

Overlord 1091

Chapter 1091: Limit Stimulation

Xiang Shaoyun had actually reached the fifth stage, bones as weapons stage, in one go. If Zang Yuan was to revive and witness this, his eyeballs would probably pop out of his eye sockets out of sheer shock. Could one even cultivate the Limit Stimulation Technique in this manner?

The cultivation of each stage required one to endure the highest levels of pain. A single moment of carelessness would send one to the afterlife. And yet Xiang Shaoyun was actually cultivating four stages simultaneously when he was in such a critical condition. Was he still human?

Lightning flooded every inch of his body. Fortunately, his lightning bone started working its wonder at this moment. As he started cultivating the bones as weapons stage, his lightning bone's innate lightning absorption ability activated. The starfall lightning energy was absorbed into his bones, allowing his bones to undergo another round of transformation.

However, doing that much was not enough. He was still cultivating the other stages of the Limit Stimulation Technique and needed energy for them. If he failed any of the stages, he would die.

During his moment of crisis, strands of soul power spread out of his soul foundation to protect his final bit of life force, preserving the connection between his body and soul. If the connection between the body and soul was severed, the consequences would be severe.

Not even Xiang Shaoyun's soul clone could do anything if the connection broke.

At his most helpless moment, a different power within his body stirred, and his boiling blood flowed throughout him. A devilish aura erupted, forming a black phantom with Xiang Shaoyun's appearance.

The black phantom looked much more imposing and handsome than him, looking incredibly sinister as though he was the child of the greatest of devils from the deepest depths of the Devil Domain, an oppressive and powerful figure.

With the appearance of the devilish aura, his life force filled his entire body, returning some life to his destroyed flesh. His torn meridians rejoined together, and his inner organs were healed by the new blood flowing inside them.

The cultivation of the Limit Stimulation Technique involved pushing one to the limits and awaken one's potential. Xiang Shaoyun in particular had his potential within his bloodline. He had the blood of the devils and the humans. This was his blood essence. His blood was akin to the sun and to a river that could nourish every inch of his body, filling his body with boundless vitality.

The energy within his wood star started flowing out uncontrollably, helping his bloodline power heal him. Of course, the energy and his bloodline power could only temporarily give him relief. The starfall lightning energy was far too rich. He had to refine and absorb the starfall lightning energy before he could resolve his current crisis.

The moment of respite the healing brought him allowed his lightning bone to begin fusing with the starfall lightning energy. A tiny bit of resonance formed, allowing his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual to direct the starfall lightning energy into his lightning star.

Ever since Xiang Shaoyun had entered the Sovereign Realm, his lightning star's capacity had expanded greatly. Thus, he could store the starfall lightning energy despite its power.

His skin, meridians, and inner organs reached their limits and started breaking through the limits. The Limit Stimulation Technique thus started to stimulate his body, and with the assistance of his devil blood, he regrew his skin, meridians, and inner organs.

As long as he hadn't fully refined the starfall lightning energy, it would continue destroying his body. Thus, his skin, meridians and inner organs were repeatedly damaged and repaired. The cycle continued on and on, tormenting him endlessly. It eventually reached a point where he was numb to the pain.

He transformed into a purple lightning dragon as he cultivated, presenting a scene that would shock all onlookers. As for Money, he flew to a different spot and started his individual breakthrough. Money had long become a peak Demon Emperor. Now that he had absorbed a portion of the starfall lightning energy, he was finally able to take a step forward.

Numerous lightning bolts rained down on Money as he attempted to break through, creating quite a commotion. Money had only followed Xiang Shaoyun for less than 10 years, yet he had become a Demon Sovereign. One could say that meeting Xiang Shaoyun was his biggest fortuitous encounter.

After successfully breaking through into the Demon Sovereign realm, Money did not return to Xiang Shaoyun's body. Rather, he stayed not far away and stood guard.

Xiang Shaoyun took three whole months to fully refine the starfall lightning energy. During the three months, he felt like he had died over and over again.

Although the starfall lightning energy had weakened greatly after years of being sealed, it was still extremely powerful and too strong for him. After absorbing all the energy into his lightning star and lightning bone, his lightning cultivation reached the completion stage. Without the other powers shackling him, he could have broken through straight into the next realm.

Surviving this ordeal had granted him immense benefits. His skin, meridians, organs, and bones had been tempered repeatedly, destroyed and reformed again and again, greatly strengthening them. Those parts were filled with life force, were extremely tough, and were immune to the elements and all weapons. They had become unimaginably tough.

Xiang Shaoyun's meridians had greatly expanded, allowing the circulation of an abundant amount of energy and the acceleration of his energy circulation. He could now unleash a larger amount of energy faster than before, and it gave him an incredible advantage in battle.

His organs were akin to suns of blood. They were filled with an abundant life force that supplied his entire body with boundless vitality. The vitality allowed his body to stay strong at all times, and it extended his lifespan and invigorated his mental fortitude. To properly display one's strength, a healthy body was required. This applied to all cultivators.

All of Xiang Shaoyun's bones had turned into a deep purple color. His silver lightning energy had fused with the starfall lightning energy, signifying that he had formed a complete lightning bone physique, the same physique his previous life, Xiang Dingtian, possessed.

This was a super physique that generally only belonged to one who cultivated lightning power. However, Xiang Shaoyun was cultivating nine powers. Because of that, his physique wasn't exactly pure. If all nine of his stars were used to cultivate the power of lightning, he would be able to unleash the exceptional power of an innate lightning physique that could contend against numerous top-tier physiques.

