

## Overlord 1421

### Chapter 1421: Have You Eaten?

Who was Meng Youfang? He was the Dusk Dynasty's current imperial teacher, an extremely capable cultivator. In the Dusk Dynasty, he was one of the strongest cultivators below the God Realm. Even a single attack from him was akin to a calamity. How many people could survive an attack from him?

The Dusk Emperor had made such a suggestion for three reasons. Firstly, he felt that Xiang Shaoyun had insulted him. Secondly, Hua Ruren had indeed been killed by Xiang Shaoyun. Thirdly, he hoped that Xiang Shaoyun would concede and agree to his previous offer. The mere feat of ranking first on the Saintly Forest Ranking proved how incredible Xiang Shaoyun was. The Dusk Dynasty was unwilling to give up on such a talent.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could say anything, the second prince said, "Imperial Father, is there a way to handle this differently? The imperial teacher is one of the strongest experts of the dynasty. Brother Xiang might be famous, but he is still young. I'm afraid—"

The first prince interrupted him, "Second brother, are you looking down on Xiang Shaoyun? As someone who can survive the onslaught of numerous experts below the God Realm and slay many Great Saints, Xiang Shaoyun is someone whom I believe won't have any issue resisting an attack from the imperial teacher."

The commander of the imperial guards said, "That's right. Second prince, Lord Hua was killed by him. This crime can't be forgiven easily!"

"I think Commander Gan is more suited to be the one to make that one attack," said the Sacred Martial General. "If the imperial teacher makes a move, it will look like a senior is bullying his junior. The world will know the Dusk Dynasty as a dynasty with no magnanimity."

"That doesn't make any sense, General Huo. Xiang Shaoyun is a slayer of Great Saints. I'm afraid he's not much weaker than the both of us. Cultivators like us shouldn't judge a person based on one's age. Rather, we should judge someone based on one's strength. It is perfectly acceptable for me to be the one making the attack," insisted Meng Youfang.

Even his junior brother had died in Xiang Shaoyun's hands. As for Gan Mingliang, he wasn't much stronger than Hua Ruren. If Gan Mingliang was allowed to make the attack, it would be no different than letting Xiang Shaoyun off scot-free.

"Cut the nonsense. It doesn't matter who's attacking. I, Xiang Shaoyun, will take on anyone," said Xiang Shaoyun impatiently.

"Good. That's decided then. This emperor is looking forward to witnessing your strength, Xiang Shaoyun," finalized the Dusk Emperor.

The second prince could only give Xiang Shaoyun a helpless smile before leaving with the others, making enough space for Xiang Shaoyun and Meng Youfang. The Saintly Forest Courtyard was essentially a sealed space. A single attack from Meng Youfang wouldn't be able to do much to the space. In any case, the Saintly Forest Courtyard was also protected by God Realm experts. Nothing bad would happen to the courtyard.

Meng Youfang felt even more murderous when he saw how indifferent Xiang Shaoyun was. He asked, "Are you ready?"

Hua Ruren was his junior brother. Since his junior had perished in the hands of this kid, he had to avenge his junior.

With one hand on his back, Xiang Shaoyun raised his other hand and beckoned at Meng Youfang as he said, "Come."

Xiang Shaoyun had never felt so confident before. He did not know how strong he was now, but he was confident he could easily take on the attack of a Great Saint.

"Truly courageous," said Meng Youfang. A berserk aura erupted from his body and pressed down at Xiang Shaoyun.

The surrounding Saints instantly felt a massive pressure descend upon them. Apart from the small minority, the rest felt incomparably uncomfortable, as though a massive boulder was pressing down upon them.

If even the onlookers were feeling so much pressure, one could only imagine the kind of pressure Xiang Shaoyun was facing. But upon seeing how calm Xiang Shaoyun was, they were all shocked.

Someone even muttered to himself, "Is Xiang Shaoyun really this strong?"

As a matter of fact, Xiang Shaoyun was indeed very strong. He essentially had a pseudo-god body granting him unimaginable physical strength. A Great Saint might be strong, but they were not strong enough to pressure him.

When Meng Youfang saw the smile hanging on Xiang Shaoyun's face, his eyes turned cold, and his aura grew stronger by 30 percent. In total, he had unleashed 90 percent of his strength. Even a regular Great Saint would be injured by such pressure and forced to kneel down.

"Xiang Shaoyun, do you know your crime?" questioned Meng Youfang.

His voice seemed to carry a certain momentum with it, a momentum he hoped to crush Xiang Shaoyun's confidence with.

Xiang Shaoyun retorted unyieldingly, "What crime has this overlord committed?"

"For killing an important official of the Dusk Dynasty, you should be executed!" shouted Meng Youfang as he finally utilized all his strength. His aura was akin to a disastrous storm that warped even space.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun felt some sort of pressure around him. A peak Great Saint truly couldn't be underestimated, especially someone like Meng Youfang, who was no ordinary cultivator. If Meng Youfang fought at his full strength, he could even contend against Gods.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun stopped holding himself back. His meridians stirred as primal inception energy circulated through his body. A dazzling radiance erupted from his astral cosmos sea, and his entire body started radiating a nine-colored light, turning him into a dazzling child of the heavens.

At this moment, not even the emperor, the first prince, and the second prince were as majestic as Xiang Shaoyun. After Xiang Shaoyun had fused all his nine stars, his astral cosmos sea had transformed into an actual star. With a world within his body, he could carry the force of a hundred rivers within him, reverse the sun and the moon, and defy the heavens. Anyone below the God Realm was nothing for him.

"Imperial teacher, have you eaten yet? With this much strength, you won't be able to do anything to me," said Xiang Shaoyun as he took a step forward with a look of contempt on his face.

Everyone was stunned. Nobody in the dynasty had ever spoken like that to the imperial teacher because it was punishable with death. But Xiang Shaoyun did not care. He started throwing insults at the imperial teacher, clearly not even worried that the grudge between them would grow deeper.

"Die!" Meng Youfang roared, as he could no longer suppress his killing intent. Two clumps of terrifying energy appeared around his palms as he slammed both his palms toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Roaming Dragon Trigram Palm, Double Dragon Leaves the Sea!

The two palms were akin to two dragons charging out of the sea, advancing with the strength to crush everything in their path. The overbearing aura of the imperial teacher caused the surrounding onlookers to retreat again and again in fear that a stray attack would kill them.

Meng Youfang's palm attack was not only powerful but also so fast that no ordinary Great Saint could see it. This was the imperial teacher's true strength.

As Xiang Shaoyun faced the palm attack, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up with an indescribable luster, and he instantly saw through the two palms. As primal inception energy covered his entire body, he threw both his fists out.

#### Chapter 1422: Marriage

Xiang Shaoyun forgot all the techniques he knew, using pure brute strength as he controlled the primal inception energy to clash against Meng Youfang's energy. The two energies collided, creating a terrifying explosion that caused the space within the courtyard to shake. As numerous shockwaves spread in all directions, it was as though the independent space was about to break.

The expressions of the Saints present changed to shock. The Sacred Martial General hurriedly appeared before the emperor to block the shockwaves for the emperor. As for the other Saints, they could only rely on themselves.

At this time, an indescribable power emerged and confined the shockwaves, stopping them from damaging their surroundings. Evidently, a God was making a move. After a series of collisions, the two energies receded, revealing two figures standing in the middle of the battlefield.

Meng Youfang was staring at the completely unharmed Xiang Shaoyun with disbelief. He had already used all his strength. Sure, he hadn't used his trump card, but what he just did was something even those with similar cultivation levels as him would have a hard time resisting.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was only forced about a dozen steps back. Furthermore, there wasn't even a scratch on Xiang Shaoyun. Also, the nine-colored energy released by Xiang Shaoyun was extremely destructive, causing him to unwillingly feel fear.

