

## Overlord 581

### Chapter 581: Burning Anger

The shout came from none other than Xiang Shaoyun. After the grand elders brought him out of the Back Graveyard, they hadn't accepted him as a disciple. Instead, they merely got Xiao Wei to send him to the core disciples' residential area.

No matter what, Xiang Shaoyun was still a special-recruit disciple. Even if he hadn't been taken as anyone's personal disciple, he still possessed his own villa. In any case, the grand elders all knew that the gravekeeper elder had personally instructed Xiang Shaoyun. They would not dare to recklessly do anything to him after that.

On the way to the residential area, Xiang Shaoyun had naturally asked about Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and the others. It had been a year since they joined the academy. He was getting impatient to find out how everyone was doing. He was mostly worried that his issue would implicate them.

If Xiang Shaoyun had asked about other disciples, Xiao Wei might not know anything. After all, it was not like he could keep tabs on everything going on in the academy. But that was not the case for Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and company. He had been paying attention to them for Xiang Shaoyun's sake.

After hearing about Tang Longfei and Lady Shura, and after learning that Lady Shura was residing in the core disciples' residential area, Xiang Shaoyun came over with Xiao Wei. When he was near, he sensed that something had happened at Lady Shura's villa and quickly rushed over with Xiao Wei. He had not expected that the first thing he saw after being released was the sight of his three women being bullied. It made him furious.

When Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out, both Yi Xuan and Yue Huangquan looked over. The only thing they felt was a gust of wind blowing at them as a figure suddenly appeared before them. At the sight of the newcomer, their pupils constricted. They had an extremely deep impression of the person before them.

It was Xiang Shaoyun, the person who had been thrown into the Back Graveyard right after joining the academy. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun had created a record time of how long it took for one to be sent to the Back Graveyard after joining. Everyone believed that Xiang Shaoyun would not be able to leave, and even if he managed to leave, he would be as good as crippled.

However, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have left the Back Graveyard intact, and his aura seemed even more impressive than before. The realization caused their confidence to waver. Even so, they

weren't actually afraid of him. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was only someone with a great physique. It did not necessarily mean that his current combat prowess was higher than theirs.

"Move your dirty hands away from them or all of you can die," said Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes filled with rage.

"What boastful words! Who do you think you are? Shen Jiang, go teach him a lesson. Let him understand how he should behave around us," said Yi Xuan toward a young man beside him.

That young man was slightly weaker than Yi Xuan, but he was still a War Emperor with a draconic aura 95 percent complete. He was basically almost a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Hearing Yi Xuan's command, Shen Jiang wasted no time talking. He directly charged Xiang Shaoyun.

Torrential River!

The moment he attacked, Shen Jiang used his full power. A blue radiance shone brightly from his body as he brandished his polearm, sending waves of blue energy crashing down toward Xiang Shaoyun like a torrential river. Not a single person capable of joining the Dragon Phoenix Academy was a pushover.

Shen Jiang's combat prowess was no weaker than Tang Longfei's from a year ago. In fact, he seemed considerably stronger than that. He was two years younger than Tang Longfei, and that was the main reason why he was still not an Emperor. It could be concluded that Shen Jiang and Tang Longfei were equally matched in terms of talent, and the only gap between the two was the time in which both had cultivated.

A year ago, such strength was enough to pose a tiny threat to Xiang Shaoyun. But threatening him now with such combat strength was nothing more than a dream. When Shen Jiang's attack was about to land, Xiang Shaoyun's body twisted slightly, and he completely avoided the attack. His hand shot forth like a bolt of lightning and grabbed Shen Jiang's shoulder. His fingers dug deep into Shen Jiang's flesh as he started ripping the arm off.

"AHHH!"

Shen Jiang wailed like a pig being slaughtered as his arm was ripped off his shoulder. Blood sprayed everywhere, presenting a dreadful sight. Xiang Shaoyun did not stop at that. He tossed the severed arm away and gave Shen Jiang, who was in massive pain, a kick.

Like a dog, Shen Jiang was sent flying and crashed heavily far away. Yi Xuan, Yue Huangquan, and the others were greatly shocked. They had not imagined that Shen Jiang would be crippled with a single attack. Sure, they were also capable of that, but they wouldn't dare attack a fellow disciple in the academy so ruthlessly.

"I will give you a chance to sever one arm each and I will let this matter rest. Otherwise, I will personally take your arms," said Xiang Shaoyun as he coldly swept his eyes over them.

He had been holding his temper in for an entire year. The only thing he had done was reveal his talent so the academy would pay attention in nurturing him, but he had ended up being thrown into the Back Graveyard instead. He even nearly got himself killed there! Although the gravekeeper elder had appeared to give him some pointers, he was still furious.

Yi Xuan and Yue Huangquan were basically perfect targets for him to vent his anger. They were simply unlucky. Of course, they wouldn't submit just like that.

"Xiang Shaoyun, for harming a fellow disciple like that, the enforcers will not spare you! Kneel down and submit. Perhaps we will consider begging for leniency on your behalf then," said Yi Xuan.

Xiang Shaoyun shot him a glance and without saying anything, vanished into thin air. Yi Xuan cultivated the power of wind and had sharp senses on top of incredible speed. However, he didn't even notice anything before Xiang Shaoyun reappeared behind him. Unfortunately, it was too late for him to do anything. Without hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun landed a heavy punch on his back.

A first-stage Emperor like Yi Xuan was sent flying and coughing blood. As he was still holding onto the Han Clan sisters, they were dragged along as he flew. However, the Han Clan sisters weren't harmed. They quickly took the chance to break free and retreated to the side. After freeing the sisters, Xiang Shaoyun did not waste any time chasing after Yi Xuan. Instead, he charged Yue Huangquan.

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps!

He utilized the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps with the power of wind, reaching a speed that made him seem like an undetectable phantom. Yue Huangquan was a crafty person. He immediately placed a weapon at Lady Shura's throat and threatened, "If you dare touch me, I will kill—"

Before he could finish his sentence, his arm was assaulted by numbness, and he dropped the sword in his hand. He had been struck by Xiang Shaoyun's Vicious Prison Finger. Instead of approaching Yue Huangquan, Xiang Shaoyun moved to a different position and attacked from a different angle, directly releasing the weapon in Yue Huangquan's hand, ingeniously resolving Lady Shura's crisis.

## Chapter 582: Unfair Enforcement

The moment Yue Huangquan's weapon left his hand, Lady Shura smashed her elbow into his stomach and grabbed his arm and slammed him onto the ground.

Bang!

The impact confused and disoriented Yue Huangquan, and before he could react, a dagger appeared in Lady Shura's hand. She showed no mercy and swept the dagger at his arm.

"AHHH!"

Yue Huangquan wasn't given any chance to react. Just like that, he lost an arm. The pain caused him to wail endlessly. Although he was stronger than Lady Shura, the combination of his carelessness, the close distance between him and Lady Shura, and him not expecting Lady Shura to be so ruthless had caused him to suffer greatly.

Xiang Shaoyun shot Lady Shura a praising look before shifting his gaze back on Yi Xuan and company. They were greatly frightened. Without any hesitation, they started fleeing the villa. Their confidence had been completely destroyed. They had no courage to stand up against Xiang Shaoyun.

"Like I said, all of you have to leave behind an arm each today," said Xiang Shaoyun as he flew forward at a rapid speed.

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps!

Moving like the wind!

He stirred the power of wind in his body and displayed a perfect moving like the wind stage of the footwork intent to move at a speed comparable to a fourth-stage Emperor. If it wasn't for the heavy armor he wore, he could move even faster.

