

## Overlord 981

### Chapter 981: Ye Linshan Moves

Xiang Shaoyun issued his challenge with a sonorous voice, and the sudden challenge shocked everyone. Who would have imagined that he would make such a challenge? It was too arrogant.

"What impudence. Do you really think you're the strongest already?"

"That's right. Looks like he has let the few victories go to his head."

"Is anyone going to deal with him? He is looking down on all of us!"

"No wonder he was abandoned by the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Look at how arrogant he is. Nobody likes a person like him."

The surrounding disciples started heckling and jeering. The crowd stirred, everyone wanting to go and beat Xiang Shaoyun up. In reality, someone did step onto the stage, attempting to exhaust more of Xiang Shaoyun's strength to make things harder for him in his following fights.

Xiang Shaoyun did not underestimate any opponent and defeated all of them in the shortest time possible, preserving as much of his strength as possible. Despite his victories, not everything went smoothly. A certain seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm disciple challenged him. He was supposed to be able to defeat such an opponent with one move. However, that person suddenly took out a damaged saint weapon and nearly defeated Xiang Shaoyun by fluke.

There was also a certain challenger that was not yet a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm who had a mount that was a peak Demon Emperor. The mount was incredibly powerful, and Xiang Shaoyun had to put in quite a bit of effort before he managed to defeat it.

There was also a certain Sacred Deer Academy disciple who controlled powerful sovereign-grade puppets. He had three of such puppets, and he had given Xiang Shaoyun a hard time with them. Time passed, and eventually, Xiang Shaoyun won 29 consecutive battles. He now held the record of the highest consecutive victories.

As for Jiu Tian, he had only undergone three fights thus far. All three fights were against the freaks from the True Martial Academy. Nobody dared to challenge him after that, so he had sat silently on the stage all this time.

The Little Overlord had similarly displayed his might after 15 consecutive victories. Nobody dared to challenge him after that, and he proved himself worthy of being called the Little Overlord.

As for Jiang Qi, she had been defeated by Baili Yixiao. His swordsmanship was incredible enough to attract Dugu Qiubai's attention. Even so, Dugu Qiubai still stayed put. Very few disciples remained, and the final battle was drawing near.

At this time, Ye Linshan, who had stayed silent all the while, finally made his move. Instead of Xiang Shaoyun, his target was Xiang Chenxi, the Little Overlord.

Xiang Shaoyun had always viewed Ye Linshan as his love rival, but he had, in fact, only seen Ye Linshan once all these years. The impression he had of Ye Linshan was that he wasn't an overbearing person. Ye Linshan had never looked for trouble from him in the past either. Thus, he had been puzzled, confused as to what Ye Linshan was actually thinking.

In truth, Ye Linshan was indeed in love with Yu Caidie, and he also had a good relationship with her. However, he was also aware that the person she liked wasn't him. Thus, he had decided to stop pestering her and focus on cultivation. One could say that he was a low-profile person.

He was talented, handsome, and well-built. With the green outfit he wore, there was an extraordinary bearing to him that caught the attention of many women.

With a green sword hanging on his back, he issued Xiang Chenxi a challenge in a calm manner, "Ye Linshan hopes to learn from you."

After leaving the primary-grade battleground, he had spent six months in secluded cultivation. When the seclusion ended, he was already a late ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, shocking many people with his rapid growth.

And during the last six months in the secret space, he had also grown considerably. He was now a peak Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator standing at the very top among all the disciples present.

With his strength, he naturally had the courage and qualifications to challenge the Little Overlord.

"You have decent strength, but you have picked the wrong opponent," said Xiang Chenxi indifferently.

"Is that so? I'll never know before I try," said Ye Linshan. He took a step forward and drew his sword, sending forth a majestic green ray.

Xiang Chenxi did not even bother using any weapon. He swung his palm at the ray, sending a bolt of lightning toward it. The two attacks collided, and a deafening explosion ensued. As far as the True Martial Academy disciples were concerned, Ye Linshan would not last more than 10 moves against Xiang Chenxi. Only after the two started fighting did they realize how strong Ye Linshan was.

Not only did Ye Linshan have remarkable swordsmanship, but his combat instincts were also incredible. He showed no fear of the lightning bombardment and sent out one enchanting sword ray after another. The sword rays were so powerful it seemed like he was going to cut the entire stage into pieces.

It was then that Xiang Chenxi realized he had met a strong opponent. He started using his full strength and summoned numerous fearsome mutated lightning bolts, displaying the might that had earned him the title Little Overlord.

Even after exchanging more than 100 moves, they were still unable to determine the victor. This was most definitely the most intense battle thus far.

The longer the fight dragged on, the more furious Xiang Chenxi became. He had not imagined that Ye Linshan would actually give him so much trouble. In his fury, he roared, "Looks like I really need to show some of my real strength. Time for you to get lost!"

Divine Dipper Lightning Discharge!

The power of lightning around Xiang Chenxi increased in intensity. The lightning energy wrapped around him before erupting. It was as though a star was exploding, unleashing an incredibly dreadful might.

Even a fifth-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert would probably be killed facing his attack. This was Xiang Chenxi's true strength, a strength befitting the number three disciple of his academy.

Everyone was sure that Ye Linshan would be seriously injured and suffer defeat. Instead, they saw a withered tree suddenly grow out. The withered branches started flogging the lightning attack and fully exhausted it of energy before it could hit Ye Linshan.

Immortal dead tree!

This was something he had obtained from the primary-grade battleground back then, and he had clearly refined the tree into his body, which was how he could erupt with a sudden burst of strength during the crucial moment.

The immortal dead tree was incredibly powerful. It charged right into the midst of the lightning and managed to even injure Xiang Chenxi. In fact, the many withered branches almost successfully captured Xiang Chenxi.

At the last moment, Xiang Chenxi suddenly unleashed a different trump card that not only beat back the immortal dead tree but also proceeded to go after Ye Linshan.

At that moment, Ye Linshan suddenly opened his mouth and voiced his surrender. Since he had surrendered before taking Xiang Chenxi's final attack, he did not lose horribly. On the contrary, he managed to impress the surrounding disciples, causing them to start exclaiming that this batch's Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples were quite impressive after all.

With the end of their fight, the competition's finale arrived.

## Chapter 982: I Challenge All of You

Standing on the four stages were Xiang Shaoyun, Jiu Tian, Baili Yixiao, and Xiang Chenxi. Each of them was an individual with a heaven-defying strength. They were the centers of attention, and nobody dared to doubt their strength anymore. It was up to the final remaining geniuses who had yet to make a move to try to take the stages from these four individuals.

Among the remaining geniuses, most people were awaiting the appearances of Dugu Qiubai and Devil Concubine. Everyone wanted to see them change the composition of the final four. As for the other remaining disciples, most could be disregarded. In any case, these people wouldn't even have the courage to challenge the ones on the stage.

"Don't you all think that it's boring to continue fighting in this manner?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he looked at Jiu Tian, Xiang Chenxi, and Baili Yixiao.

"You're right," Jiu Tian replied.

"If you are bored, feel free to get over here and fight me. I promise you won't feel the same anymore," Xiang Chenxi gave an unyielding reply.

Baili Yixiao smiled and asked, "What do you have in mind, Xiang Shaoyun?"

Xiang Shaoyun smirked and said, "What I mean is, I challenge all of you."

At those words, a burst of power erupted from his body as he dashed toward Jiu Tian. Xiang Shaoyun moved swiftly and arrived before Jiu Tian almost instantaneously. He brought his saber down.

Jiu Tian raised his hand and blocked the attack. But just as he was about to launch a counterattack, he found that Xiang Shaoyun was charging to Xiang Chenxi's stage. A Lightning Bolt Fist was thrown out.

Xiang Chenxi had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun was actually brazen enough to attack him. With a sneer, he said, "Ignorant fool."

He met the incoming fist with a lightning fist as well. His fist was tough and ferocious, and he aimed to defeat Xiang Shaoyun with a single move.

Bang!

