

Overlord 671

Chapter 671: Meeting of Freaks

The elder in charge of guarding the Castle of Darkness had long noticed that something had entered the ancient castle. The elder thus approached the castle, trying to see what had entered. But when he arrived at the hall within the central keep, apart from a large number of dark bats, he found nothing.

As for the basement, it had an isolation formation, so the elder was unable to sense what was going on inside. The elder would have to personally enter the basement if he wanted to see the situation inside.

However, he knew very well that the basement was a restricted zone inside the Castle of Darkness. There were rules in place preventing anyone from entering. Entering was punishable with death.

Thus, the elder held his curiosity in check and did not dare to even approach the basement entrance. Since nothing else seemed to have happened, there was no need for him to investigate further.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun and the Scarlet Flame Monarch were having a good time in the basement. Even after spending a day and a night in conversation, they still hadn't run out of topics.

"To be able to see the Overlord again, I no longer have any regrets in life. Don't waste any more time here. Leave. Only return to save me if there is an opportunity to do so," said the Scarlet Flame Monarch, who did not wish to waste more of Xiang Shaoyun's time.

"Ok. I will definitely think of a way to free you. It won't be long!" Xiang Shaoyun promised.

He then gave Scarlet Flame Monarch some emperor-grade spring liquid, soul spring liquid, and emperor medicines. These items might not be anything special for someone like the Scarlet Flame Monarch, but they were extremely beneficial tonics for him with his body's current condition. The Scarlet Flame Monarch did not stand on ceremony and swallowed everything offered to him.

"Thank you, Overlord. With these, I will be able to last longer. After leaving, don't tell Devouring Ghost about me. Otherwise, that fellow will definitely charge here. With his current condition, he is not capable of that. There is no point in making him anxious now," said the Scarlet Flame Monarch. "Let me send you out of the castle."

He then condensed a clump of power that sent Xiang Shaoyun out of the basement and the central keep. The only thing Xiang Shaoyun felt was his body turning weightless, and he was already outside the castle. As soon as he appeared outside, the dark bats noticed him. Sounds of screeches filled the air.

Their eyes turned red with fury as they all pounced on him. There was no lack of experts among the dark bats, with a considerable number having higher cultivation levels than Xiang Shaoyun. Instantly, they caught up to him, giving him a fright.

It hadn't been easy for him to escape the space of endless darkness, and the Scarlet Flame Monarch had subsequently injured him. After surviving the encounter, Xiang Shaoyun was now met with so many dark bats. He started lamenting his bad luck.

He quickly mustered all his strength and fled. He pushed his wind star to its limit, used the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps with all his power, and even used his footwork intent. His figure instantly streaked away like a gust of wind, moving at an unbelievable speed.

Even so, the dark bats did not give up on chasing after him. A few late-stage Emperor dark bats persisted in the pursuit. One of them was a peak Emperor dark bat, and it appeared above Xiang Shaoyun and clawed at his head. Its sharp claws were comparable to the sharpest of weapons. If struck, Xiang Shaoyun's head would be crushed even if it was made of steel.

Xiang Shaoyun was already a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and he had reached mid second-stage. Even so, he still felt threatened by that dark bat. During the moment of crisis, he released his Nether Soul Domain and enveloped the dark bat.

Xiang Shaoyun sneered and said, "I didn't want to provoke you guys, but you guys actually have the guts to provoke me? Seems to me you have a death wish."

Instantly, numerous chains shot out and shackled the dark bat. The bat sensed that things weren't looking good for it, and it tried escaping. Unfortunately, its attempt was to no avail. The chains pulled and ripped the dark bat into pieces.

Next, Xiang Shaoyun released the ghostrunes, feeding the remains of the bat to them. As for the other dark bats that were hot on his tail, they all charged right into the Nether Soul Domain as well. One by one, they were all killed.

One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun's soul had reached the level of a Sovereign. Hence, his Nether Soul Domain was capable of dealing even with Sovereigns. Although these bats were powerful, they were not strong enough to pose a threat to him.

After dealing with the bats pursuing him, he left, not willing to get tangled in any other trouble. However, he was able to sense that he had caught someone's attention. That person gave him a sense of danger that seemed no weaker than the danger he felt from the dark bats.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked in a certain direction, he saw a person and a mount gazing at him. He met the person's eyes, and illusory sparks seemed to appear between their gazes. It was as if he had met a potential rival that he had long waited to meet, causing a thirst for battle to rise within him.

The person and the mount were none other than Xiao Xie and his black qilin. From Xiao Xie's characteristics, Xiang Shaoyun recognized him. "Demonic Blade Xiao Xie!"

"Since you know me, you are definitely a disciple of the academy. Who are you?" Xiao Xie asked in a calm and unruffled manner.

Xiang Shaoyun's name had long spread throughout the academy due to his nine-star physique. However, the freaks who had entered the academy earlier had not met him before. Xiao Xie was one of these freaks. Thus, it was understandable that he did not recognize Xiang Shaoyun.

As Xiang Shaoyun walked over, he answered, "I am Xiang Shaoyun."

A look of astonishment flashed past Xiao Xie's face. "You're the Xiang Shaoyun residing at 1 Dragon Villa?"

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun answered honestly.

"Haha, splendid. Knowing someone by his reputation really can't compare to meeting him in person," Xiao Xie roared with laughter. His eyes gleamed as he said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I challenge you to a duel!"

Xiao Xie could see that Xiang Shaoyun was only a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, but whatever Xiang Shaoyun had done to the dark bats was incredibly odd. Xiao Xie couldn't make any sense of what he had seen.

Those dark bats had been late-stage Emperors, but they had all vanished mysteriously just by approaching Xiang Shaoyun. It was unheard of. Thus, Xiao Xie did not dare to underestimate Xiang Shaoyun.

"Reason?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Why do you need a reason to fight? But if you insist, it is due to my curiosity of the capability of someone who had left the central keep safely," said Xiao Xie as he attacked.

Chapter 672: Battling Xiao Xie

Every single freak among the Dragon Phoenix Academy's top 10 disciples possessed a combat prowess that defied logic. They were also extremely fortuitous in their path of cultivation, progressing far faster than their peers.

As one of the top 10 disciples, Xiao Xie had trained himself numerous ways since young. He was only 28 years old this year, yet he was already a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, which was a terrifying cultivation level for his age.

After entering the Dragon Ascension Realm, each stage of advancement required a massive accumulation of energy. Hence, growth usually slowed to a crawl at that point. But for freaks like Xiao Xie, that issue was nonexistent. They were still able to grow at a rapid speed.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected Xiao Xie to attack so suddenly. After all, with Xiao Xie's fame in the academy, he would be the one receiving challenges, not the other way around. Furthermore, the gap between him and Xiang Shaoyun was rather large. He wasn't behaving like an expert at all.

Xiao Xie moved rapidly, and he had instantaneously arrived before Xiang Shaoyun the moment he left his black qilin. Using his hand as a blade, he chopped at Xiang Shaoyun. The attack carried a massive oppressive force that gave Xiang Shaoyun a sense of suppression similar to what he felt when facing peak Emperors.

How powerful, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he immediately activated his gift of instincts to scan the incoming attack. He then barely avoided the attack with his footwork technique.

As he dodged, a massive explosion erupted where he stood previously. The explosion's shockwave reached hundreds of meters and left a deep depression in the ground.

If that attack had struck, Xiang Shaoyun would have been split into two. Xiao Xie did not seem affected by missing. Instead, he pressed on with more attacks. Using both hands as blades, he slashed everywhere, sending sharp saber energies that threatened to grind Xiang Shaoyun into mincemeat.