Xiang Shaoyun had his attention on Yi Xuan, who was both the fastest among the intruders and one of the culprits for what had happened. Thus, he couldn't be spared.

In the blink of an eye, Xiang Shaoyun caught up with Yi Xuan. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand as he swept the saber forward. The saber streaked through the air, and next, Yi Xuan's wail rang out. One of his arms had been sliced off.

Done with Yi Xuan, Xiang Shaoyun roared at the others, "Stop right where you are!"

The shout was powered by the Tiger's Roar ability, and it instantly spread toward the escaping intruders. On top of that, Xiang Shaoyun's filthless soul also started exuding an intense pressure, the combination of the two instantly rooting the intruders to the ground.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Xiang Shaoyun's body flickered about as he swung his saber several times, sending several saber energies flying toward different directions. His mastery over human saber unity, the first stage of saber intent, had basically reached perfection. None of his targets were able to avoid his attack, and several arms flew up into the air.

Wails filled the core disciples' residential area, attracting many core disciples and causing them to fly out of their villas to see what was happening. Their eyes were filled with shock. They had not expected that someone would have the guts to attack so ruthlessly in the academy grounds, directly cutting the arms of several disciples.

The bloody sight presented quite a striking scene. If the enforcers still didn't react after something this big happened, they would be truly useless. Soon, a group of enforcers arrived. They were all overseers, disciples of the previous batch who had remained in the academy. Each of them was an incomparably powerful cultivator.

"Who is creating trouble in the residential area? Submit immediately or die!" said the leader.

His voice was loud, resounding within the brains of Xiang Shaoyun and the other disciples. There were only five overseers in the group, yet all five of them were Soul Foundation Realm cultivators. The likes of Yi Xuan and Yue Huangquen were in truth incapable of bribing these overseers.

The only reason they had patrolled somewhere else and allowed Yi Xuan and company a chance to create trouble was for the sake of Di Lin. That was because the leader of this group of enforcers was a subordinate of Di Lin's master. The leader had not expected the matter to blow up like that, and the matter had also escalated in a manner he had not imagined.

He had no choice but to quickly come over and deal with the incident, making sure it did not continue escalating. Otherwise, he would be relinquished of his position as a captain of an enforcement squad. His name was Ouyang Jianghu, one of the weakest disciples of the previous batch. After reaching the Soul Foundation Realm, his advancement speed had declined considerably.

In order to remain in the academy, he had become an overseer, helping out with the academy's general affairs. He quickly focused his gaze on Xiang Shaoyun. He did not know who he was, and he directly unleashed the pressure of a Soul Foundation Realm expert toward him and berated, "What are you waiting for? Surrender!"

Not even Emperors could take on this suppression. Thus, he did not think that this newly joined disciple would be able to withstand it. Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun merely glanced at him with disdain before heading back into Lady Shura's villa.

Xiang Shaoyun was one who had withstood even Feng Huosuo's suppression. How would he fear Ouyang Jianghu's suppression? Ouyang Jianghu was infuriated by the contempt shown. In his anger, he sent over a palm attack. "Let me teach you some respect!"

The attack did not look impressive, but it carried an incredible might. If it struck, even if Xiang Shaoyun wasn't killed, he would be crippled. One ought to admit that as a captain of an enforcement squad, Ouyang Jianghu still possessed some authority to kill. However, before his attack could hit, a different palm attack struck him.

Bang!

Ouyang Jianghu was sent flying like a kite with a broken string before crashing heavily on the ground, creating a deep crater where he crashed. Even a Soul Foundation Realm expert like him was completely caught by surprise by the palm attack.

"What is the point of keeping an unfair enforcer around?" Xiao Wei's voice rang out.

Earlier, he had arrived together with Xiang Shaoyun. Instead of doing anything, he had concealed himself high in the air as he observed everything. He had never seen a new disciple so brave before. These new disciples actually had the guts to directly snatch the women residing in the core disciples' residential area.

Thus, he did not mind Xiang Shaoyun's harsh way of dealing with them. Both Xiao Wei and Xiang Shaoyun were people who had been at the Bloodsin City. For them, losing an arm wasn't a big deal. So long as nobody was killed, Xiao Wei did not care.

What annoyed him the most was the fact that the enforcers had been conveniently missing while everything was happening and had only reappeared after everything had ended. On top of that, the enforcers had even attacked Xiang Shaoyun without caring about what had happened.

Although Xiang Shaoyun had not been taken as a disciple by the grand guardians, they had still told Xiao Wei to pay close attention to Xiang Shaoyun. Just from that, it was clear Xiang Shaoyun was still very important to the grand guardians. How could he allow these enforcers to hurt Xiang Shaoyun?

#### Chapter 583: Moving Into 1 Dragon Villa

The numerous core disciples in the area saw what happened, and they all decided to noiselessly go back and continue whatever they were doing previously. None of them dared to say anything, but they all knew that the freak that had been banished to the forbidden zone at the back of the academy had returned.

Xiang Shaoyun had caused a sensation in the academy when he had first joined. Because he was the new disciple with the best physique, his fame had surpassed even the eight freaks that the academy had concealed. After he was banished, he slowly faded from everyone's mind.

With Xiang Shaoyun's return and the big commotion he had just caused, they realized that he wasn't crippled like what the rumors said. In fact, his strength had grown to a terrifying level. They all rejoiced that they had never offended Xiang Shaoyun, while those who had done something to offend him were starting to feel uneasy. One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun was personally escorted back by an elder. The meaning behind that was obvious enough for everyone to see.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered to care about what everyone was thinking. He returned to Lady Shura's villa and asked the three, "Is everyone fine?"

Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters all shook their heads.

"What actually happened here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked Lady Shura.

"Some people set their eyes on us after seeing that you weren't around," said Lady Shura nonchalantly.

"Ok. I'm back now so you don't have to worry anymore. I'll go over to my place first. I'll come again when I'm done," said Xiang Shaoyun. He instantly understood what had happened. His enemies must have been the ones to create trouble for the three women.

He couldn't deal with the issue right away, and it wouldn't be proper for him to make Xiao Wei wait too long. Thus, he only stayed a short while before leaving for his new residence with Xiao Wei. Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters had all noticed Xiao Wei as well. Thus, none of them dared to say anything else.

Xiang Shaoyun followed Xiao Wei to a serene villa, and joy immediately filled his eyes at what he saw. The villa was even larger than Lady Shura's, with three main buildings. Numerous old trees were planted around the garden, and streams of clear water flowed about. Underneath the streams were glossy pebbles, and numerous fishes frolicked about in the water. At the shore of the streams were numerous spirit herbs and flowers, filling the air with a faint fragrance.

It was really a very decent villa. It even had a formation, one that increased the density of spiritual energy within the villa. Someone cultivating for a long term at a place like this would be able to advance rapidly.

"This is the best villa available for the core disciples, and you can consider it a compensation for what you had gone through for the past year," said Xiao Wei. "Of course, if you want to continue staying here long term, there will be some conditions."

"What? There are conditions? I thought this was supposed to be compensation," Xiang Shaoyun grumbled sullenly.

"That may be the case, but you have still disobeyed the grand guardians. If we don't give you some pressure to prove that your choice is right, the grand guardians won't be too happy. You have to know that all of them had wanted to take you as a disciple, and you had rejected all of them," said Xiao Wei. "With your strength, it won't be hard for you to stay here long term. You only really need to stay qualified as an owner of this villa."