The two fists collided, and lightning energy splashed everywhere, creating a fearsome sea of lightning. Xiang Chenxi expected Xiang Shaoyun to be blasted away with his punch, but to his surprise, he was the one forced to take a step back. He instantly raged with fury.

And as Xiang Chenxi was about to attack further, Xiang Shaoyun charged toward Baili Yixiao and attacked him with thick saber intent. Baili Yixiao lifted his head and joined his fingers to form a finger sword. He then pointed at the saber and stopped the attack head on.

"Interesting," he remarked with a smile.

He could sense that Xiang Shaoyun's comprehension of saber intent was rather deep. Otherwise, he would have been able to shatter the saber with a single jab of his finger sword.

Xiang Shaoyun then soared to the sky and roared, "All of you, come together. Make things interesting!"

Before anyone could reply, Feng Huosuo's voice rang out, "Impudent! Do you think you can break the rules of the four academies just because you're the lord guardian's disciple? I hereby declare that you have been disqualified for breaking the competition's rule."

His declaration stunned all the disciples. In their opinion, Xiang Shaoyun's provocations might be hateful, but he still shouldn't be disqualified so easily. They were obviously looking for an excuse to kick Xiang Shaoyun from the competition.

"You think you can make a decision on behalf of all four academies?" said the wolf guard with derision. He faced the other elders and said, "You have all seen the strength of my young master. He intends to fight three opponents alone. I believe this has happened in the past, so this isn't even breaking the rules. In any case, the purpose of this competition is to inspect the strength of the disciples. This is a fight for glory. If my young master is defeated fair and square, I won't have anything to say, but if he is disqualified in this manner, I doubt my master will be happy."

The True Martial Academy elder said, "That's right. Something like this has happened in the past. This is not a violation of the rules. At most, you can only call him arrogant."

"I agree. On the battlefield, strength is everything. If he is really capable enough to face multiple opponents at once, there is nothing we can do about it. I only hope that he doesn't disappoint us," said the Nine Palace Academy elder.

"Someone aiming to be the champion should naturally possess such confidence," said the Sacred Deer Academy elder.

Feng Huosuo's face darkened. He had thought that the other elders would agree with him. But it turned out he had humiliated himself since everyone else had disagreed.

The True Martial Academy elder disregarded Feng Huosuo and announced to the disciples, "Those who have yet to fight may fight as you wish. The final four survivors will be crowned as the Four Blazing Suns, and the final victor will be the champion of this competition."

A clamor erupted from the disciples. It would seem like an ultimate Emperor would be crowned here today. This was the same as the selection of a wolf king from a pack of wolves. Only after defeating all challengers would one be a true king. That was the only way for one to convince the masses.

The four academies were evidently prepared to do the same. It would be up to the disciples to fight to become the ultimate Emperor. Feng Huosuo did not even have the courage to object. He thought sullenly, I must find a way to kill him. If I allow him to grow, he will be a source of countless troubles.

With the elder's permission, the disciples could finally fight freely.

"You wish to fight three opponents alone, but I have the same thought as well. Why don't all of you come at me instead?" said Jiu Tian.

Xiang Chenxi laughed heartily before he said, "Haha, I, Little Overlord, will be the better candidate to challenge all of you!"

"I don't mind either way," said Baili Yixiao uncaringly.

At this time, Devil Concubine rushed over and attacked Xiang Shaoyun without saying anything. She was the number two disciple of True Martial Academy, second only to Dugu Qiubai. Not even the Little Overlord dared to provoke her. Many disciples believed that this would be the end of Xiang Shaoyun.

Unsurprisingly, Xiang Shaoyun avoided her. He turned into a phantom and dashed toward Jiu Tian and started attacking wildly with the Seven Overlapping Waves Slash.

"Decent strength, but still not enough against me," said Jiu Tian indifferently. He used his palm as a blade and swung it, sending a purpleflame wind blade over. Xiang Shaoyun's saber energy was instantly sliced apart as the purpleflame wind blade continued shooting toward him.

At the same moment, Devil Concubine appeared behind Xiang Shaoyun and attacked. Faced with a pincer attack, nobody believed that Xiang Shaoyun would be able to survive. Beyond all expectations, he vanished into thin air, causing the two attacks to collide with each other instead.

Boom!

Under the stage, Bu Feng exclaimed, "What kind of speed is this?"

He was able to see Xiang Shaoyun's movement, and he found with surprise that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't the least bit slower than him. In fact, Xiang Shaoyun was actually faster than him. At this moment, he became even more convinced of his defeat in Xiang Shaoyun's hands.

### Chapter 983: Please Allow Me to Taste Defeat

Immediately after escaping the pincer attack, Xiang Shaoyun drew a graceful arc in the air as he swung his saber at Jiu Tian yet again. When cultivators fought, it was not only a competition of astral energies. Other aspects were also taken into consideration, such as winning through speed by performing a surprise move. Bu Feng was the perfect example. He was able to push his speed to the extremes, and through his speed, everyone acknowledged his strength.

This method of utilizing speed was something Xiang Shaoyun had learned from his fight with Bu Feng, and he was now applying it in his battle. He reappeared beside Jiu Tian and used the Seven Overlapping Waves Slash yet again.

This time, his speed had increased noticeably since he was using the power of wind. The frequency of his attacks grew, increasing their intensity. However, Jiu Tian was also a wind cultivator, and he was naturally not slow. Like a specter, he drifted aside and ingeniously avoided the attacks.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could give chase, Devil Concubine's halberd arrived from above. It was as though a nine-tailed fox was pouncing on him with fearsomely sharp fangs. Devil Concubine was fully locked onto Xiang Shaoyun. No matter where he ran, her attacks would continue going after him.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun no longer bothered running. Since he intended to challenge everyone, he had to display the strength sufficient to face everyone.

Wind and Lightning!



Instantly, he unleashed his wind and lightning energies. The two energies interweaved to form a storm that changed even the color of the sky. The storm tore Devil Concubine's attack apart and gave off a certain sense of danger that everyone felt.

"Little girl, since you're the one choosing to come after me, I won't hold back anymore," said Xiang Shaoyun. He charged forth like a dragon, and the Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand. A torrential wave of saber energies was sent toward Devil Concubine.

Devil Concubine had always been a powerful combatant. Her previous encounter with Xiang Shaoyun had ended in a draw. At the time, she was injured. Now that she was no longer burdened by injuries, she was here to wash away her humiliation.

Demonic Fox's Nine Transformation!

Nine foxes appeared. Each of them assumed a different posture, and they clashed with the storm. A terrifying explosion ensued. The demonic foxes tore the storm apart and then ferociously clawed at Xiang Shaoyun.

This was Devil Concubine's true strength. With Xiang Shaoyun using only two of his stars, he still couldn't threaten her. And if this was all Xiang Shaoyun could do, he would not be qualified to challenge everyone.

Lightning Calamity Fiery Star!

Initially, there were only the powers of wind and lightning on the battlefield. With this technique, a third power was introduced, and it gave Devil Concubine a fright, forcing her to make a swift retreat.

Xiang Shaoyun grabbed onto the opening and pushed forth with the three energies and launched a barrage of attacks toward Devil Concubine. Devil Concubine was no pushover, and she fought back with her full strength. An intense battle erupted.

At the same time, Baili Yixiao and Little Overlord started fighting each other. Both of them disdained working together against someone, so they decided to fight each other and get rid of more competitors instead.

Meanwhile, Jiu Tian issued Dugu Qiubai a challenge, "You still going to continue acting all calm? Come fight me. I'll let you get a taste of defeat."

This time, Dugu Qiubai did not reject the challenge. Instead, he set his eyes on more targets. He spread his five fingers and sent five finger beams toward five different individuals. The finger beams were extremely powerful, and they moved at an imperceptible speed. Instantly, they reached the five targets.

Dugu Qiubai was actually challenging five opponents at the same time. Xiang Shaoyun and Devil Concubine were forced to stop their intense battle as the fearsomely destructive finger beams headed toward them.

The same happened to Baili Yixiao and Xiang Chenxi. They both had unhappy expressions because of the interruption. As for Jiu Tian, he transformed into a phantom as he dodged the finger beam.