When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the powerful pressure, he knew he couldn't avoid the fight. He roared, "You're pushing it too far!"

And he counterattacked. He did not dare to hold anything back as he attacked with his power of darkness. In their current environment, only the power of darkness would be amplified. Since his source of dark energy was actually dark origin energy, he could unleash dark elemental attacks comparable in strength with his lightning elemental attacks.

Although he had not practiced dark elemental techniques, he did the same as Xiao Xie and used his hands as blades, sending numerous saber energies forth.

Saber intent!

He attacked with full power, using his hand and body as a saber, using the saber intent, fighting for the saber.

Rumble! Rumble!

Two groups of powerful saber energies clashed, creating a massive explosion. Clouds of dust rose up, and cut marks were left everywhere. The gap in cultivation level between the two was too large. Although Xiang Shaoyun was able to fight those four or even five stages above him, Xiao Xie was no weaker than him.

In fact, his opponent hadn't even displayed his full strength yet could already push him into repeated retreats. Xiang Shaoyun's clothing was slashed into strips, while he himself received a slash right across his chest, sending him flying away.

Xiao Xie did not press on. Rather, he looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Your cultivation level is too low. Show your trump card, or you stand no chance."

Xiang Shaoyun knew that not one disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy would be a pushover, especially those in the top 10 of the Dragon Phoenix List. His exchange with Xiao Xie taught him a lesson in the weakness of cultivating nine different powers.

If he had cultivated only one power, his defeat wouldn't have been as swift. In fact, he even stood a chance at winning. However, this was a path he had selected for himself, and he would not regret it. In any case, he was already capable of using all nine of his stars at once. Thus, the path he had chosen had already been proven to not be a mistake.

"I have plenty of trump cards. Since you want to see them, open your eyes wide," said Xiang Shaoyun, whose competitiveness was triggered. After a roar, he unleashed his nine-colored fog.

Using saber intent alongside the nine-colored fog, the saber energy he sent out underwent a transformation as its prowess skyrocketed.

Xiao Xie could finally feel a sense of pressure from his opponent. Instead of showing fear, he was overjoyed. "Is this the fusion of nine powers? Splendid. Let me witness just how strong this power is!"

He finally got serious as the stars within him pulsed, shrouding his body with dense dark energy. At the same time, a certain power swept out of him, and his entire person seemed to have transformed into a majestic saber. Two sabers, one nine-colored while the other pure black, collided.

An intense radiance flared, attracting the attention of many people in the Castle of Darkness. Numerous figures flew toward the battlefield. They wanted to see just who it was who had created such intense shockwaves during combat. When they arrived, none dared to approach the battlefield. The shockwaves undulating out were too terrifying. None wished to be accidentally hit by a stray pulse.

"That seems to be Xiao Xie. Who is he fighting? That nine-colored energy feels very odd. This is my first time seeing something like that."

"That's Xiang Shaoyun, owner of the high-grade nine-star physique. Has he fused his nine astral energies? This is unbelievable!"

"Amazing. Both these fellows are amazing. They are both using saber intent, and although they are using their hands in place of sabers, their attacks are comparable to weapon attacks."

"That Xiang Shaoyun is quite brave. He is only a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, yet he dares to challenge Xiao Xie. His defeat is certain."

"He is full of confidence after fusing the nine powers. Perhaps he really can create a miracle."

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The dark cultivators sank into numerous discussions. They had all noticed Xiang Shaoyun's fusion of nine powers, and their hearts were filled with shock. Most of them came from large organizations and were clear on how cultivating nine powers was akin to a dead end.

And now, Xiang Shaoyun had found a way to utilize nine powers in unison. It was unprecedented. Was that a sign that Xiang Shaoyun was the pioneer of a path nobody had stepped on before?

Meanwhile, the fear in Xiao Xie's heart intensified as the battle dragged on. With his cultivation level at the fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, he could normally battle ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators with no issues. When using his trump cards, he could even defeat peak Emperors.

Xiang Shaoyun was only a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator but could withstand his attacks and make him feel threatened. It made Xiao Xie wonder if the fusion of nine powers would create a new path surpassing all other paths.

Chapter 673: For This Battle, I Concede

Everyone saw Xiang Shaoyun as a pioneer, and only he himself knew the hardships of his path. Sure, the nine-colored fog could display a formidable power, but the amount of nine-colored fog he had in the astral cosmos sea was finite. The amount was much lower than his nine astral energies, and he couldn't even replenish it quickly during battle.

In comparison, he could quickly replenish any used astral energy by refining some spirit crystals. The fog required a convergence of his nine astral energies in his astral cosmos sea. It was as if he had an additional procedure to go through in his path of power, and the same procedure made speedy recovery impossible.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun did not have much nine-colored fog remaining. The two times he had activated the chakram recently had exhausted a large amount of nine-colored fog. After being

forced to use some for his fight with Xiao Xie, he was near complete exhaustion. Upon complete exhaustion, he would become weak again.

More importantly, even after using the nine-colored fog, he could only achieve a tie with Xiao Xie, not defeat him. Xiao Xie's saber techniques were flawless. It was hard to find his weak point, and his comprehension in saber intent was no less than Xiang Shaoyun's, either. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was unable to gain any advantage over him.

"Very good. Very strong. Fighting you is not disappointing at all. Come, take another move from me," said Xiao Xie as he roared with laughter and joined his palms to release an even stronger attack.

The joining of palms was akin to the fusion of two sabers. A several-hundred-meter-long saber formed and slashed down at Xiang Shaoyun.

Slash of Emptiness.

The slash seemed capable of splitting even the sky, and it emanated a terrifyingly overbearing aura. Furthermore, the dark energy powering the slash brought with it an intense corrosiveness. If the slash struck someone, one would not be able to get rid of the corrosion.

The disciples in their surroundings gasped in alarm before quickly distancing themselves from the battlefield. The Slash of Emptiness was too scary, entirely capable of frightening regular peak Emperors. That was how fearsome a freak disciple of the academy was.

Xiang Shaoyun's face turned incomparably solemn. He had stumbled upon a truly formidable opponent. If he used his Nether Soul Domain, it wouldn't be hard to block Xiao Xie's attack. However, he wanted to face the attack head on without resorting to tricks. He wished to prove that he was comparable to the top 10 disciples on the Dragon Phoenix List, and he also wanted to prove that he had the strength worthy of Yu Caidie.

"I'll go all out!" Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and decided to throw all caution to the wind.

Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

Instantly, nine crude stars appeared around him. Next, his fist energy surged forth, destroying everything in its path. It exhibited dreadful prowess, as if a river of stars had arrived to crush his foe.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The massive black saber energy repeatedly clashed with the starry fist energy, creating numerous explosions in the air, spreading shockwaves around them. The observers of the battle were stunned.

A collision like that had completely surpassed their imagination. They couldn't even imagine going against such power. After a series of explosions, the energies finally dispersed as the two combatants separated from each other.

Xiang Shaoyun's clothes had been reduced to rags, revealing the broken armor he wore. A strand of his hair had been cut, drifting about in the air. Evidently, he would have been defeated if it wasn't for the broken armor.

Xiao Xie did not look any better. His clothes had also turned into rags, revealing a black armor. One of his eyes was swollen, evidently a newly inflicted wound. The two had actually fought to a draw.

