

## Overlord 511

### Chapter 511: Not Even Houseflies Are as Noisy as You

"All in all, your materials are worth 1,500,000 contribution points," concluded the appraiser.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "I have some more here. Please appraise them for me as well."

Yet another pile of devil materials appeared. This was also a pile of Devil King materials, and they were valued at about 500,000 contribution points. Next, Xiang Shaoyun took out yet another pile of materials.

The appraiser was getting displeased. "You don't have to take them out bit by bit like this. Take them all out at once."

The appraiser concluded that Xiang Shaoyun had definitely not gathered all these materials by himself. Rather, he must have robbed others for the materials. Otherwise, there was no point in taking them out separately.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Sure, I'll take them all out, then."

He thus took out all the devil materials he intended to sell. Instantly, a massive pile of devil materials appeared. In fact, the pile was the size of a tiny hill, occupying much of the space in the hall. It shocked all the people there.

"Wow, so many materials! How much contribution points are they worth?"

"Who is that young man? Is he the young master of some big organization, and did he have his underlings hunt devils for him?"

"That might be the case. Look, there are even Devil Emperor materials. How can a Skysoar Realm cultivator like him kill Devil Emperors? Someone else must have been doing the hunting for him."

"Wait, I remember him! He is one of the Yu Clan's son-in-law candidates! He is Xiang Shaoyun, the victor of the competition for the yin devil wind. This has been publicly announced by the Yu Clan at the Bloodsin City."

"So it's him? There's no surprise, then. If a son-in-law candidate of the Yu Clan is not a decently capable person himself, he would be an embarrassment."

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The Han Clan sisters were completely calm when they saw the large pile of devil materials. They had long known how capable Xiang Shaoyun was. The only thing they had in mind right now was to spend more time with him. After he left for the ancient academy, it would probably be very hard for them to see him again.

After scanning the materials, the appraiser valued the materials at a price of over one billion contribution points. That was an astonishingly large figure. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was only a King. The fact that a King had so many contribution points in hand gave the people there an odd feeling.

If they knew that most of the materials were obtained from killing the Noxious Blood Gang and extorting the nether prison devils, they would no longer be as surprised at the price tag of over one billion contribution points.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun had still kept some of the materials for himself. He was quite satisfied with the amount of contribution points he had gotten from the materials. So long as he could purchase a blood cocoon stone or an icesouls heart, giving away all these materials would be worth it.

"Alright, your turn to do your trade," said Xiang Shaoyun to the Han Clan sisters after getting his contribution plate back.

"Ok. Please wait a bit for us. We'll leave together," said Han Xuewei.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated for a bit before deciding to wait for them.

Although he did not have much interest in the sisters, his attitude toward them had still improved considerably out of respect for the friendship between Han Pojun and Du Xuanhao.

Of course, the fact that the two had changed their behavior around him was the main reason for his change of attitude. If Han Qianwei had still harbored suspicions about him, he would not have had much interest in deepening their friendship.

The sisters did not have a lot of devil materials. After they both traded their materials for some contribution points, they left with Xiang Shaoyun. When they stepped out of the Contribution Hall, they found that Yang Shuo was waiting for them with a group of people.

That much was obvious from the look in their eyes. Xiang Shaoyun wasn't even bothered to spare the group any of his attention. He walked away with the sisters, completely ignoring the group. However, Yang Shuo still approached looking for trouble.

"Mister Lin, what do you think of these two?" asked Yang Shuo as he stood in the way of the sisters.

"What is the meaning of this, Yang Shuo?" Han Qianwei asked in a displeased manner. Han Xuewei also wore a cold expression; a ruthless look started filling her eyes.

A young man in Yang Shuo's group raised his brow, and with a look of appreciation in his eyes, he said, "Not bad, not bad at all. But it looks like they already have a lover?"

"That doesn't matter at all. What can a wimpy brat like him do?" said Yang Shuo with a look of disdain. He then looked at the sisters and said, "This is Lin Yi, the young master of Soaring Dragon Province's Lin Clan. The Lin Clan is only slightly weaker than the Dragon Society. Although your Han Clan is quite powerful, you are still incomparable to the Lin Clan. It is in your best interest to serve him well."

Lin Li had a decent appearance. He was fair and clean, his clothes gorgeous, and with an elegant folding fan in hand, he emanated a scholarly and refined aura. Although Lin Yi came from a powerful clan, he was a simple-minded person. With just some praises from Yang Shuo, he was filled with elation.

"Exactly. If you follow me, your clan will benefit from it. That is much better than following this wimpy brat," said Lin Yi arrogantly, as if he alone could decide what the Lin Clan would do.

Xiang Shaoyun was feeling rather helpless. He was already 19 years old and was rather tall among humans. Although his face still looked slightly tender, nobody would actually see him as just a brat. Now that Yang Shuo and Lin Yi were seeing him as a brat, his anger started rising.

"I have never heard of the Lin Clan. Move away, or don't blame me for what I'm about to do," said Han Qianwei, losing her temper.

She would generally avoid getting into such arguments, as she did not want to create any trouble. But with her uncle, Han Pojun, nearby, if these youngsters really pushed it too far, her uncle would definitely come to help them.

"Oh, she's quite spicy as well! I like it!" said Lin Yi.

"What are you waiting for, then? Just take her with you. In any case, the Han Clan's base in the Bloodsin City has been destroyed. I doubt they have any other backers," said Yang Shuo. With an impatient look, he berated Xiang Shaoyun, "Brat, piss off. Do you want to die here?"

Right after he said that, a palm slapped his face.

Pa!

"AHHH!"

A crisp slap rang out, followed by a miserable wail. Yang Shuo was sent flying away, his teeth and blood spraying everywhere, looking extremely sorry.

"Not even houseflies are as noisy as you! Are you trying to make me deaf?" said Xiang Shaoyun while digging his ear. The sisters grinned happily at the sight of that.

## Chapter 512: Super War Emperor

The Han Clan sisters knew how strong Xiang Shaoyun was. With him personally making a move, the group blocking their way would amount to nothing. Lin Yi did not seem to realize that. Instead, he concluded that Xiang Shaoyun had merely caught Yang Shuo by surprise.

"Looks like you are quite capable. Brother Yang, you have been too careless," said Lin Yi. He was in no rush to join the fight. Rather, he took the time to ridicule Yang Shuo.

Lin Yi was only an eighth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. He could see that Xiang Shaoyun had a similar cultivation level to Yang Shuo, and he was confident he would be able to deal with Xiang Shaoyun.

In any case, he was clear Yang Shuo had merely been trying to fan his flames so he would make a move against the sisters and Xiang Shaoyun. He was merely repaying Yang Shuo the same favor. One ought to admit that these young masters of influential clans were rather good at scheming.

Sure enough, those words caused Yang Shuo to bounce off the ground before charging Xiang Shaoyun without any hesitation. A green fist energy shot straight toward Xiang Shaoyun's face, carrying a rather impressive might with it. Unfortunately, when the fist was about to hit, Xiang Shaoyun easily caught it and kicked Yang Shuo's belly.

Bang!

An intense pain assaulted Yang Shuo's stomach, and he started vomiting. It was evident the kick had been a heavy one.

"Scram!" said Xiang Shaoyun as he looked at Yang Shuo and Lin Yi.

The moment Lin Yi met Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, his heart trembled for no apparent reason. It was as if Xiang Shaoyun had transformed into a dragon that was roaring at him, filling his heart with fear.

It was at this moment that a furious shout rang out, "You dare harm my young master? Die!"

An imposing pressure pressed down upon Xiang Shaoyun as a massive palm energy crashed down from above. The attacker was from a first-stage Emperor, most probably someone from Yang Shuo's side. Someone like him was definitely enough to scare regular Kings. However, he was nothing before Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun slowly lowered his stance, pulled his fist back, and threw a punch toward the palm. The fist seemed slow, but when launched, it was akin to a raging lightning bolt filled with power.