Unfortunately, it was already too late for him to change his path of cultivation. He could only proceed forward on his path of nine powers cultivation. Perhaps he could reach an even scarier height following this path.

The bountiful starfall lightning energy had been stored in his lightning star and lightning bone. His bearing changed, and he looked like the son of lightning, with electricity dancing all over his body. It made him look oppressive and overbearing.

Abruptly, lightning bolts formed in the sky and rained down on him. He opened his eyes and charged into the lightning bolts, revealing a sharp gaze.

Chapter 1092: More Waves

The incoming lightning bolts weren't regular lightning bolts. Rather, they were starfall lightning bolts, containing extremely dreadful power within them. However, the current Xiang Shaoyun no longer feared them.

Xiang Shaoyun released his soul foundation. With his soul clone embedded within the soul foundation, he welcomed the lightning shower.

The lightning bolts were destructive enough to instantly smite numerous mountains into dust. Xiang Shaoyun was able to block them, and he used them to temper his soul clone and his soul foundation. His clone and soul foundation became glossy and sleek as the lightning purified their impurities.

Strands of overbearing starfall lightning energy appeared on his soul foundation. Xiang Shaoyun was taking a great risk by letting the lightning bolts strike his soul clone. If it wasn't for the fact that his main body had refined the starfall lightning energy, he wouldn't have dared to attempt something like this. Any slight carelessness would destroy his soul and end his life.

The repeated lightning bombardment allowed his soul and soul foundation to reap immense benefits. His soul power grew, and his soul foundation became even stronger. His foundation now emanated an increasingly terrifying pressure, signifying Xiang Shaoyun's growth in strength.

Summoning starfall lightning bolts from the sky and wielding starfall lightning energy in hand, he looked like the child of lightning dancing in the air, shaking the heavens and the earth.

"If I hadn't exhausted the starfall lightning energy with the Limit Stimulation Technique, I would have probably advanced by two or three stages. It is really hard to determine whether I have gained or lost something from this exchange," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. He descended from the sky.

Money flew over and said, "Boss, you're too strong. You actually managed to refine all the starfall lightning energy. I was prepared to share some of the burden with you."

"Sure you do. I reckon you only wanted to grab some benefits from me," said Xiang Shaoyun, who could see that Money had also grown stronger.

Money smiled and said, "Boss, someone from the sect has arrived. There seems to be an urgent matter."

"Um. Let's take a look," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He was in a rush to keep growing, but cultivation was not something that could be rushed. One could only grow strong by taking some time to temper oneself. Xiang Shaoyun removed the formation surrounding the mountain and walked out with Money.

Du Xuanhao was waiting there. When he saw Xiang Shaoyun, he saluted respectfully, "Greetings, young master."

"Be at ease, Big Brother Du. What is so urgent that you need to wait here?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Du Xuanhao replied, "We received news that some people from the Dragon Society were spotted at Zhuma City and Qingxiu City. It looks like they intend to take the two cities under their wing."

"Is the news reliable? Where did you get it from?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a frown.

The Dragon Society and the Ziling Sect had been hostile for a long time. Not even Xiang Shaoyun knew the reason for the hostility, but this intrusion into their territory wasn't something to be treated lightly.

"The news is most likely true. It was sent to us by the people we sent out. They were supposed to demand some answers from the two clans, but the change in circumstances forced them to return with new reports. Please make a decision, young master," said Du Xuanhao.

"Let's go. We'll talk more at the sect," said Xiang Shaoyun. He sensed that the situation was not simple, so he brought Du Xuanhao and Money back to the sect before discussing it.

Along the way, he asked for more details. Du Xuanhao told him everything he knew. This was something that had happened half a month ago. Instead of acting with great fanfare, the Dragon Society had sent their people to contact the Ma Clan and the Qingxiu Manor. They seemed to be trying to persuade the two to join them. If they joined, the Dragon Society would be able to obtain two new territories without warring.

The stance of the two organizations was temporarily unknown, and it would be up to the Ziling Sect to decide on their response. If the two organizations decided to turn against the sect, it would be a great blow, and the Dragon Society would be further emboldened.

After returning to the grand hall, Xiang Shaoyun called his trusted aides over. It was then that he learned that Duo Ji broke through to the Heaven Battling Realm a month ago. His breakthrough was worthy of celebration.

Duo Ji was better than ever, and he seemed to have become more than 10 years younger. He now had the appearance of a heroic middle-aged man and no longer looked like the old man that he was.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw Duo Ji, he offered his congratulations, "Old drunkard, you have finally taken this step. What great news to receive!"

Duo Ji gave Xiang Shaoyun a deep bow and said, "This is all thanks to you, young master. I would have remained a cripple if not for you."

"There is no need for you to be this courteous with me. I hereby appoint you sacred elder of the sect. From now on, the sect's safety will be on your shoulders," said Xiang Shaoyun. He scanned the crowd and said, "Did everyone hear about the Dragon Society recruiting the Ma Clan and the Qingxiu Manor? What ideas do you have?"

Pang Tongyuan said, "They have long been disloyal. With the Dragon Society's recruitment, they will most likely turn on us. In any case, the Dragon Society has always been stronger than us. In recent years, we have been continuously retreating from their provocations. Since they have received the news about our recent turmoil, they definitely won't let go of this chance to further weaken us. It will be very hard for us to regain the loyalty of the two organizations. We should instead get ready for an all-out war against the Dragon Society."