"Haha, that was delightful. The strongest high-grade nine-star physique lives up to its reputation after all," said Xiao Xie, roaring with laughter. He then drew his weapon, preparing to end the battle and decide on a victor once and for all.

Xiang Shaoyun clenched his fists before the look in his eyes turned lax. He said, "For this battle, I concede."

His words stunned Xiao Xie, and the observers reacted similarly. They all believed that Xiang Shaoyun could contend with Xiao Xie with his nine stars, but why was he suddenly conceding?

Before any of them could react, Xiang Shaoyun turned and left. Everyone stared at Xiang Shaoyun's departing figure in a daze.

Xiao Xie was unwilling to accept the surrender. He chased after Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Why did you concede? I refuse to believe that was your limit."

He could sense the dense power within Xiang Shaoyun. Hence, his opponent should still be capable of combat. The admission of defeat gave him an impression that Xiang Shaoyun was still holding back, and it displeased him.

"A defeat is a defeat. Do you think I enjoy defeat?" Xiang Shaoyun said.

This was the very first defeat he had suffered among his peers. In terms of pure battle prowess, he had indeed been defeated. Without a way to continually use all nine of his powers, he wouldn't be able to maintain his combat prowess for long. And that made it hard for him to contend against these freaks.

It made him realize the imperfections of his path. More improvements were required.

Xiao Xie was left speechless. Geniuses like them were all arrogant individuals. None would easily admit defeat.

With Xiang Shaoyun admitting defeat before so many people, Xiao Xie had no reason to keep bothering him. Thus, he could only watch as Xiang Shaoyun left for the teleportation formation.

That kid is still hiding his trump cards, Xiao Xie thought to himself with an incomparable certainty.

He was supposed to be happy due to his victory, but he couldn't bring himself to feel any sort of joy. His entire mind was filled with the sight of Xiang Shaoyun being chased by the dark bats before they all mysteriously vanished. How had Xiang Shaoyun been defeated without even using an ability that powerful?

"No, I need to fight him again. But I'll wait until he catches up with me in terms of cultivation level," decided Xiao Xie. As for the other disciples, a huge commotion had arisen.

"Xiang Shaoyun has conceded! Is nine powers a joke?"

"The hell do you know? Xiang Shaoyun is only a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Xiao Xie is at least a fifth-stage. The gap between them is too big. For him to have such a close fight, the defeat was glorious."

"That's right. If Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level was a stage or two higher, this battle would probably have a different result. Moreover, Xiang Shaoyun is a few years younger than Xiao Xie. His potential is practically boundless."

"Looks like the Di Alliance is going to be in trouble. They had provoked the Overlord Legion, and now, their overlord has returned. I wonder if that Young Master Di from the Di Alliance can suppress Xiang Shaoyun."

"With this battle, Xiang Shaoyun is already qualified to enter the top 20 of the Dragon Phoenix List."

Chapter 674: I'll Remember the Humiliation Today

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered about what others thought of him. His only goal was to return to the academy as quickly as possible. He had been away for too long. He needed to find out what had happened during his absence.

As for the result of the battle earlier, he would treat it as a lesson. It wouldn't be too late for him to get back at Xiao Xie after he caught up in strength.

When Xiang Shaoyun neared the teleportation formation, someone came for him.

The newcomer was an inconspicuous old man. He was dressed in a black robe, and his hands were clasped behind his back as he studied Xiang Shaoyun with a pair of cold eyes. The old man was Yu Yuchen, the elder in charge of guarding the Castle of Darkness.

In the Dragon Phoenix Academy, those capable of becoming an elder were all in the Heaven Battling Realm. Thus, it was obvious this elder had a deep and unmeasurable strength. From the symbol on Yu Yuchen's clothes, Xiang Shaoyun could see he was an elder. He quickly saluted and offered his greetings, "Xiang Shaoyun greets the elder."

"Come with me," Yu Yuchen said expressionlessly before walking in a different direction.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to tarry and quickly followed. Soon, they arrived at an inconspicuous building.

There, Yu Yuchen turned back and looked at Xiang Shaoyun, "How had you appeared in the ancient castle? And how had you left?"

He stared at Xiang Shaoyun with a pair of oppressive eyes, seemingly intent on making him speak the truth.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know what to say. Even if he exposed his chakram, was he supposed to talk about the Scarlet Flame Monarch as well?

After a short thought, he said, "Elder, can I not answer that question?"

Everyone had their own secret, and since he couldn't think of an excuse, he might as well not say anything. Sure, thoughts of telling a lie crossed his mind. But would this person before him be someone who would fall for lies easily? He might as well be direct and show his reluctance.

As soon as the words left his mouth, Yu Yuchen released a powerful pressure that wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun. The pressure gave Xiang Shaoyun a suffocating feeling, as if a mountain was bearing down on him. He was forced to bend, and even his flow of blood turned chaotic.

Yu Yuchen said, "Do you know that I have many methods to make you tell the truth? Which of my methods do you want to try?"

His words were laced with threat, and the oppressive force he emanated was dreadful, as if he was going to break Xiang Shaoyun's spine with the pressure.

Sphhlt!

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't hold it anymore and coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Inwardly, he lamented, What a terrible life I have.

He had been very unlucky as of late. First, he was set up by the Di Alliance. Next, he was threatened by three of the Seven Villains. And then, he was trapped in the space of endless darkness. With great difficulty, he escaped only to be injured by the Scarlet Flame Monarch. And then, he was challenged by Xiao Xie. Now, even the academy elder was here to bully him. How unfair were the heavens?

In his bitterness, Xiang Shaoyun shut his eyes, deciding to just accept whatever fate had in store for him. He was completely helpless against the elder anyway.

Yu Yuchen had expected that Xiang Shaoyun would struggle unyieldingly. He had intentionally controlled his strength, not intending to kill. To his surprise, Xiang Shaoyun had simply accepted his fate. Where was the unyielding character a genius was supposed to have?

"You think I wouldn't dare to touch you?" Yu Yuchen asked, his tone turning sinister.

Xiang Shaoyun gave no reply. It was pointless to say anything. He might as well not waste his breath.

When Yu Yuchen saw how Xiang Shaoyun behaved, he was at a loss as to what to do. Although he had threatened to kill Xiang Shaoyun, he still had his misgivings. In fact, what he was doing now was already against the academy's principles. Elders were not supposed to interfere in the affairs of disciples, barring special circumstances that allowed interference.

He hadn't been able to keep himself in check and had violated the rule mainly because Xiang Shaoyun had been able to escape the keep unscathed. Yu Yuchen himself had personally checked the keep earlier, but he had found nothing, which made him curious.

"Good. Very good. Scram, and don't let me see you here again. Otherwise, I will make sure to search your soul and cripple you," said Yu Yuchen with an annoyed tone as he kicked Xiang Shaoyun away.

Bang!

A massive force rippled within Xiang Shaoyun's body as he coughed a copious amount of blood. He crashed heavily about 100 meters away, cutting a miserable figure. The pain placed him in intense suffering. He could sense that his organs were cracking apart, and half his ribs had broken.

The kick hadn't killed him, but he was not far away from death. Without wasting any time, he refined a drop of lightning liquid and an emperor-grade spring liquid to heal his injuries.

He struggled back onto his feet, and without even looking at the elder, he swore inwardly, I'll remember the humiliation today.

He had not imagined that an elder of the academy would wantonly act in accordance to his own wishes. Xiang Shaoyun felt a great sense of injustice. He was clear that only strength speaks. Without strength, everything else meant nothing. If Xiang Shaoyun was a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, that elder probably wouldn't even dare to raise his voice before him.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun wobbling away, Yu Yuchen suddenly felt a sense of remorse. He had the sensation that offending Xiang Shaoyun just then was extremely unwise, and he was vexed that he hadn't finished off the young man.