"What do you even mean by that?" Xiang Shaoyun was confused now.

"What I mean is that this villa is too good. It has an independent gravity cultivation room and a much higher concentration of spiritual energy than other villas. It represents an excellent cultivation environment that many core disciples will long for. Take care," said Xiao Wei before vanishing into thin air.

Xiang Shaoyun finally had some inkling of what Xiao Wei was hinting at. However, he dismissed it with a laugh. In any case, this was now his place. If anyone dared to challenge him for it, then nobody could blame him for showing no mercy. Sure enough, the moment he settled down in his new villa, the news spread through the entire academy.

"I heard that the 1 Dragon Villa of the core disciples' residential area has now been occupied."

"Who's the one who managed to qualify for it? Is it Baili Yixiao the Smiling Swordsman? He is the only one qualified to stay there."

"No. It's that Xiang Shaoyun who had triggered a nine-star phenomenon. He has returned from the forbidden zone behind the academy and has even grown stronger. In the first fight he got involved in after his return, he sliced off a few experts' arms. His ranking has now moved up to 2,888th position."

"That's nothing! How is he qualified to move into the 1 Dragon Villa? I can't accept that!"

"Sure, you are free to disagree. News has been released by the elders that those capable of defeating Xiang Shaoyun will be able to move in there. Of course, for now, only those on the Serpent Fowl List are allowed to challenge him. Those on the Jiao Luan List and Dragon Phoenix Academy can't challenge him for now."

"Oh? I see. Interesting. A lot of people on the Serpent Fowl List have entered the Dragon Ascension Realm. With their strength, it wouldn't be hard for them to trample Xiang Shaoyun."

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As the news of Xiang Shaoyun's return spread, a few one-armed disciples gathered at a different core disciple's villa.

"How can Xiang Shaoyun do that!" a furious voice rang out.

The voice did not belong to the owner of the villa. It belonged to a follower who was also brother to the owner. His name was Di Shang, whereas the villa belonged to Di Lin. Di Shang was the one who suggested Yue Huangquan and company to go create trouble for Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters. He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would suddenly return and attack so mercilessly. That was too excessive! However, none of them had considered that their action of trying to kidnap Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters by force was also excessive.

"The alliance master needs to seek justice for us!" Yi Xuan and company begged.

If it wasn't for the fact that they were decently strong, just losing an arm each was enough to leave them barely alive. They wouldn't even have the strength to return here.

"Go and focus on healing. Since you all have your severed arms with you, I believe you will be able to reattach them. I will give you a satisfactory conclusion for this," Di Shang placated the group.

The only thing Yi Xuan, Yue Huangquan and company could do was leave with sullen expressions. The only thing they could do was hope that the Di Alliance would do something about this. Otherwise, the reputation of the Di Alliance would go down the drain because of them. Once that happened, it wouldn't be easy to recover the lost reputation.

"Damn it! How should I even begin to tell the ninth brother this?" Di Shang cursed after they left.

At this time, someone beside him said, "The alliance master is in seclusion. He will definitely leave the seclusion with a higher cultivation level. We shouldn't disturb him right now. I heard something earlier, so we might be able to make use of the Glacier Palace people. They might be interested in the Han Clan sisters. After all, they all cultivate the Icefrost Physique."

"How confident are you?" Di Shang asked.

"Not 100 percent confident, but I don't think inciting a conflict between them will be a problem," answered the other person.

Chapter 584: Victory Without a Battle

Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and the others had also received news of Xiang Shaoyun's return. They had also heard about the incident involving Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters. It did not take them long to gather at the core disciples' residential area. They went straight to Xiang Shaoyun's 1 Dragon Villa. This was the number one residence available for core disciples, and it had a great significance attached to it.

One could say that being able to live here signified boundless glory. At the same time, it also represented endless trouble. One without sufficient strength would not be able to stay here for long. At that time, one might even be reduced into a joke instead. When Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhua arrived, they found that a large number of disciples had gathered.

"What's going on here?" Tang Longfei asked in shock.

"It's obvious! They're here to challenge him!" Ning Wenhua said.

"Hmph. They're simply courting death," said Tang Longfei coldly as he squeezed through the crowd.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out from inside the villa, "You guys are really bothersome. This young master hasn't even warmed my seat, and you're already here challenging? Are you mental?"

"Xiang Shaoyun, are you going to hide like a cowardly turtle? Get out here! I'm going to beat you up!" shouted a regular disciple.

Tang Longfei managed to see clearly who the shouting disciple was. He quickly dashed toward that disciple and roared, "Who do you think you are? You dare challenge my brother? Do you want me to beat you up right here?"

When that disciple saw Tang Longfei, he shivered and quickly said, "I didn't say anything!"

He then turned tail and fled. He was merely someone trying to fish in troubled waters. Other people also finally noticed Tang Longfei. They knew that he occupied an upper middle position on the Serpent Fowl List and traces of fear appeared in their eyes when they saw him. Of course, there were also a number of people who weren't even bothered about him.

Tang Longfei also noticed a few individuals that even he feared. Inwardly, he wondered, What are the elders thinking? They are basically roasting Shaoyun atop a fire pit.

"Shaoyun, Wenhua and I are here to visit you," Tang Longfei shouted. Soon, Han Xuewei opened the door and allowed Tang Longfei in.

The first thing Xiang Shaoyun did after settling down was invite Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters over. This was his own place so he had full control over who he wanted to enter. After letting in Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhua, Han Xuewei said to the crowd, "My young master said that he will only accept the challenges of those within top 1,000 on the Serpent Fowl List. All other challenges will not be accepted. Please leave."

Those within top 1,000 of the Serpent Fowl List could basically be considered top 3,000 among all the new disciples across the three rankings. These people could be considered the elites of the new disciples. Not even Tang Longfei was ranked that high.

"Splendid. I am Yun Zhuo, 999th place on the Serpent Fowl List. I hereby issue Xiang Shaoyun a challenge!" said a young man of about 27 years old.

One ought to admit that this individual was extremely lucky. He happened to be just within the range of the challenges Xiang Shaoyun was willing to accept, occupying an interesting rank of 999th place. He was a genuine Emperor. Like Tang Longfei, he had entered the Emperor Realm half a year ago. Since then, he had challenged many opponents to eventually achieve his current rank.

From his past feats, it was clear this Yun Zhuo was definitely no pushover. Even someone like Yue Huangquan, who was already a mid-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, only occupied a ranking of over 2,000.

"Please wait a moment. I will report this to my young master," said Han Xuewei as she went back inside the villa.

Soon, she returned and told Yun Zhuo, "My young master invites you to enter."

"Oh, sure," Yun Zhuo hesitated slightly before he agreed and entered with Han Xuewei.

The moment he entered, he was deeply attracted by the environment within the villa. Although it wasn't the most luxurious of villas, it had an environment extremely suitable for cultivation. Soon,

somewhere within the villa, he saw a young man with extraordinary looks and temperament. Without a doubt, that young man was Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun turned around, looked at Yun Zhuo, and asked, "You're challenging me?"

As he said that, he fixed his gaze on Yun Zhuo. His filthless soul started exuding an incorporeal pressure that swept out from his forehead onto Yun Zhuo. The filthless soul had brought Xiang Shaoyun's mental power to an inconceivable height. As for the filthless soul itself, it had reached a level near the soul of a Sovereign.

It was at this point that Xiang Shaoyun finally gained the ability to merge his mental power with his unrivaled presence of a King. He was now capable of emanating a sensation that could cause one's mental state to completely crumble.