"Will the Dragon Society war for those two territories?" asked Old Yao doubtfully.

"Yes. They are also a tier-7 organization like us, and we have always been competitors. Back when the sect master was still around, they had suffered humiliation under his hands. Now that they have the chance to step on us while we are down, they won't let go of this chance," said Pang Tongyuan.

"That's right. Back then, the sect master was unparalleled, beating the Dragon Society people until they pissed their pants in terror. They are probably here to take revenge for the past," said Duo Ji.

"What should we do? We can't let them occupy the two territories," asked Du Xuanhao.

"Since they are forcing our hand, we might as well throw all caution to the wind. Destroy both places and leave nothing for them," said Devouring Ghost coldly. "There is no point in keeping those with traitorous hearts. In any case, what we lack is not subordinate organizations but experts. When we grow in strength, we will have no lack of subordinate organizations."

"That is true, but it will reduce our yearly tributes considerably. After all, they are still quite wealthy," said Pang Tongyuan.

"But we are currently not the Dragon Society's match. We will definitely lose the two territories," said Devouring Ghost.

"We can apply some pressure to the Ma Clan and the Qingxiu Manor. Warn them that if they really turn on us, we will declare them as our mortal enemies. Perhaps it will deter them from betraying," suggested Old Yao.

Chapter 1093: Guo Po Bullied

Everyone talked over each other, but nobody came up with a solution. It was still up to Xiang Shaoyun to decide.

Xiang Shaoyun waited for them to stop talking before he said, "We can't lose both Zhuma City and Qingxiu City. We will send three Saints out and suppress the two cities. Let's see if the Dragon Society really has the spine to start a war with us."

One ought to acknowledge Xiang Shaoyun's boldness for his words.

"But if we do, the sect would be left temporarily empty," said Old Yao.

"This is a game of perception. They are still unclear of our true strength for now. If we can deploy three Saints at once, they will assume that we have more Saints in the sect. This will make them fear us more, and they won't easily provoke us anymore," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wise look in his eyes.

Pang Tongyuan clapped and praised, "Yes, the young master is right. Rather than hesitating unendingly, we might as well do it fast and catch the Dragon Society by complete surprise. Let's see if they have the spine to fight us to the death. In any case, we won't have any reinforcements coming, so we might as well make a gamble and try to scare off the Dragon Society."

The others had a look of rumination as they considered what Xiang Shaoyun had just said. After giving it some thought, they found themselves agreeing. They would showcase the overbearing side of the sect and march against the Ma Clan and the Qingxiu Manor.

Because the matter had been delayed for quite a while due to Xiang Shaoyun's seclusion, they couldn't wait anymore. They set off immediately upon making a decision. Xiang Shaoyun did not plan to set off personally. He was going to stay and guard the sect. It would be enough for Duo Ji, the turtle, and the toad to go.

After all, Xiang Shaoyun was the young master of the sect. There was no need for him to get off his throne and personally deal with two rebelling organizations. He believed that Duo Ji would be able to resolve the issue properly.

After dealing with the matter, Xiang Shaoyun strolled around the sect by himself. He still hadn't had the chance to take a walk around the sect after taking it back. The sect had recovered somewhat and received some new blood. The sect's empty ranks were being slowly replenished, and the atmosphere within the sect was becoming much more bustling.

Of course, the sect was still far from its previous flourishing state.

Looking at the deferential sect members around him, Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly, Just how long will it take for me to return the sect to how it was before? And how long will it take for the sect to surpass its past self? If I can improve the sect, it will be a good way of making up for losing Father's sect.

When he reached the training square, he saw a group of children who were about 10 years old. All of them were training hard, with most of them working on their strength and muscles. They were working very hard to grow faster than their peers. His gaze landed on a certain child with a lame leg. His gaze turned gentle. That child was none other than Guo Po.

Guo Po looked much sturdier than he was a few months ago, and his lame foot was much nimbler than before. However, his leg still affected his balance, making strength training harder for him. In

fact, strength training was probably several times—or even tens of times—harder for him than the other disciples.

Fortunately, Guo Po was aware of the importance of hard work. Thus, he was able to stay calm as he slowly gained strength. He was now a fifth-stage Basic Realm cultivator. It seemed possible that he would really enter the Astral Realm in a year. However, it was still unknown if his lame leg would be an obstacle during his breakthrough.

Xiang Shaoyun originally planned to leave after taking a look at Guo Po working hard. Guo Po's cultivation level was still too low for Xiang Shaoyun to personally teach him, and it would have to wait until Guo Po's leg was healed.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave, he saw several children heading over to bully Guo Po.

"You cripple, didn't I tell you to not show your face at the training square ever again? Are you disregarding my words?" questioned a sturdy child arrogantly.

Fear appeared on Guo Po's face as he said, "Th-this is the training spot given by the sect. I have the right to train here too."

"Yo, look at you, having the spine to talk back. Do you want to get beaten up one more time?" asked the sturdy child as he gave Guo Po a shove.

"Boss, what's the point of talking to him? Just beat him up," urged the sturdy child's companions.

"That's right. This cripple is nothing but trash. How will he be able to gain Little Sister Fu'er's favor? He is obviously trying to gain her sympathy. Let's beat him to the point he can't show his face before us again," said a different person.

"D-don't bully! I-I'll tell the instructor!" said Guo Po as he grew more and more timid.

