

Overlord 421

Chapter 421: Kill That Xiang Shaoyun

After returning to the Skeleton Gang, Xiang Shaoyun went into seclusion again to continue healing his injuries. In order to save some time, he had even used a king medicine to increase his recovery speed. Two days later, he left his seclusion completely healed.

He called Celestial Skeleton over and asked, "Are you going to enter the Soul Foundation Realm soon?"

"Yes, master," Celestial Skeleton replied deferentially. In truth, he was thinking that he would have already entered the Soul Foundation Realm if Xiang Shaoyun had not prevented him from plucking the yin frost energy from the Han Clan sisters.

Xiang Shaoyun knew what he was thinking. He said, "Take some time off to enter seclusion and accumulate more energy. I have a way to help you form your soul foundation and enter the Soul Foundation Realm."

"M-master, a-are you serious?" Celestial Skeleton asked in excitement.

"Why do I need to lie?" Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly. "I was not planning to let you break through so quickly, but the Noxious Blood Gang is going to declare war on us at any moment. You need to be ready for it. When you reach an optimal condition for breakthrough, come look for me."

"Yes, master," Celestial Skeleton answered, still not knowing what Xiang Shaoyun could do to help him.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "I know you are not willing to be under my control. But so long as you serve me faithfully, you will be able to reach an even higher height in the future."

For some reason, Celestial Skeleton found himself believing Xiang Shaoyun's words. Perhaps he had been influenced by their recent interactions.

Xiang Shaoyun then left for the Bloodsin Arena once again. This time, he brought all three Skeletons along so as to prevent being ambushed by the Noxious Blood Gang. He believed that the Skeleton Gang would not suddenly fall just because the three leaders had temporarily left the headquarters.

After all, the Ghostface Sect had already spread word that they were backing the Skeleton Gang. Therefore, the Noxious Blood Gang would have to consider whether they would be able to withstand Ghostface Sect's anger before launching an attack on the Skeleton Gang.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the Bloodsin Arena, he caused a commotion.

"Isn't that the Super King Xiang Shaoyun? Not long ago, he won 10 victories in a row. He is quite strong."

"Yeah. A few organizations had even tried recruiting him then, but he had rejected all of them. I reckon he has a backer already."

"Those three...aren't they the three leaders of the Skeleton Gang? They are all following behind him. Looks like he has quite a background. No wonder he has such freakish combat prowess."

"Look, he is heading to the fifth arena. He's not going to challenge the fifth arena, right?"

"Just go take a look. We'll know then."

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That's right. Today, Xiang Shaoyun was here to challenge the fifth arena. The fifth arena was generally only used by fifth-stage Kings. Of course, those with a lower cultivation level could get on it as well, but that was essentially suicide.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun's feat of challenging the fourth arena with a cultivation level of third-stage Skysoar Realm wasn't anything special. The Bloodsin City did not lack geniuses capable of battling those a stage higher like him.

However, very few people could battle those two stages higher. After all, the Bloodsin Arena was different from regular arenas. Here, one could only leave after killing the opponent. Therefore, anyone would think it through before actually stepping onto the arena. It was no child's play.

Xiang Shaoyun registered himself for the fifth arena and signed the waiver. The bookmaker had a look of expectation as he gazed at Xiang Shaoyun.

Each year there would be some geniuses challenging arenas two stages higher than themselves, but not many of them survive. Let's see if this kid can survive, mused the bookmaker.

At this time, Scorching Blood Monarch appeared at a certain corner. When he saw Xiang Shaoyun, a look of hatred covered his face as he muttered, "You dare challenge the fifth arena? Very well. Let's see if you are really good enough to kill those two stages above you."

He then shouted a command, "Wolf Fang, go to the fifth arena and kill that Xiang Shaoyun."

A man with cold eyes stepped forth and answered deferentially, "Yes, monarch."

Wolf Fang then walked toward the fifth arena. He was an up-and-coming youngster from the Noxious Blood Gang. He was a peak fifth-stage King also capable of punching above his weight. He was a King of Kings and had contributed greatly to the Noxious Blood Gang. He was a ruthless character who never showed mercy, not sparing even women, the old, and the weak. Scorching Blood Monarch was confident Xiang Shaoyun would not survive a battle with Wolf Fang.

Xiang Shaoyun stood beside the arena waiting for the current ongoing battle to end. He was observing the two combatants seriously while contemplating the new technique he wanted to create. He started trying to predict their moves. Unfortunately, it was quite impossible for him to straight up gain the ability to predict moves. Perhaps more accumulation of knowledge was required.

Predicting an opponent's future actions based on their current movements seems to be very difficult, lamented Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He understood the hardships of creating a new technique and was not discouraged. Rather, he continued contemplating, trying to figure out the key points he could focus on to help him create his new technique.

Soon, one of the two combatants was killed. The victor left the arena with rather terrible wounds. It was now Xiang Shaoyun's turn to fight. His opponent was not Wolf Fang. Rather, it was a late fifth-stage Skysoar Realm expert.

Before the battle, he instructed Celestial Skeleton to wager 500,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on his victory. The current payout for Xiang Shaoyun's victory was two-to-one. In other words, he would win one million mid-grade spirit crystals from his victory.

Generally, when a third-stage King challenged the fifth arena, the payout would be at least ten-to-one. After all, the combatant had skipped two whole stages. But due to Xiang Shaoyun's history of 10 consecutive victories, the bookmaker knew to not use the normal rate. Otherwise, they would suffer great losses if an upset happened again.

The same scene as Xiang Shaoyun's first match at the fourth arena repeated. Everyone was betting on his opponent winning. Although he had a stunning performance previously, it did not instill enough confidence to make others believe he could defeat a fifth-stage King.

Right this moment, a lazy voice rang out, "I'm betting 10,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on this kid."

Everyone turned around to find that Ugly Gambler had appeared yet again. He was still betting on Xiang Shaoyun.

As soon as Ugly Gambler placed his bet, the bookmaker quickly announced, "The bet is closed. The battle begins."

The bookmaker reacted too fast and those who wanted to follow Ugly Gambler's bet could only sigh in regret.

"We clearly have more time! How can they start the battle in advance? This is totally unreasonable!"

"Yeah! Gambler has only placed a bet of 10,000 mid-grade spirit crystals. Clearly, Xiang Shaoyun has a high chance of winning!"

"Yes. Based on Gambler's Law, only when the Gambler places a bet of above one million will the combatants be somewhat equally matched. This Xiang Shaoyun will most likely win."

Chapter 422: The Difficult Wolf Fang

"A mere third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator dares to challenge the fifth arena? Today, let me teach you how big the gap between stages can be," roared Xiang Shaoyun's opponent before charging forward.

No one who dared to step on the arena was weak. Their combat prowess had all been earned through actual combat. This late fifth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator was able to unleash a combat prowess no weaker than ordinary sixth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivators.

He sent his imposing aura pressing down on Xiang Shaoyun and attacked with a domineering attack. Instantly, he flooded every corner of the arena with his attacks, leaving Xiang Shaoyun no room for escape.

"This is strong enough to defeat those fourth arena opponents. Not bad at all," said Xiang Shaoyun in excitement. A golden radiance surged out of him and formed an ironclad defense around him. He then charged into the midst of the attacks sent his way.

An overbearing, spinning golden fist flew out enveloped in a torrential vicious gold energy. Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess instantly rose to a level equivalent to his opponent's. Relying on his footwork, he moved about nimbly, dodging all attacks as he attacked.

One punch struck his opponent's waist, creating a bloody hole. After landing the first hit, he pressed on with a barrage of punches without mercy. The opponent tried his best to defend himself, but the vicious gold energy seemed capable of penetrating everything. Before long, Xiang Shaoyun killed him.

The crowd was shocked to see how easily Xiang Shaoyun had killed a fifth-stage King. They had never expected him to have such terrifying combat prowess. He was actually able to fight an opponent two stages higher than him and could still win so easily.

"Who else dares to battle me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, his voice calm.