Standing before Xiang Shaoyun, Yun Zhuo suddenly felt that Xiang Shaoyun was a mighty ruler overlooking him from high above, giving him a sensation that Xiang Shaoyun was someone he couldn't defy.

He himself was a genius who was able to enter the Emperor Realm before 30 years old. Although he wasn't the most talented of all, he was most definitely among the best of those in his generation. He possessed a willpower far beyond an ordinary person's.

He activated the presence of his Emperor Realm cultivation, trying to resist Xiang Shaoyun's pressure. However, his presence was dispersed again and again under Xiang Shaoyun's suppression. The helpless sensation took a heavy toll on his mind.

After an unknown period of time, Xiang Shaoyun finally withdrew his pressure and repeated his question, "Do you still want to challenge me?"

Yun Zhuo heaved a sigh of relief as he smiled bitterly and said, "I have been too confident of myself."

He then slightly bowed at Xiang Shaoyun before turning to leave. He knew that with the complete defeat of his presence, even with his higher cultivation level, he wouldn't be able to muster any sort of confidence against this opponent anymore.

He started lamenting to himself, No one with a freakish nine-star physique will be a pushover. Looks like we have all been lied to.

When he left the villa, he found that the same crowd was still waiting to know the result of his challenge. When they saw Yun Zhuo leaving completely unscratched, they were confused. "Did they agree to fight at a different time?"

Yun Zhuo could see their doubt. He couldn't help but to smile and say, "I have been defeated. It was a complete defeat. Anyone who thinks they're stronger than me, feel free to be the next challenger."

He then left with wide strides. When admitting his defeat, he felt no humiliation. Instead, he was relieved. Only those who dared to face their mistakes would be able to obtain more success. That was something Yun Zhuo had just understood. This defeat would serve as an important turning point in his path to his eventual greatness.

## Chapter 585: Betting Duels

After Yun Zhuo declared his defeat, the crowd in front of the villa started thinning. Those who left were the ones who weren't a match for Yun Zhuo. It was natural that they also weren't qualified to challenge Xiang Shaoyun as well. One ought to admit that Xiang Shaoyun's way of defeating an opponent without an actual fight was rather impressive.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun was merely feeling lazy when it came to fighting. He had spent a lot of time fighting the skeletons during his time at the Back Graveyard. Now that he had left, he wanted to take a few days off.

The Han Clan sisters updated him about the academy's affairs during the past year. Of course, the two did not know as much as Tang Longfei. After Tang Longfei finished talking, Xiang Shaoyun finally had an all-rounded understanding of the academy's affairs. There were tens of factions in the academy, and there were three rankings for all the recently recruited disciples. One could say that the academy had transformed into a place of strife.

How should the academy disciples cultivate and grow? They needed to rely on their own hard work. There were nine cultivation zones in the academy that the disciples could enter. The zones respectively corresponded to gold, wood, water, flame, earth, wind, lightning, light, and darkness. Whether the disciples grew or not, it would rely on themselves.

Of course, it wasn't easy to gain entry into the nine cultivation zones. One needed to pay the academy sufficient contribution points for each entry. As for the contribution points, the disciples

needed to complete missions for them. The more contribution points one paid, the longer one could stay inside the cultivation zones. Contribution points could also be used to purchase numerous battle techniques, herbs, weapons, and so on from the academy.

In short, contribution points were akin to money in the academy, similar to the contribution points of the Bloodsin City. Of course, there were also some free cultivation zones in the academy. These could be considered a benefit accorded to the disciples for joining the academy.

However, it was natural that the free cultivation zones weren't as good as the nine paid cultivation zones. After hearing about the nine cultivation zones, Xiang Shaoyun recalled the mission Ugly Gambler had given him. He was required to look for the divine site. His plan was to look for the site if he had the time for it. If not, he would just forget about it. In any case, he had already cured himself of Ugly Gambler's poison. He did not need to be overly bothered with what Ugly Gambler wanted.

After explaining the matters of the academy to Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei started asking about him. "Shaoyun, I heard you were banished to the Back Graveyard. Did that actually happen?"

The rumors about Xiang Shaoyun's banishment were very believable. He had been worried about Xiang Shaoyun all this while. Now that Xiang Shaoyun had returned, he couldn't help asking about it.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Yes, but I managed to profit from the disaster. That is why they had decided to release me."

"Why did they do that? With your crazy physique, the academy should have focused on nurturing you instead. Why would they do something so foolish?" Tang Longfei asked in confusion.

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to talk too much about it. "Big Brother Tang, there are things where we really have no other choice. Since we're already here, we should focus on growing. As for everything else, it's best we forget about it for now."

"Ok, I'll respect your wish. But you need to watch out. After all, your cultivation level is your current weakness. There are still some difficult opponents on the Serpent Fowl List. Don't fail due to some absurd mistake," said Tang Longfei.

Xiang Shaoyun suddenly roared with laughter and said, "Haha, I suddenly have a great idea for earning contribution points!"

"What idea? I am also lacking contribution points!" Tang Longfei said, his eyes lighting up.

"I naturally have an excellent plan, but it only works on myself," said Xiang Shaoyun with a crafty smile.

The next day, Xiang Shaoyun appeared at the academy's martial ring. He got Tang Longfei to disseminate news that anyone who managed to defeat him would be able to move into 1 Dragon Villa and obtain 10,000 contribution points. That was a large amount of points that couldn't be easily earned.

After all, the value of the academy's contribution points was completely different from Bloodsin City's contribution points. One could say that 10,000 contribution points here were worth 100,000 contribution points at Bloodsin City.

When joining the academy, an ordinary disciple was given 1,000 free contribution points, whereas a core disciple was given 10,000 free contribution points. All the points were recorded in each disciple's badge. As a core disciple, Xiang Shaoyun had naturally been given 10,000 contribution points as well.

Of course, he wasn't offering that reward for nothing. If his opponent suffered defeat, the opponent would have to pay him 10,000 contribution points. In other words, this was a duel and a bet, a method for him to earn contribution points quickly. Tang Longfei was rather impressed with Xiang Shaoyun's mind for being able to think of something like that.

Sure enough, after the announcement was made, many challengers appeared. Beside the ring, Tang Longfei had a betting stand with a payout rate of 1-to-1. He himself was also lacking in contribution points. Of course, he wasn't exactly a fair host as he only let others bet against Xiang Shaoyun. Then again, anyone making a bet at his stand was doing it voluntarily, so there really wasn't anything unfair with it.

Initially, Tang Longfei had not expected so many people to participate, but the moment Xiang Shaoyun stepped onto the ring, a large number of people came to place their bets. Of course, they did not stake many. On average, each person staked about several hundred contribution points, and they were most likely only there to test the waters.



In their eyes, although Xiang Shaoyun had a crazy physique, his cultivation level was too low. One ought to know that all the top 1,000 of the Serpent Fowl List were Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. Even if Xiang Shaoyun was a War Emperor, he wouldn't be able to prevail so easily.

Their confidence in him further dropped when they saw that his current opponent was Huang Quan, who ranked 50 places higher than Xiang Shaoyun. Huang Quan cultivated the power of earth and possessed an impressive defensive strength. He had also comprehended the power of gravity and was capable of unleashing an astonishing combat prowess.

That was why the crowd did not have much confidence in Xiang Shaoyun winning. A considerably large crowd formed around the ring, and they all wanted to see what someone with a nine-star physique was capable of.

