

Overlord 101

Chapter 101: Desperate Self Rescue

The lightning transformation grass was a mid-grade spirit medicine. After entering Xiang Shaoyun's mouth, it immediately suppressed a portion of the lightning energy in his body and made it milder.

Despite the name, this herb was not something that would transform the lightning energy or something. Rather, it worked by placating the lightning energy, reducing the destructiveness to help a person better subdue the lightning energy.

Because of that, the streams of lightning energy coursing throughout Xiang Shaoyun's body were suppressed, causing him to regain a slight clarity of mind. His powerful consciousness recovered quickly, and an unyielding willpower surged from within him.

It was unknown if his gift of visualization had been provoked by the lightning energy in him, but it was much sharper right now, giving him a clear look at the terrible condition of his inner body. His inner body was filled with lightning, and it was on the verge of exploding. If he couldn't solve this soon, not even the lightning transformation grass would be able to save him.

"Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, revolve!" Xiang Shaoyun understood what kind of predicament he was in. Without a second thought, he roared and activated his cultivation manual to start guiding the strains of lightning energy into his nine stars.

However, his meridians were already stuffed full with powerful and terrifying lightning energy. It would be hard for him to move the energy through his meridians. Even more annoying was the fact that his lightning bone seemed to be completely full right now, as it had completely stopped absorbing the remaining lightning energy in his body.

If the lightning bone was able to unleash its true power, it should be able to absorb an even larger amount of lightning energy. Perhaps it was currently shackled by Xiang Shaoyun's low cultivation level. Or perhaps the bone was merely undergoing some sort of evolution and no longer needed additional lightning energy for now. Thus, the only person that could save Xiang Shaoyun was himself.

"Astral cosmos sea, cultivate!" Xiang Shaoyun shifted his focus and instead started cultivating his astral cosmos sea with the excess energy. The astral cosmos sea required a huge amount of energy to grow, and these lightning energy would serve nicely.

But of course, the astral cosmos sea needed more than lightning energy to grow. It required numerous types of energy and could not grow through only a single type of energy. If it relied only on lightning energy, it would grow into a destructive astral sea instead of a storage astral sea.

Even so, the astral cosmos had still grown to six square meters in size. This was the growth that had resulted from both his growth in cultivation level and the supply of lightning energy. But that was far from enough. Xiang Shaoyun still needed to move more of the lightning energy to get himself out of danger.

"Overlord Skyslaying Saber!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out when he saw the Overlord Skyslaying Saber in his astral cosmos sea hungrily absorbing the lightning energy. But because of the layer of astral cosmos sea separating the saber from the outside lightning energy, the absorption was rather slow.

After noticing that, Xiang Shaoyun opened his astral cosmos sea and directed all the lightning energy in his meridians there. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber became excited and started shining brightly. The presence of dragon and tiger also unfurled as the saber absorbed a large amount of lightning energy. Slowly, the body of the saber started recovering.

"Black gold, melt!" Xiang Shaoyun could sense what the Overlord Skyslaying Saber was trying to do. Although it was absorbing all the lightning energy, it still couldn't fully recover, as it was too badly damaged. Therefore, it was important to supply the saber with some materials to help with the recovery.

The black gold was something Xiang Shaoyun had accidentally obtained at the market. He was originally planning to forge his own fate weapon with it, but with this Overlord Skyslaying Saber within him, he changed his mind. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber seemed to be connected to him by fate, and if he could fully reforge the saber, he might be able to turn it into his fate weapon.

The black gold was incomparably hard, but soaked in the lightning energy, it softened considerably. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber seemed to have its own consciousness as it drew in the black gold and stuck the black gold on its body so as to slowly devour it.

"No, still not enough. I still have too much energy." Xiang Shaoyun was feeling much better after shifting a large amount of lightning energy to the saber. But that was still far from enough, as he still had a lot of excess lightning energy.

His brain worked overtime thinking of a solution before he finally made a decision. He started pouring the remaining lightning energy into his first star. Innate stars were something born naturally

in humans. These stars were what enabled humans to cultivate, becoming something more than human.

A regular star was only a tiny dot of light as large as a pinkie, but at the same time, it also felt boundlessly wide. Generally speaking, the Astral Realm was the realm where one's stars started awakening. At the Transformation Realm, one's astral energy would solidify, and at the King Realm, one would be able to ignite the star to unleash its unlimited potential.

Now, Xiang Shaoyun was concentrating the lightning energy into only his first star instead of spreading the energy evenly among all his stars. This was very risky. The lightning energy was a pure unrefined form of energy and was still extremely rough and destructive. The star of a mere Astral Realm cultivator shouldn't be able to take in the pure lightning energy at all.

In fact, only those at the Transformation Realm and above could start absorbing these pure unrefined external energies into their stars. When the strains of lightning energy converged in his star, Xiang Shaoyun felt an aching sensation, as if his star was about to explode. In fact, it gave a sensation that he was going to die soon.

Fortunately, the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual displayed its prowess right this moment. It gathered the energy scattered throughout Xiang Shaoyun's meridians and slowly used them to suppress the most berserk of the lightning energy. That coupled with the medical prowess of the lightning transformation grass, the excess lightning energy was fully gathered into his first star.

"Ahhhh!"

Xiang Shaoyun roared repeatedly as an unending pain assailed him. The pain made him feel as if his body was being ripped apart alive. He did not enjoy such a sensation at all. As all that was happening, his willpower grew without stop. This was the boundless tenacity originating from the inheritance intent he had received from the Martial Palace. As he stayed unyielding in face of pain and suffering, his consciousness grew stronger and stronger.

"I have yet to take my revenge, and I have not retaken all that is mine. How can I die just like this? Lightning energy? Suppress!" Xiang Shaoyun's willpower kept growing until it finally reached a brand new height—smashing his shackles apart—and made him forget the pain he was feeling. He continued pushing all the remaining lightning energy in his body into the star.

The star seemed to have sensed Xiang Shaoyun's boundless tenacity, as it started shining brighter and brighter, as if it was turning into an actual star. It absorbed all the lightning energy, and with the

electricity currents crackling all over its surface, it had the appearance of a lightning star filled with boundless, pure lightning energy.

After the star finished its transformation, Xiang Shaoyun's lightning bone also started transforming. It started shining, its radiance forming a connection with the radiance of the first star. The astral sea turned into an expanse of purple radiance. Occasionally, dragons could be seen soaring and tigers could be seen pouncing, making the astral sea look incomparably majestic.

The purple energy quickly spread into Xiang Shaoyun's meridians, organs, bones, and so on. Under the nurturement of the purple energy, his injuries started healing. The lightning condor had been guarding Xiang Shaoyun all this while, and when it saw his transformation, shock filled its eyes.

It could not see the transformation within Xiang Shaoyun, but it saw the physical transformation Xiang Shaoyun was undergoing. Cracks had actually formed on the surface of Xiang Shaoyun's body.

Chapter 102: Massive Transformation

Was Xiang Shaoyun dying? No, he wasn't. Rather, he was shedding his skin. Among humans, there was a saying that one could shed one's body and exchange one's bones. But that was only achievable by those who had reached a terrifyingly high level of cultivation. That was a stage where one shed one's old skin and replaced one's organs to bring about a new source of life and form a new living body, recovering one's youthful vigor.

That was a stage only existing in legends.

But this was happening to Xiang Shaoyun right this moment. It was as if his body was tearing apart, but in truth, he was currently shedding his skin and regrowing a new layer of skin. He had merely started on his path of cultivation, yet he was already shedding his skin. This was unimaginable.

Apart from his skin, his organs were also regrowing, his vitality turning vigorous. The newly gained vitality should never be underestimated as it was the very thing that would grant Xiang Shaoyun a lifespan nobody could compare to.

In other words, after this process, even if his cultivation level was to stay the same, he would have a much longer lifespan than any other Astral Realm cultivators. In fact, not even Transformation Realm cultivators would have a lifespan longer than him.

The shedding process did not last long. Soon, the charred skin dropped off his body, revealing a new skin that was as tender as a baby's skin, a skin so fair and beautiful that all women would be envious.

How did a man get a skin so exquisite and tender?

Xiang Shaoyun did not immediately wake up after the shedding process, as numerous transformations were going on inside his body as well. At this moment, half his spine had already turned purple. Odd engravings looking like dragon scales could be seen on his lightning bone.