During the short battle earlier, he seemed to have gained some inspiration for the technique he was trying to create.

How to predict the trajectory of my opponent's attack before counter attacking? Even doing that, I will still be a step slower than my opponent. If I can read my opponent's energy flow and predict the attack they are about to use, wouldn't I be able to achieve what I want—predicting my opponent's moves?

"Sensing the energy flow, grasping the energy. This can't be wrong. It will be the direction I pursue," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

"Me!" Wolf Fang shouted as he leaped onto the arena.

The moment he landed, a baleful energy spread out of him, filling the arena with a dreadful and sinister aura. Apart from him, a bloodthirsty wolf king had also jumped onto the arena.

"Huh? This works?" Xiang Shaoyun blanked out.

"Hehe, mounts are allowed to join in on the arena battles as well. Don't you know that?" Wolf Fang said with a smile.

His mount, the bloodthirsty wolf, was a fourth-stage Demon King. Although the mount was not as strong as him, it would still be able to deal Xiang Shaoyun a fatal blow during a crucial moment.

"I see," Xiang Shaoyun said in realization. He had not encountered any opponent fighting with a mount during his time at the fourth arena.

This was only his second fifth arena battle, yet he had already encountered a situation such as this. Nevertheless, he was not scared. Pressure was exactly what he needed to force him to use his full power.

Once again, Ugly Gambler placed a bet on Xiang Shaoyun. This time, he placed a bet of 50,000 mid-grade spirit crystals. Evidently, his confidence in Xiang Shaoyun's chance of victory was not as high anymore. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had Celestial Skeleton do as usual and bet on him. Nobody would dislike having too many spirit crystals.

"Start the battle," the bookmaker announced.

"You dare offend our deputy monarch? Today, I shall slice your head off and vent the deputy monarch's anger," said Wolf Fang. He moved at a rapid speed and reached Xiang Shaoyun in the blink of an eye, then clawed him with both hands. Unfortunately, when his claw attack landed, he had only struck an afterimage.

"Huh, what a fast speed," Wolf Fang exclaimed in astonishment. He faced a different direction and pounced on Xiang Shaoyun again.

Competing against me on speed? You are still not enough, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

When using his footwork intent, he could match even the speed of a peak King, let alone a fifth-stage King like Wolf Fang. Xiang Shaoyun only dodged and did not attack. However, that was not due to fear. Rather, he was trying to sense the energy flow around Wolf Fang.

Initially, he wasn't able to sense anything at all. But after utilizing his gift of instincts, his soul's sensitivity rose greatly, allowing him to start sensing the minute traces of energy flowing around Wolf Fang.

The moment Wolf Fang tried something, he would be able to judge the attack trajectory through the energy flow's direction. Of course, he had to use all his focus to succeed. The moment he lost even a slight amount of focus, he would not be able to read anything.

It works! Xiang Shaoyun thought gleefully.

After missing several attacks in a row, Wolf Fang became furious. He roared, "I refuse to believe you can keep dodging my attacks!"

Dance of Wolves!

Wolf Fang split into five, and all five attacked Xiang Shaoyun from different directions, locking all routes of escape. His baleful energy seemed endless, completely changing the arena's atmosphere. Each Wolf Fang looked incomparably real, and it was almost impossible to figure out which was the actual body. But with Xiang Shaoyun's gift of instincts, he was able to locate the real Wolf Fang with a single glance.

"Since you love clawing so much, I'll play with you," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. He finally attacked.

Seven Scorching Sun Claws!

Dense flame energy surged out, burning the baleful energy in the air into nothingness. Xiang Shaoyun's claw attacks seemed to be even stronger than Wolf Fang's. He was able to successfully wound Wolf Fang's arms, but his own arms were also clawed as a result. His own arms, however, were completely undamaged. After all, his defensive technique was no joke.

Even so, Wolf Fang kept his hold on Xiang Shaoyun's arms and refused to let go. In response, Xiang Shaoyun brought his knee up and struck Wolf Fang's stomach.

"Wolf king, eat him alive!" shouted Wolf Fang while resisting the pain. Suddenly, two steel claws appeared from his sleeves and hooked Xiang Shaoyun's arms, preventing him from escaping. He was now waiting for his mount to finish off Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun had never expected Wolf Fang to be such a difficult opponent. He was actually trying to risk injuring himself just so he could take Xiang Shaoyun's life.

"Good. Very good," said Scorching Blood Monarch in excitement when he saw Xiang Shaoyun trapped. Alas, his celebration came too early.

Just as the wolf was about to arrive, Xiang Shaoyun sneered and said, "You are not the only one with a mount."

Chapter 423: Devil Apeman

Right after Xiang Shaoyun spoke, a silver silhouette shot out.

"Howl!"

Before the bloodthirsty wolf could bite Xiang Shaoyun, the silver silhouette bit its neck, causing it to cry out in surprise. The bloodthirsty wolf shook its body, grabbing at the silver silhouette repeatedly, but its struggles were to no avail.

The silver silhouette was none other than the horned lightning snake. He curled his slender body around the bloodthirsty wolf before his head enlarged and bit down at the wolf. The change had occurred so suddenly everyone there was shocked.

"Why is there suddenly a demonic snake up there? I thought the arena was already sealed!"

"There's nothing surprising about that. Some demonic snakes have the ability to camouflage themselves or even change their size freely. This snake has probably been with Xiang Shaoyun the whole time, and it had probably planned to only attack at a crucial moment. What a trap."

"This Wolf Fang is probably dead."

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While Money was busy swallowing the bloodthirsty wolf, Xiang Shaoyun launched his counterattack. Yun Flame's energy surged out of him and instantly set Wolf Fang on fire.

"Ahhhh!"

Wolf Fang wailed in pain and finally let go of Xiang Shaoyun, who then took the chance to claw him. His claw attack was incomparably sharp, and it tore open Wolf Fang's chest with a rake.

"Trash!" Scorching Blood Monarch cursed furiously.

Xiang Shaoyun's stunning performance caused the crowd to start cheering. As for Ugly Gambler, his eyes were shining with amusement.

At a certain corner, Su Jun was watching everything unfolding on the arena. With a sinister look on his face, he muttered, "Turns out you are quite decent. But since you are already on the arena, don't bother leaving alive."

He then dashed toward a certain direction and soon arrived at his destination. A man dressed in black was seated cross-legged there, and there were more than 10 powerful devils standing behind him. They were all under his control, and none of them dared to move without permission.

The devils were always the public enemy of the various surface races. The only reason these devils could stay here safely was because they had been enslaved by a member of a surface race.

"I want to buy the life of that Xiang Shaoyun on the fifth arena," said Su Jun.

"Sure. A hundred thousand mid-grade spirit crystals," the man in black named his price.

Su Jun's face twitched at that price, but he still agreed, "Ok."

He directly made the payment. This was a price enough to buy the life of a peak King.

"Fifteen, go deal with this," commanded the man in black.

At that command, a massive devil stepped forth. He had a height of about four or five meters, and his body was the shape of a devilish ape. His thick coat of black fur looked like a coat of sharp needles, and a dense devilish energy constantly swirled around him. Evidently, he was someone with an extraordinary combat prowess.

He was a devil apeman, a commonly seen race in the Devil Domain known to be ferocious and ruthless. A devil apeman rarely faced defeat against a human of the same cultivation level. After all, the devil race had a physical prowess comparable to the demon race, and they also possessed the devilish energy that normal humans would find very difficult to face.

As for the man in black capable of controlling these devils, he was a member of the Dark Devil Sect. The Dark Devil Sect was a sect possessing a secret technique capable of controlling devils, which was what they had relied on to rapidly rise in the Bloodsin City and to eventually become one of its five strongest organizations.

Of the various organizations making a living at the Bloodsin City, the city hall's main income was the arenas, whereas the Dark Devil Sect's main income was selling devil slaves and assassination contracts. Su Jun was currently here as a customer.

Satisfied, Su Jun then brought Fifteen to the fifth arena to kill Xiang Shaoyun. After two consecutive victories, nobody looked down on Xiang Shaoyun anymore. Not many people dared to challenge him rashly, and a new challenger had yet to appear.