This kid has really fused nine different powers and created the ultimate combat physique, lamented Meng Youfang inwardly.

That was what the ultimate combat physique was. After surpassing the existing human limits, nobody in the same realm could be Xiang Shaoyun's match anymore.

The surrounding onlookers were all dumbstruck, forced to accept the fact that Xiang Shaoyun really was capable of killing Great Saints and was really worthy of being ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking. Like Meng Youfang, they were now sure that Xiang Shaoyun had fused nine different powers. A dazzling king of Saints was on his rise to power.

Clap! Clap!

The Dusk Emperor applauded and said, "Well done! Truly worthy of being the lord guardian's direct disciple. Looks like the Saintly Forest Ranking doesn't lie, after all. Since Shaoyun has successfully resisted the imperial teacher's attack, his grudge with our dynasty shall end here. Also, this emperor still hopes that you can consider my offer. The door of the Dusk Dynasty will always be open for you."

One could say that the emperor had become even more passionate about Xiang Shaoyun.

The first prince took the chance to say, "Brother Xiang, why don't you pay the imperial palace a visit and grab a drink with me there?"

"There is no need to trouble yourself, imperial brother. I have already invited Brother Xiang," the second prince hurriedly said. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun expectingly, hoping that Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't disappoint him.

Xiang Shaoyun did not disappoint Huang Gaojin. He nodded and said, "That's right. Since I had troubled the second prince to show me around the Saintly Forest Courtyard, I need to grab a drink with him."

The first prince had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would reject him. A resentful look covered his eyes, but he quickly hid his resentment and said, "In that case, I'll allow my second brother to play host, then. Second brother, make sure to treat Brother Xiang well."

"Of course," said the second prince with a smile.

"Good. You youngsters should spend more time together. Whatever your choice might be, you will always be our VIP, Shaoyun. Nobody can slight you!" said the emperor before leaving.

While leaving, the emperor sighed inwardly, Too bad he's not a member of the dynasty. What a pity.

Nothing could hide how extraordinary Xiang Shaoyun was. Not even the Dusk Emperor dared to force Xiang Shaoyun to stay. Thus, he had no choice but to employ a gentler method of recruitment.

Even if he couldn't make Xiang Shaoyun his, he had to ensure that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't his enemy. Without even mentioning Xiang Shaoyun's background, just Xiang Shaoyun's strength was enough to cause the emperor to feel fear. Meng Youfang, Huo Jingxiao, and the other officials also left with the emperor.

When the group arrived outside the courtyard, the emperor said to Meng Youfang, "Imperial teacher, forget the matter concerning Ruren."

Meng Youfang's pupils shrank as he bowed and said, "As you command."

He was sure that once the emperor made a decision, that decision would not change. Even a first-rank official like him would not dare to defy the emperor. In truth, despite agreeing to the emperor's request, the imperial teacher had actually arranged to have something done. There was never a need for him to personally make a move against Xiang Shaoyun.

"Your Majesty, if you want to recruit Xiang Shaoyun, there is an easy solution," said a chubby official with a genial look on his face.

He was the Dusk Dynasty's finance minister and was in charge of the imperial court's finances. In the court, his status was second only to the Sacred Martial General and the imperial teacher.

"Oh, what idea do you have, beloved official?" asked the emperor in astonishment.

"Marriage," said the finance minister.

The emperor's eyes lit up at that suggestion. The others also nodded. That was indeed the best choice for now.

"This emperor has 17 princesses. I wonder which of them is worthy of Xiang Shaoyun, the man ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking?" asked the emperor.

"I think my seventh imperial sister is the best candidate. Not only does she have the looks, she is also extremely talented in cultivation. Plus, she is at a similar age as Xiang Shaoyun," said the first prince.

The seventh princess was the princess sharing the same mother as the first prince. He naturally hoped to use this marriage to rope Xiang Shaoyun to his side.

Unfortunately for him, the emperor rejected that suggestion, "Lanlan is not good enough."

"I think Princess Xiaoyue is a decent choice. Plus, she is also a Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple. Both of them used to be fellow disciples. I believe they would agree to this marriage proposal," suggested a different official.

The finance minister also agreed, "I also believe that Princess Xiaoyue will be the best choice."

More and more people agreed.

After giving it some thought, the emperor smiled and said, "Since all of you think she's a good choice, this emperor shall allow this marriage. After picking a good date, this emperor shall bestow this marriage upon both of them."

"The emperor is wise," everyone chanted.

At this time, Meng Youfang said, "Your Majesty, Xiang Shaoyun is obviously an arrogant individual. I think for something like this, we should have someone figure out his thoughts on this. I'm afraid that he will reject the bestowment. This will only sully the dignity of the imperial clan."

"He dares?" the emperor was furious.

"He is, after all, not a citizen of our dynasty. Furthermore, he is that lord's disciple. Now that he is also ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking, he will become even more popular after this news spreads. A young man like him will grow even more arrogant after gaining some feats. Please consider this carefully, Your Majesty," advised Meng Youfang.

"Imperial Father, the imperial teacher makes sense. Why don't you allow me to handle this? We'll decide again after I figure out what he has in mind," said the first prince.

"Ok," said the emperor before heading back to the imperial palace.

## Chapter 1423: The Devils Have Arrived

### Saintly Forest Courtyard.

After the Dusk Emperors and his entourage left, the remaining Saints stepped forth to congratulate Xiang Shaoyun one after another. All these Saints had also benefited when Xiang Shaoyun finished forging his pseudo-god body. Although Xiang Shaoyun had never intended to benefit all these people, they were still grateful toward him.

Of course, their main goal was still to befriend Xiang Shaoyun. After all, a young genius like him would eventually grow into one of the most powerful cultivators in the dominion so long as he did not die young. In fact, if he lived long enough, he could probably become one of the lord guardians of the new generation. Thus, these people were honored to be able to befriend him early on.

Xiang Shaoyun did not refuse their gesture and gave some of his time to each of them. Although he didn't become good friends with any of them, he still spent enough time to remember all of them.

Meanwhile, the second prince acted as the intermediary, introducing Xiang Shaoyun to the Saints and making their interactions feel much more natural. By doing so, the second prince had also earned himself a good reputation among those Saints. In a way, his Hero Assembly Pavilion had benefited from his actions.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun walked up to the Saintly Forest Courtyard's leader. After giving the leader a slight bow, he said, "I would like to thank you. Your courtyard has allowed me to gain a lot. I'm unable to repay this favor, but I have some primal chaos lightning liquid here. Please accept it."



Xiang Shaoyun then took out a tiny bottle filled with 81 drops of primal chaos lightning liquid before handing it over. Everyone present had a burning look in their eyes upon seeing the liquid.

Even the courtyard leader grew excited. "Xiang Shaoyun, your gift is too valuable. The Saintly Forest Ranking has existed since ancient times. The Saintly Forest Courtyard is also honored to have you at the top of the ranking. All your gains come from the Saintly Forest Stele. You don't need to thank us."

"Be that as it may, I, Xiang Shaoyun, am not an ignorant individual. Although us cultivators don't believe in the karma of the Buddhists, I still understand that the Saintly Forest Courtyard is in charge of watching over the Saintly Forest Stele. Any gains I get will therefore be related to the courtyard. If you need any help in the future, I will definitely do my best!" promised Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

When the leader saw how serious Xiang Shaoyun was, he stopped insisting. He knew how valuable the primal chaos lightning liquid was as well. With a smile, he said, "Since that is the case, it will be impolite if I continue refusing."

After putting the bottle of liquid away, he said, "After topping the ranking, your token has also become the most authoritative entrance token. You now have access to the entire Saintly Forest Courtyard. You will also enjoy a 50 percent discount on anything you buy here. Also, the courtyard will fulfill three of your requests free of charge. Even if you need to have a God killed, it can be done."