If someone saw this, that person would recognize this process as a draconic transformation process. This was truly an astonishing transformation. Apart from that, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber within his astral cosmos sea had completely fused with the black gold. Its original badly damaged body was now slightly repaired, and it no longer looked as shabby.

The entire saber was emitting a faint lightning energy, making the saber look even more powerful and impressive. The current grade of this weapon was unknown. Perhaps it was now a king weapon, or perhaps it was not even a tier-3 weapon. But with its lightning energy, it was definitely comparable to a king weapon in might.

Apart from that, the connection between the Overlord Skyslaying Saber and Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have grown stronger as well. He now felt that the saber was related by blood, and the reason for that was unknown. Perhaps it was because of the recovery of the saber, or perhaps it was because he was truly related to it.

Additionally, the first star that had been stuffed full with an enormous amount of lightning energy was now much bigger than the other stars. It was also emitting a purple radiance, and at one glance, the star looked much more dazzling than the other stars.

It was obvious that that was an aftereffect of having absorbed a large amount of lightning energy. The meridians in his body had also grown wider, his organs had been completely cleansed, his bones had turned harder, and so on. He had undergone a massive transformation.

After studying his body with his gift of visualization, Xiang Shaoyun finally understood his current condition clearly. He had no idea why he was suddenly able to use the inner gaze, but he did not spend much time thinking about it. In any case, gaining the ability was something good.

After seeing clearly the changes he had undergone, he darted up from the ground and roared with laughter, "Hahaha, blessings are indeed hidden behind calamities!"

After a close brush with death, he survived. Not only had he survived, his cultivation level had also reached mid seventh-stage Astral Realm. He had advanced three stages at once. This was definitely an astonishing speed of growth. If it wasn't for the fact that he had diverted a large amount of the lightning energy away, he would have grown even more. Of course, if he had done that, there was a possibility that he would have simply died by bodily implosion.

Xiang Shaoyun had never felt as full with energy before this, and he had a feeling he could now kill an Intermediate Demon with a casual punch.

"Looks like I need to find some demonic beasts and try out my new strength," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he stretched his arms. But right after he said that, he sensed a pair of eyes looking at him. For some reason, he had a hair-raising sensation from being stared at by this pair of eyes.

He looked over in the direction he sensed the gaze was coming from. There, a large purple condor was staring at him with an odd light in its eyes. This lightning condor was much larger than an ordinary lightning condor, and a row of purple feathers stood upright on its head, looking like a crown of feathers, making it look incomparably noble.

Utilizing his presence of a king, which had also increased in level with him, Xiang Shaoyun was able to see that this lightning condor was different than others with one look. His pupils shrunk as he cried out in alarm, "Lightning condor king!"

Earlier when Xiang Shaoyun was gathering the power of lightning, he did not have the chance to get a clear look at this lightning condor. And toward the end when the lightning condor was undergoing the tribulation next to him, all his sensations were already completely numb.

It was clear this lightning condor king had successfully undergone the tribulation and had become a Demon King. Xiang Shaoyun had grown much stronger, but even so, he still felt his hair rising on end when this condor king stared at him. He started thinking of a way out, but he found that nothing he could do would help him.

Before absolute strength, all tricks were rendered useless.

"Oh, hello there, revered lightning condor king. I-I'm only passing by. Alright, I'll leave now. Don't bother sending me off." Xiang Shaoyun feigned calmness and saluted the lightning condor before taking his leave.

"You don't need to fear me. I won't eat you," the lightning condor king said before Xiang Shaoyun could start running.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped moving and turned around. "Oh, for real?"

"Us condors never lie!" the lightning condor king said with a firm tone. He then continued, "If you are really scared of me, I can take you out of this place."

"Haha, lightning condor king, since you are not going to eat me, there is nothing for me to fear," Xiang Shaoyun laughed heartily.

Although he was confused as to why the lightning condor king wasn't going to eat him, he was no longer as alarmed. After all, the promises of demonic beasts were much more believable than the promises of humans.

Suddenly, the lightning condor king transformed into a human form. His human form was a middle-aged man, and his purple feathers had turned into a purple outfit. He had a head of purple spiky hair that swayed lightly in the air. His entire person radiated strength and power. It was clear this was not a perfect transformation as part of him still retained the characteristic of a demonic beast. This would only change when his cultivation level grew even higher.

"Please come and visit my cave dwelling," invited the lightning condor king. After saying that, he started heading toward a certain direction.

Xiang Shaoyun followed unhesitatingly. But the moment he started moving, he had a chilly sensation. He looked down and immediately cried out in alarm, "Holy shit, where are my clothes?"

He was completely naked. More importantly, the lightning condor king had seen him butt naked. This won't do! The lightning condor king was a burly man, not a seductive fox lady!

Xiang Shaoyun felt like dying.

Chapter 103: They Are Not Worthy

The lightning condor king had a large cave dwelling. It was right at the middle of the Lightning Gathering Mountain, and it seemed to occupy half the space inside the mountain. There were a large number of lightning condors resting around the cave, and they were all looking at Xiang Shaoyun with unfriendly gazes.

With a cold snort from the lightning condor king, the condors scattered. Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was already fully dressed. He couldn't stand staying naked before a bunch of lightning condors.

"Fortunately they are demonic beasts and not humans. Otherwise, my chastity will go down the drain," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun sensed an intense lightning aura from inside the cave, an aura that gave him a sense of intimateness. If it was anyone else staying here, they would go numb from the thick lightning energy in the air.

But that was not the case for Xiang Shaoyun. One could say that he now had a very close intimacy with all forms of lightning energy. Inside the cave, he saw numerous lightning elemental plants, and he also found a lightning transformation grass that had already grown into a low-grade spirit medicine.

"Lightning transformation grass!" Xiang Shaoyun had a longing look.

"You already ate an even higher grade of lightning transformation grass of mine when you were nearly dead earlier," reminded the lightning condor king when he noticed what Xiang Shaoyun was looking at.

"So it was the lightning condor king who had saved my life. You have my gratitude," Xiang Shaoyun said with a look of realization before quickly cupping his hands and thanking the lightning condor king.

He could remember that he was in a very bad condition when the lightning energy in him suddenly turned docile, allowing him to recover a slight trace of clarity and eventually survive.

"You're welcome," said the lightning condor king.

Here, a large nest built with dry twigs could be seen. This was a spot exclusive for the lightning condor king. Since he was bringing Xiang Shaoyun here, it was obvious he looked quite favorably upon him.

Xiang Shaoyun was knowledgeable about demonic beasts. He did not hesitate and directly sat down amid the dry twigs before asking the lightning condor king, "If I may ask, why did you help me, lightning condor king?"

Until now, he was still confused about that. Demonic beasts and humans were always on the opposing sides. When an opportunity presented itself, one party would always try to either eat or kill the other party.

It was worth noting that Xiang Shaoyun had also come for the lightning. In fact, one could say that he had messed with the lightning condor king's breakthrough. But not only did the lightning condor king not blame him for that, the lightning condor king had even helped him. He definitely did not think that this was because of his boundless charm.

Is this lightning condor king trying to make me his pet? Shit, I would rather die! Xiang Shaoyun thought to himself.

Humans had a habit of subduing demonic beasts to turn them into mounts. Likewise, demonic beasts had a habit of subduing humans to turn them into slaves as well. Some demonic beasts merely subdued humans as a way of insulting humans, but some also subdued humans to satisfy their numerous perverse desires, turning the humans into their toys.

Regardless of gender, the demonic beasts had numerous perverse fetishes they could unleash on humans, giving their slaves a life worse than death. As Xiang Shaoyun thought of that, his hairs stood straight on end.

He couldn't beat this lightning condor king or escape. This place was most certainly not reachable for Elder Zhen Peng, as he would have otherwise been here long ago.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun grew nervous, the lightning condor king asked, "I know you humans love to turn us demonic beasts into mounts that can fight alongside you. When I was breaking through, some humans had come to do precisely that. Now that I have successfully broken through, I doubt he will dare come anytime soon. Do you have anything to do with that human?"

