanhao then sent a few more attacks at Celestial Skeleton, injuring him to the point he was barely breathing.

"Ok. This is enough. Please stand guard for me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a look of joy. He then activated the Nether Dragon Soul Curse and sent numerous symbols flying toward Celestial Skeleton's soul. He could sense that Celestial Skeleton's soul was already extremely weak, and the curse symbols easily branded it.

"Ahhhh!"

Celestial Skeleton started wailing miserably. However, Du Xuanhao had completely isolated the place from the outside world with his presence, preventing any noise from traveling outside. Right this moment, someone started approaching the main hall, seemingly having sensed that something had happened.

Chapter 404: I Am Your Master From Now On

"You're here as well, Lord Badar? We seemed to have sensed something earlier. Is the leader fine?" asked the Skeleton Gang members who had just arrived after saluting Badar.

Most of the Skeleton Gang members had gone to attack the Han Clan. With Badar's strength, he was among the highest ranked members who had stayed behind.

"What can happen to the leader? He is enjoying himself. Go away now. You know what will happen if the leader is interrupted when he is having fun," said Badar impatiently.

"Is everything really fine?" asked the same person doubtfully.

"Feel free to take a look if you want. Just don't blame me for what happens next," said Badar as he stepped aside.

"No, no, of course not. We don't have the guts to interrupt the leader when he is having fun. Alright, we're going back to patrol," the person quickly said.

They knew very well how their leader was. They had only asked Badar so many questions to probe if everything was fine. In any case, Badar was stronger than them. If something had really happened to their leader, he would have noticed it before them.

Inside the hall, Xiang Shaoyun was chanting the curse repeatedly, sending numerous symbols into Celestial Skeleton's soul. He was sending much more symbols out than he normally did. The power of curse wrapped around Celestial Skeleton's soul was also much stronger than what he had used on others before this. He was being cautious as he did not wish for Celestial Skeleton to break free from his control after recovering.

Meanwhile, Celestial Skeleton had nearly gone mad from Xiang Shaoyun's torture. If it wasn't for his serious injuries and Du Xuanhao's suppression, he would have destroyed the entire hall by now. After a while, Xiang Shaoyun finally stopped chanting. He looked pale, and it was quite clear he had overused his soul power.

"It's finally done," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he wiped the sweat on his forehead.

Inwardly, he rejoiced, Good thing I have the ghostrune emperors helping out. Otherwise, it would have been much harder to subdue this guy.

"What's next, young master?" asked Du Xuanhao.

"Let go of him and let him recover," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"What? S-should we be doing that?" asked Du Xuanhao with a worried look.

Although he knew Xiang Shaoyun had a wondrous mind control technique, he was still anxious as Celestial Skeleton was a peak Emperor. He wasn't even sure if he could actually defeat an opponent like him.

"Don't worry. It will be fine," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

The Nether Dragon Soul Curse had never failed. He was sure this time would not be an exception. On top of that, he had the assistance of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, which was a top-tier treasure of the Imperial Nether Clan. Not even a peak Emperor could hope to escape the control of his curse.

Du Xuanhao released Celestial Skeleton and fed him a healing king medicine, helping him recover faster. After swallowing the king medicine, Celestial Skeleton's body acted on instinct and started healing.

Finally, he recovered enough to regain some clarity of mind. The first thing he did was ask furiously, "W-who exactly are you?"

"That does not matter. You only need to remember that I am your master from now on," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly before he suddenly started chanting the curse again.

"Ahhhh!"

Celestial Skeleton wailed immediately, feeling as if his brain was going to explode. It was even more painful than when the ghostrun emperor had attacked him. It was as if there were tens of thousands of bugs gnawing at his brain at the same time, making him suffer enough to wish for death.

"Do you understand me? I am your master from now on. If you disobey, I can take your life with a mere thought," said Xiang Shaoyun after he stopped chanting.

"Y-yes...," Celestial Skeleton answered with extreme indignation. Inwardly, he vowed to himself, Just you wait. When I recover enough, I will slaughter your entire family!

"Hehe, looks like you are still unwilling to submit. You actually dare to curse this young master?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a fiendish smile. He started chanting again.

Once again, Celestial Skeleton started wailing. If it wasn't for Du Xuanhao isolating the room from the outside world, the others would have heard the wails for sure.

"You are already under my control, so I know your every thought. You better not try to scheme behind my back," said Xiang Shaoyun when he stopped chanting again.

This time, Celestial Skeleton seemed to have given up for real. After all, his soul had been controlled and none of his thoughts were private anymore. How was he supposed to resist?

At this moment, Badar suddenly spoke to Xiang Shaoyun through voice transmission, "Master, the two deputy leaders have returned."

Xiang Shaoyun frowned before saying to Celestial Skeleton, "Do you have a secret room we can hide temporarily? Think of a story yourself to explain your injuries. Make sure to not leak any information."

"P-please come with me, master," answered Celestial Skeleton with some difficulty after swallowing a healing pill.

He brought Xiang Shaoyun and Du Xuanhao to a hidden room behind the hall. This was the room he usually used for secluded cultivation. Apart from a simple bed, there was nothing else in the room.

It was worth noting that there were a lot of paintings hanging on the room's walls, depicting scenes that would cause any woman to blush in embarrassment if they saw them. These were all paintings of men and women having intercourse in numerous complicated positions.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help laughing dryly when he saw the paintings as he mused, "This is quite an eye-opener."

Although he was known as a playboy during his time at his sect, he was still a virgin.

"These are probably the diagrams of a sinister dual cultivation technique," said Du Xuanhao with a frown.

"Something similar to plucking the yin to enhance the yang?" Xiang Shaoyun asked doubtfully.