Toss a peach, get back a plum. This was both a slogan of the Saintly Forest Courtyard and a promise. They carried a mission to protect the cultivators remarkable enough to enter the Saintly Forest Ranking.

"Thank you, courtyard leader," said Xiang Shaoyun with a bow.

"Congratulations, Shaoyun. Congratulations, courtyard leader," said the second prince.

The Saintly Forest Courtyard might be located in the Dusk Dynasty, but it was an existence beyond the dynasty's administration. Additionally, the courtyard did not partake in politics. It was said that the one to win the Saintly Forest Courtyard's support would gain a shortcut to the throne. However, nobody had managed to do so before.

"Let's go, second prince. Time to look for a good place to grab a drink," invited Xiang Shaoyun. He had a rather good opinion of the second prince.

Hearing the invite, the second prince was overjoyed. He said, "Sure. Let's go to the Immortal Road Chamber."

At this time, one of the Saints present said, "Second prince, Brother Xiang, I wonder if I can join?"

With someone taking the lead, the other Saints asked to join as well. All of them wanted to take this chance to deepen their relationship with Xiang Shaoyun.

"I'll let you decide, Shaoyun," said the second prince. One could see just how much he favored Xiang Shaoyun.

There was no doubt that all the Saints present were powerful cultivators, but Xiang Shaoyun alone was probably better than ten of them added together.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Sure. Having more people will only make it more fun."

Xiang Shaoyun was not interested in getting involved in the Dusk Dynasty politics, but he wouldn't mind showing the second prince some favor. As for how the second prince would make use of that favor, it would rely on the second prince. The group thus headed toward the Immortal Road Chamber.

The Immortal Road Chamber was the most luxurious restaurant in the Dusk Dynasty. Unlike regular restaurants, it was akin to the garden and palace of immortals. It was extremely expansive and was extremely beautiful. The place was filled with running spring water, pavilions, rock gardens, and graceful birds. Anyone's mood would greatly improve after taking a stroll inside the Immortal Road Chamber.

Each and every one of the waitresses walking around was a beauty, their looks and good service serving to bring delight to all guests and make them feel at home.

The Immortal Road Chamber was not a business under the Dusk Dynasty. It was rumored to be a business of a certain legendary superpower. Its branches could be seen in the various big cities of the dominion. Nobody would dare cause trouble in the Immortal Road Chamber, not even those from the imperial clan.

During his previous life, Xiang Shaoyun had heard of the Immortal Road Chamber, the Guangling Palace, and the Celestial Alliance. These were among the oldest and most powerful organizations in the dominion. Little was known about them except that they were extremely terrifying. Even Gods would not dare to rashly offend any of them.

During his previous life, Xiang Shaoyun was extremely ambitious and aimed to wage war with the world and establish his own dynasty. However, he was nothing in the eyes of those superpowers. Thus, even though he was known as the unequaled overlord, he also barely knew these top organizations. Now that he had reached a brand new level in his cultivation, he had a feeling that these superpowers would show themselves one after another.

Chaotic times were coming.

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The dominion had four Bloodsin Cities located at the northern, southern, eastern, and western parts of the dominion. Each Bloodsin City served as a lock, suppressing an entrance to the Devil Domain. All the entrances were guarded by human experts, not giving the devils any chance to rise to the surface.

One day, at a remote location within the Dusk Dynasty's territory, repeated sounds of collision suddenly rang out, and the ground cracked. Strands of devilish energy surged out of the ground, instantly turning a nearby town into ruins. All the humans in the area were pulled into the crack. Next, a thick bloody mist covered the area.

Wails filled the air as the thick devilish energy covered the area. The devils had created a brand new entrance and were launching an attack on the dominion. One devil after another charged out of the opening on the ground. All of them had a bloodthirsty look in their eyes as they started heading toward places of human gathering.

Several draconic life forms soared high into the sky. One of them roared, "Tremble, humans. The Diabolic Dragon Clan shall become the master of the world!"

Chapter 1424: Fairy Zi Xiang

A Devil Domain entrance had suddenly appeared in the Dusk Dynasty. News of the new entrance instantly spread all over the Dusk Dynasty. The emperor became filled with worry the moment he received the news. He immediately sent the Sacred Martial General to lead an army and suppress

the devil invasion. Additionally, he also called for the heroes of the world to come and exterminate the devil invaders. The Dusk Dynasty alone would have a hard time suppressing a devil invasion.

After all, each devil invasion was not a matter that only concerned a city or a kingdom. It was a matter that concerned the world. Naturally, the world had to work together to solve the issue.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had yet to hear about the invasion. At present, he was still drinking with the second prince. They were all flanked by beauties while a group of dancers in revealing outfits were performing before them. Melodious zither music was being played, the beautiful music tugging at the heartstrings of everyone present.

At this point, the second prince had realized that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't a person who could be easily recruited. Thus, he changed his goal and aimed to become Xiang Shaoyun's close friend instead. For him, it was a decent consolation prize. After the song ended, everyone applauded the performance, presenting a harmonious atmosphere.

"A pot of liquor, a song, and a dance performance. This is how life should be lived," said Xiang Shaoyun before downing an entire glass of liquor, looking incredibly carefree. He was currently in a great mood.

The two beauties by his side were completely smitten by him. Both nestled in his embrace, their hands gently roaming around his body while they greedily breathed in his scent. They wanted nothing more than to push Xiang Shaoyun onto the floor and conquer him. This man was too charming. Even the second prince was akin to a side character before him. There was simply no comparing the two.

"Shaoyun is right. Music and liquor, to lie in the embrace of beauties while drunk. This is truly a wonderful way to live," said the second prince in agreement.

To lie in the embrace of beauties while drunk. The first part of this saying was to control all land under heaven when sober.

With Xiang Shaoyun's intelligence, he immediately noticed the second prince's ambition. But because he wasn't interested in getting involved in the affairs of the imperial clan, he smiled and said, "The second prince harbors great ambitions. It is unfortunate that Shaoyun is still unwilling to settle down. The world is wide. I still need to experience the splendors of the wide world."

That was Xiang Shaoyun's way of tactfully declining the second prince's recruitment. He would not limit himself to only a single territory.

The second prince smiled bitterly and said, "I know this is not where your ambitions lie. I won't force you. But I wonder if I am good enough to be your brother?"

His question alarmed all the Saints present, but their shock did not last long. Someone as exceptional as Xiang Shaoyun would be recruited by even the emperor. It wasn't surprising that the second prince wished to become his sworn brother, but what Xiang Shaoyun said next shocked them even more.

"Shaoyun is grateful for the favor, but those who have become my brothers are those who have gone through life and death with me. It is improper for us to become sworn brothers so soon after knowing each other," said Xiang Shaoyun in a straightforward manner.

As Xiang Shaoyun was someone who had once tasted betrayal, he greatly treasured those he considered brothers. It had naturally become much harder for one to become his brother, but the moment one won his acknowledgment, he would trust that person with his life.

The second prince's expression turned unsightly. As a prince, was he not qualified to become Xiang Shaoyun's sworn brother? That was pure disrespect.

Xiang Shaoyun continued, "Although we can't become brothers, if you don't mind, we can become friends. What do you think?"

That was his way of offering the second prince a way out of this awkward situation.

The second prince's expression eased. "That is a decent option as well."

Immediately, someone said, "I wonder if I can become your friend as well, Shaoyun?"

The crisp voice was extremely pleasant to the ears. A faint fragrance spread into the room as a beautiful woman noiselessly appeared before them.

A look of infatuation appeared on the second prince's face as he said, "So it's Fairy Zi Xiang. Greetings."

Even Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but praise inwardly, Truly a fairy.

The fairy was a purple-haired woman who looked to be about 20 years old. She had a flawlessly beautiful face, and her purple pupils radiated a mesmerizing luster that could easily send one into a reverie. The purple outfit she wore accentuated her perfect figure. Her bountiful peaks were extremely prominent while her ankles were as fair as ivory, giving one the urge to drop down and caress her legs.