Bang!

The palm and fist collided loudly. Xiang Shaoyun remained standing on the same spot and was still perfectly fine. In the sky was a middle-aged man who continued attacking like an eagle.

"Since you are seeking death, I will lend you a hand," said Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes turning frosty upon sensing the Emperor's murderous intent.

He then transformed into a bolt of lightning, shooting into the sky, and bombarded the middle-aged man with a barrage of Lightning Bolt Fists. Each punch was filled with boundless power, intimidating all who were witnessing the fight.

In the blink of an eye, Xiang Shaoyun and the Emperor had exchanged over 100 moves, catching the attention of many people. Naturally, Han Pojun and Du Xuanhao had also noticed the ongoing battle. However, they were confident Xiang Shaoyun could solve it himself. They only needed to make a move when required.

"Old Du, who exactly is Young Master Xiang?" Han Pojun asked.

"You don't need to know that. All you need to know is that his background is no weaker than your Han Clan's," said Du Xuanhao.

Han Pojun knew that Du Xuanhao was hiding something, but he did not press on for answers. After all, he knew that everyone had their own secrets and that being overly pushy would only annoy others.

He shifted the topic, "What do you think of my nieces?"

"Graceful and elegant. Not bad," said Du Xuanhao.

"What do you think about keeping them by Young Master Xiang's side?" Han Pojun suggested. Du Xuanhao blanked out.

Meanwhile, Lin Yi was cursing inwardly, This kid is actually so powerful! That bastard Yang Shuo is laying a trap for me!

He quickly fled with his men, abandoning the Emperor still battling Xiang Shaoyun. There was no way a young man this powerful was someone without a background. In fact, even Yang Shuo

himself had reached the same conclusion as his legs shivered with fear. At this point, it no longer mattered if his men could defeat Xiang Shaoyun because he had definitely provoked a scary organization and would be the one to suffer in the end.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun was starting to gain the upper hand in the ongoing battle. He kicked repeatedly, sending numerous hurricanes forward, keeping the Emperor busy. The Emperor was forced to draw his weapon in his attempt to suppress Xiang Shaoyun with force. In response, Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts and moved like the wind to the Emperor's flank. Before the Emperor could finish his attack, Xiang Shaoyun attacked.

Havoc Dance: Havoc Fist!

His punch seemed ordinary and did not look like anything special. Suddenly, lightning swirled around the fist, and dragon roars started ringing in the air as the fist began emanating an indescribable power.

Rumble! Rumble!

The domineering fist also attracted several silver lightning bolts from the sky, further enhancing its might. The Emperor was greatly shocked, but he was unable to switch his stance in time. Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun struck the Emperor through an opening he found, and the nine silver lightning bolts struck the Emperor, completely disorienting him. Xiang Shaoyun pressed on with several elbow strikes to the Emperor's heart.

Sphhlt!

The Emperor was sent flying away while coughing blood, eventually crashing heavily onto the ground. Yang Shuo was greatly frightened by what he saw. Without any hesitation, he started fleeing. He was afraid that he would die if he was any slower. Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun would not allow him to flee.

He had barely moved when Xiang Shaoyun kicked his back, sending him flying far away. It was unknown whether he survived the kick. The people in the area were filled with shock.

"How powerful. He is indeed worthy of being the Yu Clan's son-in-law candidate. He is actually a legitimate War Emperor."

"War Emperor my ass. He is more like a Super War Emperor. He is only a seventh-stage King, yet he can already defeat an Emperor. After advancing a stage or two, his combat prowess will become even scarier."

"What's his name? We need to befriend him if we have the chance."

"I heard his name is Xiang Shaoyun. He can't be a member of the legendary Xiang Clan, right?"

"Don't lightly make such assumptions, but a young man this strong is really rare. Only someone like this is worthy of being the Yu Clan's son-in-law."

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Xiang Shaoyun ignored the crowd. Just as he was about to head toward Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun, several figures shot toward him.

#### Chapter 513: Battle of the Four Academies

The newcomers had come so quickly the people in the area did not even notice them arriving. There were four of them, three men and one woman. Two old men, one middle-aged man, and one adult woman.

One of the old men had snow-white hair and a rosy complexion, his temperament ethereal, his poise divine, his features like a sage's. The other old man was dressed in a robe with nine palaces embroidered on it. His eyes would occasionally lit up with vitality, completely unlike the eyes a man his age would usually have.

The middle-aged man had a robust build, and his veins were visible on his explosive, muscular arms. He also had a pair of bright, imposing eyes. As for the woman, she was about 30 years old and was dignified and dainty. She had an hourglass figure, and there seemed to be a halo around her at all times, further highlighting her beauty.

"You are?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. The four were staring at him with glistening eyes, causing his hairs to stand on end.

He did not think that these were Yang Shuo's people as well. After all, it was quite clear they were no ordinary individuals. At this time, Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun arrived beside Xiang Shaoyun.



None of them dared to take any rash actions, as they couldn't even begin to see the cultivation levels of the four before them. That could only mean that these four were much stronger than them.

"Kid, are you willing to join the True Martial Academy?" asked the white-haired old man.

"Kid, are you willing to join the Nine Palace Academy?" asked the old man in the robe embroidered with nine palaces.

"Kid, are you willing to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy?" asked the robust middle-aged man.

"Kid, are you willing to join the Sacred Deer Academy?" asked the beautiful woman.

The four questions seemed similar, yet they were also very different at the same time. When the people in the surroundings heard them, their faces were covered with respect, and when they looked at the young man standing before the four, their hearts were filled with envy.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned. He had not expected that a single battle would attract the attention of all four ancient academies.

"Young Master Xiang is indeed a giant among men," whispered Han Pojun to Du Xuanhao, his eyes filled with envy.

Du Xuanhao replied joyfully, "Of course. I wouldn't have remained so loyal to him otherwise."

Xiang Shaoyun quickly recovered his calm. While scratching his head, he smiled and said, "Thank you for showing me this favor, lords. But I have already gotten an entrance test quota for the Dragon Phoenix Academy using contribution points."

The robust middle-aged man was overjoyed. "Excellent choice, young man! Our Dragon Phoenix Academy is—"

Just as he was about to start praising his academy, the white-haired old man interrupted him, "Young man, you have only gotten a qualification to take the test. Come to the True Martial Academy. You don't even need to take the test. I will take you in as a special-recruit disciple. Come with me!"

He then reached for Xiang Shaoyun's hand, attempting to drag him away. But before the old man could grab Xiang Shaoyun's hand, a different hand swept in and stopped him.

"This young man is more suited for my Nine Palace Academy. I am taking him in as a special-recruit disciple as well!" said the old man in a robe. Evidently, he was not going to back out of this.

"Why are you two old men bickering in front of a young man?" said the beautiful woman. She then flashed Xiang Shaoyun an enchanting smile. "Young man, I am also offering to take you in as a special-recruit disciple of the Sacred Deer Academy. You might not know this, but the Sacred Deer Academy is filled with beauties. All of them are as talented as you with powerful backgrounds to boot. With your great looks and talent, you will definitely be able to earn the favors of those beauties! Think of how beautiful your life would be!"

The beautiful woman was practically laying a honey trap before Xiang Shaoyun.

The robust middle-aged man was getting impatient. He loudly said, "This young man has already purchased a quota of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. It can only mean that he prefers my academy! Why are you poaching my recruit? Come with me, kid! Let's see who dares to stop you from coming with me!"

After saying that, he tried bringing Xiang Shaoyun away.

The white-haired old man shouted solemnly, "Xiao Wei, stop making up facts. This young man has only purchased a test quota. He is not yet a member of your Dragon Phoenix Academy. In any case, the True Martial Academy is the strongest of the four academies. Therefore, we will be the best choice for this young man!"

After saying that, he erupted with an imposing aura.