"I think so. Otherwise, all these meridians wouldn't have been depicted so clearly in these paintings," said Du Xuanhao.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and lost all interest. At this time, Earth Skeleton and Human Skeleton had just returned with the others. As for Celestial Skeleton, he did not bother returning to the main hall. Rather, he stayed in his room, which was directly connected to the hidden room.

"Boss, the two girls you want are here. But one person from the Han Clan has escaped. We already have someone chasing after him," reported Earth Skeleton respectfully.

Two tied up beautiful women could be seen beside him. They were none other than Han Qianwei and Han Xuwei.

Some wounds were visible on them. They had evidently been injured during the battle. Their clothes had also been torn slightly, revealing the fair skin underneath. Both of them had a look of panic and indignation. Evidently, they were clear about what would happen to them next.

"Bring them in," said Celestial Skeleton.

The door of the room opened. After pushing the two women inside, Earth Skeleton frowned and asked, "Boss, what's going on?"

It was obvious he had noticed something wrong with Celestial Skeleton.

Chapter 405: Controlling the Skeleton Gang

"Nothing, the Noxious Blood Gang sent two sluts to assassinate me earlier. I've already dealt with them," Celestial Skeleton quickly said, panicking slightly. The Noxious Blood Gang was a hostile gang with similar strength to them.

Earth Skeleton had an aggressive reaction when he heard the name Noxious Blood Gang, "Those impudent bastards!"

"Well, you and third brother can just keep an eye out for them. Leave the two girls behind. I will immediately harvest the yin frost energy from them when I recover from my injuries. After reaching the Soul Foundation Realm, both the Han Clan and the Noxious Blood Gang will be nothing for us," said Celestial Skeleton.

"Alright, boss. Get well soon and enjoy the girls," said Earth Skeleton before withdrawing from the room.

After Earth Skeleton left, the Han Clan sisters looked at Celestial Skeleton nervously. Their cultivation bases had been sealed, so they couldn't even flee.

"If you dare lay a finger on us, our ancestor will not spare your Skeleton Gang!" warned Han Qianwei coldly.

Han Xuwei also spoke, "J-just let go of us! If you do, it might not be the end of your Skeleton Gang just yet."

"You are too naive. Yes, your ancestor might be a powerful individual, but that does not mean I am afraid of him," said Celestial Skeleton with a sneer.

He had the urge to pounce on this pair of sisters then and there. However, his condition was too bad, so the only thing he could do was scare them for a bit. The sisters paled at what he said.

Celestial Skeleton then ignored them and circulated his cultivation method at full speed. He had to first recover before doing anything else.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was completely aware of the situation outside through Celestial Skeleton. He did not do anything and let Celestial Skeleton freely heal up. Since he was in no rush, he started leisurely talking with Du Xuanhao in the hidden room.

"Young master, are you planning to put this Skeleton Gang under your control?" asked Du Xuanhao.

"Yes. We need to first establish a footing here if we want to stay on and thrive in this city," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"You are right, young master. No matter how strong one can be, the local forces can still be very useful when one arrives at a new place," Du Xuanhao agreed. "Maybe I should stay by your side for now and only leave for the Devil Domain after you have full control over the Skeleton Gang?"

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Three days. I will subdue the two deputy leaders in three days. At that time, the Skeleton Gang will be under my full control, and you can then head off to the Devil Domain."

When Du Xuanhao saw Xiang Shaoyun's firmness, he nodded in agreement.

He knew very well that Xiang Shaoyun could never be underestimated despite his young age. Otherwise, one would suffer a loss before even knowing what was happening. He proceeded to share more of the saber intent he had comprehended as a parting gift to thank Xiang Shaoyun for all his help.

Xiang Shaoyun memorized everything Du Xuanhao told him. When the time was right, he would use what he had learned to further hone his saber.

A night passed, and Celestial Skeleton had recovered by about 30 or 40 percent with the help of king medicines and healing pills. His worst discomfort came from the damage his soul had suffered, as even now, he would be assaulted by the occasional headache. He would have to find a way to do something about it if he did not want to keep suffering.

After all, the condition of his soul would play a great role in determining if he would be able to enter the Soul Foundation Realm in the future. At that thought, he went looking for Xiang Shaoyun. He was in no mood to touch the Han Clan sisters for now.

He entered the hidden room and greeted deferentially, "Greetings, master."

"Rise. You are looking to heal your soul, right? I have some soul spring here. Use it to heal it," said Xiang Shaoyun after throwing Celestial Skeleton a glance. A tiny bottle appeared on his palm.

Celestial Skeleton accepted the bottle joyfully and said, "Thank you, master."

Since Xiang Shaoyun knew everything he was thinking, it would be very hard for him to regain his freedom for now. He was better off focusing on recovering for now and should only think of what to do after he was fully healed.

"What's up with that pair of sisters you got out there?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Celestial Skeleton did not dare to hide anything, and he told Xiang Shaoyun everything he had in mind.

"If you like them, master, you can have them. They are definitely top-tier beauties," said Celestial Skeleton flatteringly.

"Put them somewhere. I'll take a look when I have the time," said Xiang Shaoyun after some hesitation.

"Yes, I'll do that. Do you have any other commands, master?" Celestial Skeleton asked.

"Just focus on healing up today. Call one of your brothers over tonight and send everyone else away," said Xiang Shaoyun, not bothering to hide his intention at all.

Celestial Skeleton did not dare to disobey, and he nodded before leaving. The day passed quickly, and by the end of the day, Celestial Skeleton had recovered by about 50 percent. His soul had almost fully healed up as well.

At that point, he started thinking about using his recovered soul power to break free from Xiang Shaoyun's control. But the moment the thought crossed his mind, Xiang Shaoyun found out about it and started chanting the curse incantations, placing him in great torture yet again.