Xiang Shaoyun quickly waved his hands and said, "How would I have anything to do with him? I am only here to borrow some lightning power. I don't know him at all. If you want to take your revenge against him, go ahead. I will definitely not stop you. In fact, I am fully in favor of you making him your slave. Go, don't hold back!"

Xiang Shaoyun spoke magnanimously, as if he was the one giving the lightning condor king a human slave as a gift. The lightning condor king said indifferently, "I am not interested in making him my slave. It's not like I can do it anyway. He is too strong. If I hadn't set him up with the tribulation, I might not have been able to make him leave at all."

"Ah, you are too humble, my king," Xiang Shaoyun said, feeling somewhat gloomy.

"But if you need a mount, I won't mind helping you with it," said the lightning condor king.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly waved his hands.

"No, no, there is no need for that...hold on, do you mean you will give me a lightning condor to be my mount?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment. He could not understand what the lightning condor king was getting at here. It did not make any sense for this lightning condor king to be offering him a mount. But what the lightning condor king said next stunned him even more.

"I mean I will be your mount, not the other condors. They are all not worthy," the lightning condor king clarified.

"You? My mount?" Xiang Shaoyun's mouth went wide agape.

Although he had ridden many Demon King or even stronger beasts before, he had subdued none of them himself. Now, he no longer enjoyed the glory he once had. And with his strength as an Astral Realm cultivator, it wasn't likely that he would be able to subdue his own mount, much less a Demon King.

But here it was, a new Demon King offering to be his mount. That made him feel like he was dreaming. One ought to know that a King had his pride, and even if the King was a demonic beast, he still wouldn't easily submit. This submission shocked Xiang Shaoyun even more than Elder Zhen Peng's submission. Nobody would believe something like this was possible.

"That's right. You have the purest innate lightning energy growing in your body. If I can stay by your side long term, I will be able to grow even stronger," the lightning condor king said honestly.

The lightning condor as a species did not particularly stand out among the demonic beasts. It was already very impressive for this lightning condor king to reach the Demon King realm. It would be much harder for him to reach an even higher height.

The lightning condor king was already considering this when he first saw the innate purple lightning overflowing from Xiang Shaoyun's body. And when he saw Xiang Shaoyun shedding his skin, he finally made his mind to submit. Although this human was still weak, a person with the innate purple lightning would definitely have extraordinary accomplishments in the future.

There was no doubt about that.

Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath and arranged his thoughts as he lamented inwardly, Looks like I am really boundlessly charming, to the point even Demon Kings can't resist my charm. Damn it, this is a free underling. I might as well take it.

"Are you sure, lightning condor king? After following me, you will have to follow me to the territory of humans," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Yes, that is precisely what I am concerned about. I have just broken through, and I still need to take care of my clan. It will be too much trouble for me to leave. Therefore, you might as well stay and cultivate here instead. It will be helpful for you, and during your breakthrough into the King Realm in the future, it will also be beneficial for me," the lightning condor king said.

What, no! Why won't you just obediently be my mount? Xiang Shaoyun shouted inwardly, but when he spoke, his words were much calmer, "I don't think that is a good idea."

He felt like slapping himself on the face for asking the lightning condor king so many questions. He should have directly agreed to the proposal without giving the condor king a chance to change his mind.

Chapter 104: I'm Giving Him the Cold Shoulder

The lightning condor king had indeed changed his mind. He felt like the best option was for Xiang Shaoyun to stay here. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was crying dry tears from regret.

"Lightning condor king, you have saved my life, so I will naturally repay you for that. But if you make me stay here, even if I spend my entire life cultivating, I still won't be able to reach the King Realm. I will only disappoint your expectations." Xiang Shaoyun tried changing the lightning condor king's mind.

"Why not? Although I am not a human, I still know that it won't be hard at all for someone with innate purple lightning to reach the King Realm. Are you lying to me simply because you don't want to stay here?" questioned the lightning condor king resentfully.

"No, not at all. Listen to me. Although I possess the innate purple lightning, a human needs more than that to advance in cultivation. To advance in cultivation, I need to comprehend the numerous ways in which I can make use of my strength and power. By staying here, I will keep thinking about the human territory, resulting in a chaotic mental state. And with a chaotic mental state, it is natural that I won't be able to advance in cultivation," Xiang Shaoyun explained.

"I understand none of that. What I do understand is, if you stay here, I will help you reach the King Realm with all my strength!" said the lightning condor king stubbornly.

"If you want to help me, you should just be my mount and follow me back to the human territory. When I become a King, I will help you reach an even higher realm." Xiang Shaoyun decided to stop beating around the bush and countered with his own offer instead. If he was made to stay here, how would that be different than being the lightning condor king's human slave? He could not accept that.

"No, I have changed my mind," the lightning condor king insisted.

"Don't push it, lightning condor king. It won't benefit either of us." Xiang Shaoyun started becoming angry as well. As the great lightning condor king, how could he turn back on his words? Where was the honor of a King?

"Are you threatening me?" The lightning condor king stood up and glared at Xiang Shaoyun.

"You're a mere Demon King. So what if I threaten you. Just eat me if you can." Xiang Shaoyun decided to completely throw caution to the wind and activated his lightning bone, causing the dragon and tiger within his spine to charge out.

The dragon and tiger orbited him, emitting a pressure unique to dragons and tigers. This was the manifestation of his presence of a king; and of the dragon and tiger, the purple dragon now looked even more solid while the tiger looked comparatively weaker.

Even so, the moment the dragon and tiger appeared, Xiang Shaoyun's presence seemed to have changed completely. A majestic aura emanated from him, making it hard for one to even look straight at him.

The lightning condor king also roared as his demonic aura surged out to meet Xiang Shaoyun's aura. Since the lightning condor king was a true Demon King, his demonic aura was boundless and powerful.

But when the demonic aura surged over, the purple dragon and tiger behind Xiang Shaoyun roared, and they both pounced forward. Facing the purple dragon and tiger, the demonic aura was actually scared into retreat.

Dragons and tigers were the kings of beasts, and their imperial aura was not something a lightning condor king could hope to contend with. This was the difference between levels of bloodline.

But the defeat of his aura did not mean the lightning condor king was helpless against Xiang Shaoyun. He was after all a Demon King while Xiang Shaoyun was still a seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator, comparable to an Intermediate Demon. The lightning condor king could totally beat Xiang Shaoyun up if he wanted.

Xiang Shaoyun did not give the lightning condor king a chance to react as he quickly started fleeing. He would try escaping no matter what, as he would not accept the fate of turning into the lightning condor king's food. Alas, he hadn't even left the cave when the lightning condor king appeared before him with a flicker.

"Lightning condor king, demonic beasts never lie. You promised not to eat me!" Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Yes, I did say that. Let's go, I'll take you out. I hope you will remember the favor I did you in the future," said the lightning condor king.

"Don't worry. I, Xiang Shaoyun, am not a person who forgets favors. In the future, I will definitely repay you for your help," Xiang Shaoyun said gleefully.

Everything would be fine as long as the lightning condor king was willing to let him off. But it was a pity that the lightning condor king had changed his mind and was not going to be his mount anymore.

Otherwise, Xiang Shaoyun would have an additional great helper when he returned to the Martial Hall Palace. The lightning condor king was conflicted as well. He had just become a Demon King and would hate to part with his clan right now. He still needed to stay behind and protect them. Thus, he had to give up on his thought of following Xiang Shaoyun.

When sending Xiang Shaoyun out, the lightning condor king offered him a young lightning condor as a mount instead. But Xiang Shaoyun rejected. Although he also wanted a lightning condor mount, since he already had Little White, he did not have the time to take care of a lightning condor in addition to Little White.

More importantly, the bloodline of an ordinary lightning condor wasn't too powerful. The highest realm a lightning condor could reach was probably the Demon King realm. If others found out that Xiang Shaoyun had rejected a free lightning condor, they would probably be infuriated to death.

One ought to know that flying beasts were the hardest to subdue. The moment one obtained a flying mount, one would immediately be able to soar through the sky and overlook the world below. But Xiang Shaoyun did not care for that, as he had tasted the feeling of soaring freely through the air long ago.

"A human King has been staying right outside my territory, seemingly looking for something," said the lightning condor king. This was the territory of the lightning condors. Thus, he knew everything that was going on around there.