Then, Dugu Qiubai slowly drifted forward. He swept his gaze past all five of them and said, "Please allow me to taste defeat."

A longing look appeared on his ordinary-looking face, as though he had been waiting a long time to taste defeat. He wondered if anyone here could fulfill his wish. When Xiang Shaoyun challenged everyone earlier, he presented himself with arrogance. On the other hand, Dugu Qiubai was displaying the loneliness of someone standing at the very peak.

Xiang Shaoyun came to a realization that each genius was a lofty and unyielding individual. If he wanted to challenge everyone here, he had to show a strength sufficient to suppress all of them. And that was precisely what Dugu Qiubai had just demonstrated with his finger beams.

"Dugu Qiubai, I alone am enough," said Jiu Tian solemnly. His entire person transformed into a gust of purpleflame wind that rushed toward Dugu Qiubai.

"Reincarnator, you don't cut it," said Dugu Qiubai. A five-colored radiance shone on his palm as he pressed his palm at the purpleflame wind blade.

Bang!

A deafening explosion erupted. The five-colored radiance fully dispersed Jiu Tian's momentum, and even the purpleflame wind blade failed to harm the radiance.

"Primal chaos energy!" Jiu Tian exclaimed as his pupils shrank.

Of the many physiques, the nine-star physique was not the strongest. Rather, a type of physique known as the Primal Chaos Physique was the strongest. Someone with this physique would only have five stars, but the five stars correlated innately with the five elements.

As a martial fanatic who had such a powerful physique, it was no surprise that he would name himself Quibai, which meant Seeking Defeat.

"I knew this would happen. But I am Son of Lightning reincarnated. So what if you have the Primal Chaos Physique?" said Xiang Chenxi confidently with his purple halberd in hand.

He also summoned his mount, the purple lightning horse. Against Dugu Qiubai, he needed his mount to fight alongside him.

Baili Yixiao wiped his sword with a smile as though he was gently stroking the face of his lover. A look of excitement appeared on his face as he said, "It was said that the righteous would never be defeated. It is time for my Unrivalled Righteous Sword Technique to display its might."

Jiu Tian maintained the same calmness on his face. Nine swords of differing lengths appeared behind him, making him clear that he was getting serious as well.

Meanwhile, Devil Concubine completely disregarded everything that was happening. She continued staring at Xiang Shaoyun coldly, preparing to attack him at full strength once again.

However, she was similarly disregarded by Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Dugu Qiubai and said nonchalantly, "Primal Chaos Physique? So what? Let me show you the true strongest physique."

He then charged Dugu Qiubai and sent a nine-colored fist flying toward him.

Chapter 984: No Longer Dare to Use This Title From Today Onward

Dugu Qiubai had displayed his extraordinary physique and his strength of peak Emperor, proving to all the disciples that he had the strength to fight several of them at once. However, the nine-colored power Xiang Shaoyun erupted with also stunned many people. His current target was Dugu Qiubai.

He attracted everyone's attention, including the elders. Each of them was greatly shocked. They had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would actually be able to accomplish the legendary feat of utilizing nine powers simultaneously. This was a feat that had possibly never been accomplished before and would never be repeated by someone else in the future.

Looking at the incoming Xiang Shaoyun, Dugu Qiubai's pupils shrunk. He had also been given quite a shock by Xiang Shaoyun's sudden show of strength. He had thought that after displaying his Primal Chaos Physique, he would be able to look down on everyone present. Surprisingly, someone still dared to look at him with scorn and displayed such powerful might that a never-before-felt sense of hostility arose within him. It was as though Dugu Qiubai had encountered his predestined rival.

There was only a place for one at the very peak of the dominion.

After a momentary distraction, thick battle intent erupted from Dugu Qiubai. Waves of primal chaos energy rippled out of his body as he faced Xiang Shaoyun with an overbearing punch.

Bang!

The nine-colored energy clashed with the five-colored energy. Unimaginable destruction ensued, and shockwaves spread in all directions. The ground cracked, and a massive crater appeared on the ground. The surrounding disciples were sent flying away before they even had the chance to retreat. Typically, only battles between peak sixth-stage Soul Foundation Realm experts could result in such intensity and destruction.

The other geniuses on the stages wore solemn expressions as they witnessed the battle. They might be able to unleash a similar might using their trump cards, but they also had a feeling that their trump cards would still be slightly weaker. This was proof that there was already a gap between the two and the rest of them, and such a gap wasn't something they were willing to accept.

When the collision ended and the two separated, Xiang Shaoyun was sent flying high into the air, while Dugu Qiubai was blasted deep into the ground, looking somewhat sorry. All observers were stunned.

"A-Are these two still humans? They are too scary."

"Dugu Qiubai actually lost his initiative? Is the strongest physique going to be defeated? Who exactly is Xiang Shaoyun?"

"Xiang Shaoyun has a nine-star physique, and he cultivates nine powers. He has also fused all nine powers, creating the strongest physique."

"That doesn't seem possible. Hasn't that path been proven to be a dead end long ago?"

"Miracles have always been something waiting to be created. I am satisfied just being able to personally witness the battle between these two physiques."

Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to be bothered with what others were thinking. He also did not care what Dugu Qiubai was feeling. The only desire he had was to prove to everyone present that cultivating nine powers was not a wrong choice.

His gaze landed on Xiang Chenxi, the Little Overlord. He dashed over with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps as he said, "Little Overlord, I will make it so that you will no longer dare to use this title from today onward."

When he took his first step, a massive pressure descended upon Xiang Chenxi. Lightning gathered in the sky, seemingly prepared to rain down at any moment.

Xiang Chenxi immediately recognized Xiang Shaoyun's footwork technique, and he exclaimed in alarm, "Nine Nether Steps! How do you know my Xiang Clan's Nine Nether Steps!"

One ought to know that the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps was a technique only passed on within their clan. No outsiders would be able to practice it, and he couldn't accept seeing Xiang Shaoyun using it.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored him and took three steps forward. A rain of lightning started falling from the sky. His soul pressure, which was equivalent to the soul of a seventh-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert, also surged out and pressed down on Xiang Chenxi, suffocating him.

"Whoever you are, I will capture you alive and find out how you learned our Xiang Clan's Nine Nether Steps!" Xiang Chenxi roared and activated the lightning bone within his body. He erupted in power with his mount and unleashed some mutated lightning bolts that he used against Xiang Shaoyun.

He had been tempering his body with lightning since young and had built himself a freakish constitution. He was known as the Son of Lightning, and he had long refined a top-tier lightning power known as the divine purple cloud lightning. This lightning was extremely close in power to the most original lightning, and it was a rare power just like the mystic earth essence energy.

One ought to admit that Xiang Chenxi was someone with incredible luck. On top of that, he had a strong backer, allowing him to become such a remarkable individual. The Xiang Clan viewed him as the successor of the Overlord. Thus, he had been calling himself the Little Overlord since young, hoping that he would live up to the clan's expectations.

The strength Xiang Shaoyun was displaying had infuriated him. Not only did he want to prove his strength, he also wanted to figure out where Xiang Shaoyun had learned the Nine Nether Steps. By the time Xiang Chenxi summoned his lightning, Xiang Shaoyun had taken his fourth step. A boundless amount of lightning engulfed Xiang Chenxi.

The two entirely different energies clashed again and again. The purple lightning seemed much more destructive, but the silver lightning seemed to carry with it a type of presence unique to the soul of a late-stage Sovereign that could crush any powers of the Emperor Realm.

Xiang Chenxi was relying on his divine purple cloud lightning to defeat Xiang Shaoyun, but it turned out that Xiang Shaoyun's presence had instead suppressed him. He couldn't even muster more of his strength due to the suppression, and that remained even after he entered the human mount unity mode. Both he and his mount couldn't withstand the powerful soul pressure, and they were utterly helpless.

Eventually, Xiang Shaoyun braved through the purple lightning and stepped on Xiang Chenxi's face.

Bang!