He was someone who had experienced too much bullying. Although he was now Xiang Shaoyun's disciple, he had not received much teaching from Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, he still lacked confidence.

"Haha, you're nothing but a coward that goes to the instructor for everything. The instructor was here earlier, so he won't be back for the day. Forget the instructor. Let us cripple your other leg as

well. Let's see if you can continue coming here in the future," said the sturdy child with a smug laugh.

And thus, the group surrounded Guo Po, prepared to beat him up. These children were trained and could be extremely vicious in fights. When the beating began, Guo Po started wailing.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. He didn't feel bad seeing Guo Po being bullied. Rather, he felt bad seeing Guo Po not striking back and him accepting the beating. It was too cowardly.

If Guo Po did not change, Xiang Shaoyun would wonder if Guo Po was the wrong disciple to accept. After all, regardless of talent, a person would not reach far without a backbone.

Right this moment, a delicate girl ran over and shouted, "Big Zhuang, stop!"

The children stopped at her voice.

"Little Sister Fu, why do you keep helping this cripple? He is not worthy of your favor," questioned the sturdy child unhappily.

"Guo Po is already so pitiful, yet you're bullying him? Don't you feel bad about yourself?" said the girl with her hands on her waist.

"He's pitiful? Haha, I'll make him even more pitiful. Nobody can act pitiful in front of you anymore. Break his other leg," shouted the sturdy child as he roared with laughter.

The beating resumed. The girl wanted to help, but the sturdy boy shoved her onto the ground.

"Ahhh," the girl shouted.

Guo Po was silently enduring the beating when he saw the girl fall to the ground. A ruthless glint appeared in his eyes, and he roared, "Do not bully her!"

"Yo, so you gained the courage to talk back? Yes, I'm bullying her. What are you going to do about it?" asked the sturdy boy with a sneer.

"I'll teach you a lesson for that!" said Guo Po, his eyes lighting up with a radiant glow.

Chapter 1094: I Can Do It

Guo Po was furious. A resplendent radiance shone from his pupils, and when the radiance landed on the sturdy boy, the boy turned stiff as though he had become a puppet. Guo Po gained a burst of strength from an unknown source and pushed all the children around him away. Dragging his lame leg behind him, he charged the sturdy boy.

"You are not allowed to bully her!" roared Guo Po like a furious lion as he threw a punch at the sturdy boy.

The sturdy boy was stronger than Guo Po, but he actually stood still as the punch came. The punch sent him flying, and blood spurted out. After the successful first hit, Guo Po seemed to turn into a mad dog. He pounced on the sturdy boy and rained down punches.

The sturdy boy blanked out as he received the beating. He did not know how Guo Po had gained the strength to deliver him so much pain that he cried. The other children wanted to come over and beat up Guo Po, but when Guo Po turned his head and gazed at them, they all turned stiff as though they had been impaled right where they stood.

Guo Po ignored them and continued beating the sturdy boy, shouting, "You are not allowed to bully her in the future. Do you hear me?"

The sturdy boy mentally collapsed as he answered, "I-I know. I-I won't dare to do th-this anymore. S-stop beating me."

Guo Po continued beating the sturdy boy as though he had heard nothing.

At this time, the girl finally recovered from her shock. She said, "Guo Po, stop."

Her words seemed to be effective, and Guo Po finally stopped. The light in his eyes cleared, and the sinister aura around him dispersed. The stiff children finally regained the ability to move.

They wore blank expressions. When they looked at the sturdy, completely bruised boy, they were frightened and lost all courage to stand against Guo Po.

Guo Po struggled back up on his feet and threw them a glance before limping away silently.

The girl felt that something about Guo Po was unfamiliar. She hurriedly called out, "Guo Po, a-are you fine?"

Instead of replying, Guo Po continued limping away like a lofty wolf that would accept no contempt. The little girl and the other children watched on as he left. They all knew that from now on, they could no longer anger Guo Po or the consequences would be severe.

Before Guo Po could go far, his vision blurred. Before he knew it, he was on a mountain peak. Given a fright, he looked around in panic and discovered that someone else had appeared beside him.

When he got a good look at the person, he hurriedly saluted. "This disciple greets you, master."

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the salute and said, "In the future, you are not allowed to use your eye techniques unless it is a matter of life and death."

Guo Po answered meekly, "Yes, master."

"Do you find that unacceptable?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"N-no," said Guo Po, who didn't even dare to raise his head to Xiang Shaoyun.

He knew just how strong his master was. Furthermore, his master was the sect's leader, someone much more important than his Grandpa Zhen Peng. He was happy to have such a master, but he was also worried. He was happy that Xiang Shaoyun was strong, but he was worried that Xiang Shaoyun would look down on him and abandon him one day.

"Po'er, raise your head and look at your master," said Xiang Shaoyun. He was rarely this serious with Guo Po.

Guo Po slowly raised his head, but he did not dare to meet Xiang Shaoyun's eyes. He kept glancing left and right.

"Po'er, as a man, if you don't even have the courage to look someone in the eyes, you might as well keep your head down your entire life," said Xiang Shaoyun sternly.

Only then did Guo Po meet Xiang Shaoyun's gaze.

"This is more like it," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Why didn't you strike back when they were beating you up?"

"I-I was scared. They have more people and are stronger than me," answered Guo Po after some hesitation.

"Why did you forget your fear toward the end?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"B-because—" Guo Po blushed and couldn't finish his words.

"Because of that girl?" Xiang Shaoyun pressed.

"N-no!" Guo Po denied in panic.