Forget it. I have been too rash today, Yu Yuchen sighed inwardly.

Xiang Shaoyun finally arrived at the teleportation formation, and he used it to leave. By the time he arrived at the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he was relieved. Even so, his footing wasn't stable, and he nearly collapsed to the ground. He clenched his teeth and forced himself to remain standing as he slowly walked away.

The overseer on duty was flabbergasted. "Why is that fellow not coming to retrieve his jade plate?"

Only when Xiang Shaoyun left did the overseer realize something, "No, when did that fellow enter the Castle of Darkness? Why am I not aware of it? I don't have his jade plate with me!"

He hesitated for a bit but ultimately decided not to pursue the matter. Since someone could enter the Castle of Darkness without him realizing it, it was a testament to that person's capability. On the other hand, it was also a sign that the overseer had not performed his job well. If he made a fuss, he would be punished for it. That wasn't worth it, so he might as well pretend he hadn't seen anything.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun escaped further trouble. But before he could return to his villa, he encountered Huang Xiaoyue. She was still dressed in the same luxurious outfit that would attract gazes everywhere she went.

When she saw Xiang Shaoyun, she immediately rushed over and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, this princess has been looking for you for a long time! Come, become my number one guard already!"

Huang Xiaoyue was innocent and adorable and was born with an innate noble disposition. Thus, she was one of the most popular young ladies in the academy. In fact, her popularity was second only to Yu Caidie and Han Chenfei.

One could say that numerous academy disciples wished to have a beautiful romance with this princess and eventually obtain the backing of a super organization like the Dusk Dynasty.

Alas, Huang Xiaoyue only looked innocent, but she was actually unruly and willful. Her temper was not one any man could stand. More importantly, she had never shown any man interest.

However, she seemed to favor Xiang Shaoyun. The moment she saw him, she rushed to his side.

Xiang Shaoyun felt his head ache when he saw her, but he couldn't even run if he wanted to.

"Princess, please stop joking with me," said Xiang Shaoyun, his face pale.

It was unknown if Huang Xiaoyue was merely unobservant, but she had not noticed Xiang Shaoyun's abnormality. The moment she arrived before him, her fist shot toward his chest as she said, "If you don't agree to be my number one guard today, I will teach you a lesson!"

The force behind her punch was not small, and with Xiang Shaoyun completely defenseless, he was sent flying. Crimson blood trailed down from the corner of his lips, making him look incredibly miserable.

"What's wrong with you? Just that light punch is enough to injure you? Are you pretending in front of me?" shouted Huang Xiaoyue unhappily.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything. Instead, he silently struggled back to his feet, his face grave.

Only then did Huang Xiaoyue notice his true condition. An anxious look covered her face as she said, "Y-you were injured! I-I didn't mean it..."

"Enough. Just get out of my face," Xiang Shaoyun said furiously.

He had always been considerate when it came to Huang Xiaoyue, but this time, he couldn't hold his anger. The fury in his eyes caused Huang Xiaoyue to shiver, and she quickly took several steps back.

A white knight by her side stepped forth and shouted, "You dare raise your voice at the princess? Are you tired of liv—"

Before he could finish his words, Xiang Shaoyun vanished. By the time he reappeared, his hand was already wrapped around the man's throat.

"Piss off!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and flung him away.

That person was also a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, yet he was completely helpless before a gravely injured Xiang Shaoyun. That person had completely underestimated Xiang Shaoyun before he showed his might.

After tossing the man away, Xiang Shaoyun ignored Huang Xiaoyue and continued his journey back to his villa, stumbling ahead with great difficulty.

When Huang Xiaoyue saw his unsteady steps, a sense of sorrow arose within her. Without any hesitation, she chased after him and said, "Let me help you back."

A person of her nobility was actually taking the initiative to help someone walk.

But since Xiang Shaoyun was still in a bad mood, he rejected her without hesitation. He avoided her hands and said, "No thanks."

Then, he hastened his steps. Huang Xiaoyue's eyes grew misty as she gazed at his back. This was the very first time she had been rejected in this manner.

"Princess, why waste any time on someone who has destroyed his own future like that?" someone stepped forth and advised.

"Scram! All of you, scram!" Huang Xiaoyue flipped out at the people around her. She then stomped off.

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When Xiang Shaoyun arrived near his villa, someone from the Overlord Legion finally noticed him. They quickly helped him back. The Overlord Legion members grew excited upon learning of his return. But when they learned of his injuries, they couldn't bring themselves to feel any joy.

Zhuge Zhantian immediately emptied the cultivation room and let Xiang Shaoyun recuperate inside. Before long, a majority of the Overlord Legion members were gathered at 1 Dragon Villa. Tang Longfei, Shang Jifeng, Lady Shura, Zhuge Zhantian, Ma Qihao, Li Haonan, Shou Xie, Yan Gang, Zhong Xia, and the others arrived one after another.

"Zhantian, how is the overlord's situation?" Tang Longfei asked.

Of these people, only Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao were allowed to reside within 1 Dragon Villa. Both were handpicked by Xiang Shaoyun himself, and they were the ones who knew Xiang Shaoyun's current condition best.

"I don't know either. When the overlord arrived, he was already badly injured, so I sent him right into the cultivation room to recuperate," said Zhuge Zhantian.

"When I came, I heard that Huang Xiaoyue was the one who had injured the overlord," Li Haonan said.

"Impossible. With Huang Xiaoyue's strength, how can she even harm the overlord?" Shang Jifeng was the first to voice his doubt.

"That's right. I don't believe that either," Lady Shura added.

"I think everyone should calm down first. Just wait until the overlord is done recuperating. We will then know everything," Zhuge Zhantian said calmly.

The others nodded in agreement. Instead of leaving, they stayed and waited. About half a day later, an Overlord Legion member arrived in anger.

"Brothers, the overlord was defeated by Xiao Xie at the Castle of Darkness," said that person the moment he stepped into the villa. When the others heard his words, they finally understood the reason for Xiang Shaoyun's injuries.

"So Xiao Xie was the one who had injured the overlord. No wonder..." said Ma Qihao with a sigh.

Xiao Xie was one of the top 10 disciples on the Dragon Phoenix List. Few could match him in the academy.

"Wu Dong, tell us more. What happened exactly?" Tang Longfei asked.

Wu Dong then narrated everything he had heard from those in the Castle of Darkness. He wasn't there during the battle. When he had arrived, the battle was already over. After gathering news from the other disciples in the Castle of Darkness, he quickly left and returned to the Overlord Legion. In truth, he was here to personally bear witness to their great overlord. He was one of the newly recruited members and had never met Xiang Shaoyun.

"You're saying the overlord was matched evenly with Xiao Xie but eventually conceded?" asked Zhuge Zhantian.

"Yes. That was what everyone told me. They actually fought to a standstill, but the overlord seemed to feel lacking in strength to continue the fight, so he conceded. Even though it was a defeat, it was a glorious defeat," said Wu Dong in excitement.

"If that was the case, the overlord shouldn't have suffered such heavy injuries," Shou Xie said.

"Can it be that he had only been suppressing his injuries, and Huang Xiaoyue's attack had exacerbated his injuries, causing them to turn serious?" Yan Gang guessed.

"That's possible! Damn that Huang Xiaoyue!" Tang Longfei said furiously. It was at that moment that Huang Xiaoyue arrived with Huang Tianji.