Standing on the arena, Xiang Shaoyun saw the look of hatred Su Jun was throwing at him. He smiled and said, "Oh great. A new enemy out of the blue."

He wasn't really bothered about Su Jun, not because he was confident he could defeat Su Jun, but because ghosttrune emperors constantly guarded him. He could easily kill Su Jun if he wanted. Of course, he wouldn't kill him for no reason if Su Jun did not force his hand.

When he saw the devil apeman step onto the arena, he grew even more excited. There he was, worried that he would have no new opponents. Now, one was delivered right into his hands.

He had planned to eventually enter the Devil Domain. If he could face some devils before then to gain more understanding of them, it would benefit him greatly. After the devil apeman got on the arena, Ugly Gambler laughed and said, "I'm betting 80,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on this kid."

Those who knew Ugly Gambler well would know that this laugh was the sign that his gambling addiction had kicked in. The larger the amount he was betting, the lower the confidence he had in winning. However, the people present all knew that this devil apeman was incredibly powerful. Because of that, they had to think clearly before placing their bets this time despite Ugly Gambler's bet.

Standing at a different corner was Lady Shura, who was wearing her usual mask. She had a complicated look in her eyes as she watched everything unfold. Inwardly, she thought, If you can really defeat this devil apeman, I suppose I can really wait three years for you. I can then bring you to witness the true geniuses of this city.

Xiang Shaoyun looked like a child standing before the massive devil apeman. The devil apeman smiled before throwing a punch out. A regular sixth-stage King wouldn't even dare to face such a domineering punch head on.

Xiang Shaoyun decided to dodge. But as he dodged, the devil apeman spat out a clump of devilish energy. The devilish energy flew toward Xiang Shaoyun, who had not expected the devil apeman to follow up with another attack so quickly. He was forced to utilize his innate purple lightning, and he punched the clump of energy with a Lightning Bolt Fist.

Rumble!

A massive explosion erupted on the arena. Xiang Shaoyun had barely stopped the incoming attack when the devil apeman appeared right beside him, sending a palm slamming down on him. The attacks had come without stop, each connecting with one another, making it hard for Xiang Shaoyun to properly respond.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his hand to block the incoming palm, and he was slapped right onto the ground. The devil apeman smiled again and raised one foot before sending a stomp down at Xiang Shaoyun, who was now lying face flat on the ground.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly rolled to the side and dodged the stomp. He successfully avoided it only to find that there was a powerful aftershock rippling out, sending him bouncing off the ground.

This was the devil apeman's Devil Earthquake technique.

The series of attacks had completely caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise, and that was not even the end. After he bounced off the ground, another palm attack struck him.

Sphhlt!

Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun's defense crumbled, and he was sent crashing right into the arena's barrier.

Chapter 424: Watch How I Cut You Apart

Xiang Shaoyun was beaten down by just a few attacks from the devil apeman. The crowd wore a look of regret. They had thought Xiang Shaoyun would be able to at least put up some fight, but his one-sided defeat wasn't what they had expected to see. After all, he had already given them the impression that he was a creator of miracles.

"What a pity. If this Xiang Shaoyun was already a fourth-stage King, he would probably be able to put up a fight against this devil apeman. Too bad he is acting reckless due to his young age. He's going to lose his life now."

"Yeah. This is the consequence of being too rash. How powerful are the devils? A human of the same cultivation level needs to be a Super King to be a devil's match. Although Xiang Shaoyun is a King of Kings, the gap between him and this devil is still too big."

"This devil apeman is only one of the more common devil slaves. If it's one of those rare devils, no human of the same cultivation level would be its match."

"We are lucky we have the surface experts guarding the Bloodsin City. If the devils are let loose on the surface, many lives will be lost."

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"A puny third-stage Skysoar Realm kid dares to steal my woman? You think too highly of yourself," said Su Jun gleefully.

Su Jun had barely spoken these words when Xiang Shaoyun suddenly stood up. He quickly pulled a distance from the devil apeman. He wiped the blood dripping out of his lips and smiled in excitement. As he beckoned and provoked the devil apeman, he said, "Very good. The devils are indeed strong. Let's do this again!"

Everyone was dumbstruck. They had personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun being beaten up so badly his defensive barrier had crumbled apart. But why was he still looking so lively and energetic?

Xiang Shaoyun had indeed sustained some injuries, but it wasn't as bad as the crowd had thought. After all, his body had gone through the baptism of lightning. His flesh was no weaker than a Demon King's, granting him an astonishing endurance.

If I hadn't ceaselessly tempered my body for half a year, that series of attacks would have killed me, thought Xiang Shaoyun, rejoicing that he had not slacked in his training.

On his way to the Bloodsin City, he had constantly summoned lightning bolts to cultivate his Six Goldplate Manual. Initially, the Six Goldplate Manual was unable to withstand the lightning bombardment and constantly broke. Thus, in a roundabout manner, Xiang Shaoyun had tempered his physical body while cultivating the Six Goldplate Manual.

As for why he had survived all those lightning strikes, it was all thanks to his lightning bone, which had absorbed all the lightning that had struck him. That was how he came to possess such a durable body.

The devil apeman had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would survive. A sinister glint shone in his eyes as he attacked again. This time, he spat out a bone weapon wrapped with a thick devilish energy. He swung the weapon, sending a corrosive attack toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The exact moment the devil apeman attacked, Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts. The flow of the devilish energy was laid bare before him, clearly revealing the attack's openings. The gift of instincts had always been able to see the openings of an opponent's attack, but this ability to see the energy flow was something new.

Is my Nether Soul Domain innately sensitive to devilish energy or something? Xiang Shaoyun wondered in excitement as he dodged the swing.

The devil apeman roared and continued swinging his bone weapon as he repeatedly spat up clumps of energy. His unending attacks were something even peak sixth-stage Kings would be hard-pressed to withstand. Xiang Shaoyun moved faster and faster, always one step ahead of the devil apeman.

"You coward! Just you wait until I catch you," howled the devil apeman furiously.

He was sending a concentrated barrage of attacks, one that humans of even higher cultivation levels would find hard to dodge. Yet for some reason, the young man before him was able to move away right before he attacked, causing him to consistently miss. The more he missed, the more agitated he became.

The only reason Xiang Shaoyun kept dodging was because he wanted to properly study the flow of the devilish energy, trying to make sure his hypothesis was correct. It would seem like he had been right. He was able to predict the attack trajectory of the devil apeman through the energy flow, allowing him to move aside before the attack came.

Apart from that, he could also essentially enlarge the attacks' openings by reading their trajectories. If he wanted, he could easily demolish any attack the devil apeman sent. As this realization struck him, he felt himself become much better at predicting moves.

He also discovered that the devil apeman was essentially repeating the same series of attacks. Although his attacks were destructive, they lacked creativity. Eventually, he decided it was time to end this.

"Time to end this," said Xiang Shaoyun as the presence of dragon and tiger suddenly surged out of him. In that moment, he was like the son of heavens, showing his domineering side. "The devilish energy is vast and mighty, but it can't compare to my grand and righteous energy. Die!"

This time, Xiang Shaoyun no longer fought bare-handed. The Purple Lightning Saber appeared in his hand as he summoned three lightning bolts from the sky. Traces of silver could be seen in them. They were silver lightning bolts.

Rumble! Rumble!

The astonishing might of the lightning bolts gave the devil apeman a fright. Even so, he still pressed on and swung his bone weapon forward. Once again, Xiang Shaoyun utilized his ability of

prediction and revealed the attack's opening before his eyes. Next, he slashed the Purple Lightning Saber directly at the opening.

Instantly, the devil apeman's attack fell apart. The saber continued on to hack the devil apeman's arm, causing blood to spray out like a fountain. However, the devil apeman had a terrifyingly tough flesh, and the cut was not able to go all the way through.