The shape of Xiang Chenxi's handsome face twisted as both he and his mount were stomped out of the sky. After sending Xiang Chenxi to the ground, Xiang Shaoyun rushed toward Baili Yixiao like a gust of wind.

"I have long wanted to experience your unrivaled sword. Now, let me witness your sword," said Xiang Shaoyun. He arrived before Baili Yixiao and swung the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

He entered the human saber unity mode and exhibited remarkable combat strength. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber flew out of his hand as he manipulated it from afar. The saber flew mercilessly toward Baili Yixiao.

Baili Yixiao was already prepared for a fight. With a smile on his face, he replied, "As you wish."

With a casual swing of his sword, a boundless amount of sword energy surged out, enveloped Xiang Shaoyun, and started cutting him. The sword energy was attempting to obliterate him.

This was Baili Yixiao's sword of righteousness. As the saying went, the righteous were unrivaled. The same applied to Baili Yixiao's sword.

Saber and sword collided, and countless saber and sword phantoms clashed. Soon, the stronger fighter will be apparent.

#### Chapter 985: Flux Finger Sword's Might

Xiang Shaoyun had long reached 100 percent affinity with his Overlord Skyslaying Saber. His Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique was incredibly powerful, crushing forward with the might to destroy everything.

Baili Yixiao was a natural-born swordsman. He cultivated the Unrivaled Righteous Sword Technique. He nurtured his sword with his body, and he achieved his dao with his sword. He had long reached a terrifying height in the dao of swords. His entire person was akin to a sword, able to manipulate any sword like an extension of his body.

The saber and sword clashed intensely. Although the saber was powered by lightning, it still didn't seem as destructive as the sword. The sword wasn't powered by any unique powers, but it had returned to the very roots of swordsmanship, capable of destroying everything in its path.

Nobody would be able to escape the net of swords he created, and this was why Baili Yixiao was such a scary opponent. This was also why Zhan Wushuang had been ranked beneath Baili Yixiao all this while.

However, even the strongest net of swords would have a hole torn in it by Xiang Shaoyun's mad slashes. With the gift of instincts fully activated, Xiang Shaoyun found the weakest point in the net, instantly broke through, and stabbed his saber at Baili Yixiao's chest. As a price for breaking through the net, numerous cuts appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's body. Blood sprayed everywhere, but in truth, he had only suffered superficial wounds.

A look of astonishment flashed past Baili Yixiao's face when he saw Xiang Shaoyun breaking through the net. He swung his sword again, sending out a gushing torrent akin to a rainbow. It crashed into the incoming saber. Boundless sword energy swirled around them and sealed all possible routes, not giving Xiang Shaoyun any chance to approach him.

Baili Yixiao might have planned things thoroughly, but Xiang Shaoyun was actually making a feint. He suddenly moved horizontally at the most unexpected moment and shifted the trajectory of his saber, aiming it at Baili Yixiao's shoulder.

No matter how fast Baili Yixiao's reaction time was, he would not have expected Xiang Shaoyun to shift so quickly from a feint to an actual attack. His shoulder was struck, and he was forced to retreat in pain. As he retreated, he swung his sword repeatedly, not giving Xiang Shaoyun a chance to chase after him.

After landing one hit, Xiang Shaoyun stopped bothering with Baili Yixiao. Instead, he charged toward Jiu Tian, surprising even more people. Jiu Tian was someone capable of fighting Dugu Qiubai evenly, and this was a provocation that Jiu Tian couldn't just swallow.

"I don't care what physique you have, but you are still not qualified to fight five of us by yourself. I'll end you here," said Jiu Tian as he finally decided to take the initiative to attack.

He transformed into a gust of purpleflame wind and charged Xiang Shaoyun. Nine swords appeared behind him and formed a sword formation that attacked Xiang Shaoyun alongside the purpleflame wind.

Jiu Tian was, in truth, a reincarnator, something that only Dugu Qiubai had realized. He was the great-grandson of a Nine Palace Academy elder in the distant past. The prized Nine Palace Sword Formation of the academy was something he had mastered during that lifetime. After his accidental death, he had survived as a remnant soul. Ultimately, he took over the body of a fetus and was reborn. That was how he had formed a resonance with the Nine Palace Sword Formation at birth.



At his current cultivation level, Jiu Tian was still unable to fully unleash the Nine Palace Sword Formation's might. He was only able to muster a tiny bit of its strength, but that much was enough for him to stand proud among the many Emperors and easily kill some Sovereigns. Who could stop Jiu Tian when he was advancing with his nine swords and the purpleflame wind?

Since Xiang Shaoyun was intending to establish his dominance and be known as the number one person below the Soul Foundation Realm, he could not step back here. He had to deliver Jiu Tian a frontal assault to demonstrate his might.

White Tiger Wings!

Xiang Shaoyun no longer tried hiding any strength. He pushed his footwork technique to his limits, used his wind energy, and manifested the White Tiger Wings. In this state, his speed was virtually unmatchable.

Even Jiu Tian couldn't match his current speed, and that resulted in an opening that Xiang Shaoyun took full advantage of. Instead of using his saber or any flashy techniques, he joined two fingers together and formed a dazzling sword ray. Nobody had expected him to do that. Just how strong would a finger sword be?

Jiu Tian didn't think much of the finger sword either. He might be slightly slower, but he could still sense Xiang Shaoyun's current position. Thus, he reacted by sending three of his swords at Xiang Shaoyun without even thinking.

Three Aptitude Killer!

The three swords moved out together, and it was as though three experts were attacking together. The attack was powered by a fearsome purpleflame wind that could tear through everything. The strike was trying to kill Xiang Shaoyun then and there. Instead of dodging, Xiang Shaoyun faced the three swords head on with his finger sword.

Clank!

A series of sharp sounds resulted as the swords collided. Jiu Tian's three swords might not be saint swords, but they were still top-tier sovereign swords. With Jiu Tian's strength, he could totally use them to kill sixth-stage Sovereigns.

Something unimaginable happened. Xiang Shaoyun's finger sword tore through his powerful attack like tearing through paper, and it continued onward at a rapid speed. The finger sword's prowess caught Jiu Tian by complete surprise. By the time he thought of retreating, it was too late, and he was struck.

Jiu Tian's entire body was surrounded in incomparable sharp sword energies, and the flux goldthorn energy tortured him to the point he wailed in pain. Even as a reincarnator, he still couldn't resist the flux goldthorn energy.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun did not move on to a different opponent after landing a single strike. Instead, he pushed on and unleashed a barrage of attacks with the strongest might he could muster.

Flux Finger Sword Technique!

Xiang Shaoyun used the same technique over and over, landing hit after hit on Jiu Tian and dying him red with blood. Not even the armor Jiu Tian wore could protect him from the finger sword.

The Nine Palace Academy elder paled when he saw that. A loud clamor erupted among the observing disciples.

"Not only is he fast, but that unknown energy he used is also very powerful. Look, even Jiu Tian is completely helpless. Is this guy going to defy the very heavens next?"

"Is he using some unique energy that is even stronger than the purpleflame wind? How does he even cultivate? Each unique energy is extremely terrifying. One would be immensely grateful to obtain just one unique energy, but this fellow seems to have several of them."

"That doesn't feel like vicious gold energy. It is definitely a rare energy that not even Jiu Tian can stop. Perhaps only Dugu Qiubai can defeat Xiang Shaoyun now. Is this the might of someone cultivating nine powers with nine stars?"

"What are you waiting for? Go! He wanted a one-on-five fight, right? Grant his wish. Don't give him a chance to take you out one by one!"

Chapter 986: Unrivalled Righteousness

The surrounding disciples wanted the other geniuses to fight Xiang Shaoyun together, but the geniuses were arrogant individuals who disdained doing so. Devil Concubine was the only one who did not care and attacked Xiang Shaoyun once again. Not only was she using the power of darkness this time, she was also using the power of light.

Her halberd alternated between darkness and light as the two powers interweaved, forming a Tai Chi diagram that crushed down on Xiang Shaoyun.

Yin Yang Manifestation!