Huang Quan wasn't very tall, but his body was quite sturdy. He wore a simple singlet that revealed his rock-like muscles. It was obvious he possessed explosive physical strength.

Huang Quan lightly bumped his fists together before looking at Xiang Shaoyun seriously. "Xiang Shaoyun, I am not here for the 1 Dragon Villa. I only want to see what's so special about a nine-star physique. I hope you don't disappoint me."

"Hehe, come. I won't disappoint you," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

#### Chapter 586: The Disadvantage of Cultivating Nine Powers With Nine Stars

The moment Huang Quan stepped onto the ring, he attacked. Since he wasn't a cultivator focusing on speed, he decided to gain the initiative by striking first. He unleashed his prowess of a first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, releasing his domineering presence of an Emperor and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun with a gravity field formed of his earth energy.

He blasted Xiang Shaoyun with both his fists like a pair of cannons. He was extremely strong, as if he was an Emperor of Emperors capable of easily punching above his weight.

#### Mountain Bombardment!

His two fists formed an attack capable of instantly destroying two or three mountains. He had a valiant and dreadful strength. Xiang Shaoyun sensed a change in his surroundings, which caused his body to stop moving. The incoming fist pushed the air around him to envelop him, exerting heavy pressure on him.

"Power of earth? Sure, let me fight you with the same power," said Xiang Shaoyun as he activated his earth star, releasing boundless earth energy before facing the incoming attack head on.

Four fists collided, creating an oppressive sound. Both combatants remained rooted on the ground and exchanged punches repeatedly. The fists collided again and again. In the blink of an eye, they exchanged an uncountable number of punches. The crowd watched on in excitement, cheering every now and then.

For them, the reason for the battle did not matter. So long as there was an exciting battle to watch, it was something worthy of celebration. After a round of punches, Xiang Shaoyun felt his arms go numb. One ought to know that his flesh was comparable to a devil's, or even a demon's. Even when facing someone with a higher cultivation level, he rarely felt anything if it was a clash of pure physical strength.

And yet he was actually feeling pain when clashing with Huang Quan head on. It was apparent how strong Huang Quan was. In truth, Huang Quan wasn't feeling that well either, and only he himself knew that. He was already forced to use his gravity field. Even then, Xiang Shaoyun seemed completely unaffected, capable of matching him in terms of speed, making it impossible for him to gain the upper hand in the clash.

He had even used all his strength and activated the petrification ability he had to further harden his body. Even a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm would find it hard to withstand his attacks in his current form. However, Xiang Shaoyun was able to withstand his punches and was even able to fight him to a draw. His confidence wavered.

"I refuse to believe I can't defeat you!" Huang Quan roared and activated the earth power in all seven of his stars, pushing his combat to a level comparable to a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

This was the true strength of a genius capable of joining the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Both his arms morphed into stone, and his physical strength reached a terrifying level. When he punched, his punches looked more like mountains than fists.

Furthermore, the gravity on the ring further increased, reaching a force several hundred times stronger than regular gravity. The crowd went into an uproar seeing the change. They were all genius disciples capable of punching above their weight, but it still wasn't easy to battle an opponent two stages above them.

Even Xiang Shaoyun was slightly impressed by this display of strength. If he used his full strength, he naturally wouldn't fear Huang Quan's strength. But if he relied only on his earth power, he wouldn't be a match.

Since he had already decided to face Huang Quan with the power of earth, his only choice was to brace himself and stir his earth power. He flooded his surroundings with ripples of brownish radiance as he met the incoming attack with his own punch.

Bang!

The fists connected, and one of them was sent flying away. It was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and the Han Clan sisters were filled with disbelief. They found it hard to believe that Xiang Shaoyun would be defeated so easily.

The others shared that thought as well. After all, Xiang Shaoyun had severed several geniuses' arms on his first day back. Someone like that wouldn't be defeated by Huang Quan so easily.

Instead of pressing on, Huang Quan looked at Xiang Shaoyun coldly and said, "I don't believe this is all you got. Use your full strength, or you will suffer a miserable defeat."

Huang Quan was currently in an optimal state, and he had strong faith in himself. Hovering behind him was the projection of a dragon that was 15 percent complete, representing the current level of his presence of an Emperor.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he crashed at the edge of the ring, and blood dripped down the corners of his mouth. He looked quite sorry. He finally understood the difference between cultivating one power and multiple powers.

In the past, he had been able to punch above his weight with the powers of lightning, gold, and flame. However, that was because his lightning power had worked in tandem with his lightning bone, while his gold and flame powers were enhanced by his possession of unique powers of the respective elements.

As for his other stars, they had yet to be fully filled with energies of different elements. Thus, he could also draw on the power of those stars to support his first three powers, allowing him to increase his combat prowess.

Now, all nine of his stars were fully filled with the energies of nine different elements. Each power could only rely on the support of a single star. And no matter how powerful each of his stars were, it was still lacking compared to someone utilizing multiple stars.

If it wasn't for the fact that Xiang Shaoyun had constantly compressed his energies and that his stars were different from an ordinary person's, he would have long been crushed by Huang Quan's seven stars, relying on a single star.

That was the disadvantage of cultivating nine different powers with nine stars. Xiang Shaoyun finally understood that. If he insisted on using only a single power against Huang Quan, he wouldn't stand much chance.

"I refuse to believe a single power is not enough to deal with you!" Xiang Shaoyun turned stubborn, and after a roar, he erupted with his power of earth as he charged Huang Quan once more.

After turning both his arms into stone, Huang Quan had grown much stronger. He did not fear exchanging punches with Xiang Shaoyun. After exchanging several punches, Xiang Shaoyun was sent flying again. This kept repeating, and finally, even his face was bruised from being punched.

"Damn it! It is a taboo to hit the face! This young master still needs to rely on this face to make a living! You're dead for sure now!" Xiang Shaoyun roared in fury as he started using the ancient mantra with his earth energy, instantly entering a unique state of mind.

At this moment, he seemed capable of sensing the properties of the earth: its thickness, its expansiveness, its magnanimity, and its durability. His mind turned clear and tranquil. The state allowed him to sense the structure and the attributes of the gravity field around him, allowing him to sense the boundless power of earth beneath him.

Reflect gravity field!

#### Chapter 587: Profundity of the Power of Earth

Xiang Shaoyun was exceedingly perceptive toward energy. That was why he had been able to create a tactical technique, the Havoc Dance. As for the reflect gravity field he had just released, that was something that occurred after he managed to sense the structural makeup of Huang Quan's gravity field. Making use of his own earth energy, he ingeniously destroyed the structure of his opponent's gravity field, caused Huang Quan to lose control over it, and suppressed him with it.

Huan Quan's grasp on the changes of energy flow and energy control was completely incomparable to Xiang Shaoyun's. More importantly, Xiang Shaoyun had managed to sense the profundity of the power of earth, allowing him to borrow an unending amount of earth energy from the ground beneath him. As a result, his aura skyrocketed, and the projection of a towering mountain appeared behind him, exuding the aura of an unyielding mountain.

Everything had happened thanks to him recalling the ancient mantra the gravekeeper elder had taught him.

The ancient mantra depicted the profundity of heaven and earth, primal chaos, and yin and yang. It retold an ancient secret, and it was an ancient technique related to flow. But now, it also seemed like it was a key toward the profundity of powers.

His time spent with the gravekeeper elder, receiving the teachings from the gravekeeper elder who wasn't keeping anything from him, and his newly gained filthless soul had allowed his comprehension power to greatly grow. The accumulation gained from all three resulted in his current comprehension of the power of earth.