Even so, silver lightning energy was the bane of devilish energy. A massive amount of silver lightning energy poured into the devil apeman's arm, instantly burning the arm to crisp, causing the devil apeman to wail in pain.

Even in all that pain, the devil apeman still slammed his head down at Xiang Shaoyun's head. It was something Xiang Shaoyun had not expected, and he was hit by a burst of dizziness.

"I am going to tear you apart alive!" roared the devil apeman. He resisted his pain and slammed his other hand down.

Xiang Shaoyun had not recovered from the previous attack and was struck again. The devil apeman was about to press on with more attacks, but Xiang Shaoyun had already recovered from his dizziness. He roared in fury, "You want to tear me apart? You are not enough for that. Watch how I cut you apart!"

Xiang Shaoyun soared to the sky, sending a roaring dragon and a tiger out. Instantly, six silver lightning bolts converged on him, combined with his innate purple lightning, and formed a massive purple saber energy that slashed down at the devil apeman.

First stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, Lightning Slash From the Clear Sky!

The tyrannical lightning power and the rumbling thunderclaps filled the hearts of the people there with fear. Fear also appeared on the devil apeman's face, but he still stood his ground and made one last struggle. A clump of devilish energy shot out of his mouth toward the incoming saber energy in his attempt to block the fatal attack.

Rumble! Rumble!

Chapter 425: Rat Assassins

Sounds of explosions rumbled on while the defensive barrier around the arena shook, looking like it was about to fall apart. Of course, that was a false appearance, as the barrier was of the emperor grade. How could Kings destroy it? By the time everything settled, the devil apeman had already been split into two, leaving a pool of foul blood on the arena's surface.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was standing there with his Purple Lightning Saber in hand, gasping for breath. His arms were shivering, and it was obvious he had exhausted a lot of his energy in his attack.

Everyone sank into a long silence. None of them had expected Xiang Shaoyun to reverse the situation and slay the devil apeman.

Not far away, the Dark Devil Sect member opened his eyes and muttered, "You dare kill my devil slave? Fine, you shall be my new slave instead."

But right after he said that, a middle-aged man appeared noiselessly beside him and said, "Jun Shijie, he is not someone you can touch. Forget whatever it is you are thinking."

The slave owner raised his head and shot the middle-aged man a glance. "Zhang Sheng, as far as I know, that kid has not joined your city hall. Why are you interfering? Aren't you meddling too much?"

"Although he has not joined the city hall, a genius like this can not be killed. This is a rule of the city hall; it's also a rule of the various organizations," said Zhang Sheng.

Jun Shijie sneered, "Yes, there is indeed such an unspoken rule. Fine, I will spare him for now. If he offends me again, don't blame me for showing no mercy."

He then shut his eyes and ignored Zhang Sheng.

Zhang Sheng did not bother saying anything else and left noiselessly. Inwardly, he thought, I guess this kid is lucky in a way to have caught the eyes of the governor.

"Who else dares to battle me? Come!" Xiang Shaoyun remained on the arena and called out for more challengers despite the intense battle he just had.

"Interesting. Really interesting. The more I look at this kid, the more likable I find him!" mused Ugly Gambler before placing a bet of 100,000 mid-grade spirit crystals on Xiang Shaoyun.

It was clear he now only had 50 percent confidence in Xiang Shaoyun's chance of winning. Bets that could go both ways like this were what he loved most. The people were even more amazed when they saw that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't using any spirit medicines or spirit crystals to recover.

However, they were not aware that Xiang Shaoyun had an astral cosmos sea. Thus, he didn't need to physically take out the items he needed to use. In any case, his current injuries were not bad enough that he needed to heal up with some spirit medicines. He could still fight in his current condition.

He wanted to squeeze out any potential he had. His recovery after each exhaustion could grant him a certain amount of growth, which was why he had insisted to fight on the fifth arena.

His act of killing the devil apeman had awed a number of people there. Thus, regular fifth-stage Kings no longer dared to face him. Eventually, another dwarf got on the arena, trying to take revenge for the dwarf Xiang Shaoyun had killed on the fourth arena.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts to sense the energy flow around his opponent. Although he couldn't sense other energies as well as devilish energy, he was slowly gaining more mastery and was now able to slowly detect the changes of the energy flow. Since he already had his weapon drawn, he did not show any mercy when attacking. The dwarf was unable to withstand his relentless barrage and was eventually killed.

A few additional terrible-looking wounds had appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's body from the fight. He stayed on the arena for two days, winning 10 consecutive victories yet again. The name Xiang Shaoyun had now spread all over Bloodsin City. He used the stage name "Overlord", and this was the name the young Kings of the city committed to memory.

After the 10 victories, Xiang Shaoyun dragged his badly injured body off the arena. He was too weak to keep fighting, and he did not wish to continue anyway. The battles he had had were already enough for him to familiarize himself with the characteristics of the various races.

He had also comprehended the way of sensing energy flow, granting him the ability of prediction. His next plan was to enter a temporary seclusion and create the first stance of his new technique. And then, it would be time for him to venture into the Devil Domain.

The moment he left the arena, the three Skeletons quickly rushed toward him to protect him from any possible dangers. It was also done on Xiang Shaoyun's command. He was worried that his performance had been too eye-catching. He might have gotten more new enemies from all the people he had killed on the arena.

Sure enough, before the three Skeletons could get near him, a certain person arrived even faster with an attack. This person had been lingering near the arena the whole time and had attacked without any warning. The attack came so fast even the three Skeletons couldn't react in time.

Just as the assassin's sword was about to strike Xiang Shaoyun, an even faster figure flashed over and stopped before Xiang Shaoyun. That person shouted, "Scoundrel! You dare be impudent before this old man?"

It was none other than Ugly Gambler. With a wave of his hand, he sent a chain flying out and slashed the assassin into two, shocking the crowd around them. Everyone quickly retreated for fear of suffering Ugly Gambler's wrath even though they hadn't done anything.

Nobody had expected that Ugly Gambler would make a move. The assassin was at the very least a top Emperor, yet Ugly Gambler had slashed him into two with one hit. It was obvious how strong Ugly Gambler was. Ugly Gambler ignored everyone's surprised gazes and sent his aura toward the assassin's corpse, instantly ripping off the assassin's clothes and revealing the tattoo of a ferocious rat.

"So he's a member of the Rat Assassins. No wonder he's so impudent," said Ugly Gambler with a sneer.

"A member of the Rat Assassins? Who spent so much to hire one of them to assassinate Xiang Shaoyun?"

"The Rat Assassins are like a plague capable of penetrating everything. Nobody will ever know where they are hidden at any given time, and they rarely fail an assassination. This Xiang Shaoyun is lucky to have Gambler protecting him."

"That's right. Although the Rat Assassins don't have much influence in the Bloodsin City, in the entirety of the Western Desert, they are considered a large and powerful organization that few people would want to offend. Anyone who offends them will have to be constantly watching out for assassins."

"Looks like performing too well is not really a good thing after all. If this Xiang Shaoyun does not have a backer, he will have a hard time moving forward."

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"We have failed you, Young Master Xiang," the three Skeletons quickly apologized when they finally arrived before Xiang Shaoyun. If he had been assassinated, all three of them would have died as well. The mere thought of that caused them to shiver in fear.

Ignoring them, Xiang Shaoyun wiped his sweat off and stepped forth.. He said to Ugly Gambler, "Thank you, Lord Gambler for saving me."

He had already learned from the three Skeletons that Ugly Gambler was one of the renowned Seven Villains of the Bloodsin City.

"Hehe, words don't mean much. I will give you a chance to repay me. Make a large bet with me," said Ugly Gambler with a sinister laugh. He then grabbed Xiang Shaoyun, and the two vanished into thin air.

Chapter 426: Honest Gentleman

Ugly Gambler had grabbed Xiang Shaoyun so suddenly nobody had expected it. After all, he had done so out of the blue right after saving Xiang Shaoyun. The three Skeletons wanted to give chase, but they could no longer even see Ugly Gambler anywhere.

"Damn that Ugly Gambler!" cursed the three Skeletons before splitting to search for his trails.