"Are you a man? Do you not have the courage to speak the truth?" snapped Xiang Shaoyun.

"I—Th-they shouldn't bully a girl!" Guo Po stuttered.

"That's right. They shouldn't bully a girl. They shouldn't bully you either. Everyone is equal, and everyone has parents. Since your parents are not around, your master is your father. Since they are humiliating you, they are humiliating your master. You can be beaten to death, but you can't be beaten to death without hitting back. As a man, even if you die, you need to die with honor. Remember that. Even with a bad leg, you can't be cowardly. Your leg will not be your reason to let yourself be pushed around. Do you understand me?" said Xiang Shaoyun patiently.

Guo Po was still at a growing stage, and his character was still open for molding. Without proper guidance, Xiang Shaoyun was worried that Guo Po would go astray in the future. Guo Po nodded blankly. It was unknown if he truly understood what his master was telling him.

Xiang Shaoyun continued, "As a man, you need to have the strength to protect your woman. Work hard. Even without using eye techniques, you should be able to defeat your enemies. Do you have the confidence for that?"

Guo Po gave it some thought, clenched his fists, and said, "I-I can do it!"

"I can't hear you. Louder," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"I can do it!"

"Did you turn stupid from the beating? Why are you speaking so softly? Louder!"

"I can do it! I can definitely do it!"

...

Guo Po roared, releasing his repressed emotions.

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his head and said, "That's the right attitude. Whatever situation you find yourself in, stay confident and don't bring shame to your master."

While he spoke, sparkling energy gathered in his palm, and he nourished Guo Po's wounds with strands of life force. The wounds healed, and Guo Po's mouth was wide open with shock. He had not imagined that his master actually had such an inconceivable power.

Guo Po finally gained the courage to take the initiative and talk to his master first: "Master, you're amazing."

"Do you want to learn this?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Yes." Guo Po nodded his head heavily.

"Then you need to continue working hard and reach the Astral Realm as quickly as possible. When you gain the ability to store astral energy, I'll cure our leg. At that time, you can start learning from me," encouraged Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't worry, master. I won't disappoint you! Before long, I will enter the Astral Realm," declared Guo Po confidently.

Chapter 1095: Abyss River

After giving Guo Po some words of encouragement, Xiang Shaoyun sent him away. He believed that if Guo Po could actually take in his words, he would have extraordinary accomplishments in the future. Done with his disciple, Xiang Shaoyun headed for the forbidden zone at the back mountain.

The forbidden zone had been the silver-winged owl's territory. But even after the owl had left, the sect members still avoided the place because a sinister aura still lingered in the area. An ordinary person would not be able to withstand the aura and would be immediately corroded to death.

Xiang Shaoyun had been too busy to visit the place all this while. Now that he had some free time, it was about time he gave that place a visit and checked if it hid any other secrets.

The forbidden zone was previously sealed from the outside world and existed as an independent world. After Di Batian destroyed the seal, the forbidden zone became shrouded in a hazy energy that prevented others from clearly seeing what was inside the zone.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived, he found that a large amount of the silver-winged owl's aura remained and was causing a sense of discomfort. Instead of directly charging into the zone, Xiang Shaoyun sent his senses inside to figure out the situation before entering. He discovered an abyss that was gushing out a large amount of energy.

Xiang Shaoyun was sure that the abyss was where the silver-winged owl had resided. He tried to explore further, but his senses were prevented from entering the abyss. He became increasingly confident that something unexpected could be found in the abyss. Xiang Shaoyun no longer hesitated to enter the forbidden zone.

A rich amount of flame energy burst out of him and burned the sinister energy in the air around him, forbidding the sinister energy from damaging his body. He soon reached the abyss. When he looked inside, he saw layers of hazy energy blocking his vision, stopping him from getting a clear look.

"What place is this exactly? It feels weird," muttered Xiang Shaoyun before he leaped into the abyss.

He had a feeling that the abyss hid a secret. It wouldn't feel so mysterious otherwise.

After passing through the energy layers, he smelled the scent of the owl and whiffed an ancient stench in the air that gave him a somewhat odd sensation. While keeping his guard up, Xiang Shaoyun continued down the abyss. There seemed to be no danger in it. He eventually arrived at the bottom.

He found an underground river at the bottom of the abyss. It was unknown where the river originated from and where the river flowed to. The water flowed unhurriedly, giving off the same odd sensation.

Xiang Shaoyun's pupils contracted, and he sank into confusion. He could not understand why there would be such a river within the sect. The river water was completely black, making the river incomparably peculiar.

"What water is this, and what is this river hiding?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered.

He gave it some thought before deciding to travel upstream, trying to find the river's source. He increased his speed and traveled rapidly. With the speed of a Sovereign, it shouldn't take him long to reach the start of the river. However, he soon found that the river seemed to originate very far away, as though he could never reach its source.

Furthermore, no matter how far he traveled, the abyss walls still surrounded him, as though the river and the abyss were a singular existence. After giving it some thought, he flew upward to figure out his current location. It was then that he found that the abyss had become incomparably deep. However high he flew, he couldn't fly out of the abyss.

He felt troubled.

"Is this an illusion?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered doubtfully as he observed his surroundings. Even after pushing his senses to the limits, he couldn't find anything special.

"Looks like I need to persist until the very end if I want to figure out this place," said Xiang Shaoyun to himself. He continued upstream.

An indeterminate amount of time passed. Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had traveled for a month or two, yet the river source was still nowhere to be seen. Despair rose in him as he shouted, "Just what kind of place is this?"