The old man from the Nine Palace Academy was also unwilling to back off. He said, "The Nine Palace Academy was founded by the number one name on the Contribution Stele. Of the Four Great Ancient Academies, we have the most ancient tradition. Our academy will be the best choice for this young man."

"The Sacred Deer Academy may be the youngest of the four academies, but our cultivation system is the best of the best. Not one of our disciples has failed to reach the Saint Realm. In fact, many of

our disciples have reached even higher realms! Kid, if you join the Sacred Deer Academy, I will accept you as my personal disciple!" The beautiful woman gave the best offer she could think of.

As far as they were concerned, Xiang Shaoyun was already a War Emperor when he was a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. Before long, he would be a Super War Emperor with boundless prospects. More importantly, Xiang Shaoyun was still young. He was not even 20 years old. His talent for cultivation could be considered top tier even in the entirety of the dominion.

"Hmph. Our Dragon Phoenix Academy is not much weaker than your academies. So who wants to be my enemy today? Come at me!" said Xiao Wei in a displeased manner.

After saying that, he erupted with an imposing aura as well, and it seemed like he wasn't any weaker than the two old men.

Just as a fight was about to break out, an ethereal voice rang out, "Although this kid is decent, he is not good enough for all of you to fight over. Just let him decide by himself."

The four looked in the direction of the contribution exchange platform as a look of respect surfaced in their eyes, and nodded.

Xiang Shaoyun followed their eyes, and his gaze landed on the old man at the platform. Inwardly, he sighed, Looks like this person is the actual hidden expert of the fort.

"Alright, young man. Think it over and make your pick. Remember, our True Martial Academy is the strongest. Nobody can deny that," said the white-haired old man.

The other three were displeased, but they couldn't offer any retort. In terms of overall strength, the True Martial Academy was indeed the strongest.

The old man from the Nine Palace Academy said, "Look at the Contribution Stele. The number one name is our chairman. I believe you're a smart man. Don't make a decision you'll regret."

"A hero should always be matched with a beauty. Don't miss out on this chance, young man," said the woman.

The robust middle-aged man loudly said, "The Dragon Phoenix Academy is the place dragons and phoenixes among men are born. Since you have already selected this academy, you should stick to your heart and brace ahead bravely, becoming a dragon and soaring to the heavens!"

#### Chapter 514: The Fatally Attractive Spots

Before the platform were many heroic individuals, handsome and beautiful. Currently, all of them were focused on a handsome young man dressed in a thin outfit. The young man had an impressive appearance that stood out from others, and it was quite clear he was an outstanding individual.

This scene where the representatives from the four academies were fighting over a single individual would probably be an event that would be etched into the fort's history. The onlookers were filled with envy, but there was nothing they could do.

Xiang Shaoyun had never expected that he would create such a big scene. He felt overwhelmed by the favor shown from the four who were extending offers to have him as a special-recruit disciple.

Although he had always bragged that he was a person of remarkable talent, every single person capable of entering the Four Great Ancient Academies was an extremely talented individual. Faced with the four offers, he was at a loss at what to do.

Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun was someone with a tenacious mind and was able to quickly calm himself. He bowed at the four and said, "Thank you for your offers, but since I have decided on the Dragon Phoenix Academy, there is no reason for me to change my mind."

"Haha, hear that? That's the right choice, young man!" said Xiao Wei, the middle-aged man, with a hearty laugh.

The other three had looks of disappointment on their faces. Since a choice had been made, they had nothing else to say. All three of them vanished into thin air as they left.

Xiang Shaoyun was also feeling rather helpless, If it wasn't for the fact that Caidie is going to the Dragon Phoenix Academy, I would have a much harder time making up my mind.

"Young man, your name is Xiang Shaoyun, right? I am Xiao Wei, one of the Dragon Phoenix Academy's recruitment elders tasked with recruiting geniuses like you into our academy. Earlier, I saw your fight with that Emperor. You have decent potential, and you are good enough to be a

special-recruit disciple. You can forgo the entrance test," said Xiao Wei as he patted Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder in a satisfied manner.

"Thank you, lord, for the favor you have shown me," said Xiang Shaoyun joyfully.

"Very well. If you have no other business here, you may come with me to the Dragon Phoenix Academy now. There's not much time left before the official recruitment begins," said Xiao Wei.

"Uh...can I go at a later date? A brother of mine is going to participate in the entrance test," said Xiang Shaoyun awkwardly.

Xiao Wei did not mind. "Sure, but remember to arrive before the test. If you miss the deadline, you won't be able to join even if you're a special-recruit disciple."

"Understood," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"This is a jade plate for the special-recruit disciples of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. With it in hand, you will be able to directly enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy," said Xiao Wei as he handed over a jade plate.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the plate and started studying it. He found that it was almost the same as the entrance test jade plate he had gotten; it similarly had the engravings of a dragon and a phoenix carved into it. A unique symbol was also engraved on the plate, signifying his status as a special-recruit disciple.

After he put the plate away, Xiao Wei continued, "You are a special-recruit disciple, so you will be able to enter the academy with two followers. The two women with you have decent aptitudes, but it's a pity they still have some flaws. You better invite youngsters as talented as you. Who you bring will be very important for your future growth. That's it. I'm leaving. I still need to bring the few decent sprouts I found back to the academy."

Just when he was about to leave, he looked back and added, "Although you're a special-recruit disciple, I still suggest that you partake in the entrance test. That will benefit you greatly as well."

He then vanished into thin air.

Xiang Shaoyun inwardly remarked joyfully, It sure is great being a special-recruit disciple. I can even bring my own people in. I reckon Caidie enjoys the same treatment as well.

At that thought, he had the urge to bring Xia Liuhui and Gong Qinyin with him. If they were here, he would have brought them without any hesitation. Xia Liuhui was a brother he trusted; therefore, who would deserve the quota more than him? As for Gong Qinyin, she had great talent with an innate talent in the dao of music. She was most certainly someone with a bright future.

As for Lu Xiaoqing, although she was infatuated with Xiang Shaoyun, her talent was lacking in comparison. If he brought her to the academy, she might fall behind the others. Thus, he had not considered bringing her along.

Liang Zhuangmin, Dong Ziwan, and Hua Honglou were talented individuals, but none of them were by his side right now. Thus, it would seem like his two quotas would go to waste. He suddenly sensed numerous gazes focus on him, and he started feeling somewhat uneasy. He looked around and found that people of all ages were approaching him, looking at him like they were going to eat him up then and there.

Before Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun could get near Xiang Shaoyun, he was already swarmed by the crowd, giving him a fright. He braced himself for a massive battle. Contrary to his expectations, instead of attacking, the crowd started talking simultaneously.

"Young master, I am an elder of the Hundred Sand Gang. My young master has decent talent in cultivation, and on behalf of him, I would like to beg that you accept him as your follower."

"Young Master Xiang, I am from Celestial King Province's Lu Manor. I am not even 30 years old, yet I am already a fifth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. I pledge my allegiance to you, young master. I only wish that you can bring me along to the Dragon Phoenix Academy."

"Young Master Xiang, you are handsome and extraordinary, with outstanding talent in cultivation. I believe you lack a beautiful lover like me. Bring me to the Dragon Phoenix Academy with you, and I will be yours."

"Damn it! Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror? Even someone as beautiful as me is only going to offer to be the young master's maidservant. Scram!"

"Young Master Xiang, please accept my young master as your servant. Please. If you agree, we can do anything you want!"

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Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that all these people were here to beg for the spots he had. It was evident just how many people wished to enter the ancient academies. These people wouldn't be begging him so humbly otherwise.

One ought to know that there were a considerable number of Emperors among these people, begging on behalf of the young of their clans. Numerous beauties were also trying to get a spot through their charm. One could say that the two spots he had were fatally attractive to these people.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely surrounded by people. The Han Clan sisters wore bitter looks on their faces as they witnessed this scene. They wanted to follow him to the Dragon Phoenix Academy as well, but when they saw their competitors, they lost all confidence. The only advantage they had over all those people was that they had known him for longer.