"Is he the one who attacked you previously?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"No. I wouldn't have left him alone otherwise," the lightning condor king said.

"Bring me to him, then. He might be my man," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Thus, the lightning condor king personally brought Xiang Shaoyun outside the lightning condor's territory. There, Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe could be found.

When Elder Zhen Peng sensed the approaching lightning condor king, he was immediately on guard. But he suddenly saw that someone was riding the condor king, and when he saw who that person was, his face was covered with joy. "It's the young master! He is still alive!"

It had been many days since Xiang Shaoyun's disappearance. Elder Zhen Peng had been searching everywhere for him. He was even considering extending his search into the lightning condor's territory. But the sheer number of lightning condors forced him to stop his search.

After all, if Xiang Shaoyun had really been captured by the lightning condors, he would have been dead by now. It was pointless for him to charge in there anyway. But he still believed that Xiang Shaoyun was safe. No matter what, his young master did not look like someone who would die young.

Thus, he waited here patiently.

"Old Peng, senior brother!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted when he saw them. Then, the lightning condor king landed before the two and let Xiang Shaoyun get off him.

"Young master, are you fine?" Elder Zhen Peng asked. Although he was very shocked to see Xiang Shaoyun arrive mounted on the lightning condor king, he still suppressed his shock and did not let it show.

"I'm fine. The lightning condor king saved me," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Remember your promise," said the lightning condor king before flying away.

"Young master, is he not your mount?" Elder Zhen Peng was confused.

"He did want to be my mount, but I gave him the cold shoulder," Xiang Shaoyun said nonchalantly.

Chapter 105: Temper

"You are giving even a Demon King the cold shoulder?" Elder Zhen Peng's eyes opened wide as he cried out in alarm. Then, a look of admiration covered his face as he said, "The young master's broad ambitions is something the likes of us can't compare with."

Inwardly, Elder Zhen Peng was yelling miserably, Young master, if you don't want the Demon King, you can still subdue it and make it my mount, right? I will absolutely welcome him to my side!

Zi Changhe also shared Elder Zhen Peng's thoughts. Although he already had the elder wolf as a mount, the lightning condor king was much more powerful.

"Where is Little White?" asked Xiang Shaoyun when he did not see Little White around.

"He was still by my side when you went to gather the lightning, but shortly after, he went missing and still hasn't returned," Zi Changhe said guiltily.

"What an unruly kid. Looks like he is unwilling to stay idle and must have gone to grow strong himself as well," Xiang Shaoyun said nonchalantly, not putting any blame on Zi Changhe at all.

Little White had swallowed a demonic core and a tiger tooth, and he had also been fed a large number of old medicines and spirit medicines. He was already an Intermediate Demon, and he would be safe so long as he remained careful in the forest. More importantly, Little White had an extraordinary bloodline. Even if he encountered a demonic beast stronger than him, it was likely that the beast would not easily attack him.

"Should we wait for him, then?" Elder Zhen Peng asked.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Since I have grown somewhat stronger, I will wait here. Both of you can return first." He paused and gave Zi Changhe a stalk of lightning transformation grass before saying, "Senior brother, take this. It might be helpful for you."

This was the low-grade lightning transformation grass Xiang Shaoyun had gotten from the lightning condor king. Zi Changhe cultivated the power of lightning. The lightning transformation grass would help weaken the destructiveness of lightning so as to help him better absorb lightning energy when cultivating.

"Ok. I have been searching for one of these for a long time, but in the end, you are the one to have found it for me," Zi Changhe said in excitement.

"Wait, young master, you have grown that much? You're now at the seventh stage!" Elder Zhen Peng cried out in alarm when he finally noticed the change.

Apart from the growth in Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation, Elder Zhen Peng also noticed the transformation of Xiang Shaoyun's body. He seemed like a completely new person, his skin sleek and tender yet robust. Even his presence felt much stronger.

Hearing his exclamation, Zi Changhe also studied Xiang Shaoyun. Shock filled his eyes. It had only been half a month since they last saw him. Increasing three stages in half a month was a speed so fast it was unimaginable.

"It's nothing worth mentioning. I am still stuck in the Astral Realm. Some powerful organizations have geniuses capable of reaching the King Realm at my age," Xiang Shaoyun said grimly. He was not lying. There were indeed King Realm cultivators his age.

Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe were once again shocked speechless. It was also now that they finally had an inkling that Xiang Shaoyun was one who viewed the world from a completely different height from them.

Soon, both Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe left.

"Well, since there is still a little bit of time, I'll properly temper my new strength," Xiang Shaoyun muttered. His cultivation level had increased, but he also needed to have a combat prowess matching his cultivation level.

He started striding toward a certain direction, his target the exit of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. He wanted to leave this place relying on his own strength. When he came, Elder Zhen Peng had escorted him. Now, he wanted to rely on his own strength and fight his way out.

The moment he left the lightning condor's territory, demonic beasts attacked him. The demonic beasts in this part of the mountain range were not weak at all. They were at least Intermediate Demons, and Great Demons were aplenty as well.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to be careless as he advanced cautiously and quickly killed each demonic beast he encountered. Before long, a Great Demon blocked his path.

"Roar! Roar!"

It was a two-headed black canine, and it was a second-stage Great Demon. The two pairs of sinister canine eyes were glaring at Xiang Shaoyun as the beast bared its fangs. Its body, as sturdy as a cow's, was currently charging straight at Xiang Shaoyun.

A second-stage Great Demon was equivalent to a second-stage Transformation Realm human. And in terms of actual combat prowess, a second-stage Great Demon was comparable to a third-stage Transformation Realm human.

Any other Astral Realm cultivator meeting a Great Demon like this would have no choice but to flee. But Xiang Shaoyun did not do so. Rather, he strode forth to meet the beast. If others saw, they would think this young man had gone crazy. A seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator battling a second-stage Great Demon was no different than suicide.

"Kill!" Xiang Shaoyun's battle intent surged as he advanced with his Lightning Spear.

Lightning Spear Technique!

Like a bolt of lightning, he dashed forward and stabbed forth with his spear. Strains of lightning immediately surfaced on his spear, flowed to the tip, then shot out in the form of a lightning bolt.

This was an attack far beyond what a seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator should be able to unleash. In fact, this was an attack one normally needed to reach peak Astral Realm before they could unleash.

The two-headed black canine was much stronger than Xiang Shaoyun. It spat out a clump of black energy that transformed into a black ball. The black ball smashed down upon Xiang Shaoyun's lightning attack, completely shattering it.

The black ball continued rushing forward and arrived before Xiang Shaoyun in the blink of an eye. Xiang Shaoyun moved to the side, dodged the attack, and leaned against a tree. He then kicked the tree and darted toward the two-headed black canine.

But the two-headed black canine also reacted quickly. It roared before leaping, and it dodged Xiang Shaoyun's approaching spear before pouncing at Xiang Shaoyun. It clawed at Xiang Shaoyun with incredibly sharp claws. The claws were filled with an overbearing power capable of tearing even stones apart.

As of this moment, Xiang Shaoyun was still midair. It would thus be hard for him to dodge the attack. With no other option, he shielded his chest with the Lightning Spear to defend against the attack.

Clang!

The attack landed, creating a large amount of sparks, and it actually broke the Lightning spear in half! Part of the attack also reached Xiang Shaoyun, but fortunately, only his cloth was torn and he himself was uninjured.

With his cloth torn, the inner armor he was wearing was revealed. This was no regular inner armor. Rather, it was a king-grade inner armor. This was something he had received from the old drunkard, but he had never used it before now.

But after the lightning gathering incident, he had no choice but to be even more careful. Thus, he decided to put the armor to use. After all, nothing was more important than protecting his life.

Because of that, he was completely unhurt by the two-headed black canine's attack. In fact, after the attack landed, an opening appeared for him to attack.

Star Destroying Finger!

Before Xiang Shaoyun landed on the ground, his finger shot forward toward the two-headed black canine.

Bang!

The Star Destroying Finger launched a beam of purple lightning energy that arrived before one of the two-headed black canine's heads in the blink of an eye. The two-headed black canine was unable to react in time, and thus the attack struck it, causing it to yell in pain.