The Tai Chi diagram spun, and the domineering powers of yin and yang interweaved. Time seemed to stop as the diagram emanated a power that could give anyone a sense of helplessness.

None of them had expected that Devil Concubine was actually a cultivator of light and darkness. And from how she was fighting, she seemed to possess a Yin Yang Physique, which was a physique no weaker than the Primal Chaos Physique.

In the past, nobody knew that Devil Concubine was a cultivator of two powers. This revelation filled everyone with astonishment. She was exhibiting a strength that was able to slay anything in her path.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the thick killing intent she was emanating, and he was forced to give up on attacking Jiu Tian. Instead of attacking, he grabbed Jiu Tian and tossed him at Devil Concubine.

Jiu Tian might be incredibly strong, but his strength mostly came from the Nine Palace Sword Formation. After losing the initiative and being badly tortured by Xiang Shaoyun's flux goldthorn energy, he became the first genius here to suffer defeat under Xiang Shaoyun's hands.

Jiu Tian was unhappy with the defeat, but he also knew that Xiang Shaoyun was showing him leniency. He could have easily been killed if Xiang Shaoyun decided to aim the flux goldthorn energy at his head.

His defeat did not signify that he was a weakling. He had merely been defeated because he had underestimated Xiang Shaoyun's speed. Since Jiu Tian cultivated wind, he had believed that nobody could compare with him in terms of speed. Additionally, he had also not foreseen that Xiang Shaoyun had a unique energy no weaker than the purpleflame wind.

His lack of foresight caused him to lose his initiative, making it impossible for him to even utilize his strengths. Also, he had not expected that he would be the first person Xiang Shaoyun decided to defeat after picking a fight with everyone on the stage.

Jiu Tian was a reincarnator, and he was scheming. Unfortunately, he was not as crafty as Xiang Shaoyun, who possessed the Light of Wisdom. With Jiu Tian being tossed toward Devil Concubine, if she continued with her attack, he would be killed. He naturally wouldn't sit still and put his life in her hands, so he instantly erected a solid defense around himself with his nine swords to protect himself against Devil Concubine.

Devil Concubine hurriedly shifted the trajectory of her attack, blasting a dreadful crater into the ground below her. After throwing Devil Concubine off his tail, Xiang Shaoyun did not even bother attacking her. Instead, he charged Baili Yixiao again.

As far as he was concerned, Baili Yixiao was the next opponent he had to defeat. Meanwhile, Xiang Chenxi was still in a state of shock from having Xiang Shaoyun step on his face.

"Bring it on. Let us end this with one move," said Baili Yixiao. After receiving that hit from Xiang Shaoyun earlier, he finally realized that Xiang Shaoyun was much stronger than he had expected. He finally decided to use his full strength against him.

As Xiang Shaoyun approached, Baili Yixiao took a step forward. The same calm smile continued hanging on his face as a unique aura burst out of his back. He then gently swung his sword forward.

Unrivaled Righteousness!

This was the sword of a ruler, a sword that only a ruler with a heart wide enough to contain the world could comprehend. This was the essence of the Unrivaled Righteous Sword Technique. Since Baili Yixiao could master this technique to such perfection, did it signify that he had the ambitions of being a ruler?

Boundless sword energy spread far and wide, and numerous sword rays flew everywhere like arrows, displaying a power capable of toppling heaven and earth. This was the unrivaled sword of the righteous. The sword did not seem destructive, but anyone in its path would be destroyed. With Baili Yixiao using the technique, it was apparent that he wanted to end the fight in a single move.

Facing the attack, Xiang Shaoyun stepped back since it was his only choice if he wanted a chance to get through the sword energy that was everywhere. After all, Baili Yixiao was a true master swordsman.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to think of a solution. A black opening, as though a black hole leading to the void, suddenly appeared before him. It erupted with a terrifying suction force and sucked in all the sword energy, protecting Xiang Shaoyun from all harm.

The black hole was the Nether Yin Gate, one of the three strongest abilities of the Imperial Nether Clan. The appearance of that ability stunned everyone present. They had no idea what the technique was. It was actually capable of sucking in such a terrifying concentration of sword energy. Was that the ability of a heaven devouring beast? This ability definitely didn't meet the descriptions of what a heaven devouring beast could do.

High in the air, Feng Huosuo shouted, "Look, this is the innate ability of the Imperial Nether Clan! This kid is a devil! That was why we had decided to expel him from the academy. He is a danger to humanity!"

It seemed like the only thing he wanted was to tell everyone about Xiang Shaoyun's identity, hoping to reach an understanding with the other elders and block Xiang Shaoyun from progressing in the competition.

However, all the elders ignored him. They were completely focused on Xiang Shaoyun, as though they had just seen the most beautiful of women that they couldn't wait to take into their arms.

They did not even care if Xiang Shaoyun had devil blood flowing in him. There were many examples of humans with devil blood successfully learning devil abilities. Each was an individual of extraordinary talent. Since Xiang Shaoyun was able to learn one of the strongest devil abilities as a human, he became even more valuable to them, and it only served to increase their desire to recruit this genius.

The elders weren't even worried about Xiang Shaoyun's identity. They were all Heaven Battling Realm cultivators. It would be easy for them to identify a devil if one was actually right before their eyes. In any case, the lord guardian was basically a guardian of the dominion. A disciple he had personally acknowledged would definitely not be a spy sent by the devils.

Such a thing was not possible, and it was why they completely disregarded Feng Huosuo. They were also rejoicing the fact that the Dragon Phoenix Academy had actually expelled an expert of

this caliber. Otherwise, the Dragon Phoenix Academy might very well emerge as the competition's final champion, and that was definitely not something they wanted to see.

Now, Xiang Shaoyun only represented the lord guardian. Even if he became the champion, they wouldn't feel too bad.

To the side, Shadowflash could only sigh, not knowing what to say. He was already regretting the fact that he had offended a freak like this for Feng Huosuo.

After Xiang Shaoyun completed his growth, he would become a terrifying expert. At that time, unless they decided to hide in the academy forever, they would receive his payback the moment they left. The grudge between them wasn't one that could be easily resolved.

He must die! vowed Shadowflash inwardly.

#### Chapter 987: Profundity of Light

"Brother, give me a punch. Is this a dream? Has Baili Yixiao's Unrivaled Righteous Sword Technique been defeated just like that?"

"Even a seventh-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert would fear his sword energy. I don't know what technique Xiang Shaoyun used, but he was able to shift the entirety of the sword energy away. That shouldn't be possible."

"That is why he's a freak. Just because we can't do it does not mean that he can't."

"That seems to be the legendary Nether Yin Gate, a devilish ability of the Imperial Nether Clan. How did Xiang Shaoyun learn that ability?"

"Yes, that's really the Nether Yin Gate. It's way too overpowered, right?"

All the disciples were stunned. They had witnessed many amazing battles, but nothing could top this battle.

After moving Baili Yixiao's sword energy away, Xiang Shaoyun was about to continue going after Baili Yixiao when Devil Concubine and the Little Overlord charged him together.

"Pervert, die!" Devil Concubine roared as the Yin Yang Diagram wrapped around her halberd, turning her halberd into a grinder that could destroy anything in its path.

"Whoever you are, you will die for stealing my Xiang Clan's technique," shouted Xiang Chenxi. He swung his purple halberd, sending a destructive lightning attack forward. It was as though the god of thunder was attacking in a fury.

Two powerful attacks were pressing toward Xiang Shaoyun. How would he survive?

At this point, if Xiang Shaoyun did not use his soul clone or the Nether Soul Domain, he would very likely be defeated. However, he wanted to win a victory fair and square. Those tricks were something he didn't want to use unless absolutely necessary.

"Bring it on. This is what I have been waiting for," said Xiang Shaoyun with a look of excitement. Next, the powers of lightning, wind, and flame erupted from him.

He was using a technique that was the combination of Lightning Calamity Fiery Star and Wind and Lightning. He had not perfected it, so he hadn't bothered naming the technique. And now, he was using these disciples to test his new technique, trying to learn more about the utilization of multiple powers at the same time.