"Remember, if you have such thoughts ever again, you will die," said Xiang Shaoyun through voice transmission with a dense killing intent.

Celestial Skeleton was so frightened he immediately knelt down and begged for forgiveness. He was finally giving up on all hope.

At nightfall, Celestial Skeleton sent someone to summon Earth Skeleton over and dismissed everyone stationed near the main hall. Earth Skeleton never suspected that Celestial Skeleton would harm him, so he arrived alone.

"What do you need from me, boss? Are you still worried about the Noxious Blood Gang?" asked Earth Skeleton when he arrived.

"Come closer, second brother. I have something important I need to discuss with you," said Celestial Skeleton.

Earth Skeleton did not suspect anything and approached. Suddenly, Celestial Skeleton attacked.

Bang!

Earth Skeleton had never expected that his boss would suddenly attack him. The palm hit him and fatally injured him, sending him flying away.

"Boss! You..." Earth Skeleton called out in utter confusion.

Before he could finish his sentence, his soul came under attack. It was as if someone was adding salt to his injury. Du Xuanhao and Celestial Skeleton worked together and seriously injured Earth Skeleton.

There was no suspense, as Earth Skeleton was eventually subdued by the two. Next, Xiang Shaoyun used the Nether Dragon Soul Curse and placed Earth Skeleton under his control as well.

By the time he was done, he had the same sensation where he had overused too much of his soul power. Left with no other choice, he consumed some of the soul spring water he had. Without the soul spring, it would take him much longer to restore his soul power and he would be forced to delay the move on his next target—Human Skeleton.

The next day, Xiang Shaoyun had recovered and used the same method on Human Skeleton. Unsurprisingly, Human Skeleton fell under his control as well. With this, the leader and deputy leaders of the Skeleton Gang were now all under his control.

Chapter 406: A Sanctimonious Scoundrel

The Skeleton Gang had one gang leader, two deputy gang leaders, over 30 Emperor Realm elders, over 200 Kings, and almost 1,000 Transformation Realm cultivators in their ranks. This was a force comparable to regular tier-5 organizations. Yet in the Bloodsin City, they were among the weakest. From this one could see just how many experts there were in the Bloodsin City.

The Skeleton Gang had a high number of members, with all of them being scummy criminals. Because of that Xiang Shaoyun did not feel any guilt making a move against them. It would be much better to turn an organization like this into his tool than to allow them to continue whatever they were doing. Of course, he still couldn't step forth to formally assume the leadership position. For him pulling the strings behind the scenes was enough.

Third day after the Han Clan sisters were kidnapped, Celestial Skeleton's room.

"Big sister, what do you think the Skeleton Gang people are trying to do? After kidnapping us, they are now ignoring us?" Han Xuewei asked.

Han Qianwei answered, "Perhaps they are only planning to use us to threaten our clan."

That was of course not her true thought. She still remembered the perverted look on Celestial Skeleton's face when he looked at them. It was unlikely he would spare them. She was only trying to comfort herself by saying those words.

"This damnable Skeleton Gang, I will destroy them after we're free," said Han Xuewei hatefully.

"You are better off focusing on thinking of a way to escape first," said Han Qianwei with a sigh.

"All our meridians have been sealed. How are we supposed to escape?" said Han Xuewei in a distressed manner.

Right this moment, the door opened, and a handsome young man strode in. The sisters blanked out slightly when they laid eyes on the young man. They had seen a lot of handsome young men. However, this particular young man was not only handsome and elegant. There was also something regal about him, as if he was born to rule. The ordinary clothes he was wearing couldn't hide his grace. They were confused as to why a young man like him had appeared in the Skeleton Gang's headquarters.

This is definitely one of those sanctimonious scoundrels! they both concluded.

Who would the young man be if not Xiang Shaoyun? These days Badar was in charge of standing guard before Celestial Skeleton's residence. Nobody else was allowed to enter. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was free to roam around the residence.

In any case, it wouldn't be long before he could openly show his face among the Skeleton Gang members as well. At that time, nobody would dare say anything against him.

Presently, he was trying to think of what to do with these sisters. From Celestial Skeleton he learned that the Han Clan was a top tier-5 organization from the Yu Province. They even had a Sovereign in their clan.

If the Han Clan was determined to destroy the Skeleton Gang, this would probably be their end. That was not something Xiang Shaoyun wished to see, so he had to do something about it.

Today was the first time he met the sisters. Both of them were extremely attractive, and each was beautiful in her own way. When he looked at them, he couldn't help but to sigh inwardly, No wonder that old bastard lusted over them so badly.

"Who are you? If you know what's good for you, free us. Otherwise, the Han Clan will never spare your Skeleton Gang!" demanded Han Xuewei.

"Don't bother, sister. They have already killed our Han Clan members. It is pointless to say anything else to them," said Han Qianwei. She stared at Xiang Shaoyun and yelled, "Do whatever you want

to us. We won't even blink. But we will definitely not spare you and will come for revenge even if we have to come back as ghosts!"

With a smile on his face, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Hello, beauties. Don't be nervous. I'm here to save you. Do you trust me?"

The sisters were dumbstruck.

Soon, Han Xuewei reacted. Hope filled her face as she said, "Y-you're really here to save us?"

"Stop dreaming, sister. How is that possible?" Although Han Qianwei's cultivation base had been sealed, she could still see that Xiang Shaoyun was only a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. How could someone like him save them?

Instead, she suspected that Xiang Shaoyun was probably a young master of the Skeleton Gang. Even so, she was still curious about him, especially when she looked into his clear, bright eyes. They were completely devoid of the lust other men would have when looking at them.

That realization confused her somewhat, making her wonder just what kind of person he was.