As he released the reflect gravity field, Huang Quan felt his body grow heavier. However, that much increase was still acceptable. He was still able to run after Xiang Shaoyun, and he threw his heavy fists forward. He was confident he would be able to completely defeat Xiang Shaoyun after landing one more hit.

The thought of victory gave him no joy whatsoever. Rather, he was disappointed by Xiang Shaoyun's strength. As soon as that thought surfaced in his mind, his fists collided with Xiang Shaoyun's. A rumbling sound erupted, as if mountains were clashing against each other.

After borrowing the power of the earth, Xiang Shaoyun's strength had surpassed Huang Quan's. After repeated clashes, Huang Quan started feeling like his arms wouldn't be able to take it anymore. The reflect gravity field further exacerbated his situation, and finally, he was sent flying away while coughing blood.

The layer of stone around both his arms had collapsed completely, and his skin was cracked and flowing with blood. His aura started dropping, and he couldn't stop coughing blood. He found that even his inner organs had been damaged.

It was now apparent that in his last round of head-on collision with Xiang Shaoyun, he had been at a disadvantage. The realization filled him with disbelief. One ought to know that he cultivated the power of earth, a power known for its defense. It was a big shock to him that Xiang Shaoyun was

able to inflict so much damage to him using the same power. He had clearly been holding the upper hand the entire fight, but in the blink of an eye, everything seemed to have changed.

Was he hiding his strength all along? Huang Quan wondered to himself.

"Do you surrender?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Huang Quan hesitated for a bit before he finally lied down weakly and said, "I-it's my defeat."

It was a thorough defeat that he was convinced with. He couldn't even find an excuse to not submit. Xiang Shaoyun then withdrew his energy and said, "Ok. Then 10,000 of your contribution points will be mine."

Huang Quan had nothing to say since he had willingly taken the wager. He directly transferred Xiang Shaoyun the points without hesitation. Of course, it was still a large number of points, and it caused his heart to ache. One ought to know that it wasn't easy to earn contribution points. He felt somewhat helpless at the realization that he had suffered both a defeat and a loss of his points.

As for the crowd around the ring, everyone had their own thoughts after what they had just witnessed. Some felt Xiang Shaoyun was really formidable, some felt there was nothing special about him, and some noticed that he seemed to cultivate a lot of different powers.

Beside the ring, Tang Longfei quickly thanked those who had placed a bet at his stand. "Thank you, everyone. Thank you for the contribution points!"

He was filled with joy after suddenly earning so many contribution points. After all, contribution points were necessary to live in the academy. It was always better to have more than less. The victory increased Xiang Shaoyun's ranking once more, putting him at the 953rd place on the Serpent Fowl List.

Just as he was about to leave the ring, someone jumped out and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, I want to duel you!"

Xiang Shaoyun answered without even looking at the person, "Come early tomorrow if you want to duel me. I only accept one duel per day."

He then left. He had gained some new comprehensions during the duel, and he needed to quickly go back and consolidate what he had learned. Although the challenger wasn't too happy, he couldn't say anything. If he pressed on, others would think that he was taking advantage of a tired combatant. That would be somewhat unbecoming.

After returning to his villa, the first thing Xiang Shaoyun did was enter his cultivation room. He sat down cross-legged and started replaying the scenes of his previous battle. He focused on the new power he had comprehended toward the end of the battle that had allowed his combat prowess to surge greatly. That was the main thing he needed to etch into his brain.

After spending some time analyzing his gains, he was certain that his new comprehension was all thanks to his studies on the ancient mantra. The mantra had enabled him to borrow the power of the earth beneath him in the midst of a battle. In other words, in a fight, so long as he remained on the ground, he could borrow the power of the earth to increase his combat prowess.

The prerequisite of the ability was to comprehend the profundity of the power of earth. Otherwise, one wouldn't be able to borrow anything. Comprehending the profundity was where the mantra had greatly helped.

Xiang Shaoyun then started attempting to absorb the power of earth from the ground beneath him, trying to etch the sensation in his mind forever, allowing him to repeat the same feat in his future battles.

This is probably one of the concepts of the power of earth, to become one with earth to endlessly enhance oneself. Currently, I am barely scratching the surface. Perhaps the day when I can fully control an expanse of land and raise mountains and part the ground with a wave of my hand will be the day I have fully grasped the power of earth. The ancient mantra is really impressive, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Perhaps comprehending powers of such depth would make up for the flaw of cultivating nine different powers. If he was to encounter an earth cultivator who had similarly comprehended the same power, that advantage would be gone.

Little did Xiang Shaoyun know, very few people could comprehend such powers prior to reaching the Soul Foundation Realm. Most people could only have such deep comprehension after reaching the Soul Foundation Realm.

Chapter 588: Number Two Beauty Han Chenfei

Within a certain core disciple's villa, a woman in a light muslin outfit was dancing about with a sword in hand. As her dainty body moved, snowflakes fell from the sky, painting a picturesque scene. The weather was hot and sunny, yet this woman had caused snow to fall in her villa. It was a rather inconceivable feat.

When she finally stopped moving, her exquisite face finally became clear. Her flawless cheeks, eyes, nose, and lips were perfectly proportionate while her wavy fringes further accentuated her beauty. She wore a snow-white outfit that perfectly showcased her hourglass figure.

She wasn't tall in height, and she looked like a gorgeous snow elf. Anyone who had ever seen her before would know that she was Han Chenfei, the number two beauty on the Dragon Phoenix List.

She was the Holy Maiden of the Glacier Palace, and the faction she founded within Dragon Phoenix Academy was also called the Glacier Palace. Most of the members of her faction were cultivators of ice and water. Since the number of ice cultivators was relatively small, the faction she headed did not seem too impressive. Of course, with her in it, nobody dared look down on them.

"Is there anything you want to tell me? If not, I am going to enter the Frost Paradise to cultivate," said Han Chenfei as she looked at a man and a woman standing not far from her.

Both were extremely good looking: the man was handsome and the woman was beautiful. When they stood together, they looked like a perfect match. Unfortunately, the one who had caught the man's eyes was Han Chenfei, not the woman by his side.

However, the man had always been a serious person who wasn't much of a talker, and he never expressed his true feelings. Although he was a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, he still felt inferior before Han Chenfei.

The woman beside the man stepped forth and said, "Young palace master, we have recently found two women with Icefrost Physiques, but they are both followers of someone else. Their cultivation levels aren't very high, at only about eighth-stage Skysoar Realm. Also, they share the same surname as you."

"Their identities must be somewhat special. Otherwise, it wouldn't have taken you this long to tell me about them," said Han Chenfei.



"Yes, young palace master. They are followers of Xiang Shaoyun, who has recently returned from the Back Graveyard. He is now a peak King, but we are not sure if he has already formed any draconic aura," answered the woman.

"Tell me everything you know directly. Don't waste my time talking about nonsense," said Han Chenfei indifferently.

The woman did not dare to delay, and she quickly said everything she knew. After listening to the full story, Han Chenfei did not reply. Instead, she played with her hair, looking like an adorable little girl. The sight caused the man to sink deep into a daze.

After a moment, Han Chenfei smiled faintly and said, "I will visit them tomorrow."

...

The next day, Xiang Shaoyun returned to the ring early in the morning. This time, in addition to his villa, he also wagered the 20,000 contribution points he had. Now, those wishing to challenge him would have to place a bet of 20,000 contribution points as well. After learning about that, some of the people present inwardly cursed that Xiang Shaoyun must have gone mad thinking about contribution points.