He couldn't control himself, and he unleashed a fierce attack on the river.

Boom!

One would expect water to splash up, but instead, a bone ship emerged. The ship emanated an odd aura, and two skeleton frames could be seen on the ship. The entire scene was incredibly eerie.

The blood-red words Grotto Ferry could be seen on the sail, and they gave off a sinister vibe.

"Grotto Ferry? What is this?" Xiang Shaoyun was stunned. This was the very first time he had experienced something so weird. He did not land on the ship. Slowly, the ship sank back into the river.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes shone as he finally decided to rush down and come onto the ship. Regardless of the danger the ship might contain, he still wanted to unveil its secret.

Instead of attacking him when he boarded, the two skeletons continued navigating the ship, and the ship sank into the river.

When the ship went fully underwater, Xiang Shaoyun discovered that the water didn't rush toward the ship. It was as though some sort of power was parting the water. No energy could be sensed coming from the ship, making the entire event incredibly odd.

Since Xiang Shaoyun couldn't figure out what was happening, he decided not to think. He sat down cross-legged and let the ship bring him to wherever its destination was. He stayed in optimal condition, and he pushed his senses to the limits, trying to see if he could eventually discover anything.

However, his findings disappointed him. The river water all around the ship was akin to a natural barrier that fully isolated him and his powers from the outside world, preventing him from sensing anything beyond the ship.

An indeterminate amount of time passed. The bone ship finally arrived at the river's bottom, and an entirely different scene appeared before his eyes. Four similar bone ships appeared before him, each stopping at a different spot as if waiting for passengers.

Xiang Shaoyun also discovered that more people were arriving in the similar manner he had arrived. They came from different directions, and each person was in the Soul Foundation Realm. Some were in groups of three, some in larger groups, and some were alone like him. Everyone had their guard up as they saw each other.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into confusion. He did not know where this was, and he did not know where everyone had come from.

Chapter 1096: Loud Runic

Apart from the over 100 humans that had appeared, there were some other races present as well. Their unique features made it clear that they were not humans, and they also seemed powerful.

After taking a look at all the bone ships, Xiang Shaoyun saw a mysterious door.

The door was massive, as though it was the gate of heaven. It stood loftily, with dragons, phoenixes, and other high-tier beasts carved on it. The door looked ancient, imposing, and mystical. It was as though an entirely different world was behind the door. This place's secret could perhaps be found behind the door.

Xiang Shaoyun stood on the ship silently. He observed his surroundings coldly, not understanding what was going on.

Not far away from him stood a runic. The runic looked at Xiang Shaoyun and shouted, "Kid, where did you come from? I never saw you during the Underground River Battle."

His words attracted more eyes to Xiang Shaoyun. The gazes were filled with hostility, as though they were going to fill Xiang Shaoyun's body with holes. Only then did Xiang Shaoyun notice that they were all late-stage Sovereigns. Not one of them was a regular Sovereign.

"I have no clue what the Underground River Battle is. Can you dispel my doubts?" asked Xiang Shaoyun in a nonchalant manner.

His words were filled with a provocative tone, causing the gazes focused on him to fill with killing intent.

A person said, "Since he doesn't even know what the Underground River Battle is, he is most likely a random nobody who came here by accident. Just get rid of him and not waste more time."

"I can deal with a small fish like this," said the runic with a sneer, attacking.

Numerous runes appeared, crisscrossed, and formed a palm. The palm charged through the river water and shot toward Xiang Shaoyun. The runes were extremely destructive, capable of instantly turning one into mincemeat.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out when he saw the palm travel unimpeded through the water. He couldn't understand why the river wasn't stopping the palm from venturing beyond the ship. He was not given much time to think. He threw a punch out at the palm.

The two powerful attacks collided, creating a muffled sound. However, not a single ripple formed in the water, as though the collision was merely an illusion. This further confused Xiang Shaoyun.

Just what kind of a river was this, and how had it formed? Everything was incredibly odd.

The runic was surprised that Xiang Shaoyun could actually block his attack. He could clearly sense that Xiang Shaoyun was only a first-stage Sovereign.

"Looks like you are not completely useless. Take my second attack," shouted the runic as he attacked with both palms.

The two palms formed of runes joined to become a butterfly. The butterfly flapped its wings and shot toward Xiang Shaoyun. It was extremely powerful, exuding the strength of a seventh-stage Sovereign.

Any regular Sovereign would not be able to survive. Xiang Shaoyun, however, was not a regular Sovereign. He possessed unparalleled combat strength.

Lightning gathered in his fist, then rushed out like a river of lightning, resulting in another powerful collision. The impact from this collision was also swiftly neutralized by the river.

At this time, a demon expert shouted, "The underground river has the power of emptiness. You won't be able to kill him with this. Just wait until we reach the grotto.

"Kid, consider yourself lucky. You better not follow us later, or you will die a miserable death," said the runic with a sneer.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to reply. Once again, he started contemplating the secret of this underground river. He took out some random items and tossed them into the river. The items instantly vanished the moment they touched the water.

He grew even more astonished. The others looked at him like he was an idiot, causing him to feel somewhat gloomy.

"Where are you from? Can anyone tell me about this river?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Alas, everyone ignored him.

"Fine, since you're refusing to talk, I'll make him talk," said Xiang Shaoyun as he attacked the runic.