Lightning and flame were basically powers of destruction, while the power of wind could enhance both of them. Three different elements were unleashed, wreaking even more chaos on the battlefield.

The three powers interweaved and rumbled on. If the Lonesoul Island wasn't protected by the power of Saints, it would have probably been destroyed in its entirety by these powers.

The surrounding disciples fled as far as they could. If the raging powers hit them, things would go bad for them.

Xiang Shaoyun was already a peak Emperor. If it wasn't for the fact that he couldn't form his soul foundation yet, he would have probably entered the Soul Foundation Realm immediately after utilizing the origin energies he had found in the coffin. The remaining energies had subsequently been pulled into his astral cosmos sea and had transformed into the primal inception energy. For

now, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to utilize the primal inception energy. He was saving it for Dugu Qiubai.

Even now, Dugu Qiubai was still watching silently. He disdained joining hands with others against Xiang Shaoyun, but the strength Xiang Shaoyun displayed had undoubtedly caught his attention. In fact, he now viewed Xiang Shaoyun as his rival, and he hoped for a fair fight. That was the arrogance he had as a genius cultivator.

After using the powers from three of his stars, Xiang Shaoyun entered a deadlock with Xiang Chenxi and Devil Concubine. Even so, just evenly matching two geniuses at the same time was proof of his strength. Baili Yixiao was about to concede defeat, but he decided to rejoin the battle after some hesitation.

I know this is not all you're capable of. Let me see just what your limits are, thought Baili Yixiao as he unleashed the Unrivaled Righteous Sword Technique yet again.

With that, three geniuses were attacking Xiang Shaoyun at the same time, and things were looking bleak for him. The longer the fight lasted, the more ferocious Devil Concubine became. Her Yin Yang Diagram seemed capable of influencing even the passage of time. She landed two hits on Xiang Shaoyun, cracking even the Goldplates on his body. His blood started flowing.

Xiang Chenxi also showed no quarter and repeatedly stabbed with his weapon. The two bloody holes on Xiang Shaoyun's calf were left by none other than him. As for the sword wounds on Xiang Shaoyun's body, those were naturally left by Baili Yixiao. It was all thanks to the strengthened body Xiang Shaoyun had gained from the Limit Stimulation Technique that he hadn't been instantly killed.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun was also able to land some blows on his opponents as well. He had managed to kick Devil Concubine's shoulder, slash Xiang Chenxi's belly, and electrocute Baili Yixiao's entire body. One could say that even against these three opponents, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't taking a one-sided beating.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun's head continued shining with the Light of Wisdom. With the auspicious-looking radiance above him, he seemed to have entered some sort of state. Enlightenments of the nine powers started flashing through his mind continuously. The profundity of gold could penetrate all defenses, the profundity of wood represented life and death, the profundity of water was boundless and unending, and so on.



Thoughts regarding the different profundities flashed past his mind, allowing him to once again get to know the truth of these powers. He realized that he seemed to have even more trump cards he could pull out.

Profundity of light!

Through the Light of Wisdom, he activated the profundity of light. Not even he knew why he was doing so. He was only acting on instinct. And as he activated the profundity of light, a blinding radiance flashed through the sky. At that moment, everyone felt like they had been frozen in time.

Devil Concubine, Xiang Chenxi, and Baili Yixiao felt the same as well. The unique power accompanying the power of light caused them to momentarily stop moving.

In truth, time wasn't frozen. It was merely a misconception. The blinding flash had merely temporarily cleared their minds, giving them the impression that time had stopped. This was the unique effect created when the profundity of light was combined with the Light of Wisdom.

Xiang Shaoyun had stumbled upon this technique by pure luck, and it was enough for him to completely turn the tide of the battle. Taking advantage of the momentary distraction, he charged Devil Concubine, who was the nearest to him, and mercilessly unleashed the Dragonscale Arm at her.

He wasn't holding punches even though he was facing a woman, and he sent her flying away and coughing blood. If he wanted to kill her, he could have easily cut her head off with the Flux Finger Sword Technique. He then dashed toward Xiang Chenxi.

At this point, Xiang Chenxi had already recovered, and he instantly entered a defensive stance, not giving Xiang Shaoyun a chance to harm him.

"What are you still waiting for, Money?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he swung his arm and sent a phantom shooting forward. The figure was none other than Money.

Xiang Chenxi was caught by complete surprise, and as a result, Money managed to bite on him.

Chapter 988: Truly Shocking Battle

On the stages, the cultivators were allowed to fight alongside their mounts. After all, mounts would always be crucial in any sort of battle. Xiang Shaoyun and Money had long developed good teamwork. When required, Money would naturally charge at the opponent.

Money had the ability to embed himself into surfaces, similar to the flaming lion Xiang Shaoyun faced earlier. However, Money was much stronger than the lion, and he was much faster as well.

Before Xiang Chenxi could do anything, his waist was bitten by Money. If he allowed Money to run rampant, he would probably end up as Money's food. However, he was no weakling. He instantly erupted with a burst of divine purple cloud lightning and used the Divine Dipper Lightning Discharge, forcing Money to spit him out.

"What pure lightning energy. Even my mouth is numb. But I like it," said Money as he charged Xiang Chenxi again before sweeping his tail.

Xiang Chenxi did not have the chance to regain his footing, and when he was whipped by Money's tail, he was sent crashing onto the ground. Before Money could follow up with more attacks, the purple lightning horse rushed over and attacked with numerous lightning stomps.

The purple lightning horse had impressive combat strength and was also a peak Demon Emperor. It was also capable of wielding the powerful divine purple cloud lightning and could match Money evenly.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun shifted his attention elsewhere as he headed toward Baili Yixiao again. He swung his arms repeatedly as he used the Dragonscale Arm, sending out numerous golden dragons that bombarded Baili Yixiao with a ferocious might.

Xiang Shaoyun was currently fully unleashing a presence comparable to a Sovereign's as he attempted to crush Baili Yixiao with brute force. Baili Yixiao's soul might be strong, but it still lacked behind Xiang Shaoyun's.

After smashing away numerous sword energies, Xiang Shaoyun once again approached Baili Yixiao. Both his arms lashed out akin to a pair of dragons, and Baili Yixiao was pushed back again and again.

Baili Yixiao was unable to accept the fact that he couldn't even make Xiang Shaoyun use primal inception energy. He prepared to use his trump card again, vowing to personally experience Xiang

Shaoyun's strongest technique. Unfortunately, his move was sealed by Xiang Shaoyun before he could even launch it.

Enemy Sealing!

At the exact instant Baili Yixiao tried activating his technique, Xiang Shaoyun pushed his power of wind to his limits and used the Dragonscale Arm on Baili Yixiao's wrist, completely canceling the technique. A roar then burst out of his mouth, temporarily stunning Baili Yixiao. Finally, the white tiger energy burst out of him and threw the injured Baili Yixiao away.

Xiang Shaoyun then activated the Flux Finger Sword Technique, prepared to fully defeat Baili Yixiao. However, Baili Yixiao conceded before he could attack.

"You win. You have strong battle instincts," Baili Yixiao evaluated.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded before shifting his gaze to Dugu Qiubai. Just as Dugu Qiubai was about to respond, Devil Concubine charged over again.

"If you can stop this attack as well, our grudge ends here," said Devil Concubine as she swung her halberd at him.

Yin Yang Separation!

Abruptly, two energy fields of yin and yang appeared, and the Yin Yang Diagram reappeared. Time stopped, and the world seemed to have been split into two. One darkness and one light, one death and one light. Everything was separated.

Xiang Shaoyun stood still in a completely stunned state as though he had been possessed. Devil Concubine swung her halberd mercilessly at Xiang Shaoyun's head, trying to kill him for real. It was said that the powers of yin and yang could upturn heaven and earth, reversing even time. They were heaven-defying powers.

Although Devil Concubine still couldn't utilize the two powers to such an extent, she was already starting to scratch at their surfaces. The powers of yin and yang created a sort of distortion in one's perception of time, giving one an impression that the world had indeed been separated into two and time had really stopped.