Lady Shura, who had been observing the battles to the side, also panicked. She thought to herself, The sect master had commanded me to protect him well. I can't let anything happen to him. She then released the Ghostface Sect's emergency signal and gathered their members in preparation to look for Ugly Gambler.

Zhang Sheng from the city hall did the same. He quickly gathered some men to look for Xiang Shaoyun. It was as if a storm had abruptly started in the Bloodsin City.

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Meanwhile, the only thing Xiang Shaoyun could see was a blur before his eyes. He could not see his surroundings clearly. Not even his Nether Soul Domain worked.

What is this old man thinking? wondered Xiang Shaoyun in confusion.

He knew that at the Bloodsin City, people could act very unreasonably. It was very possible Ugly Gambler had grabbed him just because he felt like it. But he was confused because with his strength, he was too weak to even be worth Ugly Gambler's time. After an unknown amount of time, Ugly Gambler tossed him to the ground.

Bang!

Ugly Gambler did not bother trying to soften the fall. However, he had not used any force in the throw either. Even so, the drop had still caused Xiang Shaoyun to feel dizzy. Since Xiang Shaoyun had just finished a series of massive battles and hadn't even had the chance to heal up, the toss was enough to make him start coughing blood.

"Cough, cough..." After coughing for a few times, Xiang Shaoyun was finally able to sit up weakly. He looked at Ugly Gambler and asked, "Lord, why did you take this kid here?"

He noiselessly used some spirit crystals in his astral cosmos sea, trying his best to regain some combat prowess. However, he did not dare to use the lightning liquid drops he had, as he did not want to expose them to Ugly Gambler.

But right after he asked that question, Ugly Gambler tossed a pill into his mouth. The instant the pill entered his mouth, he felt a boundless medicinal power flood his body, and his injuries started healing up rapidly.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately understood that it was a top healing pill. Otherwise, it wouldn't have such a massive medicinal prowess. He cleared his mind of all thoughts and sat down cross-legged before circulating his cultivation method to enhance the speed at which his body processed the medicinal power.

The cultivation method guided the medicinal power through his body to his limbs and internal organs, quickly healing him. At the same time, his combat prowess also recovered rapidly. The pill Ugly Gambler had just fed him was no ordinary pill. It could even fully heal an Emperor, let alone a tiny third-stage King like Xiang Shaoyun.

Due to that, the excess medicinal power started rapidly increasing Xiang Shaoyun's strength. His nine stars started absorbing the medicinal power hungrily. Finally, when Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation base went from mid third-stage Skysoar Realm to peak third-stage Skysoar Realm, he forcefully suppressed his growth. Otherwise, he could very well go straight to the fourth stage.

Without the pill, Xiang Shaoyun could only reach late third-stage Skysoar Realm by relying on his gains from the 10 battles he had just experienced. He wouldn't have reached the peak so quickly.

When Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes after he finished meditating, the first thing he saw was Ugly Gambler's face right in front of him. He almost jumped from fright. Nevertheless, he still flinched slightly, and Ugly Gambler immediately said in a displeased manner, "What? You have a problem with me because I'm ugly?"

Xiang Shaoyun knew things were going to turn bad when he saw Ugly Gambler's sinister face. He quickly waved his hand and said, "No, no, of course not. Lord, you are handsome, heroic, loved by all. All flowers will bloom just for you. How are you even ugly?"

"You're lying!" Ugly Gambler snapped, shocking Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly said with a sullen face, "Oh heavens! I, Xiang Shaoyun, have always been known as the Honest Gentleman since young. How can someone like me lie? Lord, although you have a rough look, it only serves to signify how extraordinary you are. Look at this pair of sloping eyebrows, they are filled with vigor and might. Look at this pair of tiny rat-like eyes, if one pays more attention to them, one will be able to see that these are a pair of all-seeing eyes. Look at this slanted nose, not even the Howling Celestial Dog can compare to you. And look at these massive lips that look like they belong to an ape. With one look, one can see that they are actually divine lips that have formed after consuming the peach of immortality..."

Xiang Shaoyun did so well buttering up Ugly Gambler that Ugly Gambler felt like he was bathing in a spring breeze. It was an incredibly wondrous sensation. Ever since he was born, he had never stopped being despised due to his looks. He would never forget the scenes from his past where everyone looked at him with derision. Even his parents had dumped him in a wolf lair because they disliked him for being too ugly.

If it wasn't due to his insane luck that he had gotten a powerful inheritance at the wolf lair, he wouldn't have become so strong. As he started rising with the strength he had gained from the inheritance, his temperament changed as well. He started mercilessly snapping the neck of anyone who dared to call him ugly.

Eventually, he got addicted to gambling and thus came to be known as the Ugly Gambler. Xiang Shaoyun also thought that Ugly Gambler was ugly, but he wouldn't look down on someone so capable just because of his looks.

After all, Ugly Gambler had had his back during all his arena battles. He had also gifted Ugly Gambler a jar of liquor, and that made it clear he did not discriminate against Ugly Gambler due to his looks. He had only flinched instinctively.

When he saw Ugly Gambler's unsightly expression, he instantly understood how Ugly Gambler had come to possess such an odd personality. Inspiration hit him, and he started displaying the prowess of his silver tongue. A wise man once said that anything could fail, but not compliments.

A smile uglier than a crying face appeared on Ugly Gambler's face. He patted Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder and said, "Not bad. Not bad at all. You are worthy of being the kid who has caught my eyes. Your words are both pleasant to the ears and right. I have indeed eaten a saint medicine, the peach of immortality, to get the strength I have today. How would those commoners understand me?"

"Exactly. By the way, I wonder...why have you brought me here, Lord Gambler?" Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to insert his question. He found that he was currently in a crude stone room. He did not know where he was, but it was most likely Ugly Gambler's home.

"I brought you here because I have a massive opportunity for you. If you can grab it, you will be able to rise like a carp transforming into a dragon," said Ugly Gambler seriously. "In three days, a genius maiden from the Yu Clan will be holding a banquet at the Yu Moon Pavilion. Only Kings below 30 years old will be invited. These young Kings will be invited to join her on a trip to the Devil Domain. Her goal is the yin devil wind, which will help her grow even stronger and push her into the Emperor Realm. She will then qualify to be the Yu Clan's next Holy Maiden. If you can help her obtain the yin devil wind, you might be able to earn her love and become the Yu Clan's son-in-law."

Chapter 427: Gathering of Villains

Yu Clan's son-in-law. That was a very prestigious position.

One ought to know that the Yu Clan was an ancient clan and was among the strongest even when ranked in the entirety of the dominion. Just from the fact that they had an entire province named after them, the Yu Province, it proved how powerful they were.

The Yu Clan was a clan with a long tradition of martial inheritance. Geniuses rose from each generation, and their Holy Son and Holy Maiden were always among the top geniuses of the dominion.

Now, someone that could possibly be the next Holy Maiden was going to throw a banquet at the Yu Moon Pavilion. It would be a grand occasion that would probably happen only once in 100 years. Ugly Gambler was one of the Seven Villains of Bloodsin City. It wasn't weird that he knew of the banquet happening. But why he had looked for Xiang Shaoyun was a mystery.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that this would be the reason Ugly Gambler had brought him here. With a bitter look on his face, he replied, "Lord Gambler, she is someone on the list to be the next Holy Maiden of Yu Clan, and she will be searching for the best of Kings. A fresh King like me is not qualified to participate in the banquet."

Inwardly however, he was thinking something different, This young master is not one to live off a woman. But if that Yu Clan chick is pretty enough, I wouldn't mind considering her.

Xiang Shaoyun was not a person who would play up to someone just because they were a person of influence and power. However, he needed to reclaim what was his, and that required sufficient power. If he could borrow some of the Yu Clan's power as well, he would not mind doing it.

But Ugly Gambler himself had said that only peak Kings would be invited to the banquet. Although he was strong, he still hadn't reached a point where he was comparable to them.