A thin layer of purple aura surrounded her, making her look like an immortal who had descended from the heavens. This Fairy Zi Xiang was none other than the prettiest fairy in this branch of the Immortal Road Chamber. She was also far prettier than the Dusk Dynasty's number one beauty.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know who she was. After he took another sip from his glass, a cautious look surfaced in his eyes. He had a feeling this fairy was trying to approach him for an unknown reason.

You must be trying to tempt me with your beauty. Too bad this overlord is not that kind of man, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

If the second prince knew what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking, he would probably draw his sword in anger. Fairy Zi Xiang had never shown any favor to any man, not even to the first and the second princes. Was she the kind of woman to wantonly seduce others with her beauty?

Fairy Zi Xiang nodded at the second prince before looking at Xiang Shaoyun. She said, "Shaoyun, you have yet to answer my question."

As she spoke, she walked toward Xiang Shaoyun. As for the two beauties beside Xiang Shaoyun, they retreated noiselessly. In this branch of the Immortal Road Chamber, Fairy Zi Xiang was the true master. They naturally wouldn't dare to compete with their master.

Fairy Zi Xiang sat down beside Xiang Shaoyun. Instantly, a faint fragrance invaded Xiang Shaoyun's nostrils, seemingly trying to tug at his soul. The second prince widened his eyes in shock and envy, wondering why the fairy did not sit beside him instead.

"Who are you? Don't get too close to me. I don't even know you," said Xiang Shaoyun in an unromantic manner.

Fairy Zi Xiang was extremely beautiful. In fact, she was just as beautiful as Yu Caidie and Devil Concubine. However, Xiang Shaoyun was not the kind of guy who could be seduced just because one was a beauty.

Fairy Zi Xiang raised her brow. A sweet smile formed on her face as she said, "I was too presumptuous. My apologies. I am Zi Xiang, the manager of this place. I wonder if I can be your friend, Shaoyun?"

She spoke gently, her voice so tender all men would be intoxicated just listening to her.

However, Xiang Shaoyun remained unromantic and said, "I see, you're the manager here. Remember to give us a discount, then. Also, my mom told me that beauties are not to be trusted, so I'm afraid we can't be friends."

#### Chapter 1425: Shaoyun, You're Too Dull

No respect given. Those three words basically summed up Xiang Shaoyun's attitude. Just what kind of a proud genius was Fairy Zi Xiang? It was rumored that she wasn't even 100 years old yet but was already a late-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator. There was no doubting her talent in cultivation.

One ought to know that the higher one's cultivation, the longer one needed to accumulate one's strength to grow. Even with the support of the best of treasures, it would still be difficult for one to advance too quickly. Only with exceptional talent and enough resources would one be able to continue advancing smoothly.

Fairy Zi Xiang came from a mysterious superpower that stood above many other organizations. That placed her above many of her peers as well. Someone like her had been treated with complete indifference by Xiang Shaoyun, shocking all the Saints present. All the Saints felt that Xiang Shaoyun was way too arrogant. Could he disregard everyone just because he had forged the ultimate combat physique?

Even the second prince started talking on behalf of Fairy Zi Xiang. "Shaoyun, Fairy Zi Xiang represents the Immortal Road Chamber. She never makes use of her looks to achieve her goals. She ca—"

However, Xiang Shaoyun interrupted him and said, "I never befriend beauties. The only sort of relationship I will have with a beauty is making her my woman."

That rendered the second prince speechless.

Fairy Zi Xiang's eyes flickered as she flashed a bright smile and said, "If Shaoyun wants, Zi Xiang is willing to become your woman."

"Hehe, I think I have about eight or ten women already. Are you sure?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

This time, it was Fairy Zi Xiang's turn to be rendered speechless. She wouldn't confidently claim that she was the prettiest woman under the sky, but countless men had fallen for her. As for this young man, he had repeatedly ridiculed her and seemed completely unaffected by her beauty. She even wondered if she had grown ugly recently.

However, she had strong willpower and was able to quickly recover her calm. She said, "In the imperial city, everyone knows that you have taken the first place on the Saintly Forest Ranking. After taking an attack from the imperial teacher without suffering defeat, you have become the strongest king of Saints. I believe many organizations will come recruiting.

"Zi Xiang is untalented, but I still hope that you can join the Immortal Road Chamber. We are willing to appoint you as one of our fairies. With our help, you will achieve the supreme dao and enjoy endless wealth. All beauties of the world will be for your picking. A God Realm expert will also be appointed as your dao guardian, helping you in your path to the top. What do you think of our offer?"

Fairy Zi Xiang no longer wanted to keep beating around the bush, so she went straight to the point. The Immortal Road Chamber, Guangling Palace, and Celestial Alliance were the most mysterious superpowers in the dominion. Nobody knew their exact locations, and nobody knew just how strong they really were. However, a casual action by any of them could cause the entire dominion to shake. One could see just how terrifying they were.

The second prince looked at Xiang Shaoyun with envy. If he was given the same offer, he would agree without a second thought.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was not one to give up his freedom. Like how he rejected the Celestial Alliance, he rejected Fairy Zi Xiang. "Thank you for the offer, but I'm not interested in joining any organization. I only want to live a free and unfettered life. You don't have to waste any time on me."

"Freedom? Although you have forged the strongest combat physique, the path before the God Realm is still a hard one," said Fairy Zi Xiang.



"My master told me that only by crushing all difficulties before me would I be able to witness the great dao. Thus, an easy path does not suit me. My apologies," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

The other Saints were completely speechless. There was a saying that a wise man would submit to circumstances. However, Xiang Shaoyun was incredibly stubborn and arrogant. One ought to remember that even iron would break easily if it was too hard.

This time, Fairy Zi Xiang stood up and snapped, "Shaoyun, you're too dull!"

"And from now on, I will only talk about romance," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smirk as he grabbed Fairy Zi Xiang's arm and pulled her down. "You offered to be my woman, right? Come, have a drink with me!"

Fairy Zi Xiang was a sixth-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivator, but she couldn't even see Xiang Shaoyun's movement before she was pulled into his embrace. The surrounding people grew anxious when they saw that.

"Shaoyun, do not be rude to the fairy," said the second prince.

"Second prince, don't tell me you like her?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Fairy Zi Xiang has both talent and beauty. What is the point of being so rude to her?" questioned the second prince unhappily.

"This is the Immortal Road Chamber, while we're the guests. What is wrong with having her serve us? Am I right, Fairy Zi Xiang?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Fairy Zi Xiang smiled sweetly and said, "Sure, I'll have a drink with you."

She then downed the glass of liquor in one go. Her eyes flickered with slight killing intent. She was evidently growing impatient with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and praised, "Truly a female hero."

He stopped bothering her and released her before he started drinking again. Fairy Zi Xiang clenched her fists and considered killing Xiang Shaoyun immediately. But after some hesitation, she decided against it.

After finishing the pot of liquor, Xiang Shaoyun placed the pot down and said, "Second prince, Shaoyun has finished the liquor you bought me. It's time for me to leave."

He then stood up and walked outside.

Meanwhile, the second prince was still unhappy because of what Xiang Shaoyun had done, so he did not try to make Xiang Shaoyun stay. Only after Xiang Shaoyun left did he realize something. He slapped his own head and said, "I was so stupid!"

He hurriedly stood up and rushed toward the door. Alas, Xiang Shaoyun was nowhere to be seen.

"Sigh, I was too shortsighted," the second prince sighed heavily.

Fairy Zi Xiang appeared behind him and said, "That's right. Your vision is still too narrow. I hope that after today, you will learn to see further. After all, there are things you will never gain after missing it once."

She then left.