Fortunately, the stun only lasted a split second. The moment the sensation emerged, his soul struggled and broke him out of it. But at that time, Devil Concubine's attack had already reached his head. Death was ever so near.

Phantom Shift!

That technique had always worked, and it did not fail Xiang Shaoyun this time either. He avoided the fatal hit, but his shoulder was still struck and was almost destroyed. He endured the pain and countered, using the Hurricane Kick repeatedly to send Devil Concubine, who couldn't defend herself in time, flying far away. That marked the end of the battle between the two, and it was quite an even fight.

But from the mere fact that Xiang Shaoyun had pushed several geniuses back in a row, the observing disciples knew that if this was a one-on-one fight, Xiang Shaoyun would definitely have a higher chance of winning. After all, he had used the primal inception energy against Dugu Qiubai earlier, and he had not used it against any other person.

As the first person to be defeated by Xiang Shaoyun, Jiu Tian wore a self-mocking look on his face. He could only blame himself for being too careless. Second to be defeated was Xiang Chenxi. He could still fight, but it would be too embarrassing to continue. After having his face stepped on and suffering a bite from Xiang Shaoyun's mount, he was happy to not have suffered any heavy injuries.

As for Baili Yixiao, he had surrendered by himself. He sincerely believed that he wasn't as ferocious as Xiang Shaoyun in a fight, and perhaps that was the difference between someone who had been on a true battlefield and one who hadn't.

After undergoing the baptism of war, Xiang Shaoyun now had some sort of an indescribable stout bearing around him. The longer he fought, the fiercer he became. As for Devil Concubine, she had succeeded in injuring Xiang Shaoyun, but she herself was sent flying. Xiang Shaoyun had fought four of them alone and had occupied the upper hand. That feat alone made his name worthy of entering the annals of history.

"With this, one of the Four Blazing Suns has been decided. Xiang Shaoyun is definitely one of them. I wonder if he can defeat Dugu Qiubai and become the first of the four?"

"That was a truly shocking battle. This fellow is definitely worthy of being called the number one cultivator below the Sovereign Realm. There is no doubting that."

"How overbearing. I really wonder how he can cultivate all nine of his powers to such an extent. Did he start cultivating since he was in his mother's womb or something?"

"Fortunately, he is the Dragon Phoenix Academy's abandoned disciple. Otherwise, the True Martial Academy would be suppressed by the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Speaking of, are the Dragon Phoenix Academy people stupid? They had actually rejected a genius of this caliber? How hilarious! Hahaha!"

The other disciples also broke out in clamor. When they looked at Xiang Shaoyun now, admiration could be seen in their eyes. Regardless of whether Xiang Shaoyun could reach a higher height in cultivation, it was undeniable that he was the strongest of his peers at the moment.

"Are you still not coming?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he looked at Dugu Qiubai.

#### Chapter 989: Fighting Dugu Qiubai

With the Primal Chaos Physique and the Yin Yang Physique appearing in the True Martial Academy, it was no wonder that the academy had remained the number one academy for so many years.

The Nine Palace Academy might have a reincarnator, and the Dragon Phoenix Academy might have insanely talented freaks, but the two academies still couldn't compare with the True Martial Academy.

Xiang Shaoyun's rise out of nowhere had smashed apart the four academies' pride, teaching them just how wide the world was. The Dragon Phoenix Academy overseers and disciples were filled with regret. They wished so hard that they had never forced Xiang Shaoyun out of the academy.

If they hadn't expelled him, the academy could very well emerge as the competition's champion. However, it was too late for regret. They could only make their displeasure known after they returned to the academy.

Both Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo had unsightly expressions. They were just hit with the realization that they had acted incredibly idiotic. They would definitely suffer upon returning to the academy. The only thing they could do now was to pray that Dugu Qiubai could reduce Xiang Shaoyun's momentum.

Dugu Qiubai stepped onto the stage, looked at Xiang Shaoyun, and said, "You are very strong, strong enough to be my opponent. I will give you an hour to heal yourself. Otherwise, I won't feel happy even if I win the fight."

His arrogance surprised everyone. He had to have absolute confidence in himself in order to give his opponent a chance to recuperate on the battlefield.

Xiang Shaoyun also looked at Dugu Qiubai in astonishment. He then looked at his battered body before nodding. "Sure."

Although Xiang Shaoyun did not fear fighting Dugu Qiubai in his current condition, his opponent was allowing him to recuperate out of respect for the battle they were about to have. He couldn't reject the offer, as that would only mean disrespect to his opponent.

Xiang Shaoyun was able to heal quickly, and he used the Secret Reversal Technique right before everyone's eyes. A rich amount of wood energy converged on him. The energy transformed into life force and nourished his injuries. At the same time, he dissolved some spirit crystals in his body and started refilling his stars. His combat strength was recovering rapidly.

In a fight against Dugu Qiubai, Xiang Shaoyun naturally needed to utilize the primal inception energy. Otherwise, his chances of victory would be extremely low.

While healing, his soul continued analyzing the intense battle that had just ended. What he cared most about was the fact that the Light of Wisdom seemed more than what he knew. It seemed capable of triggering the awakening of some secret techniques. Additionally, Devil Concubine's yin and yang powers had also greatly inspired him. Since he had successfully fused lightning, wind, and flame, could he also fuse the powers of light and darkness to create the effect of yin and yang?

At that thought, he started recalling Devil Concubine's every single move from their earlier fight. Unfortunately, he hadn't paid her much attention at the time, so he did not have a complete picture of what she did. He failed to steal a glimpse into the inner workings of the powers of yin and yang.

An hour passed quickly, and Xiang Shaoyun was almost fully healed. He had also gained a lot from meditating on the previous battle. Who would have guessed that he was actually capable of fully splitting his attention into two?

"I'm ready. Let's start," said Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

He needed to emerge as the champion; it was a promise he had made to his master. Thus, he would fight at his full strength. Not even Dugu Qiubai, with the strongest physique, would be able to stop him.

Dugu Qiubai's battle intent surged as he said, "Let's fight with bare hands first, weapons next, and then finally fight to decide victory. What do you think?"

Dugu Qiubai was known as the Martial Fanatic, Martial Demon, and Martial Addict. He could easily learn any battle technique he managed to get his hands on, reaching a level where he could unleash the technique's full might. Thus, he was confident he could use a wide variety of techniques as required, and it was understandable why he would make such a request.

Xiang Shaoyun agreed, "Sure."

"Excellent. Finally, there is an opponent I'm excited to fight," said Dugu Qiubai as he roared with laughter. He then started approaching Xiang Shaoyun with an incredibly ingenious footwork technique.

Cloudstep Steps!

That was an ancient footwork technique. When one used it, it was as though one was stepping on clouds and could reach anywhere. He instantly arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and threw a casual punch out.

It was as though he was an ordinary cultivator throwing a normal punch. There were no flashy effects, and there were no energy undulations. Yet for some reason, the fist suddenly struck Xiang Shaoyun.

Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even react. He only felt a pain in his chest before he was sent flying away. Instead of giving chase, Dugu Qiubai threw out another punch. There was a big distance between Xiang Shaoyun and the fist. No energy undulations were visible, yet he was still able to continue landing hits on Xiang Shaoyun from far away. The sight filled many people with disbelief.

Dugu Qiubai was using one of the True Martial Academy's high-tier battle techniques, the Void Fist. The fist could reach its target from anywhere, and it was something one couldn't guard against. Dugu Qiubai had the Primal Chaos Physique, and he was the strongest disciple to have appeared in the True Martial Academy in the last 10,000 years. Thus, they had opened up their whole book collection to him. Naturally, he would pick some rare techniques to cultivate.

Xiang Shaoyun had merely been caught by a complete surprise, as he had never seen such an odd fist technique. He definitely wouldn't be defeated so easily. Dugu Qiubai's fists might be powerful enough to easily defeat some Sovereigns, but Xiang Shaoyun had a powerful body that granted him incredible endurance.