A golden finger sword beam swiftly shot forth, moving at an incredible speed. The runic was extraordinarily strong and had a fast reaction time. Even so, he only noticed the beam when it was already right before his chest, leaving him with no choice but to strike the beam with his palm.

However, the moment he touched the beam, the beam exploded with golden stinging energy and, with it, shrouded the runic. His defensive barrier collapsed as the golden energy seeped into his skin and tormented him. Wails of pain resounded from his mouth.

The demon expert from earlier frowned and muttered, "What is this? Why can he harm someone here?"

"The energy in the river won't immediately devour all energy. That fellow was injured because he couldn't block the attack," someone replied.

After the successful attack, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Tell me, or you will continue enjoying this pain."

"Dream on," shouted the runic.

Immediately, a layer of shiny runes wrapped around the runic's body, protecting him from further harm. At the same time, a black spear appeared in his hand. He launched several attacks with the spear, attempting to kill Xiang Shaoyun.

Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun directly blocked the attacks and suffered minimal damage. Instead of staying on the defensive, Xiang Shaoyun jabbed with his finger several times, using the Flux Finger Sword Technique to attack the runic several times.

Xiang Shaoyun didn't hold back. His combat strength matched a peak Sovereigns; thus, it was not surprising that he was strong enough to harm a seventh-stage Sovereign.

Attacked repeatedly, the runic wailed in pain. The stabbing pain made him wish he was dead.

If it wasn't for his resilience, he would have passed out from the pain.

"Are you talking?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Yes, I'll talk. Stop," the runic finally surrendered.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped attacking and waited for the runic to talk. But before the runic could say anything, the door opened. Everyone became excited. This was the moment they had been waiting for. Things they all longed for could be found beyond the door.

Xiang Shaoyun found himself growing nervous because he did not know what he would find beyond the door. Just as he was contemplating on whether he should go through, beams of energy shot out of the door and pulled them all inside.

Chapter 1097: Spacetime Grotto

The energy from the door was unstoppable. Nobody could do anything when everyone was pulled into the door. Xiang Shaoyun focused on sensing the energy instead of resisting. His clone could

feel it clearly: the energy seemed to be a type of willpower, not some special power. It felt that if he actually resisted, he would perhaps be killed.

Xiang Shaoyun did not resist, but he was becoming more and more curious about this place. By the time he stood on something again, the scene before his eyes had changed completely.

It was like a paradise. The chirping of birds resounded constantly, flowers bloomed, and streams flowed peacefully. The place did not look dangerous, completely different from everyone's expectations, considering where they had come from.

Everyone was completely stunned. They had come here after experiencing numerous hardships. Thus, they had a hard time accepting the fact that this was the place they had come to. After all, a grotto should be brimming with an ancient aura, but this place was far too different from the legends.

Suddenly, the runic charged Xiang Shaoyun, roaring, "Kid, hand your life over!"

He did not care what this place was. His priority was to kill Xiang Shaoyun and erase his shame. The runic was born with incredible speed. He also possessed powerful dark energy that allowed him to unleash terrifying attacks.

But when he attacked, he failed to release his actual strength. Instead, he could only use his physical strength, which was far less destructive than his capabilities. He was stunned.

Xiang Shaoyun reacted by throwing a punch out. He also noticed that he couldn't utilize his astral energy and could only use his physical strength. Their attacks collided, and the runic was sent flying.

"This is not possible! How can you be so strong even with your astral energy suppressed?" exclaimed the runic in astonishment as he borrowed the impact to withdraw quickly.

"I can easily take care of you in all environments," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

He stepped forth, preparing to push on toward the runic. Since the runic had acted against him several times, he was prepared to kill him.

"Everyone, what are you waiting for? Come and get him. He didn't get here through the competition," the runic hurriedly shouted in panic.

"You can't even deal with small fry? Watch as I punch him into mincemeat with one move," said someone with an ox head. He charged Xiang Shaoyun and threw a ferocious punch forward.

The ox-head also couldn't use his full strength. Even so, his punch couldn't be underestimated; it could easily crush a boulder.

Xiang Shaoyun met the punch with his own.

Their punches collided, and just like the runic, the ox-head was sent flying. Everyone around them was astonished. They had not imagined that the young man would actually be so valiant. Not even the ox-head, whose race was known for physical strength, was his match.

"Are you not ashamed of running your mouths with only this much strength?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer before rushing forth.

Even if he couldn't use his astral energy, he could still run at an extreme, shocking speed.

The ox-head yelled, "Kid, don't get too cocky!"

The ox-head burst out with an explosive aura, and white steam shot out of his nose. He was clearly infuriated as he erupted with all his strength and charged Xiang Shaoyun. The ox-head had a much sturdier physique than Xiang Shaoyun. His fist shot forth like a massive boulder threatening to smash Xiang Shaoyun to death.

Xiang Shaoyun showed no fear and met the massive fist with his tiny-in-comparison fist. The two fists collided once again, and the sound of bones cracking sounded.

Crack!

The punch broke the ox-head's arm, and he was flung away once again. When the runic saw Xiang Shaoyun's scariness, he hurriedly slipped away in fear. In any case, he wasn't related to the ox-head. What happened to the ox-head had nothing to do with him.

However, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to spare him. Like an arrow, Xiang Shaoyun rushed over and caught up with the runic in the span of several blinks. He kicked him. The runic couldn't even react before he was sent tumbling into the bush.

Xiang Shaoyun pressed on and stepped on the runic. "So, are you still going to act all cocky with me?"