At this time, the second prince's followers also walked out. One of them said resentfully, "Second prince, that Xiang Shaoyun is too arrogant. What's the point of caring about him so much? Someone like him will never submit."

A different person said, "That's right. He is becoming way too arrogant just because he's somewhat talented. But without being a God, he will never be qualified to reign supreme in the dominion."

"I thought so as well, but there is more to him than we saw. I was tested by him earlier," said the second prince with a sigh

They were all confused, not understanding what the second prince was saying. Only the second prince knew what Xiang Shaoyun's decision was. Since he had turned on Xiang Shaoyun for a woman, would Xiang Shaoyun still accept him as a friend?

## Chapter 1426: Righteous Buddhist Branch Temple

After leaving the Immortal Road Chamber, Xiang Shaoyun headed toward the Righteous Buddhist Sect. Now that he had recovered his astral cultivation and had even reached the second-stage Heaven Battling Realm, his astral cultivation's combat strength was even stronger than his devil cultivation. However, his devil cultivation also contained his Imperial Nether Clan abilities. Therefore, both cultivations had their respective advantages, granting him enough strength to strike fear in the hearts of those below the God Realm.

Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun's performance was too eye-catching. As the saying goes, the tallest tree was the first to fall. His path of growth wouldn't be easy.

While on his way to the Righteous Buddhist Sect, four terrifying auras locked onto him. The four auras had not attacked, but they remained locked on him, awaiting the perfect chance to kill him.

The four auras were hidden extremely well. Even a Great Saint would have a hard time detecting them. However, Xiang Shaoyun was able to clearly detect all four of them. One could imagine just how sharp his senses were. He ignored the four auras and continued heading toward the Righteous Buddhist Sect.

The Righteous Buddhist Sect was located on the southern side of the imperial city. It occupied a large area. The bright golden temple could be seen from far away. In the middle of the temple was an ancient Buddhist statue. The statue radiated a majestic and pure aura that evoked faith in the hearts of all believers. Nobody dared to perform any act of blasphemy in the presence of this statue.

Even before reaching the temple, Xiang Shaoyun could smell the thick scent of burning incense. Sounds of mokugyo being knocked and Buddhist scriptures being chanted reverberated in the air. The entire temple seemed to be surrounded by an indescribable power that could cleanse one's heart.

"Truly worthy of being a top-tier Buddhist sect. The amount of power gathered here is truly astonishing," muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

While walking on the path leading to the temple, the ancient gate of the temple slowly opened. Immediately, a vast Buddhist aura leaked out of the temple.

Next, a group of Buddhist disciples walked out in an orderly manner. They lined up on two sides, with nine people on each side. In a solemn manner, they chanted, "Amitabha Buddha."

Xiang Shaoyun did not know what they were doing, but he could sense an extraordinary aura from the 18 people before him. He thought to himself, Is this the so-called 18 arhats of Buddhism?

In truth, few Buddhist disciples could reach a level where one could become an arhat. The 18 before Xiang Shaoyun were merely martial monks that had the chance of becoming arhats in the future.

Next, a young monk stepped out of the gate. He looked to be about 20 years old with a delicate face and a Buddhist brand on his forehead. He walked with both his palms placed together as his serene gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun. After a slight bow, he said, "Welcome to the temple, respected guest."

Xiang Shaoyun was stunned. He had not expected that they were actually here to welcome him. After a slight shock, Xiang Shaoyun returned the bow and said, "Greetings, master."

He could see that the young monk before him had reached the Heaven Battling Realm. Evidently, this temple was also a place where numerous talents were hidden. They wouldn't have been able to nurture such a young expert otherwise.

"Please come in, respected guest. The abbot is waiting for you," said the young monk with an inviting gesture.

Xiang Shaoyun became even more confused. But with his current strength, few people could cause him to feel fear. In any case, this was the Righteous Buddhist Sect. It was unlikely that villains would appear here. Xiang Shaoyun thus followed the young monk into the temple. After they entered, the 18 monks also followed them in, and the ancient gate closed behind them.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun entered the temple, he could feel that this was a temple where the Buddha had been worshipped for countless years. He also felt the thick righteous aura in the air and saw the countless Buddhist statues with burning incense being worshipped. It was as though this temple was the origin of justice.

At the same time, all his negative emotions shrank, and his devil pearl emitted an uneasy sensation as though it couldn't stand the serene environment in the temple. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun was able to protect himself with his primal inception energy, shrouding his body in a nine-colored aura that made him look like a righteous son of the heavens.

The young monk led Xiang Shaoyun into a certain hall. In the hall was a statue of the Righteous Buddha that was 99 meters in height. It looked imposing and solemn, giving all who saw the statue an urge to kneel and bow before it.

Xiang Shaoyun had the strength to reign at the very peak of all Saints. But even someone like him bowed slightly toward the Buddhist statue to show his respect for the founder of the Righteous Buddhist Sect.

Before the massive Buddhist statue was an old monk. The old monk was reciting Buddhist scripture without stopping. Only when Xiang Shaoyun finished bowing toward the statue did the monk turn around with his palms closed together and say, "Amitabha Buddha. Respected guest, you're finally here. It is our honor to have you as our guest."

Xiang Shaoyun returned the greeting and said, "Greetings, abbot. I wonder if you have mistaken me for someone else? It's my first time here. I'm no respected guest."

A kind smile appeared on the abbot's face as he said, "Ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking. If even someone like you isn't our respected guest, who else is worthy of being our respected guest? Besides, as of late, my intuition has been telling me that a respected guest is about to visit. And here you are. You're definitely the respected guest we're waiting for."

"Abbot, you're basically a prophet," said Xiang Shaoyun with admiration.

When the abbot's gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes lit up with an indescribable luster. It was as though he was going to see through all of Xiang Shaoyun's secrets, causing Xiang Shaoyun to feel slightly uneasy.

"Benefactor Xiang, it is truly rare to see someone who cultivates the ways of both humans and devils. Are you a human or a devil?" asked the abbot.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow and replied calmly, "What do you think?"

"All lives are equal. If one wills for it, one can be a human. And if one wills for it, one can also be a devil. Since that lord has personally proved that you're a human, you're definitely not a devil. However, you still carry the qualities of a devil on you. It is advisable to have our temple help remove the devilish qualities with the Devil Subduing Formation. Only then would you be able to fully purify your body. What do you think, Benefactor Xiang?" asked the abbot.

The Devil Subduing Formation was a terrifying formation. Xiang Shaoyun was no fool. He knew very well that the abbot was still suspicious of the devilish energy in his body. In fact, the abbot was also suspicious of his master's words.

"You might not know this, abbot, but I once received the purification of the angels. Eventually, I even became their Envoy of Light. Do you think I'm a devil if I'm the Envoy of Light?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

The Light of Wisdom lit up on his forehead as a boundless pure radiance spread out, making him look incomparably pure. The serene aura from his Light of Wisdom even fused with the righteous aura in the temple, as though they were meant to be together. As of this moment, Xiang Shaoyun was the Envoy of Light, someone completely unrelated to the devils.

#### Chapter 1427: The Buddhist Waters Run Deep

Purification ceremony!

That was the punishment the angels used to drive off evil. The ceremony utilized a completely different type of power than the Devil Subduing Formation, but the end result for both was the same—to expel devils and purify all evil.

The abbot nodded and said, "The angels' purification ceremony is indeed the best way of expelling the devils. In that case, there won't be an issue with your identity. Benefactor Xiang is young and valiant with a bright heart. This is truly a good thing for humanity."

"You're too kind, abbot. I do have devil blood and devilish energy in me, but I have always been a human. I will never offend those who have never offended me. That is the principle I abide by. My master also told me that so long as I do not have evil in my heart, I'm not a devil. If there is evil in one's heart, that person will be a devil despite having the body of a human. What do you think, abbot?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

The abbot's eyes flickered as he closed his palms together and said, "Amitabha. That lord is right. All lives are equal. Human or devil, if one carries kindness in one's heart, one can even become a Buddha on the spot. I have been too ignorant."