"Listen to me. I'm really here to save you!" Xiang Shaoyun reiterated. "I know you were both kidnapped by the Skeleton Gang, but we have already taken over the gang now. Since there is really no grudge between us, it is only natural for me to release both of you. But I need you to promise me one thing before I free you."

The serious expression Xiang Shaoyun had was able to slightly convince the sisters to trust him.

Han Xuewei said, "So long as you can release us, we can agree to anything!"

But Han Qianwei still maintained her calm as she said, "Don't talk nonsense, sister. There are things we will never agree to, even if we have to die."

Xiang Shaoyun shot Han Qianwei a glance and said, "Don't worry. I won't make you do anything damaging to your clan or yourself. I only need you to guarantee that you won't take revenge on the Skeleton Gang upon returning to your clan. They are now my underlings. Making a move against

them is the same as making a move against me. If you can't agree to that...well, I won't be able to show mercy either."

Right after Xiang Shaoyun finished his sentence, an imposing aura surged out of him, making it clear he was not joking around. If they had to suffer the revenge of Han Clan even after freeing the sisters, they might as well keep the sisters. To accomplish something great, sacrifices were needed. At times one ought to be decisively ruthless if one wanted success.

The sisters could sense that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't boasting, but they did not know what to say. After all, the Han Clan's branch in the city had been purged. It was impossible for the clan to do nothing.

"Our branch here has been purged. The clan will definitely send someone here to investigate. We won't be able to hide it even if we want to," said Han Xuewei with a look of hesitation.

On the other hand, Han Qianwei spoke firmly, "So long as you can free us, I promise the Han Clan will not come for the Skeleton Gang. The Bloodsin City is filled with criminals. We can easily feed our clan some misinformation to hide the truth."

Han Qianwei was much more shrewd compared to her sister. She knew very well staying alive should be their priority. They could always decide what to do next after getting their freedom.

"Good, but verbal promises are meaningless. Swallow this pill. If you leave the Skeleton Gang alone for one year, I will trust you. If not, both of you will suffer after one year," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly as he took out two pills.

Chapter 407: Welcoming Young Master Xiang

"These pills are colorless and tasteless, refined using 49 different poisons. Even after swallowing them, you won't feel unwell. You won't even be able to find any traces of them in you. Therefore, I am not afraid that you will be able to find an antidote. Alright, swallow them now," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The sisters had no choice but to swallow the pills. However, it was clear from the unfriendly look in their eyes that they were now clearly hostile to Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't look at me like that. If it wasn't for me, both of you would have been the Skeleton Gang leader's toys by now. You should thank me!" said Xiang Shaoyun. He then clapped, calling Du Xuanhao over to remove the restrictions placed on the sisters.

Those restrictions were placed by an Emperor. He would not be able to remove them himself. Du Xuanhao did as told and left directly afterward. Only now did the sisters believe that Xiang Shaoyun was really going to free them.

"How are we supposed to find you after one year?" Han Qianwei asked.

"If the Han Clan hasn't come after the Skeleton Gang in one year, you are free to come look for me here," said Xiang Shaoyun. "I am Xiang Shaoyun. Remember that name."

"Xiang Shaoyun. We will remember that name," said Han Qianwei with a complicated look in her eyes.

On the other hand, Han Xuewei was feeling grateful and she thanked him. "Thank you for saving us. We know what to do."

"Good. I will get someone to send you out," said Xiang Shaoyun before getting Badar to personally see the sisters off.

Before leaving, Han Xuewei threw Xiang Shaoyun a seductive look and said, "Remember, I am Han Xuewei."

It was quite obvious this young woman had a favorable opinion of Xiang Shaoyun for freeing her. As for Han Qianwei, she merely glared at Xiang Shaoyun hatefully, still remembering the grudge of having been forced to swallow a poisonous pill.

Little did they know, what Xiang Shaoyun fed them were no poisonous pills. He had merely fed them some random pills. He was only trying to scare them so the Han Clan would not make trouble for him. In any case, he only needed to wait until Devouring Ghost was out of seclusion, then everything would be fine. After the sisters left, Xiang Shaoyun called Du Xuanhao over again.

"Young master," Du Xuanhao greeted.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Big Brother Du, the Skeleton Gang is already ours. You can head to the Devil Domain anytime now."

Du Xuanhao was a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert. Entering the Soul Foundation Realm was not easy at all. Tempering himself at the Devil Domain was a plan Devouring Ghost had suggested, and Xiang Shaoyun approved of it. Since Xiang Shaoyun would be safe in the meantime with the Skeleton Gang under his control, he no longer needed Du Xuanhao to stay by his side.

"Ok. I will set off tomorrow. Please take care, young master," said Du Xuanhao unhesitatingly.

"Don't worry. I know what to do," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Then, Du Xuanhao left the Skeleton Gang to prepare for his journey into the Devil Domain.

Time to formally meet the Skeleton Gang members, thought Xiang Shaoyun. He now had Celestial Skeleton, Earth Skeleton, and Human Skeleton under his control. With their support, nobody would dare disobey him in the Skeleton Gang.

Under Xiang Shaoyun's command, Celestial Skeleton summoned everyone to a meeting. The Skeleton Gang members had no idea what was happening, but they all still rushed to the meeting.

"Today, I am introducing the noble Young Master Xiang to everyone. From now on, he will be the most esteemed guest of our gang. Treat him like you would me. Let us welcome Young Master Xiang," said Celestial Skeleton.