"Everyone, silence," said Xiang Shaoyun, unable to take it anymore. Right this moment, someone in the crowd took the chance to launch a sneak attack on him.

#### Chapter 515: This Kid Will Remember That

Assassins never cared for any sort of rule or law. So long as they could kill their target, they could do anything. As someone who had undergone much tempering, Xiang Shaoyun had his guard up at all times. However, this particular assassin had noiselessly mounted a sneak attack during a chaotic situation, and was almost impossible to guard against.

Fortunately, the chaos also somehow worked in Xiang Shaoyun's favor. One of the women in the crowd suddenly pounced on Xiang Shaoyun in order to get a spot for herself. She started rubbing her curvy body against him, hoping that she could seduce him by doing that. Her actions caused Xiang Shaoyun to lose his footing and move to the side, something the assassin had not expected. The dagger stabbed into the woman instead of him.

"AHHH!"

The woman wailed miserably, alarming the people in the area. Instantly, they understood someone was taking advantage of the chaos to accomplish some other agenda, and everyone scattered.

Xiang Shaoyun also realized what was happening and quickly retreated with the woman. His gaze landed on an ordinary-looking man before him, feeling the murderous intent akin to a viper coming from the man.

The man charged Xiang Shaoyun once again, moving at a speed not even Xiang Shaoyun could react in time. This was definitely a late-stage Emperor. An assassin like this was more than enough to assassinate Xiang Shaoyun.

To the assassin's surprise, Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun had arrived before he could complete his second attack. During the start of the chaos, the two had increased their vigilance for fear that something would happen to Xiang Shaoyun.

Unexpectedly, someone was really trying to kill Xiang Shaoyun publicly. The moment the woman screamed, both Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun locked on to the assassin and attacked at the same time.

Du Xuanhao drew his saber and sent a boundless saber energy powered by saber intent flying forward. As for Han Pojun, he used a spear and sent an ice spike flying toward the assassin. Wherever the ice spike passed, the temperature dropped.

When the two peak Emperors attacked together, their energies flooded their surroundings, displaying a world-shaking might. The two had expected that both of them were enough to easily eliminate the assassin. But the moment they attacked, two other people intervened and blocked their attacks.

With that, the assassin no longer had any misgivings and continued on toward Xiang Shaoyun and the woman. With the wide gap of strength between them, it did not seem like Xiang Shaoyun would be able to put up much fight.

Xiang Shaoyun himself knew he was in danger and was prepared to release his nether prison devil puppet. Just as he was about to do so, a curtain of power suddenly appeared and wrapped around the assassin.

Bang!

The only thing Xiang Shaoyun heard was a muffled sound before feeling some liquid splash onto his face. When he focused, he saw that the assassin had been turned into a pile of mincemeat.



"Hmph. You dare assassinate a young genius in my presence? Your sin can't be forgiven," said the old man from the platform.

His voice was akin to a sudden thunderclap, ringing loudly in the ears of everyone present. After he said that, two different clumps of energies shot out. The Emperors battling Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun couldn't even scream before they were reduced into mincemeat as well.

Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun were given a fright. They quickly withdrew their attacks before dashing toward Xiang Shaoyun and standing guard beside him. The crowd had complicated expressions when they saw that, and nobody stepped forth to disturb Xiang Shaoyun anymore.

A tall tree would always be the first to fall. Many people understood that, and what they should do now was look after their own hides. Xiang Shaoyun looked at the woman in his arms. She was already dying, and he quickly fed her a drop of lightning liquid. This woman had taken an attack on his behalf for no apparent reason. He felt guilty, but that did not mean that he would accept this woman as his follower to the Dragon Phoenix Academy because of that.

It was not that he was cold blooded, but if it wasn't for the chaos caused by the crowd which this woman was part of, the assassin wouldn't have had the chance to attempt to assassinate him. Of course, he was still highly grateful for what this woman did, so he repaid her with something else.

He told Du Xuanhao, "Big Brother Du, look after her for me. Keep her alive."

"Don't worry, she will be fine," said Du Xuanhao with a nod.

Xiang Shaoyun then walked toward the three lumps of mincemeat and started looking for clues, trying to ascertain if these were members of the Rat Assassins as well. Unfortunately, not much was left of the three, and they did not have any items on them that could reveal any clues.

Xiang Shaoyun did not bother wasting too much time on them. Instead, he went to the old man at the contribution platform and bowed, "Thank you, lord, for helping this kid."

He had already known that this was no ordinary old man from the incident with the four representatives from the academies. The person who stopped the disturbance when he was comprehending the Contribution Stele and the person who had killed the assassins was most likely this same old man as well. Thus, he had to properly voice his gratitude.

The old man raised his murky eyes and said, "You don't have to thank me. I am merely unwilling to see a genius of our race die an early death. If you really want to thank me, cultivate hard and kill more devils in the future."

"This kid will remember that!" Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly. After a slight pause, he looked behind and yelled at Han Pojun, "Big Brother Han, come over here."

Han Pojun did not know why Xiang Shaoyun was calling for him, but he still went over. Naturally, Du Xuanhao went with him as well.

"What do you need, Young Master Xiang?" Han Pojun asked.

"You must have seen the contribution exchange catalog as well, right? There's a blood cocoon stone in there—" Xiang Shaoyun started speaking but was interrupted by Han Pojun before he could finish.

"Yes, I know that. But it's too expensive. I can't afford it. I'll just have to wait patiently and see if an opportunity will present itself for me to get it in the future."

Han Pojun had assumed that Xiang Shaoyun was only notifying him that a blood cocoon stone was available for sale in the catalog. That was why he hadn't bothered to wait until Xiang Shaoyun was done talking. If he had enough contribution points and devil cores, he would have purchased the blood cocoon stone long ago. There was no point in taking the risk to get it from the Devil Domain instead.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Big Brother Han, let me finish. I am planning to purchase the blood cocoon stone for you to thank you for your help."

"Do you even know how much it costs?" Han Pojun asked.

"500 million contribution points and 30 sovereign-grade devil cores," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"That's right. The contribution points aren't the hardest to get. Time is all you need. But the 30 sovereign-grade devil cores can only be gathered by Sovereigns," said Han Pojun with a sigh. "Young Master Xiang, thank you for the goodwill, but forget about this for now."

## Chapter 516: Trading for Numerous Odd Items

Sovereign-grade devil cores could only be harvested from Devil Sovereigns. Han Pojun was only a peak Emperor. He wouldn't be able to kill a Devil Sovereign even if he tried his best. To gather 30 sovereign-grade devil cores, only their Han Clan ancestor would stand a chance. Otherwise, there was no way he would be able to get them.

He did not believe that Xiang Shaoyun would have sovereign-grade devil cores on him. Besides, anyone with such an item would much prefer to keep it for themselves and slowly absorb the energy within. One could still grow stronger that way. Thus, it would be pointless to trade the cores for a blood cocoon stone.

To his surprise, over 30 devil cores shrouded in thick devilish energy appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's hands. From the size and the energy density of these cores, they were most certainly sovereign-grade devil cores.

"T-these are sovereign-grade devil cores!" Han Pojun exclaimed in alarm.

"That's right. I have one billion contribution points and 35 sovereign-grade devil cores with me. It won't be a problem for me to purchase the blood cocoon stone. Of course, I feel like the icesouls heart would suit you more, Big Brother Han. Take your pick. I'll get it for you," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

Han Pojun became so excited he couldn't speak anymore. The blood cocoon stone was something he had discovered by chance. He had only managed to get it after nearly killing himself. Unfortunately, Du Xuanhao was the one who had benefited from it. Now that he had the chance to get yet another blood cocoon stone, his excitement was understandable.

Even Du Xuanhao was greatly moved. He knew very well that Xiang Shaoyun was only doing it for his sake. If it wasn't for the fact that he had used the blood cocoon stone, there was no need for Xiang Shaoyun to take such a loss.