In a way, they were right. Xiang Shaoyun had indeed gone mad thinking about contribution points. He was planning to accumulate a large amount before entering the academy's nine unique cultivation zones to prepare for his advancement into the Dragon Ascension Realm.

He had reached a point he could start forming his draconic aura. He was merely waiting to further temper his nine powers before forming his aura. Accepting challenges in this manner would be a good way of tempering himself. The challenger of the day occupied the 38th place on the Serpent Fowl List. His name was Long Baqi.

He had an aggressive name, and the Long Clan was a formidable clan even in the entirety of the dominion. Since this Long Baqi was from the Long Clan, he might be related to Long Shi, who was ranked within the top 10 of the Dragon Phoenix List. However, nobody was sure if that was really true.

Long Baqi's appearance matched his aggressive name, as he looked rough with a tall, sturdy body. When he walked, he took large strides and exuded an overbearing aura. The first impression anyone

would have when seeing him for the first time was his overbearingness and arrogance. His arrogance stemmed from his very bones, as if nobody in the entire world was comparable to him.

He was outfitted in dazzling golden armor and wielded a golden axe in his hand. He stood overlooking Xiang Shaoyun as he said loudly, "Xiang Shaoyun, submit to me, the Little Overlord, and become my follower. Otherwise, you won't be able to walk out of the ring with your own legs today."

"Oh? You're a self-proclaimed Little Overlord? I am a self-proclaimed Overlord. Looks like you should be the one submitting to me instead," said Xiang Shaoyun, emphasizing the "little". His voice filled with disdain; he never liked arrogant people.

"I offered you an easy way out, but you refused. Have a taste of my axe, then," said Long Baqi in displeasure as he lifted his axe and swung it at Xiang Shaoyun. As he attacked, he erupted with a clear draconic aura and shone with a dazzling golden radiance, showing a prowess that couldn't be underestimated.

"Since you use the power of gold, I will defeat you with the same," said Xiang Shaoyun as he transformed into a roaring white tiger.

White Tiger Manifestation!

Terrifying white tiger energy swirled around Xiang Shaoyun's body. As the two approached each other, it was as if a white tiger and a dragon were really charging each other. After receiving the teachings of the gravekeeper elder, each of Xiang Shaoyun's attacks was clean and smooth. Even the prowess of his attacks increased by more than 30 percent.

However, he did not immediately destroy the draconic aura formed by his opponent during their collision. He was trying to repeat what he had done the day before: to make it seem it took a lot of effort to defeat his opponent. He was afraid that others would not dare to challenge him otherwise. He did not wish to reduce his source of contribution points.

If Long Baqi knew what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking, he would probably have the urge to slice Xiang Shaoyun up with his axe. Of course, even if he wanted to do that, he needed the strength for it.

Like Huang Quan, Long Baqi was a mid-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. However, his combat style was much more flexible compared to Huang Quan. He also had a much better offensive strength, and it seemed like there was a reason for his arrogance.

The dragon-shaped battle aura around him also increased his combat prowess, pushing him to the level of a peak third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. It seemed Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be able to easily comprehend the profundity of the power of gold through this battle like he had the previous duel.

#### Chapter 589: Pretty Girl, Here to Challenge Me?

While battling Long Baqi, Xiang Shaoyun chanted the ancient mantra inwardly again and again, trying to sense the profundity of the power of gold. However, he kept getting the sensation that he was a little bit short of gaining comprehension, stuck at the final crucial step. Meanwhile, the longer Long Baqi fought, the more ferocious he became. He forced Xiang Shaoyun to retreat repeatedly, and he could almost see the light of victory.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you're really nothing special at all. Get ready for your defeat," said Long Baqi, who had decided to end the fight with one final hit. He erupted with all his strength, sending a dragon flying out of his axe.

#### Divine Hanging Dragon!

With a wave of the axe, the golden dragon shot forth like a bolt of lightning. Midair, it turned over and hung upside down as its tail grew large. The massive tail then slammed down at Xiang Shaoyun. All seven of Long Baqi's stars powered the attack, and his dragon-shaped battle aura, which was exclusive to the Long Clan, further enhanced his attack and pushed its prowess to the level of a fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

Such a display of strength caused the crowd to gasp in alarm. They had not expected Long Baqi to be so powerful. That was not the kind of strength someone with his ranking should have. With the strength he had shown, he could easily enter the top 500 of the Serpent Fowl List.

Evidently, Long Baqi had been hiding his strength all this while. It was no wonder that he had been acting conceitedly. It was merely a facade to trick everyone. Xiang Shaoyun could feel the threat of the incoming attack and gave up facing Long Baqi head on.

He activated his gift of instincts and immediately spotted a weak point. He fully erupted with the power of his gold star, drawing out a large amount of vicious gold energy as he barely dodged the

attack using his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. After avoiding the attack, he quickly counter-attacked.

"Roar!"

Gathering his power into his throat, Xiang Shaoyun used the Tiger's Roar. The sound wave rumbled as it assaulted Long Baqi's ears, and Xiang Shaoyun used the White Tiger Manifestation.

He was pushing his gold star to its limit, attacking with his battle techniques that had been simplified after learning from the gravekeeper elder. The simplification allowed the speed and might of his attacks to increase.

His arm, which had transformed into a tiger's paw, slammed into the axe, almost sending it flying from Long Baqi's hand. The impact caused Long Baqi to lose his balance, and Xiang Shaoyun immediately attacked with his other hand.

Vicious Prison Finger!

The two were currently within melee range, and with the speed of the beam attack, it instantly struck Long Baqi's arm, creating a bloody hole. The golden axe finally flew out of Long Baqi's hand.

Xiang Shaoyun used the White Tiger Manifestation once again and bombarded Long Baqi with a series of rapid attacks, attacking like a tiger hunting its prey. The series of attacks left Long Baqi at a loss for what to do.

Even more hateful was the fact that Xiang Shaoyun aimed each of his attacks at his opponent's face, badly bruising Long Baqi's face. By the time he crashed onto the edge of the ring, he was bleeding from his eyes, nose, and mouth. He looked incredibly sorry, but in truth, he wasn't fatally wounded. At most, he was slightly lightheaded from the impacts against his brain.

Xiang Shaoyun lifted Long Baqi by the neck and said, "You lost."

He then tossed Long Baqi to the side. Looking at Long Baqi, who had been defeated just like that, the crowd was perplexed. In their eyes, Long Baqi possessed a terrifying combat prowess, one that was enough to fully suppress Xiang Shaoyun. Although Xiang Shaoyun had also displayed a rather impressive strength, he still seemed slightly inferior to Long Baqi.

But during the final moments, Xiang Shaoyun's attacks had suddenly turned incisive and accurate as he struck Long Baqi's weak point before pressing on with his newly gained advantage to obtain a clean victory in one go.

Was it due to Xiang Shaoyun's combat instincts? Naturally, they could only attribute the win to Xiang Shaoyun's rich combat experience. That was why he had been able to discover Long Baqi's weak point and obtain victory through a fluke. In truth, he was inferior in strength. Regardless of what they thought, it was undeniable that Xiang Shaoyun had obtained his second victory.

Di Shang was also present among the crowd. As he looked at Xiang Shaoyun, who was victorious once again, a gloomy look appeared in his eyes. He muttered, "I'll let you stay cocky for a few more days. When the time comes, you will die on this ring."