The Skeleton Gang members were all shocked as they had never expected such an announcement, especially the "treat him like you would me" phrase. They started getting nervous, wondering what was going on.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun walked out from the back of the hall. Everyone's gaze focused on him. The people here were all murderous criminals, and when they saw a graceful young master like Xiang Shaoyun walking out, a sense of disgust started welling in their hearts. However, none of them dared to let their distaste show. In truth, they were merely envious of Xiang Shaoyun's age. How could a kid like this receive such treatment from their leader?

"Welcome, Young Master Xiang," Earth Skeleton and Human Skeleton saluted Xiang Shaoyun.

That woke the others up from their thoughts as they quickly saluted as well, "Welcome, Young Master Xiang."

All of them feared the three leaders, and with all the leaders saluting the young man, they wouldn't dare to show any disrespect.

"This is Young Master Xiang. From now on, obey his every command. Otherwise, don't blame us when we punish you in accordance with the gang rules," Celestial Skeleton emphasized solemnly, an incorporeal murderous intent roiling out of him.

"Yes, leader," everyone answered despite their unwillingness.

After all, Celestial Skeleton held absolute power in the gang. Nobody dared to disobey him. Everyone started wondering who the young man was for him to receive such respect from their leader.

"Today, I am only here to greet everyone. I hope everyone will watch over me in the future. I will definitely repay everyone for the help. Of course, feel free to ignore me if you want, but don't blame me if anything bad happens as a result," said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold smile.

Abruptly, three ghostrune emperors appeared out of thin air around him. The dreadful appearances of the ghostrunes greatly shocked the Skeleton Gang members. Their eyes shrank when they noticed that the three were ghostrune emperors. Fear covered their faces.

The ghostrunes were a race with exceptional innate talent. Everyone here were Emperors and were clear on what would happen if one's soul was harmed. Slowly, fear and respect started showing in their eyes. They all concluded that a young man with ghostrune emperors serving as guards would definitely not be someone with a simple background.

Xiang Shaoyun observed everyone's reactions and mused to himself, Looks like using the ghostrune emperors to threaten them is quite effective.

After showing his face, Xiang Shaoyun left and let Celestial Skeleton continue the meeting. In the meeting, Celestial Skeleton announced that the Skeleton Gang would no longer commit banditry and other crimes. They would no longer pick fights for no reason, no longer provoke other organizations, and would maintain a low profile and reorganize their gang's rules.

Although Celestial Skeleton was the one making the announcements, these changes had all come from Xiang Shaoyun. He wanted to use what the Skeleton Gang had to build a foundation for his personal army. Since he had that in mind, change was necessary, and he could no longer let them run around creating trouble and risk ruining his plans.

And if these people refused to obey, he would be left with no choice but to put all of them under his mind control.

"Well, I'll first see if this Skeleton Gang is worth developing," mused Xiang Shaoyun. His eyes lit up as he added, "Time to temper myself at a Bloodsin Arena."

Chapter 408: Bloodsin Arena

There were a total of 18 Bloodsin Arenas in the city, corresponding to the nine stages of Skysoar Realm and the nine stages of the Dragon Ascension Realm. Of the 18 arenas, the Skysoar Realm arenas enjoyed more traffic than the Dragon Ascension Realm arenas. After all, those at the Dragon Ascension Realm would mostly be training at the Devil Domain instead of the arenas.

But of course, there were always exceptions such as Emperors settling grudges with an arena battle. The moment one stepped onto the arena, one would not be able to leave before a life was taken. This was the rule of the Bloodsin Arena.

Devouring Ghost had suggested that Xiang Shaoyun partake in the Bloodsin Arena battles so he could temper himself by putting his life on the line. Through the arena battles, he would encounter numerous geniuses of the numerous cities and provinces, earning an unrivaled reputation through slaughter.

In fact, the arena battles were only a warm up compared to what he was going to face upon entering the Devil Domain. If he couldn't even survive the Bloodsin Arenas, he shouldn't even bother thinking of fighting the devils in the Devil Domain.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was heading toward the Bloodsin Arena area with Earth Skeleton following behind him. When they arrived, 18 arenas could be seen. Each arena was about 1,000 square meters in size and were surrounded by chains. Scarlet bloodstains were visible on the tough surface of the arenas, presenting a dreadful scene.

The arenas were busy with the battles of Skysoar Realm experts. Sounds of explosion and cheers filled the air, and the atmosphere was filled with excitement. Most people in the city were ruthless

and murderous individuals. The carnage unfolding on the arenas did not bother them one bit. Rather, they filled them with excitement and joy.

"Master, you are a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, so you will be using the third arena over there," said Earth Skeleton.

"Ok. Are there any requirements for getting on the arena?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"The only requirement is to sign a waiver and absolve anyone from the responsibility of your death," said Earth Skeleton.

Xiang Shaoyun pointed at the side of the arena and asked, "What are those people doing?"

A few people were seated before each arena. A large number of people were also rushing over, as if they were trying to purchase some items of limited stock.

"Master, those are the betting counters. You can bet on the combatants and will be paid if you make the right bet. The bets are organized by the city hall. At times, they will even have some people watch over the arena battles. The watchers would always be super experts, and oftentimes, the people from the city hall are the ones making the most profit from the bets."

A curious look covered Xiang Shaoyun's face as he walked toward the third arena. Currently, two third-stage Kings were battling on the arena. A formation formed a barrier surrounding it, preventing the battle's shockwaves from leaking out.

The crowd of spectators cheered without stop, the air thick with excitement. When Xiang Shaoyun looked at the combatants on the arena, he found that one was as slim as a monkey while the other was as robust as a cow. One was nimble while the other was clumsy. The contrast between the two was clear.

Many people were optimistic on the odds of the slim combatant winning the battle. He moved around like lightning, landing blows every now and then, and looked to be holding an obvious advantage.

But after Xiang Shaoyun observed the battle for a bit, he had a feeling the robust combatant would be the final victor instead. He could see how easily the robust combatant was defending himself.