Han Pojun regained his calm, and after taking a deep breath, he said, "Young Master Xiang, you don't need to do this at all. I told you. Old Du was harmed for the sake of saving my life. That was why I had given him the blood cocoon stone. I do not regret it!"

"I know, but I am not repaying you with a blood cocoon stone only for the sake of Big Brother Du. Rather, I hope to befriend a loyal man like you, Big Brother Han," said Xiang Shaoyun earnestly.

"Contribution points and devil cores can always be earned, but a missed opportunity might not return a second time. I hope you accept my gesture, Big Brother Han."

Han Pojun stopped hesitating when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's earnestness. "Ok, it will be impolite for me to keep refusing."

"That's more like it. So do you want the blood cocoon stone or the icesouls heart? Or do you want something else of equal value?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a satisfied smile.

"Naturally, the icesouls heart suits me more," said Han Pojun frankly.

"Icesouls heart it is, then," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He then took out his contribution plate and traded for the icesouls heart. The old man gave Xiang Shaoyun a deep look before removing the corresponding contribution points from the plate and accepting the devil cores. Next, he took out a jade case and said, "Here is the icesouls heart."

Xiang Shaoyun had initially assumed that he would be pointed somewhere else to claim these treasures. Surprisingly, the old man actually had the treasures on him at all times. But when he recalled that this old man was powerful enough that even the elders from the four academies had to show him respect, he was no longer as surprised. Even with valuable treasures on him, nobody would dare to try anything against this old man.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun accepted the icesouls heart, a chill crept onto him from the case and assailed him. His arms started shivering from the cold. He quickly handed the case to Han Pojun and said, "Here, Big Brother Han!"

Han Pojun accepted the case carefully as if it was the most precious of treasures. Grateful, he said, "Thank you, Young Master Xiang. If there is anything you need from me in the future, feel free to let me know. I, Han Pojun, will agree without any hesitation!"

For him, this icesouls heart was even more valuable than the blood cocoon stone. With it in hand, he had a high likelihood of entering the Sovereign Realm. Thus, he was filled with gratitude toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"You are too polite, Big Brother Han," said Xiang Shaoyun as he waved his hand in a carefree manner. He then flipped the pages on the catalog before stopping on a certain item: Star extension grass, three million contribution points and 50 emperor-grade devil cores.

"Lord, I wish to trade for this," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Keep looking and complete the trade in one go," said the old man.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and continued browsing the catalog before deciding on a few more items. He decided on a 3,000-year-old root essence, a top-quality earthstone heart, a 1,000-year-old congealed liquid ball, a radiant meteorite, and a dark heart. Each of the five respectively corresponded to the wood, earth, water, light, and dark elemental astral energies.

They were all rare treasures. For example, the root essence was something that only grew out of a spiritual tree that had existed for several thousand years. The top-quality earthstone heart contained the essence of the power of earth, something ordinary soil would never be able to form. The 1,000-year-old congealed liquid ball was also extremely rare, and like Yun Flame, it had only formed after undergoing numerous transformations.

The radiant meteorite was something from outside this world. It had a peculiar structure and contained the purest power of light. The dark heart was something that could only come into existence in a space of boundless darkness. It was also the rarest of the five.

Any of them was comparable to an emperor-grade treasure in terms of value. They were priced higher than the other emperor-grade treasures in the catalog, and devil cores were also required in addition to contribution points. The depth in the old man's eyes when looking at Xiang Shaoyun grew when he saw what Xiang Shaoyun was trading for.

Xiang Shaoyun spent a few hundred million contribution points and a few hundred devil cores to get all the items he had selected. Instead of feeling distressed for having spent that much, he instead seemed to be filled with excitement.

After all, he had obtained all those contribution points through selling devil materials. And although devil materials were valuable, they weren't really that useful to him. As for the devil cores, they were of course useful for him. But how had he obtained all those devil cores?

Apart from those he had extorted from the old nether prison devil, most of them had been found in the chakram left behind by the imperial nether soul that had tried to take over his body. The chakram was named Darknight Ring, a weapon the soul had used when it was still alive.

Xiang Shaoyun had initially thought that it was just a weapon, but during his time in seclusion in the castle, he had discovered that it also acted as a storage device. Within it was a large amount of devil materials and devil cores.

Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't have so many devil cores in his possession otherwise. In fact, not even the old nether prison devil had that many sovereign-grade devil cores. Of course, only Xiang Shaoyun knew about that. The old nether prison devil was completely oblivious to it. In any case, even if he did know, he wouldn't have had the courage to destroy the statue to retrieve the Darknight Ring from within it.

One could say that rather than taking over Xiang Shaoyun's body, the soul had instead lost everything it had to Xiang Shaoyun. As for the items of different elements, Xiang Shaoyun had naturally purchased them in order to start cultivating all nine of his stars. He was going to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy, a place filled with geniuses. He had no choice but to further improve his stars. Doing so would grant him greater prospects in his future cultivation.

#### Chapter 517: Skeleton Gang's Crisis

After putting all his purchases away, Xiang Shaoyun prepared to head back to Bloodsin City. However, the old man from the contribution exchange platform suddenly asked, "Are you a descendant of the Xiang Clan?"

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before he smiled and answered, "This kid's surname is indeed Xiang, but I am unclear as to which Xiang Clan you're referring to, lord. There are many Xiang Clans in the world..."

The old man stopped him with a wave of his hand. "Alright. There's no need for further explanations. You may leave."

Xiang Shaoyun bowed and left. But prior to leaving, he still gave the name on the Contribution Stele one last look. Complicated emotions raged in his mind.

Xiang Dingtian, the indomitable hero whose might rippled across the entire dominion, the unrivaled overlord, muttered Xiang Shaoyun inwardly with a sigh.

During his comprehension session with the Contribution Stele, he had witnessed a considerable amount of Xiang Dingtian's accomplishments. He had a feeling he was related to this Xiang Dingtian, and perhaps that was due to the Xiang Clan's lightning bone in his body.

That was most likely the same Xiang Clan the old man was referring to as well, but Xiang Shaoyun had never intended to admit that he was a descendant of that clan. He tossed all those thoughts to the back of his mind before telling Du Xuanhao, "Big Brother Du, let's go back to the city."

Du Xuanhao nodded before saying to Han Pojun, "Old Han, let's go together."

"Sure," Han Pojun agreed cheerfully.

And thus, the group headed back to Bloodsin City.

...

Skeleton Gang, Bloodsin City.

The Skeleton Gang of today was no longer the Skeleton Gang of the past. They had changed their ways and had stopped committing the various shady crimes they used to commit in the past. Their change confused many people in the city.

Some claimed that Celestial Skeleton was trying to break through into the Soul Foundation Realm, so he had his subordinates maintain a low profile so as to not attract trouble while he worked on his cultivation.

Some claimed that an internal struggle was going on in the Skeleton Gang. They were no longer united and were too busy fighting among themselves to commit any crimes. Whatever the rumors said, it was undeniable that the Skeleton Gang had been inactive recently. Currently, the three leaders of the Skeleton Gang were gathered at the gang's main hall, probably in an important meeting.

"Boss, the Noxious Blood Gang demands that we hand over the young master today or they will purge us. But the young master has yet to return from the Devil Domain. What are we to do?" asked Human Skeleton with a sigh.

Although the three leaders were under Xiang Shaoyun's control, they still maintained their freedom of thought. In fact, the only thing that changed was that Xiang Shaoyun would immediately know when they harbored evil designs on him, and he would punish them by torturing them with the headband curse.

"We can't decide when the young master returns. All of us need to take precautions. Even if Noxious Blood has really become a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, all three of us working together is still enough to give him a hard time," said Celestial Skeleton with a sharp glint in his eyes.