"Haha, don't be unduly humble, kid. I trust my eyes. You have an extraordinary fate and possess the bearing of someone with great power. Perhaps you might really obtain the yin devil wind and win that girl's favor," said Ugly Gambler with a smile. "I know you still have a lot of hidden trump cards, kid. You are definitely capable of contending against those under-30 Kings."

Looking at the ugly smile on Ugly Gambler's face, Xiang Shaoyun mused inwardly, Is this old man scheming something here?

At that thought, Xiang Shaoyun continued the act, "Lord Gambler, this kid is grateful that you are telling me about a great opportunity like this. But I have never been to the Devil Domain and know nothing about the place. I'm afraid I will die before I manage to even get the yin devil wind. I think it's better if I stay here instead."

Ugly Gambler glared at him and said, "No. Even if you don't want to go, you're still going. Or else, this old man will just kill you right now!"

A thick murderous intent surged out and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun, causing him to shiver. He was sure that if he dared to say no, Ugly Gambler would kill him.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly agreed, "Yes, yes, this kid will go. This kid will go, alright?"

He was initially planning to act the fool to scam some benefits off Ugly Gambler, but he had forgotten that the Ugly Gambler was part of the Seven Villains. He was a person that would kill him just because he felt like it.

After Xiang Shaoyun agreed, Ugly Gambler smiled and said, "That's more like it! I won't mistreat you. So long as you can get the yin devil wind and become the Yu Clan's son-in-law, I will give you a big present."

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to ask what the present was, with a whoosh, someone appeared before them.

"Hahaha, Ugly Gambler, is this the person you found? Your choice is terrible!" said the newcomer as he howled with laughter.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked over, he saw an old man with one eye and one leg beside a young man who also had one leg.

Heaven Rupturing Foot, Can Lehen? Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

Although he had never met Can Lehen, he had long learned of the characteristics of the Seven Villains from the three Skeletons. Thus, he was able to recognize the old man with one look.

"Old cripple, this is my choice. Definitely better than the little cripple you found," said Ugly Gambler with a sneer.

"This kid is only a third-stage King. How can he compare to my disciple? What were you even thinking when you picked him?" said Can Lehen as he gave Xiang Shaoyun a look of derision.

The one-legged young man beside Can Lehen was similarly looking at Xiang Shaoyun with disdain. There were even traces of hostility in his eyes. The young man looked rather handsome, but it was unfortunate that he only had one leg, ruining his overall image somewhat. He was Can Wunian, Can Lehen's disciple. He was not even 30 years old, yet he was already an eighth-stage King. This was a talent far surpassing many ordinary people.

One should never look down on this pair even though they were both cripples. In actuality, their kicking technique was unique and unmatched—the powerful Heaven Rupturing Foot technique.

The Heaven Rupturing Foot was an ancient technique created by a crippled eccentric during the distant past. It was a technique that allowed one to push one's crippled body to the limits, recreating the missing leg and letting them possess a power to easily crush mountains and part rivers. After Can Lehen obtained the technique's inheritance, he had relied on it to rise in power and eventually became one of the Seven Villains.

"Yes, this little cripple is quite good even when compared with the young geniuses of the various organizations. But he is still nothing special. Although this kid beside me is quite weak, strength is not all one needs to get the yin devil wind. Luck and potential are very important as well. Moreover, that girl likes a good looking guy. This little cripple stands no chance. What's the point of bringing him here?" said Ugly Gambler, his voice laced with derision.

"Ugly Gambler is right. Each Holy Maiden of the Yu Clan is a woman of remarkable beauty. This Holy Maiden candidate is also known as the Yu Province's number one beauty. This little cripple stands no chance," a different voice laced with arrogance interjected.

Another person appeared. The newcomer was a middle-aged monk who always had a smile on his face. His face was round, and when he smiled, he looked incredibly kind. On his chubby body was a Buddhist robe and in his hand was a chicken drumstick, which he was currently gnawing.

Standing beside him was a young monk. The young monk had a pretty face and a dignified appearance. He was tall, his back perfectly straight. He was the kind of person one would call a pretty monk. But from the roguish bearing he possessed, he did not seem like an actual monk. Rather, he looked like a fake monk who had only recently converted. And that was in fact the truth.

The middle-aged monk was one of the Seven Villains, Yuan Xiao the Smiling Monk. One must not be fooled by the amiable smile he wore. His smile was always at its widest when he was committing acts of murder.

As for the young monk, he was Smiling Monk's disciple. Of course, he was a freshly accepted disciple. In fact, he was forced. His name was Huo Xudong, and he was about 27 or 28 years old. His cultivation level was even higher than Can Wunian, at the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm.

This cultivation level for his age was enough to place him among the top geniuses of the entire dominion. Of course, he was still somewhat lacking when compared to an absolute freak like Ye Chaomu.

After all, Ye Chaomu was already a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator at 17 years old. She was definitely among the most insane young geniuses of the entire dominion. Right at this moment, someone else arrived.

Chapter 428: Game of Villains

A different voice rang out, "Hehe, you guys sure are fast. I'm supposed to be the witness, but all of you arrived before me?"

A person appeared out of thin air. The newcomer was an extremely attractive woman who had a perfect hourglass figure and a pair of flushed cheeks that radiated allure. The sultry look her muslin outfit gave her, combined with the pleasant fragrance she seemed to emit at all times, was capable of easily provoking lust in any man. She was basically a top-tier temptress. Her name was Yao Jiaojiao the Myriad Face Consort, one of the Seven Villains.

"If you had arrived any later, we would have proceeded without you, witch," grumbled Ugly Gambler unhappily.

"Ugly Gambler, without me as the witness, will your bet still be as fun?" Yao Jiaojiao protested coquettishly.

Can Lehen agreed as he looked at Yao Jiaojiao with a look of adoration. "That's right. Without Jiaojiao, we wouldn't have even bothered to take part in this stupid bet with you, Ugly Gambler."

Yao Jiaojiao ignored Can Lehen. Instead, she looked at Xiang Shaoyun, who was standing beside Ugly Gambler, and gently caressed his face. "What a handsome boy. You are this big sister's type. Do you want to spend a night with this big sister? I promise that you will have so much pleasure you wouldn't even mind dying then and there."

Yao Jiaojiao's sensual voice and the sultry look on her face could cause anyone's blood to boil.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately blushed and said, "But goddess, I am not the type of man that would sleep around casually."

"Oh? Blushing already? How cute!" said Yao Jiaojiao, her entire body pressing against Xiang Shaoyun's body.

Xiang Shaoyun felt his blood stir, and his eyes started raging with lust. Before his eyes, Yao Jiaojiao started stripping her clothes piece by piece. Slowly, she revealed her sleek shoulder, followed by her tender and fair bosom, causing his blood to rage so much he felt like he was about to start bleeding from his nose.

Xiang Shaoyun was not the only one affected. Can Wunian and Huo Xudong also had a look of lust on their faces. They all seemed to be slowly losing control over themselves. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to totally lose control over his own mind, his Nether Dragon Soul Headband released a wave of incorporeal energy that washed over his body and woke him from the state he was in.

Only now did he notice that Yao Jiaojiao was actually still standing two meters away from him. She had never approached him, nor was she stripping. Everything he had seen was an illusion.

Then, he saw both Can Wunian and Huo Xudong stripping with the facial expressions of someone consumed by desire. He instantly knew that they had lost themselves in the illusion.

What a powerful beguilement technique! Xiang Shaoyun cried out inwardly. He had always prided himself as a person with a strong mind. But before Yao Jiaojiao, his mental strength seemed so fragile. The same applied to Can Wunian and Huo Xudong.

That could only prove that the gap between them and Yao Jiaojiao was too wide. Xiang Shaoyun was confident that if he was at the same cultivation level, he would be able to withstand her enticement.

"Wake up!" shouted both Can Lehen and Yuan Xiao, waking their respective disciples. The two woke up and gasped in alarm. They no longer dared to give Yao Jiaojiao another look.

"Jiaojiao, don't use your Cosmic Charm Sutra here. These kids can't take it," said Can Lehen.