The slim combatant couldn't damage him at all. He was only waiting for a perfect opportunity to strike and obtain victory.

Sure enough, when the slim combatant had just finished an attack and was in the midst of mustering more power, the robust combatant suddenly attacked.

Bang!

His punch struck the slim combatant's chest, caving it in and spurting out blood. The robust combatant followed with another punch, smashing the slim combatant's head. Blood sprayed everywhere, forming a fountain of blood. The sight drove the crowd mad with joy.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun mused, The people in this city are really something else. This robust guy is only a mid third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, but he is able to release a combat prowess comparable to the fourth-stage Skysoar Realm. Also, he seems to still be holding back. He is really quite strong.

"Master, if you want to participate in the arena battle, now would be the time to sign up," reminded Earth Skeleton.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything. Instead, he walked toward the nearby fourth arena. A bloody battle was similarly happening here. However, the combatants were a demonic beast and a beastman. The demonic beast was a blood-winged canine, a powerful mutated demonic canine with dreadful combat prowess. He was currently fighting in human form.

As for the beastman, he was of the lion breed. He had the head of a lion and the body of a human; his entire body was filled with an explosive strength. The battle raged on, and eventually, the blood-winged canine was forced to transform back into his original form before he could bite the beastman to death and obtain victory.

After swallowing the beastman, the blood-winged canine's vitality soared, and his injuries started healing. On top of that, his strength seemed to have grown as well. Even Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat dumbstruck. "This works?"

"You might not be aware of this, master. The blood-winged canine is a species that grows through swallowing flesh and blood. The more opponents he swallows, the faster he can grow. This blood-winged canine has slowly climbed to the fourth arena from the second arena and has taken less than a year. His growth has been incredibly fast," said Earth Skeleton.

"Two stages in a year?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in surprise.

"That's right. Although the Demonic League is not one of the five strongest organizations, they are in fact not much weaker than the five. They have many ancient demons among their ranks, and this blood-winged canine is the child of one such ancient demon. Try to avoid facing such opponents, master. Otherwise, even if you win, the Demonic League won't spare you either," reminded Earth Skeleton solemnly.

Xiang Shaoyun kept those words in mind. Although it was said that one was free to kill on a Bloodsin Arena, if he wasn't strong enough to face the possible backlash of a victory, there was no point in fighting.

Right this moment, a bloody stench drifted over followed by a sneer, "Look, it's Earth Skeleton. Do you baby skeletons from the Skeleton Gang even have the courage to step on a Bloodsin Arena?"

Xiang Shaoyun looked behind him and saw a middle-aged man with a cold and bloodthirsty look. The middle-aged man was looking at Earth Skeleton with contempt, and beside him was a handsome young man of about 30 years old.

The young man seemed to have sensed Xiang Shaoyun's gaze and immediately glared back. His sharp gaze was akin to two bloody blades, capable of causing one to feel a chill up one's spine.

A timid person would definitely be scared into retreat by his stare, but that was not the case for Xiang Shaoyun. He was completely unaffected. When the man saw Xiang Shaoyun show no fear, he released a thick murderous intent.

"Oh look, it's the Scorching Blood Monarch. Sure, I might need to show a tiny bit of fear if it's the Noxious Blood Monarch here instead. As for you, heh, you are far from enough," said Earth Skeleton with a displeased expression. He then looked at the young man and said, "This must be your son. What, is he ballsy enough to get on the arena?"

"If he has the guts to go, I'll go," replied the young man, his eyes still staring at Xiang Shaoyun. Scorching Blood Monarch wasn't even given a chance to say anything.

Chapter 409: Ugly Gambler of the Seven Villains

Like the Skeleton Gang, the Noxious Blood Gang was an organization based at the Bloodsin City. Both had similar strength, or to be precise, Noxious Blood Gang was slightly stronger. In truth, if it wasn't for the Skeleton Gang's ability to refine skeleton puppets, they would not be a match for the Noxious Blood Gang.

The Scorching Blood Monarch was one of the three monarchs in the Noxious Blood Gang with similar strength to Earth Skeleton. As for the young man, he was Blood Candle, a peak fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator.

He was here today to participate in the arena battles, looking for a way to break through into the fifth stage. He could see that Xiang Shaoyun was only a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator with one glance. Thus, he did not fear a battle with Xiang Shaoyun.

More importantly, the Noxious Blood Gang had always been hostile with the Skeleton Gang. They had long planned to take over the Skeleton Gang to grow their own strength. Unfortunately, that would only be possible if they had a Sovereign.

"My son is right. If that baby skeleton dares to enter the arena, my son will go as well. So? Do you have the guts?" said Scorching Blood Monarch with a sneer on his face.

Earth Skeleton glanced at Xiang Shaoyun and received a voice transmission saying, "Say yes."

Earth Skeleton then looked at Scorching Blood Monarch and said, "Ok. Young Master Xiang has agreed."

"Haha. Excellent. Let us see who will be the one to leave the arena alive later," said Scorching Blood Monarch with a hearty laugh. Inwardly, he mused, This Earth Skeleton sure is dumb. That baby skeleton is a stage lower than my son. How is he a match?

As for Blood Candle, he sneered at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Kid, you're dead."

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the provocation and thought inwardly, You better not disappoint me.

Next, Earth Skeleton brought Xiang Shaoyun to the registration counter. The registration counter was in front of the betting counter, and it was the same place he would sign the waiver. There were employees posted there to handle everything.

"After signing the waiver, your life and death will be decided by fate," said an employee at the counter while passing a form over.

Xiang Shaoyun picked up a pen and signed the waiver without any hesitation.