It was only now that Xiang Shaoyun finally landed on the ground. But as soon as his foot touched the ground, he dashed forward. At the same time, he pulled back his clenched fist. Purple electrical currents danced all over his body, and as he punched out, all the lightning energy shot out together.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Chapter 106: This Little Fellow Holds a Grudge as Well

Xiang Shaoyun was not holding anything back in that punch of his, drawing power from both the lightning energy in his first star and the innate purple lightning from his lightning bone. The two sources of lightning energy stacked up, and they coursed through the meridians in his arm before shooting out from his fist. The lightning bolt rumbled out like a roaring dragon, carrying with it a boundless might.

Rumble!

The two-headed black canine was first hit by the Star Destroying Finger, and before it could recover from the pain, the punch arrived and caught it by surprise. The terrifying power of lightning was extremely destructive, turning all the plants into charcoal. The prowess of this fist had absolutely surpassed the limits of an Astral Realm cultivator.

There were three stages in the Lightning Bolt Fist. At the first stage, one would blend one's energy into one's fist. At the second stage, one would blend lightning into one's fist, and at the third stage, one would start drawing lightning into one's body.

Borrowing the innate purple lightning in his body, Xiang Shaoyun was able to unleash the effect only available during the second stage—blending lightning into one's fist. This was a punch only those at the second stage of Lightning Bolt Fist could unleash, and it technically had the destructiveness surpassing even the attacks of King Realm cultivators.

After all, only King Realm cultivators would be able to borrow the power of nature to unleash destructive attacks. The two-headed black canine had a resilient body, but even so, its body immediately exploded upon being hit by Xiang Shaoyun's fully powered punch.

Its body was reduced into a pile of mincemeat. Xiang Shaoyun stared at his own fist in astonishment, his face covered with disbelief. He did have a feeling he could now fight ordinary Great Demons, but never had he expected that he was actually strong enough to kill a Great Demon with one punch now.

"So is this the power of a lightning bolt? No, this is the power of the innate purple lightning, or perhaps the combination of both." Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath before revealing an excited expression.

After discovering the might of his punch, Xiang Shaoyun's confidence grew. With this, leaving the Hundred Beast Mountain Range would no longer be as difficult. He resumed his journey with renewed confidence. But unbeknown to him, up in the air, someone was observing his every action.

"So the young master is actually so powerful. No wonder he refuses my protection. Looks like I need to work harder as well so that I won't stop being useful to the young master. Otherwise, I will only end up pushed away in the future." This person was none other than Elder Zhen Peng. He was worried about Xiang Shaoyun, so after bringing Zi Changhe to somewhere safe, he had turned back to tail Xiang Shaoyun in the dark.

Now that he had witnessed the astonishing might of Xiang Shaoyun, he finally believed that Xiang Shaoyun was capable of leaving this place himself. He also realized that Xiang Shaoyun was trying to temper himself here and must not be disturbed by others.

It was also at this moment that the final bit of hesitation he still had toward becoming Xiang Shaoyun's follower vanished. It would never be wrong to follow a young master with boundless prospects like this.

After Elder Zhen Peng left, Xiang Shaoyun looked up at where Elder Zhen Peng had been, and he muttered, "Is Elder Zhen Peng still around? Why do I feel like someone is watching me?"

He then shook his head and continued traveling amid dense forest. He had already arrived at the intersection between the outer and inner fringe of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, and this was a place filled with numerous demonic beasts.

As he traveled, various demonic beasts attacked him, and there were a few times where he was nearly defeated. If it wasn't for the inner armor he was wearing, he would have either been killed or seriously injured by now.

After three days, Xiang Shaoyun had killed 5 Great Demons and 15 Intermediate Demons and had fled from numerous late-stage Great Demons. Without the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and the comprehension of the wind he had gained not long ago, he would have ended up as beast fodder by now.

The three days worth of bloody tempering allowed Xiang Shaoyun to understand that his current combat prowess was comparable to an early-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. Being able to battle someone a realm higher than him, he was an absolute cultivation freak.

But Xiang Shaoyun did not see himself as a freak. He knew that during the ancient times, there existed early-stage Astral Realm cultivators capable of killing Great Demons with a single punch. There had also existed many Transformation Realm cultivators capable of stepping Demon Kings to death with a stomp of their feet.

Even though those were legends, Xiang Shaoyun believed that those freaks truly existed. A good example would be the place he had grown up. There, geniuses capable of fighting people several realms above them could be found. Of course, some of those people were also included in his list of people he would trample upon in the future. Thus, he had to become even stronger.

Xiang Shaoyun was currently harvesting an old herb. He had just kept the herb away when he suddenly heard something. His vigilance immediately went up.

"Boss, it's me," Little White's voice rang out.

Then, a snow-white tiger appeared and rushed toward him. The newcomer was none other than Little White who had enlarged his body. If it wasn't for the slight variation of his fur's color, he would have looked exactly like a white tiger.

Xiang Shaoyun hugged Little White's neck and said, "Haha, I knew you would be fine."

Little White rubbed his head against Xiang Shaoyun's body before saying, "Boss, do we leave now?"

"Yeah. A while ago, I was still worried that you wouldn't catch up to me in time." Xiang Shaoyun nodded.

"Boss, don't leave first. I found some humans over there. They seem to have discovered something nice and are currently fighting for it," Little White said while pointing in a certain direction.

"Oh, but since they found it first, forget it," Xiang Shaoyun said. He was not interested in robbing others. He was no bandit.

"I seem to have overheard that they are from the Mad Lion Hunting Group," Little White added. The Mad Lion Hunting Group had once hunted Xiang Shaoyun when he had first gotten his hands on the Earth Star Spring. At that time, Little White had been completely helpless.

"Mad Lion Hunting Group? Hehe, little fellow, so it turns out you hold a grudge as well. Fine, let's go take a look," Xiang Shaoyun said.

The Mad Lion Hunting Group had moved against him a few times already. Now would be the time for him to return the favor. Xiang Shaoyun hopped onto Little White and headed toward the Mad Lion Hunting Group.

After a while, they arrived at a different patch of woods in the mountain range. There, they heard the indistinct sounds of Mad Lion Hunting Group members battling demonic beasts.

There were quite a number of Mad Lion Hunting Group members here, 23 in total. Most of them were in the Astral Realm while five of them, who were also leaders, were at the Transformation Realm.

They were currently in a bitter battle against a group of silverscale elephants. The silverscale elephants were not good at offense, but they excelled at defense. Even so, one still couldn't afford to overlook the might of their tackle.

Bang! Bang!

The elephants stampeded everywhere, shaking the ground and destroying everything in their path. The hunters that couldn't escape in time were directly turned into mincemeat. Although the silverscale elephants looked powerful, under the attacks of the Transformation Realm experts, the hunters held the upper hand in this confrontation.

A certain late-stage Transformation Realm expert traveled forth by stepping on the stampeding elephants, and he shouted, "This silverhorn fruit shall belong to me, Dongfang Shuo!"

Chapter 107: Rapid Kill

Dongfang Shuo wielded a sword named Greenflame Sword, and he streaked straight toward a certain fruit the silverscale elephants were protecting. It was now a mid-grade spirit fruit, and one would benefit greatly from consuming it.

Beside the silverhorn fruit was an old silverscale elephant standing guard. Its nose was raised high in between its two tusks, and the moment Dongfang Shuo arrived, it would give him a fatal attack.

"Kill!" Dongfang Shuo was worthy of his cultivation level of late-stage Transformation Realm. His Greenflame Sword shone brightly, looking like a raging clump of flame emitting an astonishing power.

The old silverscale elephant stomped on the ground furiously, causing the ground to shake. A large piece of stone bounced off the ground from the impact and was sent flying toward Dongfang Shuo with a whip from the old silverscale elephant's nose.

The stone crushed forward with an enormous momentum, but the moment it came into contact with Dongfang Shuo's sword energy, it was crushed into smithereens. The old silverscale elephant then sprayed a silver beam from its nose at Dongfang Shuo.

Dongfang Shuo shouted, "I am definitely killing you today!"

He slashed his sword eight times, sending eight multicolored sword rays forth to crush the incoming attack. He then stabbed his sword at the old silverscale elephant.

Cling! Clank!

The silverscale elephant had a powerful defense as Dongfang Shuo's attack failed to penetrate its skin. The old silverscale elephant did not stop after blocking the attack. Instead, it counterattacked.