"The boss is right. The young master is merely an excuse. The Noxious Blood Gang had long wanted to snatch our turf from us. Finally, they have found a proper excuse they can act on," said Earth Skeleton.

"It's a pity I failed to take that step forward. Otherwise, how could Noxious Blood be so arrogant when facing us?" said Celestial Skeleton with indignation.

He still remembered Xiang Shaoyun's promise to help him take that step forward. He could only hope that Xiang Shaoyun would keep his promise after returning from the Devil Domain. Suddenly, the three sensed numerous powerful auras arriving outside. Miserable wails of Skeleton Gang members also started resounding in the air. The three's expressions shifted as they quickly dashed out of the main hall.

"Who dares challenge the Skeleton Gang?" Celestial Skeleton's voice rumbled out.

When the three left the main hall, they noticed that a different group was beating their subordinates into retreat.

"Bastards from the Noxious Blood Gang, how dare you!" Earth Skeleton and Human Skeleton yelled at the same time as they charged into the battlefield.

But right as the two moved, a thick power enveloped the area as two clumps of energies blasted both of them. The two defended themselves in shock, but they were still sent crashing into the ground, coughing blood.

Celestial Skeleton quickly dashed forth to protect the two. Staring at the newcomer, he cried out in alarm, "Noxious Blood!"



The newcomer was the great monarch of the Noxious Blood Gang, Noxious Blood. He was slightly chubby and not tall. His pair of rat-like eyes exuded a constant bloodlust as he walked on air with an imposing aura. He was akin to a ruler out on a patrol.

By his side was the third monarch of the Noxious Blood Gang, Scorching Blood. Behind them were a group of Emperors. They all exuded ruthlessness, clearly a group of criminals with no fear of death. The people on the Skeleton Gang's side weren't exactly weak, but a single Sovereign among their opponents caused them to be completely helpless.

"People of the Skeleton Gang, listen. It is still not too late for you to surrender now. Otherwise, die," said Scorching Blood.

"Hmph. You want us to surrender? Dream on. Murderous Skeleton Formation!" commanded Celestial Skeleton.

At his command, strands of energy rippled out of the buildings around him, and numerous skeleton puppets charged out from different directions. These were all emperor-grade puppets, and when working in a formation, they were no weaker than actual Emperors.

"Everyone, kill!" Celestial Skeleton gave another command before looking at his two brothers. He said, "Second brother, third brother, face Noxious Blood together with our formation!"

Earth Skeleton and Human Skeleton tried to get back on their feet, but they were having a hard time exerting any strength.

"Don't bother with your pointless struggles. Die," said Noxious Blood. As he said that, he clawed forward, creating a massive palm of energy that raked at the skeleton puppets, turning them into fine powder. This was the strength of a Sovereign, a strength unimaginable to many.

Celestial Skeleton realized that today would be the day he died, and the only thing he could do was fight with his life on the line. He took out a damaged sovereign weapon and started madly attacking Noxious Blood with it.

Although Celestial Skeleton had been stuck at the peak Emperor Realm for many years, he still had decent combat prowess. Unfortunately, the gap between him and Noxious Blood, who was only a step ahead of him, was akin to a wide chasm that could not be surmounted.

Facing the attacks, Noxious Blood remained rooted on the spot while his palms clawed out repeatedly, sending out numerous domineering attacks and flooding his surroundings with a red radiance as an eerie sound akin to the wail of ghosts rang in the air without stop.

Celestial Skeleton's damaged sovereign weapon was unable to do anything before the claw attacks inflicted him with heavy injuries. He was getting weaker and weaker, reaching a point he could no longer fight. It filled the Skeleton Gang members with fear, and they no longer had any fight in them.

"Those who refuse to submit will die," said Noxious Blood as he killed two random Skeleton Gang members as a warning.

The Skeleton Gang members realized that defeat was imminent, and some got on their knees to beg for mercy.

Noxious Blood looked at the three Skeleton Gang leaders coldly and said, "I will give you one chance as well. Submit and live. I will even assign you important positions under me. Otherwise...die."

Right this moment, a voice rumbled on from far away, "A trash like you wishes to poach this young master's men?"

## Chapter 518: Sovereign's Wrath

The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun, who had just returned from the Devil Domain. The moment he left the Devil Domain, he sensed that the three Skeletons were in bad shape. Thus, he rushed back to their headquarters.

Although the three Skeletons weren't exactly upstanding citizens, they were now under his control and were now his subordinates. How could he allow others to eliminate his subordinates? Thus, he rushed back as quickly as possible the moment he sensed what was happening. Fortunately, he had arrived just in time to prevent the full destruction of the Skeleton Gang.

Noxious Blood had not entered the Sovereign Realm for long. He had been waiting on dealing with the Skeleton Gang, as he needed some time to stabilize his cultivation base. On top of that, the rumors spread by the Ghostface Sect that they were protecting the Skeleton Gang had caused him to not dare to make any reckless moves.

In fact, even the attack today was primarily done with the intention to probe the Ghostface Sect's reaction. If the Ghostface Sect really did show themselves, he would retreat. And if they didn't, he would absorb the Skeleton Gang into his own gang. The Ghostface Sect had not appeared, but a group led by a young man had appeared instead. One of the members in the group was Meng Gansu, an elder of the Noxious Blood Gang.

Scorching Blood was able to recognize Xiang Shaoyun with one look, and he immediately pointed at him and shouted, "You still dare to show yourself, you little bastard? Today, I will take your life to avenge my son!"

After saying that, Scorching Blood personally attacked Xiang Shaoyun. He cultivated the power of flame, and as he attacked, a clump of fire shot out of his weapon and flew toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"You want to harm my young master? Dream on!" Du Xuanhao roared and drew his saber. With a simple swing of the saber, the fireball was dispersed.

Moving like the wind, he charged Scorching Blood. Like Xiang Shaoyun, Du Xuanhao had also cultivated footwork intent. After over a year of training in the Devil Domain, he had finally entered the moving like the wind stage, and his speed had more than doubled.

The combination of saber intent and footwork intent was too much for Scorching Blood to deal with, and he was forced to request help from Noxious Blood. "Great monarch, save me!"

As Scorching Blood begged for help, Noxious Blood sent a claw attack toward Du Xuanhao. It was a casual attack, and Noxious Blood believed that it was enough to kill Du Xuanhao. Alas, he was mistaken. Not only did Du Xuanhao determine the trajectory of the attack, he even destroyed the attack with a swing of his saber. The only thing the attack accomplished was forcing Du Xuanhao to take several steps backward. He was still completely unharmed.

"Is this the strength of a Sovereign? Nothing special at all," said Du Xuanhao. He was akin to an exceptional saber, and it was time to display his outstanding combat prowess.

Noxious Blood frowned and said, "Saber Emperor Du Xuanhao?"

"Haha, the great monarch of the Noxious Blood Gang actually knows my name? Today, allow me to have a taste at the combat prowess of a Sovereign!" said Du Xuanhao as he howled with laughter. With the human saber unity active, he charged Noxious Blood.

"You are overestimating yourself," said Noxious Blood with a snort as he finally erupted with the true strength of a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator.

The eruption placed a massive pressure on the very souls of the people present, causing them all to shiver in fear. Due to the suppression of their souls, they couldn't even move their physical bodies anymore. This was why Soul Foundation Realm cultivators were scary. Whether it be Kings or Emperors, they could rely on their presence to suppress and prevail over those with lower cultivation levels than them.

But a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator was capable of forming spiritual pressure to affect someone, suppressing their opponent's soul to plant fear in their mind before killing them with a single strike. The two were entirely different methods of suppression, with the latter being truly capable of suppressing even tens of thousands of people.

There was a saying that the wrath of a Sovereign would result in fields of corpses. That much was proof of a Sovereign's might. Apart from the Noxious Blood Gang members, everyone there seemed to have been struck by some invisible attacks, and many started coughing blood.