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to continue talking about the topic. He took out Zang Yuan's remains and sarira before saying, "Abbot, Master Zang Yuan's remnant soul had asked me to help deliver his remains back to the Righteous Buddhist Sect. Please accept them."

As the abbot looked at the remains and the sarira, grief covered the abbot's face. He said, "Amitabha. Junior Zang Yuan, welcome back home."

The abbot's voice reverberated throughout the temple, and his body lit up with a golden radiance. Instantly, the surrounding Buddhist energy converged around him, filling the temple with a righteous aura. Sounds of Buddhist scriptures being chanted rang out all over the temple, shocking everyone in the temple.

Dong! Dong!

Outside the temple, an ancient bell rang out, mobilizing everyone in the temple. They all knew that when the temple rang, something major must have happened.

Alongside the righteous aura, numerous Buddha phantoms manifested. A phantom also manifested out of the sarira Xiang Shaoyun brought back. That phantom was none other than Zang Yuan. With a solemn expression, he looked at the Buddha statue in the hall and said, "Amitabha, this disciple greets the Righteous Buddhist Sect."

After bowing to the statue, he bowed to the abbot and said, "After returning and seeing you again, Zang Yuan has no other regrets."

"Junior brother, who would have guessed that we would be separated by life and death after so many years. Do you have any final words?" said the abbot with a sigh.

"Do not feel sad, senior brother. In Buddhism, inner peace is crucial. Life or death is nothing for us. What Zang Yuan lost is only the mortal flesh. I am now a sarira, capable of existing for eternity with Buddha. I have no regrets after returning here," said Zang Yuan. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Benefactor, you are truly someone of your words. Thank you once again. Amitabha Buddha, Zang Yuan has returned."

Then, Zang Yuan's phantom vanished into thin air while the sarira started flying inside the main hall while shining with a golden radiance. The abbot did not stop the sarira. He shut his eyes and closed his palms together while chanting Buddhist scriptures, doing his part in sending Zang Yuan to where he belonged.

Outside the main hall, numerous monks also chanted together. Boundless Buddhist energy surged into the air while countless Buddha phantoms appeared in the sky as though they were here to free all living beings from suffering.

Xiang Shaoyun could vaguely feel a certain powerful force that seemed to be the combination of the temple's unity and the faith of the countless believers who had visited the temple over the years. This was an unfailing and enduring force.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun sighed, The Buddhist waters run deep.

Zang Yuan was someone who had been dead for at least 10,000 years, yet this abbot was his senior brother. It was obvious that this abbot was someone who had reached the God Realm.

The Righteous Buddhist Sect had 7 major temples, 72 medium temples, and 360 small temples in total, collectively forming one of the most powerful Buddhist organizations in existence. One could only imagine how powerful this sect was.

Xiang Shaoyun was given a room to rest by himself. As for the abbot, he did not have the time to play host as he had to take charge of Zang Yuan's return ceremony. After settling in the temple, Xiang Shaoyun found that his four pursuers did not dare to follow him into the temple. They would probably only come looking for him after he left.

Standing before the window, he looked at the moon in the sky. The gentle moonlight showered upon the tree leaves and the courtyard before his room, creating a serene atmosphere. He thought to himself, After this is over, I do need to go back to the sect. Next, I need to start looking for Father. He has been missing for 20 years. Even if his jade slip has yet to extinguish, he is probably trapped somewhere. Also, Old Drunkard has been missing as well. Looks like the Wumo Pass is a truly dangerous place.

The night passed uneventfully. The next day, Xiang Shaoyun planned to take his leave. However, a young monk brought him to a certain place. The moment he arrived, he felt that something was off. He had arrived within the midst of a forest of pagodas. The place was enveloped within a powerful formation that instantly surrounded him with an imposing power. Abruptly, 36 monks walked out of the pagodas, each of them armed with a wooden stick. They all moved in an orderly manner to different spots and quickly surrounded him.

"What are you planning to do?" asked Xiang Shaoyun doubtfully.



He had supposedly convinced the abbot. They shouldn't try anything against him. Furthermore, he was someone who had delivered Zang Yuan's remains back. The karmic entanglement between them had ended. In that case, what were these monks trying to do?

"Amitabha Buddha, this is the Devil Subduing Formation. Devil, face your execution," said one of the monks.

"Is this how you treat your guests?" questioned Xiang Shaoyun. He was truly angered as he had not imagined that the abbot went back on his own words. What hypocrites!

"We shall cleanse the devil of his evil, return justice to the world, defend what is right, and ensure the eternal existence of righteousness. Devil Subduing Formation, activate!" shouted one of the monks.

All 36 of the monks were Heaven Battling Realm cultivators. Their energies instantly fused with the formation, gathering a powerful righteous aura on their bodies, pushing their strength to a level comparable with peak Saints. With their current strength, even Great Saints would not be able to survive their onslaught.

Devil Subduing Righteous Sutra!

The righteous aura around the 36 monks manifested one Buddhist symbol after another. The symbols all shot toward Xiang Shaoyun and entered his body. Regardless of how he struggled, he was unable to stop them.

Next, he sensed his devil pearl and devil blood stir restlessly, as though a part of his body had been completely suppressed. A sense of disgust rose within him as he roared, "Stop chanting!"

Chapter 1428: Devil Subduing Formation's Might

Xiang Shaoyun might have created a real star within his body and forged a god body, but he still had his devil pearl. The pearl was the representation of his devil cultivation and also of evil and negative emotions. If he could control it well, everything would be fine. But upon provocation of external power, his devil pearl would also resist. All the negative emotions would be released, causing Xiang Shaoyun to enter a state of rage.

The Devil Subduing Righteous Sutra was a Buddhist sutra used to drive off devilish energy and purify all evil, restoring justice to the world. It was incredibly powerful and could instantly destroy the devil core of a devil and kill the devil upon contact.

Facing the sutra, Xiang Shaoyun felt an aching pain assault his head. His devilish energy was uncontrollably released from the devil pearl. The 36 monks remained expressionless as they continued chanting the sutra, covering the sky with Buddhist symbols and gathering more and more righteous power.

Slowly, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes turned scarlet as his devilish energy took the form of a terrifying imperial nether devil. His devil cultivation had been completely unleashed.

"Stop chanting!" he roared.

The monks ignored him and continued chanting, sending more and more Buddhist symbols toward Xiang Shaoyun, activating every single bit of devilish energy in his body.

"I'll kill all of you!" Finally, Xiang Shaoyun's devilish nature was fully unleashed. After taking out the Celestial Devil Saber, he started swinging it.

Clank!

The saber struck the Buddhist symbols, creating crisp sounds as the symbols were shattered one after another. However, there were too many of them. It wouldn't be easy for him to destroy all of them.

Profundity of the devil dao!

In his enraged state, Xiang Shaoyun activated the profundity of the devil dao, fully unleashing his killing intent, evil tendencies, and ruthlessness. The strength of his devilish energy surged while the power behind his Celestial Devil Saber became stronger and stronger. Numerous Buddhist symbols were destroyed and couldn't approach him anymore.

Blade wrapped in a thick layer of overbearing devilish energy, each swing of Xiang Shaoyun's saber was incredibly powerful. His saber rays cut through the numerous symbols and continued flying toward the monks.

Finding that they couldn't suppress Xiang Shaoyun with the sutra alone, one of the monks shouted, "Devil Subduing Stick, eliminate the devil!"

At his command, the 36 monks moved. They brandished their sticks from 36 different positions, sending numerous golden energy sticks radiating a righteous power toward the saber rays. The rays were shattered as the energy sticks continued on toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was someone who had developed his divine dao eyes. Nothing could hide from his eyes. As he swung his Celestial Devil Saber repeatedly, his attacks struck the weak points of the energy sticks and broke them one after another. At the same time, he charged in one direction like a raging dragon, moving at a speed so fast that his figure could hardly be seen.