He then turned and left. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he got off the ring after receiving 20,000 contribution points from Long Baqi. At this time, someone approached him. It was an excessively beautiful woman.

She had an oval face, and her hair was tied into a ponytail with a red ribbon that looked crude yet elegant. An enchanting smile hung on her face, while her pair of crescent eyes exuded craftiness. As she took nimble steps, her hair bounced about, making her look full of youthful energy.

She was Li Li, occupying 88th place on the Jiao Luan List. She looked to be in her early twenties, yet she was already a peak second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. She had an impressive eight-star physique, and even Long Baqi, who had the same cultivation level, wasn't her match.

She stood before Xiang Shaoyun, smiled, and said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I have been looking forward to meeting you for a long time. Finally, I get to meet you today. Hearing of someone's reputation truly can't compare to meeting one in person."

She spoke politely with a bright smile on her face, giving off an incredibly pleasant impression. Anyone seeing a polite beauty like this would be completely bewitched.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was not any other person. With a faint smile on his face, he replied, "Pretty girl, here to challenge me? Be sure to come early tomorrow. The quota of the day is full."

The fact that he did not know who Li Li was caused the crowd around them to look at him with disdain. Although Li Li wasn't on the Dragon Phoenix List, she was definitely capable of entering the list within two years. In terms of beauty, she was among the top in the academy. Her fame had long spread far and wide, and she possessed a large number of adorers. Then again, when they recalled that Xiang Shaoyun had only recently returned, they found it understandable why he didn't know Li Li.

"Hehe, yes, I am indeed interested in fighting you. However, I am not qualified for that yet," Li Li said. "I am here to invite you into the Flaming Sun. Are you interested in joining?"

"Flaming Sun?" Xiang Shaoyun was slightly taken aback.

He had heard of the numerous factions in the academy from Tang Longfei, and the Flaming Sun was one of the top three factions, a faction filled with geniuses. Its members could do almost anything they wanted in the academy. Surprisingly, they were there for him.

Chapter 590: Both of You Don't Have Long to Live

"That's right. Flaming Sun. I believe you must have heard of us already. So long as you join us, nobody will say anything even if you remain in 1 Dragon Villa," said Li Li confidently. She was confident Xiang Shaoyun would make the smart choice.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Sure, I can consider joining."

"What are your conditions?" asked Li Li since Xiang Shaoyun's reply left her hanging.

"Make me the leader," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Instantly, Li Li's face froze.

After taking in a deep breath, Li Li asked, "Is that your answer?"

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun affirmed.

"Ok. I will inform the brothers and sisters of the Flaming Sun of your answer," said Li Li with narrowed eyes. She then turned, flicked her ponytail, and walked away.

Xiang Shaoyun could hear the threat in her voice, but he did not seem to care. It was impossible that he would submit under someone else. When he went over to look for Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and the Han Clan sisters, he found that they had been stopped from leaving as well.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly stepped forward and asked before he even reached them, "Big Brother Tang, what are they doing?"

Tang Longfei smiled and answered, "Ask them."

The leader of the group who had stopped them was a woman. She turned around, revealing a face that looked as pure as a snow lotus. When she smiled, it was as if a myriad of flowers had bloomed, the snowy mountain had melted, and life had returned to the world. She was a beauty that made the world seem black and white, with her the sole source of color.

Even Xiang Shaoyun blanked out upon seeing her face. He hadn't even reacted like that when he had seen Li Li. This woman, however, had truly caught his attention. Fortunately, he was able to recover quickly and ask, "Who are you? Why are you looking for them?"

Xiang Shaoyun was certain this woman's beauty was comparable to Ye Chaomu and Yu Caidie, with all three beautiful in different ways.

The man beside the beauty snorted and said, "You don't even know my young palace master? Who do you think you are?"

"Do not be rude, Leng Feng," said Han Chenfei as she glared at the man. She then smiled at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "I am Han Chenfei. It has been eye-opening to witness your might on the ring."

One ought to admit that Han Chenfei was eloquent, her words music to the ear. The way she spoke was completely unlike her cold outer appearance. Then again, she had indeed increased her evaluation of Xiang Shaoyun after meeting him.

That was mainly because he had been able to recover quickly after seeing her face, even though he had blanked out for a moment. The lust that other men would have in their eyes whenever they looked at her also wasn't present in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes. From that, it was obvious this man's willpower was higher than that of an ordinary person.

"You overpraise me. I wonder if there is anything you need from Big Brother Tang and the others?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. Since she was looking for Tang Longfei and company, it shouldn't have anything to do with him. However, he had to ask.

"They're not here for us. Rather, they're here for Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei," said Tang Longfei.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and looked at the Han Clan sisters before asking Han Chenfei, "Have they offended you in any way?"

Han Chenfei shook her head and said, "No. I only hope that they can join the Glacier Palace."

The crowd around them also heard her loud and clear. They couldn't believe their ears. The young palace master of the Glacier Palace was personally recruiting the two followers of someone unrelated to her? It was still understandable if she was personally recruiting some regular disciples, but doing that for two followers filled the crowd with confusion.

They started wondering if there was something special about the Han Clan sisters. Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei were also astonished, but they did not let too much of their emotions show. Since they had already decided to be Xiang Shaoyun's followers, they would remain loyal.

"I won't interfere. If they are willing to join, I don't mind," Xiang Shaoyun answered without any hesitation.

Although the Han Clan sisters were his followers, he did not have the time to take care of them for now. Thus, they could only rely on themselves. Now that they had caught the attention of someone else, he didn't mind giving them more choices. Of course, one could also say that he was giving them a type of test.

The sisters immediately answered, "We won't join the Glacier Palace!"

"Hmph. You should be honored to catch the eyes of our young palace master. You dare reject her kindness?" berated a beautiful woman beside Han Chenfei. She was Han Lingshuang, similar in strength to Leng Feng. Together, the two acted as Han Chenfei's left and right arms.

"We are already Young Master Xiang's followers. If we still join the Glacier Palace, that only shows that we are disloyal. If that is the case, will the Glacier Palace even trust us in the future?" Han Qianwei shot back.



Han Lingshuang's face fell. Just as she was about to say something, Han Chenfei opened her mouth, "Both of you don't have long to live. Don't you know that?"

"What do you mean? Are you threatening us?" Han Xuewei questioned, displeased.

The faces of Tang Longfei and Lady Shura also turned unsightly. What Han Chenfei just said was too provocative.

Han Chenfei merely smiled and replied, "Have you not noticed that after each advancement, you suffer the torture of the frost energy within you? Perhaps you can still endure the level of pain you are suffering now. But after entering the Dragon Ascension Realm, that might no longer be the case. Then again, you're right. Since both of you have decided to be his followers, I won't be able to trust you even if you do join me. That's it, then. I'm mostly here to take a look at Young Master Xiang's prowess, anyway. See you."

She then turned to leave. Meanwhile, the Han Clan sisters were overwhelmed with shock. They felt their minds go blank. Han Chenfei seemed to know what was going on with them. Xiang Shaoyun suddenly called out, "Han Chenfei, I will get them to join your Glacier Palace."

Xiang Shaoyun was now sure that Han Chenfei had found out about the actual condition of the Han Clan sisters. She probably had a way to help them. Because of that, he had agreed for them to join. The Han Clan sisters were stunned. As for Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhuan, they were confused.

Han Chenfei turned, revealing her exceedingly beautiful face, and said, "Like I said, since you already have their loyalty, I won't accept them."

She then left with Leng Feng and Han Lingshuang without staying even a single second longer.