Chapter 676: Beauties Arriving in Succession

The arrival of Huang Xiaoyue and Huang Tianji caused the Overlord Legion members to rush toward the entrance.

Tang Longfei pointed at Huang Xiaoyue and scolded without holding anything back, "You dare show your face here?"

Tang Longfei and Xiang Shaoyun were akin to brothers. Hence, his anger over Xiang Shaoyun's injuries was understandable.

Huang Tianji frowned before saying, "Put your hand down. We're here to apologize."

A mighty aura unfurled from Huang Tianji, suppressing Tang Longfei's momentum. Everyone there had a feeling that a massive dragon was coiled above them, causing them to suffocate. That was the strength belonging to one of the top 10 freaks. In fact, Huang Tianji was ranked higher than Xiao Xie, and his strength was evident.

"The Overlord Legion can not be lacking in manners. Both guests, please enter," Zhuge Zhantian said, displaying his skills as a butler.

At that, the Overlord Legion people moved aside, allowing the two to enter. Huang Xiaoyue showed no fear and entered with Huang Xiaoyue in tow. Inside, Huang Xiaoyue looked around without stop, as if she was looking for someone.

After getting someone to serve them tea, Zhuge Zhantian asked, "What brings you to 1 Dragon Villa, I wonder?"

"I'm here to apologize to Xiang Shaoyun. I wasn't aware that he was injured and had added to his injuries. It wasn't deliberate," said Huang Xiaoyue.

She spoke with a pitiful look on her face, a look capable of evoking others' sympathy. When the people there heard her apology, the anger on their faces eased. After all, she hadn't deliberately exacerbated Xiang Shaoyun's injuries and had even come to apologize. It wouldn't be proper if they kept pressing her.

"Only the overlord can give an answer to your apology," said Zhuge Zhantian.

"Is he recuperating in seclusion? We'll wait here, then," said Huang Tianji.

He was showing a lot of sincerity, and it made the Overlord Legion members feel much better. After all, Huang Tianji was a top 10 genius on the Dragon Phoenix List. It was rare for someone like him to display such humility. Of course, it also showed how much he cared for his little sister.

And thus, Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue joined the ranks of those waiting for Xiang Shaoyun's recovery at 1 Dragon Villa. But before long, others arrived to visit Xiang Shaoyun as well. The newcomers were Han Chenfei, Han Qianwei, and Han Xuewei from 2 Phoenix Villa.

Han Chenfei was as graceful as a snow lotus. Her fair skin, which was sparkling and translucent, evoked a sense of closeness in anyone who laid eyes on her. But at the same time, she also emanated a frosty aura, one that seemed to be constantly pushing others away.

The Han Clan sisters were beautiful and alluring, looking like a pair of blooming flowers, each beautiful in her own way. Surprisingly, both of them had reached peak King Realm and were only a tiny bit away from the Dragon Ascension Realm. Evidently, they had grown rapidly under Han Chenfei's guidance.

Since Lady Shura was the one who knew the Han Clan sisters best, she stepped forth and greeted them, "Why are you here?"

A complicated look flashed past Han Qianwei's eyes as she said, "We heard from the young palace master that Young Master Xiang has returned, so we're here to visit."

Han Chenfei nibbled her lip and said, "I wonder where Young Master Xiang is? It has been a while since we have last seen him."

Lady Shura said, "The overlord is in the middle of recovery. He cannot see any guests at the moment. Miss Han, do you have anything you want him to know? I can pass on the message for you."

Lady Shura was no longer wearing her mask. Although she was not as beautiful as Han Chenfei, she exuded a wild beauty that was absolutely fatal to men. Hence, her attractiveness to the opposite gender was no less than Han Chenfei's.

As a woman of Xiang Shaoyun's, Lady Shura naturally felt a tinge of jealousy when she saw a beauty like Han Chenfei visiting. Thus, she still hoped that Han Chenfei would leave sooner than later.

"No, I don't have any message for him. I'm only here to see him since it has been a while," said Han Chenfei as an enchanting smile bloomed on her face. She looked at Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue before she said, "Since the prince and the princess are here too, I might as well wait together with you guys."

She then walked toward Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue.

"Chenfei, you're here as well?" Huang Tianji greeted cordially.

He held a look of adoration in his eyes as he looked at her. On the other hand, Huang Xiaoyue was showing hostility. She knew her imperial brother was in love with this Han Chenfei. However, Han Chenfei had always maintained a distance that was neither far nor close to her imperial brother, keeping him hanging.

"Prince, princess, you're both here to visit Young Master Xiang as well?" Han Chenfei asked as she smiled sweetly.

Huang Tianji replied, "Yes. Xiaoyue had accidentally injured Xiang Shaoyun, so we're here to apologize."

Right after he said that, both Han Qianwei and Han Xuwei looked at Huang Xiaoyue with hostility. Although they did a good job concealing themselves, those with keen observational skills had still noticed it.

"Imperial brother, why are you telling her all that?" Huang Xiaoyue complained.

Han Chenfei looked at Huang Xiaoyue in astonishment. "Xiaoyue had injured Young Master Xiang?"

She found it hard to believe that Huang Xiaoyue was actually capable of harming Xiang Shaoyun.

Huang Tianji explained, "He was already injured beforehand, and Xiaoyue had acted a tad bit too rashly in her ignorance."

"Is Young Master Xiang fine, then?" Han Chenfei asked.

"I don't know, but I heard he had just been defeated by Xiao Xie not long ago," said Huang Tianji with a look of regret.

He was indirectly telling Han Chenfei that Xiang Shaoyun was incomparable to Xiao Xie. With him ranking above Xiao Xie, he was in truth belittling Xiang Shaoyun before Han Chenfei. Just from that, it was obvious the prince wasn't entirely pleased that Han Chenfei was here to see Xiang Shaoyun.

"Oh? So Young Master Xiang has gained the strength to challenge Xiao Xie already? Not bad at all." Han Chenfei seemed to not have noticed Huang Tianji's implicit meaning at all. Rather, she appeared excited.

While they chatted, a new visitor arrived. The visitor was a petite woman with a veil over her face. Her every step contained boundless grace. Even with her veil, her peerless temperament seemed to cause the world around her to dim in color.

Her eyes were akin to a pair of luminous moons, her hair smooth and silky, her figure flawless, and her temperament ethereal. She was none other than the number one beauty of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, Yu Caidie. Her appearance stunned everyone present.

Yu Caidie had garnered countless attention since her arrival at the academy. She was a genius possessing both talent and beauty, and she was also a disciple the academy was nurturing in hiding.

Although a large number of the men in the academy supported her, she had never appeared close to any man apart from her cousin, Yu Ziyang. And now, she was visiting Xiang Shaoyun personally. Was his declaration that she was his woman true? Of course, that wasn't the most surprising of all. Even more surprising was that an academy elder had also come to visit.

Chapter 677: Xiang Shaoyun Leaves Seclusion

When Yu Caidie first joined the academy, her cultivation level wasn't exactly high, but she had still been able to become part of the 10 freaks due to her rapid advancement, young age, and impressive capability to punch above her weight.

That was the reason for her to rank so highly among the disciples. Now that it had been about two years since these disciples had joined, many of them had advanced greatly. Those who were already

Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators had increased their stages, while those who weren't had entered the realm. Only some followers and some oddities were still stuck in the Skysoar Realm.

As for Yu Caidie, she had reached peak fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm and was only one step away from the fifth-stage. With her current strength, she was capable of fighting regular peak Emperors. From that, it was evident that there was a reason she was ranked top 10.