"Die!" roared Xiang Shaoyun as he swung his saber at one of the monks.

The only thought he had in his mind currently was to kill. Whoever his opponent was, he only needed to kill. The pagoda forest had granted the monk the strength of a peak Saint. Thus, he was able to react rapidly and met Xiang Shaoyun's attack with his stick.

Pu!

Even so, the monk was still sent flying away while coughing blood. Clearly, Xiang Shaoyun's attack was too strong for that monk to block. Even an actual peak Saint would have a hard time against Xiang Shaoyun, much less someone who had only gained such strength through borrowed power.

However, the Devil Subduing Formation was naturally not something one could defeat so easily. This was a formation that even a Great Saint could be suppressed. Xiang Shaoyun had just sent one of the monks flying away when 35 new attacks shot toward him.

He reacted swiftly and swung his saber again and again, but he failed to block all the attacks. As a result, about seven or eight attacks struck him and almost caused him to lose his footing.

Such a barrage of attacks would have made him sustain some injuries already, but Xiang Shaoyun's god body was too tough. Even a Great Saint would have a hard time injuring him, much less these attacks that were only at the level of peak Saints.

In fact, Xiang Shaoyun didn't even feel any pain from the attacks. Instead, his killing intent only grew denser as he blasted through a large number of energy sticks before sending three other monks flying away. The other monks remained calm and continued moving about in the formation, creating a massive golden net through their sticks.

Sounds of explosions rumbled on and on in the pagoda forest. The attacks flying everywhere were powerful enough to kill even Great Saints. With only his devil cultivation, Xiang Shaoyun would have no way of stopping all the stick attacks. Numerous attacks struck him with the strength of a peak Saint. At first, he felt no pain. But after being struck again and again, he started to feel some pain.

"All of you, die!" Xiang Shaoyun pushed his strength to his limits and sent numerous saber rays out. The rays carried his boundless killing intent, clearing a path of blood before him, and sent four monks flying.

"Devil Subduing Big Dipper Formation!" shouted one of the monks.

Abruptly, all the monks shone with a brilliant golden radiance as their stick attacks borrowed the power of the formation and transformed into big dipper energy. The big dipper energy further pushed their strength into the level of Great Saints. The numerous energy sticks bombarded Xiang Shaoyun from all directions, each stick moving at an unpredictable trajectory, dealing so much damage that the space within the formation became a vacuum as air itself was reduced into nothingness.

With their current strength, these monks could kill even peak Great Saints. This was why the Devil Subduing Formation was so terrifying. Without such prowess, how could it bear the task of cleansing the world of all evil?

The boundless Buddhist energy and the righteous aura invaded Xiang Shaoyun's body relentlessly, trying to forcefully destroy his devil pearl. As a result, Xiang Shaoyun was assaulted with great pain that rendered him incapable of defending himself. More and more stick attacks struck him. Any other person in his situation would have been killed already, even if that person was a Great Saint.

"Since you want to kill me, all of you shall die!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and released his Imperial Nether Domain. The monks were all trapped inside the domain, isolated from the formation. Instantly, their strength dropped, turning into lambs awaiting slaughter. They all turned pale with fright.

The moment one entered the Imperial Nether Domain, escape became almost impossible. After losing the formation's support, the 36 monks reverted to their original strength. Killing them became an easy task for Xiang Shaoyun. With his raging killing intent, he wouldn't care who these people were. He only wanted to kill, and nobody could stop him. Countless chains shot toward the 36 monks, attempting to kill all of them.

One of them shouted, "Sarira fusion, Devil Subduing Vajra, manifest and subdue the devil!"

Immediately after, the panicked monks regained their calm. As they ignored the incoming chains, their foreheads shone, and a ray of light shot out from each forehead. All the rays converged at a single spot. Next, a Buddhist phantom manifested, a phantom with an extremely ferocious face. This phantom was the Devil Subduing Vajra. With the Devil Subduing Stick in hand, the phantom radiated a righteous aura that rippled out and crushed all the chains. This Devil Subduing Vajra seemed to be as strong as a pseudo-God.

The vajra was created through the combination of the 36 monks' essence power. The Devil Subduing Vajra was capable of slaying all things evil below the God Realm. The righteous aura in the pagoda forest also started entering the domain. Not even the barrier around the Imperial Nether Domain could stop the aura from entering.

As the aura adhered onto the Devil Subduing Vajra's body, it opened its furious eyes and looked straight at the depths of the Imperial Nether Domain. There, Xiang Shaoyun's saint soul was seated cross-legged atop his soul foundation. The boundless righteous aura flooded the domain and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's saint soul, attempting to purify the soul. Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun's saint soul regained a calm mind.

The devil pearl was a part of Xiang Shaoyun's body. After it was provoked, Xiang Shaoyun's mental state would be affected. Otherwise, he wouldn't have directly raged after the devil pearl was provoked. With a single look from the Devil Subduing Vajra, Xiang Shaoyun's devil dao was suppressed. One could see just how pure the righteous aura was.

Xiang Shaoyun withdrew the Imperial Nether Domain and no longer intended to kill the 36 monks. However, that did not mean that he would let what they did slide.

He looked at the Devil Subduing Vajra and said, "I look forward to learning from you."

Instead of being withdrawn, his devilish energy became even thicker. His rune appeared on his forehead, and the profundity of the devil dao surfaced, pushing his combat strength higher and higher.

If I have no evil in my heart, I'm no devil, thought Xiang Shaoyun. Within his head, his saint soul started chanting a calming sutra. He was basically trying to maintain his calm and fuse with the righteous aura while powering his body with devilish energy. He was using the contradicting forces to temper his willpower.

If he could temper himself enough that he was immune to the righteous aura, he would no longer lose his calm when losing control over his devilish energy.

The 36 monks sat down cross-legged at different spots as they repeatedly chanted, absorbing endless righteous aura to strengthen themselves. The Devil Subduing Vajra seemed to come alive as it charged Xiang Shaoyun.

Devil Subduing Vajra Palm!

A Buddhist palm wrapped in a thick righteous aura slapped at Xiang Shaoyun, surrounding Xiang Shaoyun in a spinning Buddhist symbol that attempted to erase the devilish energy on him. This was a destructive palm attack that could kill even a Great Saint.

Xiang Shaoyun sensed a terrifying suppression that greatly weakened his profundity of the devil dao. Since ancient times, evil could not prevail over justice. The evil power within the devilish energy was unable to hide from the righteous aura.

Xiang Shaoyun was disgusted by the righteous aura, but the more disgusted he was, the stronger his willpower became. He roared, "I'm not a devil!"

With the Celestial Devil Saber in hand, he unleashed a stunning attack, creating a saber ray made of killing intent, evil tendencies, and rage. The ray shot toward the incoming palm.

Boom!

The two terrifying powers clashed, creating an oppressive rumble as terrifying shockwaves spread in all directions. If not for the pagoda forest, the entire temple would probably be hit by the shockwaves.

The Buddhist palm had eliminated countless devils since time immemorial. The saber ray shattered, incapable of forming any threat to the palm. The palm landed on Xiang Shaoyun's body, slamming him into the ground and suppressing him. The boundless power of the Buddhist palm invaded Xiang Shaoyun's body bit by bit, eliminating his devil pearl, devil blood, and devil dao.

Xiang Shaoyun was unable to move, yet his mind became clearer and clearer. His saint soul continued chanting the calming sutra again and again, helping him maintain his true heart, teaching him that his strength was merely a part of his existence. Everything was under his willpower's control. Just or evil, everything was decided by his will.