"Xiang Shaoyun? What an effeminate name. Later on the arena, I will make sure you get to enjoy the feeling of facing death," said Blood Candle with a sneer.

He then signed the waiver as well.

"The waiver has been signed. Xiang Shaoyun will be battling Blood Candle. Bets are now available. Odds of five-to-one for Xiang Shaoyun's victory and one-to-two for Blood Candle's victory," yelled a person at the counter.

"Haha, lord, that is a very smart rate. I wager 10,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on my son. He will definitely win," said Scorching Blood Monarch with a hearty laugh.

The employee posted at the counter served both as the referee and the bookmaker of the bets. The odds would be set according to the strength of the combatants in accordance to the bookmaker's judgment.

If there was an obvious gap in the strength of the combatants, there would naturally be different payout rates for the combatants. Only when the combatants had similar cultivation level would the payout be the same.

Evidently, this bookmaker was not optimistic on Xiang Shaoyun's chance of victory. After taking one look at Xiang Shaoyun and Blood Candle, the people there started placing their bets. A majority of them were betting on Blood Candle's victory.

The smile on Scorching Blood Monarch and Blood Candle deepened when they saw that. And when they looked at Earth Skeleton and Xiang Shaoyun, their eyes filled with contempt.

"A great monarch of the Noxious Blood Gang is only wagering 10,000 mid-grade spirit crystals? What an insult to your position. I wager 100,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on my Young Master Xiang's victory," said Earth Skeleton loudly.

That was a large sum of money that not even Emperors could easily take out. It attracted the attention of many people who then started wondering if Xiang Shaoyun was only pretending to be weak. At that thought, some of the people who were going to wager on Blood Candle held back on the bet. However, they still didn't bet on Xiang Shaoyun. Instead, they sat this round out.

Scorching Blood Monarch hesitated slightly before saying, "The Skeleton Gang is really something else. Fine, I'll wager the same. An additional bet of 90,000 more mid-grade spirit crystals on my son's victory."

A large number of spirit crystals were sent out, and pure spiritual energy rippled everywhere.

The bookmaker quickly put the spirit crystals away and recorded the new bet. He then asked, "Anyone else betting?"

Just as the bookmaker was about to announce the start of the battle, a lazy voice rang out, "Wait a moment. I'm betting too."

The crowd turned to look at the newcomer. An odd look appeared on their faces when they saw who the newcomer was. Sounds of discussion spread across the crowd.

"It's the Gambler. He's actually joining the bet as well. It is said that he never loses a bet. Let's see who he is betting on this time."

"Yeah. This old gambler will always bet a random amount, but he is never wrong. Moreover, he has an odd habit. The lower the amount he is betting, the more likely it is for the person he is betting on to win. I wonder who he is going to bet on this time."

"Although this guy is ugly, he is a godly gambler."

"I will bet on whoever he bets on. He won't be wrong."

...

Xiang Shaoyun had also noticed the newcomer. It was actually an extremely ugly middle-aged man. He had a massive forehead, a balding head, sunken eyes, tiny nose, massive lips, and sparse white hair. He looked more like a monster than a man and was dressed as sloppily as a beggar. A foul stench lingered about him, giving one the urge to step away from him.

He was one of the Seven Villains, the Ugly Gambler. The Seven Villains of Bloodsin City were comprised of Suicide Sword Li Juetian, Man-eating Mouth Shi Lie, Myriad Face Consort Yao Jiaojiao, Smiling Monk Yuan Xiao, Ugly Gambler Pang Nanyang, Heaven Rupturing Foot Can Lehen, and Poison Physician Du Wusheng.

The Seven Villains were famous throughout the Bloodsin City. They would not shy from any crime and were exceptionally powerful as well. Because of that, they were greatly feared. This person was one of them, Pang Nanyang the Ugly Gambler.

Generally, people only dared to call him "Gambler" when meeting him. Not many people dared to include the "Ugly" in front of it. Otherwise, they would die before even knowing what was going on.

The Ugly Gambler was a gambling addict. He once tried pestering a top Emperor to have a bet with him where the loser would be required to amputate himself. The Emperor rejected him again and again, but Ugly Gambler pestered him non stop for 64 days in a row. Ultimately, that Emperor was so annoyed he decided to accept the bet. He ended up losing both his legs.

From then on, the Ugly Gambler's name spread far and wide in the Bloodsin City, becoming one of the Seven Villains. Not only was he a gambling addict, but he was also extremely good at gambling. He had never lost a bet yet.

For some reason his bets had always been random. At times, he would only bet as little as one or two low-grade spirit crystals, and sometimes, he would bet up to millions of high-grade spirit crystals. Occasionally, he would even bet his own life. Nobody knew why he loved gambling so much.

When the bookmaker saw the Ugly Gambler, his face twitched before saying, "Lord Gambler, who are you betting on?"

This bookmaker knew about Ugly Gambler as well. Each time he showed himself, there was basically zero possibility for the house to win any money from the bet they were hosting because any bet Ugly Gambler made would be followed by countless people, resulting in great losses for the

house. Even more annoying was the fact that despite having the backing of the city hall, they still seemed incapable of doing anything to the Ugly Gambler.

Chapter 410: On the Arena, Fate Decides Life and Death

The bookmaker was not the only person looking at Ugly Gambler nervously. Even Earth Skeleton and Scorching Blood Monarch also looked nervous. Earth Skeleton knew that if Ugly Gambler placed his bet on Blood Candle, it would only signify that Xiang Shaoyun would die on the arena, and by extension, he would die as well. Scorching Blood Monarch was just as nervous because Blood Candle was his own son. He naturally did not wish for his son to lose.

After chugging a mouthful of liquor, Ugly Gambler's turbid eyes lit up. He slammed the low-grade spirit crystal in his hand on Xiang Shaoyun's name and said, "I'm betting on him."