Even Han Chenfei, Xiao Xie, and the others who were fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators were ranked lower than her. Some said that she had a nine-star physique, some claimed she had a high-grade eight-star physique, and some claimed that her Yu Clan bloodline had reverted to the purity of her ancestors. However, none knew which was true. Only a small number of people in the academy knew the truth. Her visit to 1 Dragon Villa was extremely thought provoking.

"Holy Maiden Yu, it has been a while." Tang Longfei went out and greeted her in excitement.

Back then, he was also part of her entourage to the Devil Domain. At that time, he still carried a lot of imaginations for her. But now, even after he had grown in strength, Yu Caidie was still someone he could only look up to. That, coupled with the existence of Xiang Shaoyun, made him forget every illusion he used to have for her.

Yu Caidie nodded and said, "It has been a while, Brother Tang. Is Shaoyun here?"

"He's here, but he is currently in seclusion due to his injuries," Tang Longfei said.

"Xiao Xie had injured him right? I heard of that," Yu Caidie said. "Can I wait here for him?"

"Yes, of course you can. Please come in," Tang Longfei quickly invited.

And just like that, Yu Caidie entered 1 Dragon Villa.

Her arrival shocked the Overlord Legion. Huang Tianji, Huang Xiaoyue, and Han Chenfei were astonished. They recalled the declaration Xiang Shaoyun had made before, claiming that Yu Caidie was his woman. Now, with Yu Caidie's visit, was that declaration true?

Yu Caidie and Han Chenfei were the top-ranked women of the academy. Now, both of them were waiting in 1 Dragon Villa. One could say that just by being there, they enriched the villa's environment considerably.

For some reason, their presence caused the Overlord Legion members to feel pride as they all mused inwardly, The overlord really doesn't disappoint. He's even able to get the owners of the first two Phoenix Villas.

After Tang Longfei finished welcoming Yu Caidie's arrival, an academy elder, Xiao Wei, arrived as well.

Everyone was alarmed when they saw him. They quickly saluted him, "Greetings, elder."

In the academy, each elder occupied a high position and possessed considerable power. Armed with the authority to accept any disciple as a personal disciple, they enjoyed deep respect from many disciples. Since Xiao Wei had suddenly appeared, was this a hint that Xiang Shaoyun was his personal disciple?

"What are you bunch of kids doing here? Don't you have to cultivate?" Xiao Wei asked after scanning the crowd.

"Elder Xiao, we're here to visit Xiang Shaoyun," Huang Tianji replied.

Most of the disciples present lacked confidence when facing Xiao Wei, but Huang Tianji, with his noble status, wasn't as affected. Xiao Wei's gaze first landed on Huang Tianji before he noticed Huang Xiaoyue, Yu Caidie, and Han Chenfei. He raised his eyebrows and said, "All of you are here? Are you here to challenge Xiang Shaoyun?"

In his opinion, these people definitely weren't here to join the Overlord Legion.

"No, we're his friends," Huang Tianji hurriedly explained.

"Hehe, looks like that kid is quite popular, after all," said Xiao Wei. "Alright, you may disperse. I need to discuss something with Xiang Shaoyun. It's not like you will help him by waiting here. You should continue focusing on your cultivation instead. What's the point of getting into pointless factional struggles all the time?"

The Overlord Legion members did not dare to slight him, so they all agreed and dispersed. Only Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, Zhuge Zhantian, and Ma Qihao remained. They couldn't understand why so many visitors had come. Were these people here after hearing of Xiang Shaoyun's injuries?

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun, who was still in the cultivation room, had no idea that so many visitors had arrived. Since leaving the Castle of Darkness, he hadn't gotten any chance to properly recuperate. He had even suffered a punch from Huang Xiaoyue, causing his breathing to be in complete disarray. He almost lost control of his energy circulation.

Of course, Yu Yuchen's kick was the most fatal. Even after using the two drops of the healing liquid he had, he still couldn't quickly heal up the injuries from that kick. He needed some extra time to properly rest so he could recover.

He refined several drops of lightning liquid and emperor-grade spring liquid, nourishing his injuries over and over again. Gradually, he started recovering.

After stabilizing his injuries, he used many spirit crystals and spread the energy into all his stars except the dark star, trying his best to shorten the gap between the dark star and his other stars.

He finally understood that without relying on external help to increase his draconic aura, the only way he could do so was by waiting for his stars to overflow with energy before transforming the excess energy into draconic aura, increasing his cultivation level.

After absorbing the dark origin energy, if he couldn't quickly increase his cultivation level, he wouldn't be able to expand the storage capacity of his dark star. The dark origin energy would slowly disperse, and it would be a great loss.

After three days of seclusion, Xiang Shaoyun had fully recuperated and had even grown slightly in strength. He had the urge to use some dragon liquid again to push himself to third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. But after some hesitation, he decided against it since doing so wouldn't benefit him.

"Time to leave, or they will get worried," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he stretched and left the room.

The moment he stepped outside, he sensed several different auras waiting in his villa. He assumed that they were Overlord Legion members. Thus, he blanked out when he saw Xiao Wei, Yu Caidie, Huang Tianji, Huang Xiaoyue, and Han Chenfei.

"Why are you here? Can I help you with anything?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

Chapter 678: Who's Your Wife?

"Xiang Shaoyun, a-are you fine?" Huang Xiaoyue was the first to ask.

Xiang Shaoyun shot her a glance, frowned, then answered indifferently, "I'm fine. Thank you for asking."

He was getting somewhat tired of Huang Xiaoyue's irrational tendencies. Huang Xiaoyue felt incomparably wronged when she saw his frosty expression, and she nearly teared up.

Huang Tianji said on her behalf, "Young Master Xiang, we are here to apologize to you. Xiaoyue wasn't aware of your injuries beforehand, and it wasn't intentional."

At that, Lady Shura added, "Shaoyun, they have been waiting here for three days."

Clearly, Lady Shura sympathized with Huang Xiaoyue.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard that, his expression eased up. "Alright, it's not a big deal. But I hope you can stop joking with me in the future, princess. I am not going to be someone's guard."

"It's good to hear that you're fine. If you need anything of us, don't hesitate to ask. Consider it as us owing you a favor," Huang Tianji promised. He then looked at Huang Xiaoyue and said, "Imperial sister, let's go. Young Master Xiang is no longer blaming you."

"I-I don't want to leave!" said Huang Xiaoyue after some hesitation.

Huang Tianji blanked out before saying, "What can you do staying here? Elder Xiao still has something he needs to discuss with Young Master Xiang. If you still feel bad, just remember not to provoke him in the future."

"Um. Say anything you want now. I need to take this kid away for a bit," said Xiao Wei before walking away, giving them some time to say everything they needed to say.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue. Instead, he looked at Yu Caidie and Han Chenfei before he smiled and said, "The owners of the first two Phoenix Villas are both here. You honor me with your presence, ladies."

"Don't bother using your sweet talk on me. We're here to invite you to the Deep Tidalwave so you can help Qianwei and Xuewei with the issues of their physique," Han Chenfei went straight to the point.

"That place is helpful for them?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"I'm not going to lie. So are you helping or not?" Han Chenfei asked.

Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei also looked at Xiang Shaoyun, their eyes filled with hope. When they were first sent to Han Chenfei, they were furious and thought that Xiang Shaoyun was too heartless. But subsequently, they had come to understand his reason. Slowly, their fury vanished, and they started missing him more and more. However, they knew that the gap between them was too great. Before catching up to Xiang Shaoyun, they wouldn't dare have too many illusions about him.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded without hesitation. "Sure, I'll help. But I don't know what Elder Xiao wants from me. Can we enter when I'm done with him?"