"I'm not a devil!" Once again, Xiang Shaoyun roared. A boundless amount of the profundity of the devil dao swirled around his body and shattered the Buddhist aura around him. He then soared into the sky and swung his saber at the Devil Subduing Vajra yet again. A torrential saber intent slammed forth.

The terrifying saber ray seemed capable of destroying even stars, and the thick killing intent of his devil dao could plant fear in anyone's heart. Before the saber ray even started moving, one's mind would be flooded with fear and might even be killed by the extensive fear.

The killing intent destroyed much of the righteous aura when the saber ray reached the Devil Subduing Vajra, attempting to cut the Devil Subduing Vajra down.

Lay down the blade and become a Buddha on the spot!

The Devil Subduing Vajra widened its eyes and sent yet another palm attack out. Boundless righteous aura surged out and shattered the saber ray, sending Xiang Shaoyun flying away yet again.

"I'm not a devil!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and soared into the sky before swinging his saber again.

He attacked one time after another and was sent flying each time. However, the willpower of his saint soul became stronger and stronger, perfecting his control over the profundity of the devil dao. Finally, it reached a point where the devil dao's negative emotions could no longer affect him.

Boom!

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun was slapped away. He was finally bleeding. The Devil Subduing Vajra was powered by the boundless righteous aura. Even with the Devil Subduing Vajra's terrifying

might, it needed so many strikes to make Xiang Shaoyun bleed. One could only imagine how tough his god body was.

Xiang Shaoyun stood up, withdrew all his devilish energy, and a serene aura surfaced on his body. Closing both his palms together, he said, "Thank you for helping me temper the devil. I am not a devil."

Thick primal inception energy then erupted from his body as a boundless battle intent soared into the sky.

#### Chapter 1430: Devil Subduing Formation Breaks

Xiang Shaoyun's devil cultivation had been defeated, but he had also emerged victorious. The Devil Subduing Vajra had defeated him, but his heart had won. Using the righteous aura, he tempered his willpower over and over, establishing a strong faith in his mind that he wasn't a devil. He could now freely control the devilish energy and the profundity of the devil dao without losing control over his emotions.

However, his competitive heart did not wish to accept his defeat. Thus, he decided to use all his strength against the Devil Subduing Vajra. With the primal inception energy around him, a multicolored radiance swirled around his body. His figure seemed to become much sturdier as he threw his fist out, a fist that shone brilliantly like a star.

#### Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist!

The terrifying fist combined with the strength of the god body, forming the strongest punch Xiang Shaoyun could release at his current level. The entire formation started shaking from the sheer strength of the fist.

The 36 monks could feel a sense of crisis. They chanted faster and faster as they squeezed out every single bit of power they could from their foreheads, supplying the Devil Subduing Vajra with a boundless amount of righteous aura. The Devil Subduing Vajra became more and more corporeal. It formed a seal and sent an even more terrifying palm attack out.

#### Devil Subduing Vajra Palm!

This palm attack was even stronger than the previous palm attacks. It drained all the righteous aura in the surroundings, focusing all the aura into the palm.



The palm and the multicolored fist collided, creating a massive rumble. Numerous shockwaves spread in all directions like a natural disaster, nearly destroying the pagoda forest. The 36 monks were all blasted far away.

Facing a multicolored punch akin to a river of stars, the Devil Subduing Formation was broken. Slowly, the Devil Subduing Vajra faded away. The righteous aura returned to the sky above the temple, and Xiang Shaoyun crashed into a pillar. Blood was dripping out of his mouth while a terrifying palm print was visible on his chest. Many of his bones were broken. It was obvious he had sustained quite a heavy injury.

Profundity of life!

He immediately stirred his astral energy and started healing himself with the profundity of life. A vigorous life force converged on his chest, rapidly closing up his wound. In the blink of an eye, the palm print vanished, and his broken bones were rejoined. His injury had been completely healed.

Primal inception energy contains nine different powers and is the most original of powers, capable of further enhancing the profundity of life. No Saint can compare with me in terms of healing speed, thought Xiang Shaoyun in a satisfied manner.

He might not be able to regrow his entire body from a drop of blood, but so long as his saint soul and heart remained, he could rapidly restore himself to his peak condition. As for injuries such as severed limbs, those were nothing for him. No other Saints could heal severed limbs as well as him—all thanks to his primal inception energy.

Looking at the collapsed monks all around him and sensing that they were all dying, Xiang Shaoyun flicked his fingers and sent 36 strands of pure healing energy toward them.

The 36 monks were only early-stage Heaven Battling Realm cultivators. They were completely helpless against the destructive damage caused by the shockwaves. After all, they had used up the power of their sarira to strengthen the vajra. Just being alive was enough proof of how tough they were.

With Xiang Shaoyun's profundity of life, the 36 monks regained some vitality. However, they would have to rely on themselves to fully heal up. After all, they had all exhausted the essence of their power and needed time to regain it.

"Amitabha. Benefactor Xiang is kindhearted and immune to the devil heart. This is a great fortune for humanity," a loud and clear voice rang out. The abbot then appeared in the pagoda forest.

A group of monks were behind him. As they looked at the 36 monks lying on the ground, their eyes were filled with shock. Not daring to say anything, they hurriedly lifted the 36 monks and took them away. Soon, only Xiang Shaoyun and the abbot were left in the pagoda forest.

Xiang Shaoyun bowed to the abbot and said, "Thank you, abbot, for helping to temper Shaoyun's willpower with the Devil Subduing Formation."

With the Light of Wisdom, Xiang Shaoyun possessed extraordinary intelligence. He already knew that the previous battle was something the abbot had intentionally arranged to temper his willpower and free him from evil influences.

The abbot raised his eyes and said, "Benefactor Xiang has excellent wits. There is no need for this old monk to say more. I only hope that you won't blame me."

The Devil Subduing Formation was extremely terrifying. No ordinary person could resist it. Thus, the abbot couldn't help but admire Xiang Shaoyun for defeating the formation. The Saint ranked first on the Saintly Forest Ranking was indeed not someone to be underestimated.

"Abbot, if there's nothing else, Shaoyun would like to take his leave," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He still had other businesses to attend to.

"There is no rush, Benefactor Xiang. This old monk has something to tell you. At the frontier of the Dusk Dynasty, an entrance leading to the Devil Domain has opened. The devils are starting an invasion," said the abbot.

"What? An entrance opened at the Dusk Dynasty's frontier?" Xiang Shaoyun was alarmed.

He knew that the Devil Domain had been isolated from the dominion. It was extremely hard to create a new connecting point between the two. Otherwise, there would be way more than four publicly known entrances after so many years.

The appearance of a new entrance signified that the devils had found a new path to the dominion. It was no wonder that the abbot had decided to test him with the Devil Subduing Formation. Evidently, the abbot also doubted Xiang Shaoyun's identity and suspected that Xiang Shaoyun was related to the new entrance's appearance.

"That's right. The Sacred Martial General has been deployed to suppress the entrance. But since the devil army has arrived, there will be more than Devil Saints. I'm afraid even Devil Gods will appear. This is a calamity for the dominion. If Benefactor Xiang is really not a devil, you should help subdue the devils."

Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought before saying, "You're right, abbot. However, I have my own matters to tend to. Moreover, I still don't have enough strength. I'm afraid I'm too weak to be of any significant help. The devils are enemies of all humans. I believe a lot of humans will come to help."

The dominion was filled with countless humans and experts. There were more than enough people to deal with the devil invasion. Xiang Shaoyun did not fear death, but he had just left the Bloodsin City for three years. He couldn't afford to dedicate more of his time to facing the devils.

"You're right, but if everyone thinks the same, the dominion will fall into chaos. Also, you have just cleared your name. If you can participate in this war and prove to the world which side you stand on, you will be able to repay that lord's favor toward you," persuaded the abbot.

"I'm not a devil. Therefore, I do not need to prove myself to the world. Goodbye," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly before taking his leave.