The Goldplates appeared around his body as he blocked the incoming fists. Even so, it still wasn't enough for him to snatch the initiative. Dugu Qiubai continued punching, sending fist after fist from afar.

Xiang Shaoyun was fully forced onto the defensive. While defending, he was also continuously studying the Void Fist. With his gift of instincts activated, he started noticing the faint undulations of space. Those undulations were where the fists kept coming from.

He shifted his position continuously while trying to approach Dugu Qiubai. He had to do so while avoiding the constant punches, which was not easy. After a series of dodges, Xiang Shaoyun finally shortened the distance to about 10 meters. He then lashed out with the Seven Scorching Sun Claws.

One should not underestimate the Seven Scorching Sun Claws just because it was only an emperor-grade technique. Powered by Yun Flame, it became incredibly destructive. Although Yun Flame wasn't as powerful as the purpleflame wind and the divine purple cloud lightning, it wasn't too much weaker than the two. After all, Yun Flame was now a fusion of three different flames and had incredible burning power.

Xiang Shaoyun clawed out seven times in a row, enveloping Dugu Qiubai in a curtain of flame as he attempted to tear him apart.

A calm smile remained on Dugu Qiubai's face as Dugu Qiubai abruptly changed his technique. Numerous blue palms flew out with a rushing wave of water, extinguishing the flame around him.

The flame would have probably been extinguished if it wasn't powerful enough. Even so, the water did enough, and Dugu Qiubai was able to charge through the weaker part of the flame before tackling Xiang Shaoyun.



Barbaric Bull's Rush!

## Chapter 990: Collision of Geniuses

The Barbaric Bull's Rush was a common battle technique, and its tier was rather low as well. In fact, this was just a regular technique one would learn at the Transformation Realm. Thus, everyone was astonished to see Dugu Qiubai using the technique.

Even more shocking was the fact that the technique actually displayed an incredibly powerful might. It was as though a barbaric bull had appeared, a bull that was going to smash through mountains.

Dugu Qiubai's swift shifting of techniques caught Xiang Shaoyun by complete surprise. He hurriedly used a different technique, and he activated the Dragonscale Arm and swung both his arms at the charging bull. An intense battle erupted between the two, and shockwaves spread out in all directions.

One of the fighters was proficient in all sorts of battle techniques and could utilize each technique with full mastery to unleash attacks of numerous variations that couldn't be guarded against. The other had an extremely fast reaction time. Like a natural war god, the combatant countered every move coming his way despite the numerous tricky techniques his opponent unleashed.

Xiang Shaoyun was an extraordinary combatant. With numerous different energies swirling around him, he looked like a child of heavens who could lay waste to everything with his divine might.

Dugu Qiubai had been seeking defeat his entire life. He had the Primal Chaos Physique, and he lived for the sake of battling. In his eyes, all obstacles existed only to be smashed apart, including Xiang Shaoyun.

With the Sky Severing Finger, he pierced a bloody hole into Xiang Shaoyun's arm. If Xiang Shaoyun hadn't reacted fast enough, his arm would have been crippled then and there. Xiang Shaoyun shifted to the Major Slab Palm and slammed Dugu Qiubai's shoulder with a palm, causing blood to flow.

The two exchanged one move after another, and the battle grew more and more intense. The surrounding disciples could no longer keep up, and they couldn't help but gasp in admiration at the pair's might.

"The variety of their offensive techniques is terrifyingly great. Only people like them can fight so intensely in a melee. Any of us would have been defeated long ago."

"One cultivator of the forbidden path of nine powers, and one Primal Chaos Physique. Both of them are possibly the strongest of the geniuses in the entire dominion. It is not surprising that they can demonstrate such might."

"Dugu Qiubai has been addicted to cultivation since young. After going through innumerable books, he is capable of utilizing a countless number of battle techniques. This Xiang Shaoyun isn't weak either. His battle instincts are extremely good. We won't know who's stronger until the very end."

"If Xiang Shaoyun has really fused the nine powers, he might have a higher chance of winning. If not, Dugu Qiubai will be more likely to win."

"This is a collision of geniuses. Just witnessing this battle is eye-opening."

The two spent half a day fighting in close distance before they finally separated from each other. Both of them looked incredibly sorry, with injuries all over their bodies. Even so, they did not seem to mind. Rather, their auras seemed to be growing, making them look even scarier.

"Take my Dark Sky Engulfing Imprint," Xiang Shaoyun roared as he transformed into a curtain of darkness that completely covered the sky.

He used the dark origin energy and covered the area in endless darkness. Nobody was able to see through the darkness. In such an environment, he could easily defeat any opponent.

However, Dugu Qiubai, who was trapped amid the darkness, did not seem flustered. Five-colored radiance swirled in his eyes, and he instantly saw through the darkness before sending an attack in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

Flame Severing Sacred Fist!

His fist sent a powerful flame surging out. Like a volcanic eruption, the flame soared to the sky as though it was going to smash through the entire world. He was using a terrifying flame-elemental fist technique that even a sixth-stage Sovereign would fear.

Like Xiang Shaoyun, Dugu Qiubai was using only a single star. And surprisingly, his one star's might was as strong as Xiang Shaoyun's one star. In fact, his star seemed to be slightly stronger. That was the prowess of the Primal Chaos Physique.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that the attack he was so confident with would be so easily broken through. His palm clashed with the fist, and with the power of flame countering his power of darkness, he was sent soaring high into the sky. A massive shockwave rippled through his entire arm, giving him intense discomfort.

"In terms of fighting bare-handed, you're not my match," said Dugu Qiubai nonchalantly instead of giving chase.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and agreed, "You win this round."

Dugu Qiubai had too many battle techniques at his disposal. Although Xiang Shaoyun had the Light of Wisdom and had gone through many battle techniques in the first three floors of Dragon Phoenix Academy's library, he did not know many battle techniques he could actually use in a battle. This was a defeat he accepted wholeheartedly.

With the numerous high-tier battle techniques he knew, Dugu Qiubai completely overwhelmed Xiang Shaoyun. If it wasn't for the gift of instincts, Havoc Dance, and Enemy Sealing, Xiang Shaoyun would have probably suffered an even worse defeat.

"Let's start the weapons round," said Dugu Qiubai. He was quite surprised to see Xiang Shaoyun accepting the defeat so easily, and he viewed Xiang Shaoyun in a new light as a result.

"I'll be using my saber," said Xiang Shaoyun as he took out the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

The Overlord Skyslaying Saber was still at the emperor grade, and it still looked shabby. Even so, it was tough enough to withstand top-tier sovereign weapons. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber was the same weapon Xiang Shaoyun had used in his previous life. In this life, after nourishing it in his astral cosmos sea, his affinity with the saber had reached 100 percent. With the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, he was able to fully unleash his might.

Of course, he had saint weapons he could use, but he did not feel like using them to bully his current opponent. After all, those weapons could help him easily kill even Sovereigns. He wouldn't be able to display his actual strength with them.

Dugu Qiubai replied, "I am proficient with all sorts of techniques. Since you are using a saber, I shall do the same."

One ought to admit that Dugu Qiubai was truly arrogant, acting as though he could fully unleash his strength regardless of the weapon he used. When Baili Yixiao heard those words, he had complicated emotions. In the secret space, he had once witnessed Dugu Qiubai use sword techniques. At the time, Dugu Qiubai was displaying an amazing might, and he had imagined that Dugu Qiubai was actually a swordsman. Now that he looked at it, he couldn't be more wrong.

"Sure," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

An ordinary saber appeared in Dugu Qiubai's hand. The saber had a golden blade, but apart from that, it did not look like anything special.

"I'll allow you to make the first move," said Dugu Qiubai.

"Sure. Watch out," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile as he swung the saber.

He did not apply any energies to the saber, but it still instantly reached Dugu Qiubai's waist. This skill was the application of saber intent. Wherever the intent reached, blood would flow. The slash contained the might of his soul power, which he was using to suppress Dugu Qiubai. He hoped to distract Dugu Qiubai with the suppression and gain the initiative with one strike.