"No problem. We're not in any rush," said Han Chenfei with a sweet smile. She then shot a glance at Yu Caidie before saying, "Alright, we won't hold you from your lover any longer. Let's go."

She said those words to see if Yu Caidie would deny it or get angry, but Yu Caidie merely remained completely indifferent, as if she hadn't heard anything. Somewhat disappointed, Han Chenfei left with the Han Clan sisters.

"Wait, Chenfei, let's leave together," Huang Tianji called out and dragged Huang Xiaoyue out with him.

Lady Shura, Tang Longfei, and the others also left quietly, not daring to disturb the meeting between Xiang Shaoyun and Yu Caidie.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Yu Caidie with a gentle gaze and said, "I thought you would keep avoiding me."

It had been a while since he had joined the academy. However, he hadn't had the chance to meet Yu Caidie. It was understandable that he was somewhat displeased. He couldn't guarantee that Yu Caidie wouldn't have a change of affection, but he definitely wouldn't allow that to happen. In his heart, she was already his, one he would treat as a formal wife, not a concubine.

"I have been focusing on cultivation and have only recently left seclusion. So here I am to visit you," said Yu Caidie with her sweet voice.

"Um. Since I am capable of doing what you requested, you will be my woman from now on," said Xiang Shaoyun overbearingly as he reached for her hand.

However, she avoided him and smiled. "Hehe, before your strength surpasses mine, will you really be able to bring yourself to make me be your woman?"

However, Xiang Shaoyun's skin was indeed thick, and as he said, "Hehe, of course I can. In fact, I'm proud that my wife is stronger than me!"

As a response, Yu Caidie glared at him and said, "Shameless. Who's your wife?" She then assumed a solemn tone and said, "If you want me to be your woman, I can agree. The moment you become the number one disciple on the Dragon Phoenix List, I will make the declaration that I am your woman. Even my clan's opposition will be useless."

When Xiang Shaoyun saw Yu Caidie being serious, he stopped joking around as well. With a sonorous voice, he said, "Ok. Before long, the number one position will be mine. You can start getting ready to be my wife."

"Sure, I'll be waiting. If you can't within five years, don't blame me if you see me with a different man instead," said Yu Caidie with a teasing look in her eyes.

By setting a time limit, she was increasing the pressure on Xiang Shaoyun. Five years might seem like a long time, but it wasn't for a cultivator. While Xiang Shaoyun was growing, others were doing the same. Becoming number one within five years wouldn't be an easy task.

After all, even Xiao Xie was ranked only at the bottom of the top 10. The disciples in the top 5 had all surpassed fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, each with powerful trump cards. Individuals like them couldn't be overtaken easily.

"Fine. Five years it is, then. You're my woman, and don't even dream of escaping from me!" said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"Good, I'll be waiting," said Yu Caidie. She then left.

Looking at Yu Caidie, who was fluttering away like a graceful butterfly, a sense of warmth enveloped Xiang Shaoyun's heart. She might seem like she was only here to put more pressure on him, but in truth, she was here to encourage him further, as she was worried he would give up on himself after his defeat at the hands of Xiao Xie. With Xiang Shaoyun's intelligence, he was able to see that.

"Kid, you're quite lucky with women, huh? Even the Yu Clan's Holy Maiden can't escape your grasp?" teased Xiao Wei, dragging Xiang Shaoyun back from his thoughts.

"You jest, Elder Xiao. So what can I do for you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Chapter 679: I Just Train, and Train, Really!

"What? You're already making a pledge of marriage, yet you're still afraid of being teased about it?" Xiao Wei said. He seemed to be in a good mood.

If news about an elder like him spending three days waiting for Xiang Shaoyun was to spread, all the disciples would be shocked. Every single one of the academy elders had the authority to select personal disciples, and each of them treated the disciples with complete indifference.

However, Xiao Wei had actually spent three days waiting for Xiang Shaoyun. One ought to admit that he had honored Xiang Shaoyun greatly. Xiang Shaoyun straightened his spine and replied, "Of course I'm not afraid. She's already my woman. Nobody will be able to take her away from me."

"That's more like it. As a man, you have to act on your words," said Xiao Wei with a gratified look. "Come with me. The principal wishes to see you."

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out for a bit and asked. "Oh? He's not going to punish me for something, right?"

He still remembered how the last time he had met the principal, they had parted on bad terms. He had been tossed to the Back Graveyard as punishment. It was something he still remembered even now.

"It doesn't matter if he's going to punish you. Do you dare to reject the principal's summons?" Xiao Wei said, his tone stern.

"How would I dare? Fine, let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun with a look of someone prepared to throw all caution to the wind.

"Come on. This should be something good for you," said Xiao Wei. They then left together.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the meeting hall once again. This time, there were fewer people. Only the principal and the grand guardians could be seen.

Xiang Shaoyun maintained complete calmness as he saluted them, "Greetings, principal and elders."

"Alright, enough with the greetings." A gold-haired old man appeared before Xiang Shaoyun and went straight to the point, "Kid, tell me. How have you fused nine powers together?"

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that this was why they had summoned him. He blanked out momentarily before answering, "I just train, and train, and suddenly, they fused."

There was no way he was going to tell them about his astral cosmos sea, or he would land himself in more trouble. If he did that, these geezers might just dissect him to study him. Naturally, his answer caused the elders to turn ghastly. Giving that kind of answer was the same as not answering.

"Kid, be honest. How did you do it? Fusing nine different powers is not the same as the Five Elemental Physique where the five powers can fuse together naturally. The five elements reinforce and counteract each other. However, it has always been impossible to fuse wind, lightning, light, and darkness with the five elements. That was why nobody has ever succeeded in cultivating nine powers," said the purple-haired old man.

"That's right. Kid, tell us. You will be the creator of a massive miracle, and we will be able to nurture even more powerful combatants in the future," said the heroic man.

"Young man, we will award you 100 million contribution points. What do you think?" the beauty tried to entice him.

Xiang Shaoyun's heartbeat accelerated when he heard the offer. He mused, Holy shit, how many years can that many contribution points last me?

Even the principal joined in, "Shaoyun, tell us. We won't mistreat you."

After thinking about it, Xiang Shaoyun answered, "It had really happened suddenly when I was training."

His response made them even more impatient. None of them were three years old. They would never believe such a lie. They really wanted to study Xiang Shaoyun on the spot to find out how he had done it. They had plenty of ways to force the truth out of him. However, they were unwilling to do that since they didn't want to make things difficult for the gravekeeper elder.

While they were in thought, Xiang Shaoyun put forth a request, "Lords, I wish to see the gravekeeper elder."

They all blanked out, but then the purple-haired old man straightforwardly agreed, "Alright, that's a good idea. We'll take you to him."

The others did not object. They knew the purple-haired old man had agreed because he believed Xiang Shaoyun would tell the gravekeeper elder the secret. Since the gravekeeper elder was basically an academy guardian, he would most definitely share the secret as well. Thus, they would all ultimately benefit.

The group went to the Back Graveyard with Xiang Shaoyun. Xiao Wei, who had witnessed everything, exclaimed inwardly, This kid sure is gutsy.

A trace of admiration rose within his heart. Which disciple would dare speak with the grand elders like that? Even elders like Xiao Wei showed extreme obedience before these grand elders, unlike this kid who dared to lie right in their faces.