Dongfang Shuo was confident in his own combat power and was not willing to give up the silverhorn fruit. The human and beast battled on. As for the others, their battle was becoming heated as well.

At this moment, a small white figure darted amid the battlefield at a speed so fast it could be barely seen. This white figure was none other than Little White who had reduced in size. He was currently heading toward the silverhorn fruit. Making use of the terrain, he was able to move undetected and be the first to arrive at the silverhorn fruit. After plucking the fruit with his mouth, he turned and left.

Dongfang Shuo had just inflicted a heavy injury on the silverscale elephant when he noticed Little White stealing the fruit. He immediately yelled furiously, "Where did this wild cat come from? You dare to steal from me?"

Little White merely shot Dongfang Shuo a provoking gaze before speeding off.

Dongfang Shuo was infuriated, and with his sword raised, he chased after Little White. But it was at this moment that the old silverscale elephant unleashed its final attack of desperation; its tusks growing double in length before it stabbed its tusks at Dongfang Shuo.

The pair of tusks was the old silverscale elephant's fate weapon, and no defense could block it. Dongfang Shuo could sense the danger and immediately turned around and slashed his sword at the silverscale elephant. Although he had reacted quickly, a deep wound was still left on his waist even as his attack slashed off an ear of the old silverscale elephant.

"I'll deal with you later," Dongfang Shuo said. His main goal was the silverhorn fruit. Thus, he decided to move on from the elephant and went after Little White instead.

"Stop that little beast!" Dongfang Shuo yelled.

At that shout, a Transformation Realm removed himself from the battlefield and tried to intercept Little White. But Little White was too fast for him. At the same time, the silverscale elephants shrieked and charged the Mad Lion Hunting Group members without caring for their own lives anymore.

Unfortunately, there were not enough Great Demons among them. Thus, before long, one elephant after another was killed. With the defeat of the silverscale elephants, the Mad Lion Hunting Group left a few of them behind to clean up the elephants while the rest followed Dongfang Shuo and chased after Little White.

"Die, little beast!" Dongfang Shuo was the fastest among them, and mid-pursuit, he suddenly threw some concealed weapons at Little White.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The concealed weapons streaked across the air and instantly arrived near Little White. Just as the weapons were about to hit Little White, he curled up and rolled on the ground. With that, the bulk of his body became even smaller, helping him dodge the concealed weapons. But by doing so, his speed dropped considerably and allowed his pursuers to catch up with him.

"Die!" Dongfang Shuo stabbed his Greenflame Sword at Little White, sending a green beam of flame out from the tip of his sword.

This time, Little White would no longer be able to avoid the incoming attack. After all, this was the attack of a late-stage Transformation Realm expert. The speed and might of this attack could not be underestimated. Abruptly, a figure leaped out from above a nearby tree and swung his saber toward the sword.

Berserk Lightning Blade!

This was a tier-3 battle technique that Xiang Shaoyun had mastered a while ago. It had three stances, and Xiang Shaoyun was currently using the first stance—Mad Lightning Fall.

Xiang Shaoyun had been lying in wait here all along so that he would be able to start his slaughter the moment Little White arrived with their enemies. He attacked with his full strength, mixing even his innate purple lightning into his attack. One could say that this attack did indeed resemble its name as it descended from above akin to a lightning bolt falling from the sky.

Dongfang Shuo was someone with rich combat experience and was also a cautious person. Even so, he had not expected that this would be a trap, nor had he expected that this little beast was actually someone's pet.

His attention had been fully focused on Little White whereas Xiang Shaoyun's attention had been fully focused on him. Thus, when he noticed the incoming sneak attack, it was already too late.

"Damn it!" When he sensed the approaching saber, he was forced to abandon his attack on Little White, and he focused all his power to form a green barrier around him.

Bang!

Before Dongfang Shuo's defensive barrier was fully deployed, Xiang Shaoyun's slash had arrived. This was Xiang Shaoyun's first attack with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. A layer of innate purple lightning was affixed on the damaged blade as the seemingly unstoppable and destructive slash struck Dongfang Shuo's barrier.

Blood sprayed everywhere.

"AHHHH!"

One of Dongfang Shuo's arm was severed, causing him to wail miserably. But he was still an expert, as even under intense pain, he did not forget to swing his sword toward Xiang Shaoyun's waist.

Clang!

Dongfang Shuo was expecting to kill his opponent with this unexpected counterattack, but when his sword struck his opponent's waist, a crisp clank rang out, telling him clearly his attack failed.

The impact sent Xiang Shaoyun flying, and it was at this moment that Dongfang Shuo's severed arm landed on the ground. Without the king-grade inner armor, Xiang Shaoyun would have been killed in the exchange.

"Worthy of being a late-stage Transformation Realm expert. He was able to attack even in that situation. Well, it still won't change his fate. He will die today," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself before he dashed forth again.

"Stop right now!" Dongfang Shuo's companions finally arrived.

The newcomers were two Transformation Realm experts. They both drew their weapons at the same time before dashing toward Xiang Shaoyun, trying to stop him from killing Dongfang Shuo.

"There is no escaping death if I want you dead," Xiang Shaoyun said with a sharp glint in his eyes.

Chapter 108: Undefeated Overlord

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps!

Xiang Shaoyun moved as swift as the wind, as his lithe body warped before vanishing from the incoming attacks. He had finally unleashed a tiny bit of the actual prowess the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps was capable of. After dodging the two attacks, he swung his Overlord Skyslaying Saber toward Dongfang Shuo again.

Dongfang Shuo was still struggling from the intense pain he was suffering after losing his arm, and coupled with the light injuries he accumulated during his battle with the old silverscale elephant, he was unable to avoid Xiang Shaoyun's attack. But due to his many years of combat experience, he still launched a counterattack by instinct alone.

"Even if I die, you will die together with me!" Dongfang Shuo ignored his injuries and mustered all his remaining strength before stabbing his sword at Xiang Shaoyun.

A beam of green flame shot out again, destroying all the trees in its path.

"Shall I dodge or keep on going?" Xiang Shaoyun hesitated. If he was able to dodge this attack, Dongfang Shuo would no longer have any energy left to keep on fighting. And if he could not dodge this attack, the only thing he could do was take it head-on, but he had no idea if he would survive the head-on collision.

His hesitation only lasted a split second before his eyes turned resolute. He shouted, "I have been breaking through limit after limit. Now, let me break through yet another limit!"

Innate purple lightning surged out of Xiang Shaoyun's lightning bone. At the same time, he also drew a large amount of lightning energy from his first star. Instantly, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber shone brightly. Then, the saber and the sword collided.

Rumble! Rumble!

A massive shockwave rippled outward, destroying numerous trees in the vicinity. The two newly arrived Transformation Realm experts were also forced to halt their advance and erect their respective defensive barriers to protect themselves against the shockwave.

Fear was plastered all over their faces, as they had not expected that the person assassinating their leader was actually so powerful. The two opposing sources of energy dispersed, and two figures were sent flying in two opposite directions.

Xiang Shaoyun coughed up a mouthful of blood as he flew through the air. The sleeves on his arms had been completely torn into shreds. That was all that happened to him after taking Dongfang Shuo's attack head-on—a mouthful of blood and ripped sleeves.

In other words, he had completely survived the attack.

As for Dongfang Shuo, he was in a far worse condition. He was already badly injured, and after the collision, his entire body was badly charred, with smoke billowing up from his hair. His body twitched without stopping, and he looked to be on his dying breath.

A late-stage Transformation Realm expert was actually pushed to such a state by a seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator. Nobody would believe this if they did not witness it themselves. Even the two Mad Lion Hunting Group members nearby were finding it hard to believe, and they had personally witnessed it unfold.

"Deputy commander!" shouted one of them who had finally recovered from his shock.

They darted over toward Dongfang Shuo. They no longer dared to try anything against Xiang Shaoyun. As far as they were concerned, Xiang Shaoyun was most likely someone far stronger than them and was merely pretending to be weak to catch his opponents by surprise. Thus, they did not dare to chase after him.

They only hoped to leave and ask for reinforcements after saving their deputy commander. Little did they expect, Xiang Shaoyun had no intention of letting them leave at all. Xiang Shaoyun's current battle intent was surging.