Du Xuanhao was also a target of this suppression, but his will remained firm as he continued his attack. This was the benefit of having cleansed himself with the blood cocoon stone. He now possessed a much stronger physique.

Noxious Blood was displeased with the fact that he couldn't defeat Du Xuanhao through suppression alone. Thus, he said, "Today, I will use you to establish my dominance!"

He erupted with power, sending a massive power crashing forth toward Du Xuanhao. And thus, a battle erupted between a Sovereign and an Emperor high in the sky. Scorching Blood took the chance to command his men to kill the Skeleton Gang members who refused to submit, with the leaders as their priority targets. If they were allowed to recover, things would get troublesome. As for himself, he wanted to personally kill Xiang Shaoyun to take revenge for his dead son.

But before Scorching Blood could arrive before Xiang Shaoyun, Han Pojun stepped forth and said, "Young Master Xiang, let me deal with this fellow."

He then charged Scorching Blood. Now, only Meng Gansu and the Han Clan sisters were left around Xiang Shaoyun.

"Old Meng, go say hi to your ex-brothers. Don't worry about me," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

Meng Gansu nodded and charged toward the Noxious Blood Gang members. The Noxious Blood Gang members knew who Meng Gansu was, but they were unaware that he was already under Xiang Shaoyun's control. The moment he arrived in their midst, he killed a few of them.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun brought the Han Clan sisters with him and headed toward the three Skeletons. Naturally, someone from the Noxious Blood Gang tried to stop them.

"A tiny King dares to disregard our Noxious Blood Gang? Die!" said an Emperor. But before he could even do anything, a tall and slim figure appeared before him. With a punch, his chest exploded.

"Kill them all," commanded Xiang Shaoyun, showing no mercy whatsoever.

At his command, the nether prison devil puppet started slaughtering the Noxious Blood Gang members. This was a puppet with the combat prowess of a late-stage Sovereign. Thus, under its assault, the Noxious Blood Gang members were akin to vegetables on a chopping board. They were utterly defeated, their corpses creating rivers of blood.

Noxious Blood also noticed the existence of the nether prison devil puppet, and he started getting nervous. He could see just how terrifying that puppet was. In fact, that puppet wasn't weaker than him at all.

Furthermore, Du Xuanhao actually had the strength to put up a fight against him. Although he still had the advantage in the fight, he wasn't able to immediately kill Du Xuanhao. If this continued, the entire Noxious Blood Gang would be slaughtered before he could kill Du Xuanhao.

Noxious Blood's gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun, coming to a realization that this young man was the one controlling the puppet. So long as he could take this young man down, the crisis would be over. At that thought, he blasted Du Xuanhao away before quickly flying toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"Die, kid!" shouted Noxious Blood as he churned his soul foundation and sent a boundless soul power crashing down upon Xiang Shaoyun before following up with a casual slap. He believed this

would be enough to reduce Xiang Shaoyun into a pile of mincemeat. Unfortunately for him, the nether prison devil puppet appeared in front of him before his palm could hit Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 519: Those Who Disagree May Step Forth Now

"Break!" Noxious Blood roared as he used both of his hands to send incomparably sharp claw attacks toward the nether prison devil puppet. The attacks he sent were powerful enough to easily reduce two mountains into powder.

Facing such attacks, the nether prison devil puppet merely threw a crude punch and destroyed the claw attacks. Noxious Blood suffered a massive backlash and was sent flying and coughing blood.

It was at this moment that Du Xuanhao arrived near Noxious Blood and swept his saber down, sending a breathtaking saber energy toward Noxious Blood. The people there had the sensation that they were so very tiny before that saber energy. Any random shockwave rippling from the saber attack was enough to crush them.

Only then did they realize that Du Xuanhao might really be a War Sovereign. Not far away, Lady Shura and the Ghostface Sect members were observing the battle. A solemn look covered their faces when they saw Du Xuanhao's attack.

"Who is this? Is he an expert that has recently arrived at the city?" asked a Sovereign beside Lady Shura.

"I don't know, but he is definitely related to Young Master Xiang," replied Lady Shura. "As for the other person, I know him. He is Han Pojun, an up-and-coming expert of the Han Clan."

"I see. Looks like there is no need for us to do anything. This Xiang Shaoyun has enough trump cards to destroy the entire Noxious Blood Gang. No wonder the sect master attaches such importance to him. He is really quite extraordinary," said the Sovereign.

"This is not the time to say all that. Let's go over there," said Lady Shura.

She then led the group toward Xiang Shaoyun. By the time they arrived, the nether prison devil puppet had already inflicted serious injuries on Noxious Blood. He would no longer be able to put up much fight.

Noxious Blood had never imagined that after becoming a Sovereign for a little bit over a year, he would be defeated in such a manner before he could even enjoy the glory that came with this cultivation level. He felt really disgraced. But facing such a powerful nether prison devil puppet, he really didn't have any fight left in him.

As for Scorching Blood, he was greatly frightened. He quickly broke free from Han Pojun and tried escaping back to their headquarters only to stumble upon the approaching Lady Shura and Ghostface Sect members. He was so terrified he felt like his soul had left his body. Unsurprisingly, he was killed with a single swat from the Ghostface Sect's Sovereign.

All the invading experts that had come with the Noxious Blood Gang were captured. Not one of them managed to escape. Everything had happened so fast the Skeleton Gang members couldn't even react in time. The invasion felt like a dream, and they were filled with disbelief.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun arrived before the three Skeletons. All three of them were injured, but they still greeted deferentially, "G-greetings, young master."

"Alright, focus on healing. Today, we will purge the Noxious Blood Gang while we're at it," said Xiang Shaoyun, who was relieved to see that the three were fine. He reached a decision to eliminate the Noxious Blood Gang once and for all.

The three Skeletons were overjoyed. That had always been their wish, but they did not have the strength to do so. Today, Xiang Shaoyun was going to do it on their behalf. They were filled with elation.

Xiang Shaoyun had Badar lead the way as he commanded Du Xuanhao and the Emperors of the Skeleton Gang to go destroy the Noxious Blood Gang. But since the Ghostface Sect people had arrived, Du Xuanhao did not dare to leave Xiang Shaoyun's side. He was afraid that something bad would happen to Xiang Shaoyun.

"So it's Lady Shura! It has been a while!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a cordial smile.

In truth, he had already sensed their approach earlier. He had merely been feigning ignorance. With her mask on and her hourglass figure, Lady Shura still exuded the same exotic type of beauty, filling others with the desire to conquer her.

"It has indeed been a while. We were here to help the Skeleton Gang, but it turns out you had arrived just in time, so our help wasn't even required anymore," said Lady Shura. She then went

straight to the point, "I wonder if you have some time to spare? The sect master wishes to meet you."

"Yes, I am interested in meeting your sect master as well," Xiang Shaoyun answered seriously. After a slight pause, he shifted his tone and said, "But I wish to wait two more days. After dealing with all my affairs here, I will come and visit. Will that be acceptable?"

The Ghostface Sect's sect master, Green Ghost, was most likely Devouring Ghost's disciple. Xiang Shaoyun was still unaware if Devouring Ghost had already ended his seclusion. Thus, he needed some additional time. He would first pay Devouring Ghost's restricted space a visit before planning his next move.

"Impudent! Kid, since my sect master has invited you, you should go see him right this instance! You dare make my sect master wait? Are you courting death?" berated the Ghostface Sect's Sovereign.

Xiang Shaoyun threw the Sovereign a glance but could only see a pair of sharp eyes because a mask was covering the rest of his face. He replied nonchalantly, "I am still young, so I have no intention to die an untimely death. I have already met your sect master once. I believe he will not mind giving me two extra days."

Everyone would bow before a Sovereign, but that was not the case for Xiang Shaoyun. In any case, Green Ghost was the one who had a favor to ask of him. Thus, he did not believe Green Ghost would actually make things difficult for him.