Yuan Xiao laughed, "Haha, Yao Jiaojiao, if you want a man, you can always come to me. I will keep you satisfied."

Yuan Xiao did nothing to hide the intense desire in his eyes when he spoke. It was blatantly obvious his brain was filled with improper thoughts of Yao Jiaojiao.

"Hehe, sure. Feel free to come to my bed tonight if you have the guts," invited Yao Jiaojiao with a wide smile on her face.

"Haha, no thanks. I'm still not tired of living," said Yuan Xiao.

Of the Seven Villains, Myriad Face Consort Yao Jiaojiao was ranked third. She was terrifyingly strong, and few men dared to get on her bed. There was also a widespread rumor that she cultivated a technique where she plucked the yang to replenish her yin and had slept with many men for her cultivation. Of course, that was still a rumor and not many people knew if it was the truth.

"I knew it. You have always been a cowardly pervert," said Yao Jiaojiao as she glared at Yuan Xiao. She then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "This little brother is more my taste. Although he is weak, he still has great potential. Great choice, Ugly Gambler."

"Of course. I will definitely win this bet," declared Ugly Gambler confidently.

Can Lehen said unhappily, "It is still too early for you to say that. With this tiny bit of strength, he will die the moment he enters the Devil Domain."

"Alright, let's stop bickering. Yao Jiaojiao, you will serve as a witness to see which of these three will be the one to obtain the yin devil wind and become the candidate for Yu Clan's son-in-law," said Yuan Xiao.

All the youngsters had actually been brought here to fight for the position of Yu Clan's son-in-law. If the people from those big clans knew about this bet, they would probably scoff at them for being too ambitious.

One ought to know that the various organizations had sent the strongest of their young here to snatch the yin devil wind and form a relationship with the Yu Clan. In their eyes, this bet of the Seven Villains would be nothing but a joke.

The Seven Villains might be strong, but they had sinister temperaments and had always operated independently. Because of that, their hand-picked disciples would similarly be looked down upon.

Yao Jiaojiao started saying, "Ok. I'll—"

Another voice rang out, "Why are you betting without me? Are you looking down on me?"

The voice was as loud as a thunderclap, leaving a droning sound in everyone's ears. The three youngsters suffered the worst as they felt their blood roiling and nearly started coughing blood from that mere shout.

Fortunately, the people who had brought them to the meeting had protected them from the sound wave, preventing them from suffering any injuries. The newcomer was a tall and sturdy middle-aged man. He also had an ugly face that only looked slightly better than Ugly Gambler's face. In fact, he slightly resembled a cannibal, with the prominent big mouth he had. When he opened his mouth, his sharp fangs were clearly visible, presenting a frightening sight.

This person was Man-eating Mouth Shi Lie, ranked second among the Seven Villains. Myriad Face Consort Yao Jiaojiao, Smiling Monk Yuan Xiao, Ugly Gambler Pang Nanyang, and Heaven Rupturing Foot Can Lehen all wore looks of fear when they looked at Shi Lie.

Not only was Man-eating Mouth Shi Lie insanely strong, he also had the blood of the cannibals coursing in his veins. He was one who had truly feasted on human flesh. That fact alone was enough to make them fear him.

Shi Lie came with another person who shared similar physical characteristics. This person looked younger than Shi Lie, but he was still much older in comparison to Xiang Shaoyun and the other youngsters. This was Shi Hai, son of Shi Lie. He had yet to reach 30 years old, but he already possessed the combat strength of a peak King.

"Hehe, Shi Lie, you're interested in getting involved in this mess as well?" Yuan Xiao laughed.

"The tender flesh of the Yu Clan girl will be an amazing delicacy perfect for my son," Shi Lie replied menacingly.

Chapter 429: Poisoned

Xiang Shaoyun had never imagined that he would get to meet five of the legendary Seven Villains on the same day. He could feel a chill creeping up his spine as he looked at them. And when he heard how Shi Lie spoke of the Yu Clan Holy Maiden candidate, he was overwhelmed by a sense of disgust and started feeling nauseous.

No wonder they are known as villains. They are truly an abnormal bunch, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shi Lie, this is our bet. If you want to join in, you have to follow the rules as well. If your intention is to eat someone from the Yu Clan, don't get us involved in it," complained Ugly Gambler resentfully.

"Why? Do you have a problem with me, Ugly Gambler? You think I won't slice off one of your arms and snack on it right now?" said Shi Lie as he stared at Ugly Gambler viciously.

Ugly Gambler narrowed his eyes as he replied unyieldingly, "Others might fear you, but not me. Come give it a try if you want to lose your teeth."

This argument caused the atmosphere to turn tense.

Eventually, Yao Jiaojiao made use of her superiority as a woman and gently said, "Are you not ashamed of bickering like this in front of children? We are not here today to quarrel. Since Shi Lie wants to join the bet, just let him join. It won't change anything."

"Hehe, I'm fine with that," said Yuan Xiao.

After a slight hesitation, Can Lehen agreed as well, "I can agree, but if your son really ends up eating the Yu Clan girl, we won't get involved in your conflict with them."

"What cowards. I only said that to scare you guys. Since everyone wants to receive the favor of the Yu Clan, I won't spoil the fun," said Shi Lie. "I heard Boss Li's youngest son will also be participating in the banquet. All these kids will amount to nothing but a joke with him there."

After saying his piece, he left with Shi Hai.

"With Boss Li's youngest son in play, your chances of succeeding are even lower now," said Yao Jiaojiao.

Ugly Gambler thought otherwise. "Searching for the yin devil wind relies not only on strength. Luck is important as well. I believe in this kid. Just get ready to lose."

"That's right. We won't know without trying. Let's talk again if the kids manage to get through the first obstacle in three days," said Can Lehen before leaving with Can Wunian.

"I have never planned on withdrawing from the bet. In any case, the final victor might not be any of us anyway," said Yuan Xiao before also leaving with his disciple.

"Little brother, do be careful after entering the Devil Domain. This big sister likes you a lot, so she will be taking care of you real well after you leave that place alive," said Yao Jiaojiao as she shot Xiang Shaoyun a seductive look. She then took her leave.

Now, only Ugly Gambler and Xiang Shaoyun were left. Abruptly, Ugly Gambler moved on Xiang Shaoyun, who couldn't react in time. Ugly Gambler opened his mouth and tossed in a pill.

"This is a life seizing pill. It will activate once per month. Without the antidote, even a Dragon Ascension Realm expert will be killed by it. There are 12 antidotes here. Take one of them at this time each month. They will last you a year. If you manage to become the Yu Clan's son-in-law within a year, I will give you the full antidote," threatened Ugly Gambler.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel that the moment the pill entered his mouth, some sort of energy immediately spread through his body, confirming that it was definitely a real poison.

"Lord Gambler, why are you holding me hostage like this? You should trust my character!" said Xiang Shaoyun sullenly. He had thought that just his word would be enough, but it turned out that Ugly Gambler had not trusted him one bit.

"Hehe, this is an important bet, so I can't afford to be careless. Therefore, you will need to try your best. It doesn't matter if you are doing this willingly or not. If you fail, you die," said Ugly Gambler with a sneer.

Xiang Shaoyun's entire body turned cold. For the very first time, he felt himself losing control over his own fate. He vowed inwardly, I need to think of a way to remove this poison!

Ugly Gambler seemed to know what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking as he said, "Don't bother trying to remove the poison. This is a pill refined using 49 types of poisons. Very few people are capable of removing a poison like this, and it is extremely easy to trigger the toxicity within the pill. Any careless attempt can very well kill you, so don't be stupid."

He then ignored Xiang Shaoyun and vanished into thin air.

Xiang Shaoyun was left standing blankly. He grumbled gloomily, "You old bastard. One day, I will make you my servant and work you to death!"

He had never expected that the little fame he gained from the arena battles would pull him into such disaster. He did not know what the bet of the villains entailed, but he was sure it wouldn't be a simple bet. Otherwise, they wouldn't have bothered to put so much effort into it. But it was pointless to think of all that for now. His priority would be ridding his body of the poison.