He could sense the explosive power in every fiber of his being, and he could also sense the might of his innate purple lightning. There was no fear in his heart, and he longed for an intense battle right now. He caressed his saber, calmed his surging battle intent, and turned into a series of afterimages as he charged the two with his Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique.

Berserk Lightning Blade!

An overbearing saber energy shot forward with a layer of berserk lightning energy affixed to it, leaving a boundless purple radiance wherever it passed. Xiang Shaoyun's battle intent had reached the absolute limit, and in his current state, he seemed to have become one with his Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

As an overlord, he should be incomparably overbearing, be capable of defeating opponents nobody could defeat, and be unequalled. A fanatical belief suddenly rose in his mind, and like a bright lamp, it pointed him upon a bright path he shall tread in his future cultivation.

Of the two Transformation Realm cultivators, one was at the third stage while the other was at the second stage. Both of them were no pushovers either, and when they saw Xiang Shaoyun charging toward them, they were left with no choice but to face him.

"You dare assassinate a deputy commander of the Mad Lion Hunting Group? You won't survive this!" roared one of them before waving a massive saber at Xiang Shaoyun.

As for the other person, he slammed a massive hammer toward Xiang Shaoyun from a different angle. The two formed a pincer attack, each of them sending an incredibly powerful attack, filling the entire area with their aura.

Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts to give his eyesight a sharp increase. Two electrical currents could be seen snaking out of his eyes, giving him a rather sinister look. His attack arrived right at the blind spot of the two, destroying both their attacks.

Even though he was attacking their blind spot, he could still sense an intense shockwave from the impact. Fortunately, after reforming his body with the help of lightning energy, his flesh had become much stronger.

After forcing the two into a retreat, Xiang Shaoyun did not stop. He continued advancing with a wondrous footwork straight toward the weaker of the two. Then, he swung his saber forward mercilessly. His innate purple lightning was the purest of lightning energy and immediately destroyed his opponent's defensive barrier, forcing his opponent to stay on the defensive.

A thought of using offense as defense did surface in this person's mind, but when he thought of how Xiang Shaoyun was able to defeat his deputy commander, he concluded that Xiang Shaoyun was much stronger than him. It filled his heart with fear and caused him to give up all thoughts of attacking.

If he actually dared to attack instead of defend, he wouldn't have been suppressed so badly. The other expert rushed over in hope of saving his companion.

Xiang Shaoyun started fighting the two opponents at the same time. The energy revolving around him was no weaker than an actual Transformation Realm expert. With the addition of the powerful innate purple lightning, the gap between him and the two had been greatly reduced.

Xiang Shaoyun launched attack after attack. The more he fought, the more excited he became. At the same time, his innate purple lightning was becoming increasingly terrifying.

His two opponents found that it was becoming harder to hold on as they could sense the suppression of a king pressing down upon them, causing their battle intent to drop to the point they were considering to escape.

"What are you waiting for? Die!" Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to drag this out. He thus drew more power from his lightning bone. Instantly, projections of dragon and tiger appeared behind him while a majestic aura roiled out of his body. Fear filled the hearts of his two opponents, and their momentum dropped to the lowest point since the start of the battle.

Chapter 109: Fight by Your Side

With a powerful presence, one shall prosper. With a weak presence, one shall suffer.

Xiang Shaoyun's absolute kingly presence roiled out as he unleashed a heavy slash on the two before him. Two heads were separated from two bodies. After killing the two, his presence immediately weakened. His entire body turned limp, and he could only remain standing by propping himself up with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

"Looks like I have accidentally drawn too much power and have overdrafted myself," Xiang Shaoyun muttered with a bitter smile. He then crushed one low-grade spirit stone in his astral cosmos sea. The energy from the spirit stone flowed into his stars and coursed through his meridians, restoring his lost energy.

At the same moment, Little White arrived by his side and started guarding him vigilantly. The benefit of the astral cosmos sea was that it helped Xiang Shaoyun use or devour anything stored inside it faster. That in turn helped him recover more quickly when using a recovery item stored in there.

At this time, the Mad Lion Hunting Groups who had stayed behind to deal with the silverscale elephants finally arrived. When they saw the three corpses on the ground, shock covered their faces.

"T-the d-deputy commander is dead! And two captains are dead too! How did this happen?" a first-stage Transformation Realm expert cried out in alarm.

Little White suddenly grew large and pounced on that person.

"Howl!"

Before any of them could react, Little White landed and bit the Transformation Realm expert's head. The Transformation Realm was completely caught by surprise. The sight of this frightened the other Mad Lion Hunting Group members even more.

They had just finished fighting the silverscale elephants, and all of them carried different degrees of injuries. Their combat strength was not even half of their full strength right now. How could they face a Great Demon like this? More importantly, the youngster who had killed their deputy commander and two captains was still standing there.

"Retreat and ask for reinforcements!" someone cried out. At that, all the Mad Lion Hunting Group members scattered in all directions.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to chase after them, but he stopped after thinking about it for a bit. Yes, the Mad Lion Hunting Group had indeed offended him. But it was impossible for him to kill every single one of their members.

I'll just make them disband in the future, Xiang Shaoyun thought to himself.

He then got Little White to hunt a demonic beast as their meal. After he finished the meal, he started to meditate to recover his lost energy so he could resume his journey as soon as possible.

After one night of meditation, Xiang Shaoyun had recovered by about 70 percent. He weighed the silverhorn fruit in his palm with a smile. "Silverhorn fruit, able to grow one's stars and expand the size of one's stars as well. It is a rather rare mid-grade spirit medicine."

Xiang Shaoyun then put the silverhorn fruit away instead of using it. With his talent, it was pointless to use this fruit. It wouldn't show any obvious effect. This fruit would be the most useful for someone with weaker potential.

Xiang Shaoyun was in a great mood. Mounted on Little White, they traveled on as he hummed a song. With the increase in his strength, he was no longer a weak scholar who couldn't even kill a chicken. So long as he continued working hard, he would soon be able to return to where he had come from and retake everything that was once his.

After a few days and many more killings, Xiang Shaoyun finally arrived at the outer fringe of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. After so many days of tempering, he was now radiating a steadfast

and sharp aura. It was as if he was now a murderous blade instead of a human, making it hard for others to even look straight at him.

After leaving the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, Xiang Shaoyun headed straight back to the Martial Hall Palace. He did not want Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe to keep worrying over him. After returning to the Martial Hall Palace, he looked for Xia Liuhui and gave him the silverhorn fruit.

Xia Liuhui was extremely touched. The silverhorn fruit was a mid-grade spirit medicine, but his boss was giving it to him like it was nothing. This generosity was something many people couldn't even compare to.

Xiang Shaoyun was just trying to help Xia Liuhui as best as he could. After all, this was his first friend in the Martial Hall Palace. He was hoping that Xia Liuhui could grow even stronger, to be able to stand by his side in the future. Although it was rather unlikely, he still needed to try since he was the boss.

As for the destruction of the lightning strike wood, Elder Zhen Peng would be the one doing the explaining. In any case, Elder Zhen Peng was the one who had taken it from the Martial Hall Palace, not him. Nobody in Martial Hall Palace would dare to give a King Realm cultivator trouble anyway. Only an absolute idiot would do that.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored everything else and started a three-month-long seclusion. He had to grow even stronger before the Battle of Towns. More importantly, through the continuous killing in the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, he had already figured out that he needed to increase his accumulation of trump cards.

Three months were very short for someone focused on cultivating. With Xiang Shaoyun focusing on nothing but cultivation, time flew even faster for him. If Zi Changhe had not come to notify him that the Battle of Towns would start in half a month, he would have continued his seclusion.

The Battle of Towns was a major event of the Cloud Margin City. Over 100 towns would send the disciples of numerous academies and cultivation organizations to represent them in the competition and win honor and glory for them.

Recently, the Martial Hall Palace had been urging their disciples to grow, and the Battle of Towns was the reason why. Before the Battle of Towns, an internal competition would be held in the Martial Hall Palace to pick the 50 strongest disciples that would eventually be sent to the Battle of Towns.

With Xiang Shaoyun's strength, he did not need to participate in the selection process. But Zi Changhe still forced him to come out and show his face. Although he had maintained a low profile in recent months, he was still a cultivating freak receiving countless attention in the Martial Hall Palace.