Soon, they arrived at the Back Graveyard. There, they headed straight to the gravekeeper elder's residence. This journey allowed Xiang Shaoyun to witness the academy's imposing side.

Even their graveyard was incredibly extensive—each tomb was akin to a richly luxurious palace. Just from that, the amount of respect the Dragon Phoenix Academy accorded to their dead heroes was evident.

Before they could reach the gravekeeper elder's place, they found the elder leisurely sweeping the ground before a certain tomb.

They all stopped and offered their greetings, "We greet the gravekeeper elder."

Xiang Shaoyun was incredibly shocked to see all the grand elders salute the gravekeeper elder. He had never expected the gravekeeper elder to occupy such a high position. He had always thought that the gravekeeper elder was merely an extraordinary elder that was incomparable in status with these grand elders.

But now, it would seem he had been grossly mistaken. The gravekeeper elder stopped sweeping, glanced at them with his empty eyes, and spoke without opening his mouth, "Why are you bringing him here again?"

The gravekeeper elder did not usually speak. Even these grand elders had always thought he was blind and couldn't speak. They had only learned that he could speak not long ago. He simply wasn't willing to talk.

"Gravekeeper elder, Xiang Shaoyun requested to see you, so we brought him here," said the principal.

"Oh. Fine, he can stay. All of you, leave," said the gravekeeper elder as he waved his hand.

The grand elders and the principal did not dare to refuse and left.

But before leaving, the purple-haired old man said through voice transmission, "Gravekeeper elder, this kid has fused nine powers. I hope you can figure out the secret behind it. This will be a great contribution to the academy."

Chapter 680: Sweeping the Tomb to Comprehend the Heart

When the grand elders and principal left, the gravekeeper elder said, "Sweep all the tombs here."

He then tossed the broom to Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the broom and nodded. "Yes, elder."

He thus started sweeping the floor. In truth, this was his very first time sweeping. Of course, he had seen others doing so before, so he could start immediately in a well-practiced manner. In order to have a conversation with the gravekeeper elder as soon as possible, he swept quickly, gathering all the dust into a pile.

"Don't use your energy while sweeping," the gravekeeper elder's voice rang out.

The command caused Xiang Shaoyun to blank out. He did not dare to disobey and did as told, sweeping without utilizing any astral energy. There were about 10,000 tombs here, while the tombs he had been assigned to sweep were the 100 plus tombs in the nearby area.

Even these tombs occupied a rather large area that would fit an entire village. It wouldn't be easy for one single person to clean an area so big. If he could use his astral energy, it wouldn't be an issue. But it quickly became a tiring task since he was forbidden from using astral energy. After all, this was quite a windy place.

Often, a gust of wind would blow past just when Xiang Xhaoyun had swept up a pile of dust, spreading the dust once again. He would then be forced to sweep the same area again.

After the wind scattered the pile several more times, Xiang Shaoyun started feeling jittery. He grumbled, "Damnable wind, making me repeat my job again and again!"

Originally, the places he had swept would be quite clean. But as his mental state deteriorated, his work became sloppier. About half a day later, he had cleaned about a quarter of the area assigned to him. He was confident he could finish the job within three days.

At this time, the gravekeeper elder's voice rang out, "Each tomb must be without a speck of dust. Redo everything."

Xiang Shaoyun felt like vomiting blood. The gravekeeper elder had only warned him that after he had spent so much time sweeping. Was the elder playing a joke on him? However, he did not dare to voice his dissatisfaction. He could only helplessly sweep all the tombs once again. If he had to ensure the tombs were without a speck of dust, he had to pay the task proper attention. He also needed to prevent the wind from messing with his sweeping.

Xiang Shaoyun started putting his focus on it, and when he finally finished cleaning one of the tombs, a sense of joy rose within his heart as he looked at the spotless tomb. After he calmed his mind, he felt much more at ease sweeping the tombs.

He also found that with the calming of his mental state, his soul seemed to experience a comfortable sensation as well, as if sweeping the area was an incredibly joyful task. He also learned that the more impatient he was at completing a task, the worse he would be at it. Instead, by maintaining his calm, he could complete his task flawlessly.

The same concept applied to the path of cultivation. By maintaining a calm mind, one would attain better results than while cultivating with an irritable mental state. Xiang Shaoyun's entire being was silently undergoing a sort of transformation.

In the past, he gave off the impression of a domineering young expert. Now, he looked like an amicable young man, his emotions withdrawn. It brought him closer to nature, and it seemed like the natural energy of the world was revolving around him.

Time passed, and before he knew it, Xiang Shaoyun had cleaned all the tombs in the area. Two days had passed. Looking at the clean tombs, a sense of pride swelled within him. He was proud that he had been able to complete the task assigned to him, and he also felt pride at the fact that he had been able to show his respect to these deceased seniors.

"Not bad. Come, we'll talk," said the gravekeeper elder.

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun answered and walked toward the gravekeeper elder.

When he arrived before the gravekeeper elder, he knelt down and saluted him, "Your disciple Xiang Shaoyun greets you, master."

He no longer cared if the gravekeeper elder was willing to take him as a disciple, and he paid him the appropriate respects. After all, the gravekeeper elder had taught him not only the Desolation mantra but also the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist. It was a favor Xiang Shaoyun would not forget.

Although the gravekeeper elder had said that he wouldn't accept Xiang Shaoyun as his disciple, Xiang Shaoyun had long seen the elder as his master. Of course, after seeing how much respect the grand elders and the principal were showing the gravekeeper elder, he had come to the decision that he needed to grab on to this backer. That way, he would be able to do as he wished in the academy.

If the gravekeeper elder knew these thoughts, he would probably smash Xiang Shaoyun's head in anger. So it turned out this fellow was only trying to be his disciple so he could borrow his prestige in the academy?

Instead of reacting to Xiang Shaoyun's actions, the gravekeeper elder asked nonchalantly, "Why are you here? Did I not tell you to not look for me anymore?"

Xiang Shaoyun quickly took out a broken stele and said, "Master, this is a broken stele I had obtained from the goldmen. The mantra recorded on it is the same as what you taught me. In fact, it is even more complete. Therefore, I am here to offer you the stele, master."

Even the gravekeeper elder could not remain calm when he heard Xiang Shaoyun's words. His empty eyes gazed at the broken stele, as if he could see everything on it. He stretched out his hand, and his palm released an absorptive force.

Bang!

Instantly, a bright radiance erupted as the words on the stele transformed into numerous shining symbols that filled the area with an ancient and auspicious aura. For an unknown reason, when Xiang Shaoyun sensed the shining symbols, his nine stars stirred.

The gravekeeper elder raised his head and stared at the shining symbols until they dispersed. He then returned the stele to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Keep it well. It will be very beneficial for your cultivation of nine powers. Try your best to complete the stele. Perhaps you will be able to break your shackles and form the strongest physique."

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that the gravekeeper elder would return the stele to him in such an uncaring manner.

He did not stand on ceremony and put the stele away as he said, "Yes, master." He paused for a bit and asked, "Master, I seek your guidance on something."

"Some things can be said, some things can't be said," said the gravekeeper elder.

In other words, he was saying some things could be made public, but some things were personal secrets that did not need to be exposed. It was obvious the gravekeeper elder did not care about the purple-haired old man's earlier words. He held no interest whatsoever in how Xiang Shaoyun had fused the nine powers.

Xiang Shaoyun understood what the gravekeeper elder was saying, and warmth filled his heart.