Ugly Gambler's poison is no ordinary poison. It has probably spread throughout my whole body by now. Regular antidotes won't work. I need to find one of those legendary saint medicines to stand a chance of curing myself. But saint medicines are way too rare. Not even the Ziling Sect can supply me one. Looks like I will have to work hard on becoming the Yu Clan's son-in-law before I do anything else, concluded Xiang Shaoyun.

He then started looking for a way back. After searching around, he discovered that he had already reached the border of the Bloodsin City's territory. It would take him some time to return.

During his return, a few groups discovered him, including those from the Skeleton Gang and the city hall. Those from the city hall left noiselessly when they saw that Xiang Shaoyun was safe. Only the members of the Skeleton Gang approached him.

He did not follow them back to the Skeleton Gang. Rather, he went straight to Devouring Ghost's restricted space. He was there to see if Jin Wo had successfully entered the third-stage Demon Emperor realm.

If Jin Wo had reached the third stage, he was going to bring him along to the Devil Domain. After all, he had nearly been assassinated at the arena. He had a feeling he had the attention of someone hostile to him. With Jin Wo by his side, he would feel much safer.

As for the three Skeletons, although they were strong, it wasn't practical to bring them to the Devil Domain. After all, someone wanting to become the Yu Clan's son-in-law would probably have to rely on himself instead of external help. Otherwise, there would be no point for the young lady to hold the banquet at the Yu Moon Pavilion.

When Xiang Shaoyun returned to the restricted space, he was greeted by the sight of a bored Jin Wo lounging in the courtyard in his original form.

When he saw Xiang Shaoyun, he quickly greeted joyfully, "Your highness, you're finally back!"

"Looks like your breakthrough has been a success. Come, I'll take you out," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Chapter 430: Havoc Dance

At a certain serene courtyard within Bloodsin City, a young man was silently listening to the report a deferential Emperor was giving him.

"Seventh young master, the Rat Assassins had failed," said the Emperor.

The young man was dressed blandly, yet that did not affect his heroic and handsome appearance. He had a sense of overbearingness about him, a trait that made it clear he was a young master of a powerful organization.

He looked to be about 26 years old, yet he was already a peak King. This was a talent far surpassing the disciples of the Seven Villains. If Xiang Shaoyun was here, he would know who this young man was. He was none other than the seventh son of Di Batian, Di Tong. Di Batian was the sworn brother of his father, Xiang Yangzhan. However, he was much older than Xiang Yangzhan and had fathered nine children.

There was a saying that when a dragon gave birth to nine children, each of the nine would be different. Some would be strong, and some would be weak. That was not the case for Di Batian. All nine of his sons were akin to dragons among men. Each of them was extremely talented, and Di Tong was ranked in the top three in terms of talent among his nine brothers.

Why had Di Tong appeared here? Obviously, he was also here to become the Yu Clan's son-in-law. Although his Di Clan had seized the leadership of the Ziling Sect, they still did not have full control

over some of the older members. On top of that, the enemies of the sect were constantly eying them, awaiting the perfect moment to strike.

The Di Clan desperately needed some help, and the Yu Clan would be the best choice. If he managed to become the son-in-law of the Yu Clan, the internal disobedience would instantly vanish and the enemies of the sect would need to think twice before making a move against them.

Di Tong had not expected that he would hear of Xiang Shaoyun soon after he arrived at Bloodsin City. Unfortunately, he had not come with a lot of people and was forced to hire the Rat Assassins to kill him. Alas, his plan was foiled by Ugly Gambler.

Di Tong did not seem overly bothered. Instead, a smile formed on his face as he said, "So after playing the fool for so many years, you are finally going to start your rise? Fine. Let me see if you have what it takes to retake what you have lost."

Di Tong was a prideful person. Although he wished to see Xiang Shaoyun dead, since even the Rat Assassins had failed, he would wait for an opportunity to arise before personally killing Xiang Shaoyun. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was someone who once addressed him as "big brother". How could a big brother not personally send his little brother off to the afterlife?

...

After Xiang Shaoyun brought Jin Wo back to the Skeleton Gang, he placed all his focus on recuperation and meditating on the 10 battles he had just experienced. During his battle with the devil apeman, he had used the gift of instincts, a talent he had gotten from the Nether Soul Domain, to detect the trajectories and openings of the devil apeman's attacks.

After repeated attempts of doing the same to other opponents, his comprehension in the way of reading his opponent's energy flow had deepened as well. His cultivation level was not high enough, and increasing it in a short time frame wasn't possible. Thus, his only way to grow his strength was to focus on battle techniques.

That was why he wished to properly absorb all he had learned from the 10 battles so that the experience could transform into something he could rely on after entering the Devil Domain. Again and again, he replayed the battles in his mind, and his comprehension of the essence of move prediction increased bit by bit.

To accomplish a feat like move prediction, he needed to know the trajectory of his opponent's attack, which he could find out from his opponent's energy flow. Therefore, how to read energy flow was the essence of move prediction.

This would be something extremely difficult for an ordinary person to accomplish. But Xiang Shaoyun was different since he possessed the Nether Soul Domain, which gave him an incomparably exquisite detection ability far beyond an ordinary person's.

Because of that, he could detect the changes in his opponent's energy flow, figure out the attack's trajectory, and make a move before his opponent could complete the move. That way, he could disrupt his opponent's flow or even downright kill his opponent. This was how wondrous move prediction could be once he perfected it.

As Xiang Shaoyun meditated on his previous combat experiences, he suddenly stood up and started waving his hands around in a completely random manner. At times, he punched. At times, he palmed. At times, he clawed. He moved in no specific pattern, yet his every move seemed to follow an indescribable rhythm.

An odd energy field formed around him the moment he entered this weird state. The energy field was in a state of complete disarray, and it was extremely hard to read.

Xiang Shaoyun remained in this state for a long time. Again and again, he danced about like he had endless stamina. Numerous afterimages appeared around him, each of them only performing a single move, whether it be punching, palming, clawing, kicking, and so on.

After an unknown amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun finally stopped. He took a deep breath and smiled. "Formlessness prevails over form. Move prediction essentially requires me to react differently in accordance to the opponents I am facing. My disorderly set of movements seem to be powerless, but this is a set capable of countering the many moves of various opponents. I shall name it Havoc Dance."

Just like that, the first stance of Xiang Shaoyun's first self-created technique obtained its name. In the future when he created even more stances, he could then combine them all together into a technique and come up with an overall name for the technique. He meditated for a bit more before leaving the cultivation room. He called over Earth Skeleton.

"Master," Earth Skeleton greeted deferentially.

Xiang Shaoyun's survival after Ugly Gambler kidnapped him was in truth one of the greatest miracles to have ever happened in the Bloodsin City. One ought to know that most of the time when the Seven Villains kidnapped someone, the victim rarely returned unharmed.

Xiang Shaoyun had become the exception, giving rise to more wild rumors. Had Ugly Gambler released him or had he escaped? Regardless of the truth, it served to prove how extraordinary Xiang Shaoyun was.

"Do you know where I can find saint antidotes in the Bloodsin City?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"This...I'm afraid you can only find something like that in the Devil Domain," replied Earth Skeleton after some hesitation.

"There are saint medicines in the Devil Domain?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Yes. The Devil Domain is the territory of the devils, but it is also a place capable of supporting life. It is therefore possible for saint medicines to exist there. But only Sovereigns, or even only Saints, will have a hope of getting one of those saint medicines," said Earth Skeleton.

Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat disheartened. It seemed unlikely he would be able to get a saint medicine.

He changed the topic. "What kind of place is the Yu Moon Pavilion? Bring me there."

Since there was no way to get an antidote, he should just take part in the Yu Clan's banquet before deciding on what to do next.

"The Yu Moon Pavilion is located in the southern part of the city. I'll lead the way," said Earth Skeleton deferentially.

And thus, Earth Skeleton and Xiang Shaoyun set off toward the Yu Moon Pavilion.