Then, he lay down on the ground and continued drinking, not saying anything else. The bookmaker wore a bitter expression as he stared at the one low-grade spirit crystal on the counter. It was clearly written that the minimum bet was 10,000 low-grade spirit crystals, and yet the Ugly Gambler had clearly broken their rules. However, he couldn't do anything at all.

When Earth Skeleton saw Ugly Gambler betting on Xiang Shaoyun, he exclaimed joyfully, "Great! Excellent!"

As for Scorching Blood Monarch, his face paled.

"L-Lord Gambler...are you sure? Do you want to check again?" asked Scorching Blood Monarch cautiously.

Ugly Gambler did not even spare him a glance, and completely ignored him.

Blood Candle started yelling rashly, "He is only a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. It takes a lot of courage for him to even muster the guts to enter the fourth arena. How can he be a match for a peak fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator like me? I will be the exception to your Gambler's Law!"

He then leaped onto the arena.

"Xiang Shaoyun, come up here and die!" roared Blood Candle.

"Heh, you will be the one to die," Xiang Shaoyun sneered. He took out a jar of liquor and offered it to Ugly Gambler, "Consider this my tribute to your all-seeing mind, lord."

This was a 100-year-old Green Bamboo Liquor he had gotten from Du Xuanhao, an excellent liquor produced at the Green Bamboo Town.

Ugly Gambler opened his eyes and looked at Xiang Shaoyun before flashing a smile that was uglier than a crying face. He accepted the liquor. "Haha, not bad, kid."

He opened the jar and an intoxicating fragrance immediately spread out. He took a sniff, and a praising look appeared on his face as he took a large chug. Xiang Shaoyun then lightly stamped his foot on the ground and drifted through the air onto the arena.

"Fight!" announced the bookmaker. With that announcement, the bet was closed and the combatants could begin the battle.

"A mere third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator like you dare to step on the fourth arena? Today, I will feast on your blood and use it to gain even more strength!" roared Blood Candle before he dashed forward, leaving a bloody streak in his path.

Bloodstreak Fist!

The bloody fist crashed forth violently as a baleful aura spread out. His attack did look quite powerful. Blood Candle was not holding back at all, planning to kill Xiang Shaoyun with one punch and become the sole exception to all the bets Ugly Gambler had ever made.

Everyone focused on the punch, trying to see if Xiang Shaoyun would be able to block it. Initially, none of them were optimistic about his chances, but with Ugly Gambler's bet, their confidence had risen somewhat. Perhaps the young man was one of those King of Kings capable of punching above his weight?

Xiang Shaoyun could sense that the punch could threaten even fifth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivators, and that realization filled him with a surging battle intent.

Fate decides life and death on the arena, thought Xiang Shaoyun before throwing out a punch of his own. He did not dare to underestimate this opponent.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

The punch shot out like a roaring lightning dragon.

Bang!

The two fists collided and created an explosion of two energies that rippled outward before crashing into the defensive barrier surrounding the arena. One of the two was sent flying. It was none other than Blood Candle. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he remained standing at the same spot. At this point, it was already clear who of the two was stronger.

How is this possible? How can a mere third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator push my son back with one punch? Is this kid really a King of Kings? Scorching Blood Monarch exclaimed inwardly in shock, an unsightly expression on his face.

Today, Scorching Blood Monarch had accompanied his son here as he tempered himself and entered the fifth-stage Skysoar Realm. However, the kid that he had thought would be an easy opponent had actually turned out to be a thorny opponent who could be the end of his son.

Earth Skeleton was also filled with astonishment. After all, this was the first time he had seen Xiang Shaoyun fight. Pushing a fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator back was enough to earn him the title of King of Kings, a title only given to Kings capable of punching above their weight.

There were numerous Kings in existence, but only one in a thousand Kings would be a King of Kings. Because of that, the appearance of any King of Kings would cause a sensation. On the arena, after pushing Blood Candle back with a punch, Xiang Shaoyun did not press on. He was in no rush to end the battle and was planning to enjoy it more.

Blood Candle had yet to fully unleash everything he had. Therefore, Xiang Shaoyun was giving him some time to fully ramp up his combat prowess to make the battle more enjoyable.

If the others knew what he was thinking, they would probably be cursing him for being a madman. After all, this was the Bloodsin Arena, a place where the combatants would take any chance they

had for victory. The smart thing to do would be to kill one's opponent the moment a chance presented itself.

Xiang Shaoyun was not doing that because he was getting arrogant and underestimating his enemy but because he was only trying to temper himself more, and truly bloody battles would be what he required.

Blood Candle's entire arm had turned numb from the punch. Only now did he realize that his opponent was actually his match. In fact, his opponent might even be slightly stronger than him. He stopped underestimating his opponent, roused the blood in his body, and took out a bloody halberd before rushing Xiang Shaoyun.

Siegebreaker Bloodwave!

Instantly, the bloody halberd transformed into eight bloody waves, surging forth toward Xiang Shaoyun like a massive tsunami. A dreadful baleful aura was mixed within the bloody waves, one that would only form after countless murders. Traces of the power of flame were also mingled within, further boosting the attack's strength.

With Blood Candle taking out his weapon, it was obvious he no longer dared to underestimate his opponent. After all, it was a battle to the death, not a regular spar.

Everyone thought that Xiang Shaoyun would also take out his own weapon, but that did not happen. A bright golden radiance appeared around his body before forming a golden wall around him. Blood Candle's attack was completely blocked before this golden wall that had suddenly appeared.

Then, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have turned into a flood dragon as he charged the incoming waves. Lightning energy wrapped around the fist he used to smash apart all obstructions and reach Blood Candle.