He was the one who had caused the five stars illuminate the sky phenomenon when he first came. Not long after, he defeated the Wu Clan disciples, the Li brother and sister pair, and even the first elder's disciple, Ye Tianlong, was scared off by him with a mere shout. His numerous accomplishments placed a massive pressure on the other disciples.

On the other hand, the female disciples were completely smitten by Xiang Shaoyun. A large number of female disciples winked and smiled at him, trying to attract his attention and have something beautiful happen between them and him.

Xiang Shaoyun pretended he didn't see anything and merely sat at a corner daydreaming.

"Shaoyun!" a joyful voice rang out behind him.

When Xiang Shaoyun turned around, he saw Lu Xiaoqing standing there in a martial outfit, her hands clasped behind her back. She was looking at him with tenderness in her eyes and with a radiant smile on her face.

It had been a few months since he had last seen Lu Xiaoqing, and she looked even more graceful and beautiful now. She was like a blooming flower at the peak of her beauty.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Lu Xiaoqing, you're participating in the selection as well?"

"Of course I am. My senior sister told me a spot has been reserved for you in advance. I want to fight alongside you, so I must enter the top 40 in the selection!" Lu Xiaoqing said, her battle intent soaring.

She had vowed to follow closely behind Xiang Shaoyun's every step, not allowing herself to fall too far behind. If she stayed at the same spot, she would only find his figure gradually moving far away from her.

Chapter 110: Heading to the Golden River Valley

The ongoing selection filled the Martial Hall Palace with vibrancy. Numerous personal disciples and internal disciples gathered, battling each other to establish supremacy. Leng Han, Lu Xiaoqing, and Xia Liuhui were able to distinguish themselves from the numerous disciples and entered the top 50.

They were all the latest generation's outer disciples, and in a short one year, they had managed to enter the Astral Realm and even managed to advance a few stages consecutively after entering the Astral Realm. Ultimately, they distinguished themselves and became part of the top 50 disciples. One could say that their rise hadn't been easy at all.

Of the three, Leng Han was once the strongest outer disciple. But with Xiang Shaoyun's appearance, his fame was overshadowed. Even so, nobody found it surprising for him to achieve such a result in the selection.

As for Lu Xiaoqing, she had long caught the eyes of the eleventh elder, He Yinghua. Thus, her result wasn't too surprising either. The only person who shocked everyone with his performance was Xia Liuhui. He used to be an ordinary outer disciple, but after he followed Xiang Shaoyun, he had been on the rise with his cultivation level soaring like a rocket.

Currently, Lu Xiaoqing was at fourth-stage Astral Realm while Xia Liuhui was at late third-stage Astral Realm after consuming the silverhorn fruit. In fact, he was only barely able to enter the top 50.

And that was also a result of his good luck. If he had encountered a slightly stronger opponent in the selection, he wouldn't have been able to enter the top 50.

And thus, the new top 50 disciples of Martial Hall Palace were decided. They would be the ones representing the Martial Hall Palace at the Battle of Towns.

The Battle of Towns would not be conducted in arenas like the internal selection. Rather, the participants would be sent to some ancient ruins and made to fight over something. As for what that something would be, they would only know after they were there.

This time, the vice palace master, Tan Guanghua; the first elder, Jie Shi; and a few other elders would be the ones to bring the disciples over to the Battle of Towns. The party would be traveling to a place called Golden River Valley.

The Golden River Valley was a location under the control of the Cloud Margin City. This was a place where rivers converged and altered the terrain to form a unique dish-shaped valley. This valley was filled with gold-colored objects, such as golden plants and golden rivers. That was how the name of the valley came to be.

All locals of Cloud Margin City also knew that the Golden River Valley used to be the territory of an organization that used to be the strongest in the Cloud Margin City, and this organization even shared the same name as the valley.

But eventually, things changed drastically, resulting in the destruction of the organization, leaving a bunch of ruins behind in the valley. Over the years, many adventurers had explored the valley, but few of them had actually left the place alive. Ultimately when the Cloud Margin City deployed some experts to scout the area, they found that the valley had been taken over by a species called the gold serpent crocodile.

The gold serpent crocodile was an extremely ferocious beast, and a large amount of them could be found in the valley. Ordinary cultivators would only have a chance to enter the valley safely if a group of King Realm cultivators were to first enter and clear the way for them.

Naturally, not many King Realm cultivators were actually interested in doing so. Thus, the gold serpent crocodiles had been allowed to inhabit the valley. This time, the Battle of Towns was going to be held there. This signified that a war would start between the young elites and the gold serpent crocodiles.

Wu Town was quite far from the Golden River Valley, but fortunately, they could travel through the Wu River to shorten their journey. They would be able to reach it in about 10 days. For this, the Martial Hall Palace had deployed the largest ship they had. A large banner with "Martial Hall Palace" written on it was hung above the ship, and it fluttered wildly in the wind.

Rows of Martial Hall Palace disciples stood on the ship, all of them fully armed as if they were heading out to war. Because they were going to participate in the Battle of Towns, they had to show off their prowess and display how elite and well-trained they were. They were not going to leave outsiders with the impression that they were a disorganized mob.

Numerous people stood along the two sides of the river, looking at the Martial Hall Palace disciples with encouraging gazes. These young disciples taking part in the competition on behalf of the town were their hope. Everyone wished to see these youngsters win them honor and glory. The ship started to sail forth, and soon, it left Wu Town's territory.

At this moment, the vice palace master, Tan Guanghua, spoke, "After leaving Wu Town, we will be passing by Gateflag Town. There, Gateflag Academy disciples will also set off and head to the Battle of Towns with us. We've had conflicts with them in the past, but be sure to not do anything during this journey unless provoked. Our priority is to reach the Golden River Valley without any complications."

Wu Town and Gateflag Town were neighboring towns, and the Martial Hall Palace and the Gateflag Academy represented the strength of their respective towns. Thus, it was unavoidable that the two competed with each other. As time went on, their grievances for each other only grew.

"Vice palace master, what if they provoke us?" asked a disciple.

"We won't bother them if they don't provoke us, but if they dare provoke us, hmph. We will come back at them with twice the rage," said Tan Guanghua. He then added, "But of course, we must not be the party starting the conflict. If any of you decide to cause trouble during our journey there, don't blame me for what I will do to you."

After about four hours, the Martial Hall Palace's ship arrived near Gateflag Town. There, a massive ship was anchored. A banner with "Gateflag Academy" written on it was hanging on the ship. A group of battle-ready youngsters could be seen on the ship as well. All of them were currently looking at the Martial Hall Palace disciples with taunting eyes.

"Brother Tan, Brother Jie, you sure are taking your own sweet time arriving here," a voice rang out.

Tan Guanghua replied, "My apologies to keep you waiting. I wonder if your party is ready to set out now?"

"Of course we are. How would we dare to let you wait?" the person replied before he said to his disciples, "Set off now."

"Gateflag Academy! Victory! Gateflag Academy! Victory!"

As soon as the order was given to set off, the youngsters on the ship started chanting in an orderly fashion. Their spirits were high, their momentum was boundless, and their confidence was fully displayed for all to see.

Some of the Martial Hall Palace disciples grew nervous at the sight. It felt like a declaration of war from the Gateflag Academy, and in terms of spirits alone, they seemed to be the weaker party. The two ships started sailing alongside each other.

"Brother Tan, Brother Jie, I have a suggestion. Since both our parties are participating in the Battle of Towns, why don't we both work together to enter the top 10?" proposed the vice principal of Gateflag Academy, Luo Lin.

Luo Lin would be leading the Gateflag Academy's group in their trip to the Battle of Towns. He appeared to be a middle-aged man with a pair of sharp eyes that made clear the impressive strength he had.

"That's a decent idea, but none of us can be sure if the disciples can actually work together. Furthermore, there's also the question of the leadership of the alliance," Tan Guanghua said.

"Haha, that's not a problem at all. The stronger party will naturally be the leader. In any case, it would be hard for any of us to get into the top 10 independently. We might as well work together. That way, we will have a higher chance of succeeding," said Luo Lin with a confident smile.

Just as Tan Guanghua was about to give a reply, Jie Shi opened his mouth, "Don't fall for it. They probably came prepared."