Just as the Sovereign was about to say something else, Lady Shura interrupted, "I will bring your message back to the sect master. Let's go."

As Lady Shura had spoken, it wouldn't be proper for the Sovereign to say anything, so he shut his mouth and left. In any case, he had learned from Lady Shura that their sect master attached great importance to that Xiang Shaoyun. He did not wish to ruin his sect master's plans for something minor like this. It was not worth inviting his sect master's resentment for no apparent reason.

The Ghostface Sect members left as quickly as they had arrived. Soon, they could no longer be seen. Xiang Shaoyun ignored the departing Ghostface Sect members and repeated his command to Du Xuanhao.



Du Xuanhao then left to carry out the command, while Han Pojun went along since he had nothing else to do. Han Pojun was taking so much initiative to help because he had reached a decision. After helping Du Xuanhao eliminate the Noxious Blood Gang, he would start working on his new plan. If he missed this opportunity presented before him, he did not know if he would ever get another opportunity like this.

Xiang Shaoyun then entered the Skeleton Gang's main hall with the Han Clan sisters in tow. As of now, they were filled with deep admiration for him. In the past, they only knew that their ancestor was mighty while their uncle was outstanding. But in comparison with Xiang Shaoyun, their ancestor and uncle did not seem like anything special anymore.

He could destroy the Noxious Blood Gang on a whim, and the Skeleton Gang was akin to his personal playground. He could even refuse the invitation of the Ghostface Sect right in their face. It was hard to believe all that was done by a young man not even 20 years old!

In the main hall, Xiang Shaoyun sat on the gang leader's throne. He then gathered all the experts of the gang in the hall. All of them were filled with veneration when they looked at the young man seated on the throne.

The young man spoke softly, "Today, this young master has saved you from the Noxious Blood Gang. I have also eliminated them and annexed their territory. From today onward, I am your master. Those who disagree may step forth now."

#### Chapter 520: Thank You, Han Qianwei

The Skeleton Gang members were shocked, but none of them dared to say anything. Instead, they all looked at their three leaders. In any case, their leaders had always been the ones to make all decisions. The only thing they had ever done was obey.

The three leaders dragged their injured bodies forth and knelt down. They said, "We pledge our allegiance to the young master, we swear our eternal loyalty to the young master."

With the three leaders on their knees, the other members did not dare to remain standing. All of them knelt down and chanted, "We pledge our allegiance to the young master, we swear our eternal loyalty to the young master."

Not one of them dared to voice any disagreement. Just look at the majestic nether prison devil puppet standing to the side. Whenever they looked at the puppet, they would feel like they were

akin to bugs that could be crushed easily. They might be vicious criminals, but they still feared death. Otherwise, none of them would have surrendered during the Noxious Blood Gang's invasion.

"Splendid. Although I am your young master, the three leaders will still be the ones leading you. I only need you to carry out my commands when required," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Everyone heaved a breath of relief. They were already used to being led by the three Skeletons. They would have a hard time getting used to taking orders from someone else out of the blue. Unknown to them, their three leaders were already obeying Xiang Shaoyun's every command.

Xiang Shaoyun then ended the meeting and had them start cleaning up the mess from the battle. The battle earlier had destroyed many buildings, and it was necessary to rebuild them. He also dismissed the three Skeletons so they could focus on healing while he sat there silently waiting for Du Xuanhao and the others to return.

As he waited, he started contemplating the growth of the Skeleton Gang. Now that he was officially a master of the gang, he would naturally not allow them to continue committing crimes. He had to think of a win-win solution that could both make them stronger and more obedient. That way, they would be much more useful to him in the future.

At this time, Han Xuewei's voice rang out, "Young Master Xiang, what are you thinking about?"

Her voice was as gentle as water, such that Xiang Shaoyun did not feel annoyed even with his train of thought interrupted. He smiled and said, "I completely forgot you were here. Men, serve some tea."

"No, that's nothing. I was just curious seeing you frowning in thought. Don't mind me," said Han Xuewei in a considerate manner.

Han Qianwei was slightly envious when she saw that. She had always been a mistrustful person who did not know how to mince her words. Thus, she was unlike her younger sister who enjoyed more adoration from others. Right now, she wished she could be like her younger sister and establish a closer relationship with Xiang Shaoyun.

"You're my friends. There is no need to be so courteous," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile. He then sighed. "I'm just vexed as to how I should develop the Skeleton Gang moving forward."

"What is there to be worried about? I thought the three original leaders are still going to be running the gang? Just let them deal with it," Han Xuewei gave an innocent reply.

Han Qianwei finally found an opportunity to join in the conversation, "Sister, do you think Young Master Xiang will associate himself with criminals? He is definitely trying to rebuild a brand new Skeleton Gang."

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Han Qianwei in astonishment. "Yes, you're right. The original Skeleton Gang has a terrible reputation. Now that they are mine, I won't permit them to commit all sorts of crimes like they used to."

"I have a suggestion that might be helpful," said Han Qianwei confidently.

"Oh? What's your suggestion?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, his interest piqued.

"The goal of any organization is survival. Some hunt demonic beasts for a living, some gather natural treasures, and some mine the various precious ores. So you can start with that. Of course, it will be even better if they can have their own store. But for that, you will need some people handling the supervisory roles," said Han Qianwei.

Xiang Shaoyun was hit with a realization, and he clapped and said, "Well said! Why didn't I think of something that simple? Thank you, Han Qianwei!"

"Hehe, you just haven't thought of it yet. With your intelligence, it's only a matter of time before you thought of the same even without me telling you," said Han Qianwei with a smile.

When Han Qianwei smiled, it was as if an iceberg was melting, blooming with beauty and life. Seeing that, Xiang Shaoyun blurted, "You look really pretty when you smile. You should smile more."

Han Qianwei blushed, but inwardly, she was overjoyed.

She took the chance to say more, "The Skeleton Gang members have been criminals for too long. It won't be easy for them to just change. I think you can first get them to organize a hunting group to go hunt some devilish beasts. They can harvest a large amount of devil materials that way. At the same time, they can also temper themselves. Naturally, people will die, but the survivors will be the

cream of the crop. As for the devil materials, they can be exchanged for contribution points. This is a very common method of operation used by many organizations."

"You're right. But will granting them that much freedom lead to them eventually leaving the Skeleton Gang?" Han Xuewei asked.

"I've taken that into consideration as well," Han Qianwei replied. She looked at Xiang Shaoyun and continued, "For any organization, rewards and punishments are important. There are only two situations where a group sent by an organization does not return. They have either died or defected. The former is not that bad, but the latter can only mean that the organization in question does not have a proper system of reward and punishment. That is why there would be defections. Therefore, the first step is to establish a proper system of reward and punishment. That is something you have to work with personally, Young Master Xiang. I believe in you."

Xiang Shaoyun pondered on her words while recalling how his father used to run the Ziling Sect. He immediately had a sense of enlightenment.

"Well said! Although those practices seem completely normal and seem like anyone can think of them, few people will actually put that much thought into it. You will be a great helper for your future husband!" said Xiang Shaoyun cheerfully.

"You are too polite," said Han Qianwei happily.

Xiang Shaoyun's final sentence had filled her with joy. Finally, he noticed her good points. Han Xuewei's expression dimmed, but she did not feel any envy. Rather, she was annoyed with herself for being useless.

Xiang Shaoyun continued chatting with the two on some more details in relation to running an organization, and he increasingly understood how he should run the Skeleton Gang. He had always been an intelligent person. He merely lacked experience in this aspect. With a nudge from Han Qianwei, he knew what to do.

Before long, Du Xuanhao, Han Pojun, and the others returned. Because the Noxious Blood Gang had sent all their elites on the invasion, with the deaths of those elites, their headquarters had been easily defeated. Those who resisted had been killed, and only a small number who had surrendered were spared. In other words, both the Skeleton Gang and the Noxious Blood Gang were now under Xiang Shaoyun's control.