"You better let go of me. I'm part of the runic race. If you offend us, we will take revenge against you wherever you go in the future," said the runic, unyielding.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered to respond. He applied more force and pushed the runic into the ground. The runic felt humiliated and started roaring in anger. Alas, roaring was the only thing he could do, and he suffered more because of it.

Nobody came to help him; they just dispersed to search for what they had come to this place for. The ox-head also no longer dared to act cocky, and he swiftly fled.

Xiang Shaoyun kicked the runic to his feet and said, "I'm going to ask you some questions. If you dare to refuse any question, you will lose your head."

The runic no longer dared to resist. He repeatedly nodded while swearing inwardly, I'll follow his words for now. After I regain the ability to use my astral energy, I will definitely erase him.

"How did all of you reach here? What place is this? Tell me everything you know," demanded Xiang Shaoyun.

The runic hid nothing and told him what he knew. The underground river was known as the Spacetime River. Every 1,000 years, it would appear at different locations. Each appearance would cause numerous experts to fight for the opportunities the river presented.

The Spacetime River would appear at random times and random locations. Thus, very few people were lucky enough to encounter it. Also, one had to be in the Soul Foundation Realm to be eligible to fight for the opportunities the river presented. Those below the realm would not be able to withstand the spacetime power. At the same time, those above the Soul Foundation Realm also couldn't enter the river because the river's inconceivable power would repel them.

Everyone else had come from the Spacetime River and had only entered after an intense competition.

After listening to all the runic had to say, Xiang Shaoyun was shocked and stunned. Had the Southern Wasteland's people appeared in the Western Desert or had he appeared in the Southern Wasteland?

Xiang Shaoyun asked, "How about this grotto? Where is this place exactly?"

"We are still within the Spacetime River. It is rumored that the river connects to a place beyond space and time. We don't know where exactly this place is either," answered the runic.

Chapter 1098: Bone Race

After finding out more about this place, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes burned with excitement. This was a spacetime grotto with massive opportunities. Some could become Saints here, some could obtain cleansing and undergo rebirth, and others could obtain similar benefits. In short, so long as one could leave this place alive, one would have a bright future.

However, only a tenth of the people here would be able to leave alive. One could say that the grotto had a survival rate of 10 percent. However, the grotto was like a paradise. No danger could be seen, so Xiang Shaoyun couldn't understand how it could be so fatal.

"Can I leave now?" asked the runic meekly.

"Yes. But you need to come with me. I still lack a bodyguard," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nonchalant smile.

The runic's face fell. It was clear that Xiang Shaoyun was trying to make him a servant. However, he was given no choice. Xiang Shaoyun was too strong, probably one of the strongest here. Nobody would dare to provoke him. The source of Xiang Shaoyun's insane physical strength was naturally the Limit Stimulation Technique.

His flesh had been tempered thoroughly. His skin, flesh, meridians, organs, and bones had been reforged, becoming increasingly flawless and massively strong. Xiang Shaoyun was basically a beast among humans with unparalleled brute strength. Perhaps only some top-tier demonic beasts could match his physical strength.

This strength was why Xiang Shaoyun could easily defeat the runic and the ox-head. Instead of suppressing him, the grotto's environment was helping him display his advantage.

Xiang Shaoyun and the runic headed deeper into the grotto as they searched for whatever made this place so special.

The grotto was extremely expansive and felt the same as the outside world. The only difference was that it was much more serene and beautiful. Many small beasts were frolicking throughout the grotto, showing no fear for the intruders.

If some young girls were brought here, they would probably fall in love with this place. The grotto was the perfect location for one to cultivate in silence and shun the world. But the more flawless the paradise appeared, the more out of place everything seemed.

Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to advance. He constantly spread his senses around, trying to get a clear picture of the grotto before deciding on what to do. Eventually, he discovered an odd place. Not far from him was a floating building. He brought the runic and moved swiftly toward the floating building.

When they arrived, they found that some other people had come before them.

The floating building was ancient and crude, built from ancient bricks. One could see everything in the house with a single glance. Inside the house was a stone bed. Seated on the stone bed was a skeleton. Apart from that, the house was completely empty.

Someone leaped into the air to get a better look at the house and the skeleton. But without astral energy, he couldn't fly or go beyond a height of 100 meters just by jumping. However, he had come well-prepared. A chain shot out from his hand and latched onto the stone house. Using the chain, he continued his ascent.

He was impressively nimble. It only took him a short time to reach the house. But when he arrived, something odd happened. A repelling force erupted from the house and flung him away.

He smashed into the ground and started madly coughing blood. Chest caved in, he seemed to have suffered a grievous wound.

The people present were given a fright. They had not imagined that the house would actually have such a seal around it.

"You mortals are here to disturb my master's slumber again. You deserve death!" the skeleton in the house spoke, giving everyone another fright.

The skeleton had no blood and flesh. How could it speak? And yet, not only was the skeleton speaking, it was flying out of the house. With a bone staff in hand, it landed on the ground. A sharp radiance shone from its empty eye sockets, scaring everyone from meeting its gaze.

Everyone stepped back, worried that the skeleton would give them trouble.

Someone exclaimed in alarm, "You're from the bone race?"

The bone race was an extremely peculiar race. Each member was born from the frame of a skeleton that had mutated after successfully lasting for many years without rotting away. Not all skeletons would become members of the bone race, but after the first of the race had come into existence, they had gathered corpses to give others a chance to be reborn.

After their birth, they would exist in the form of skeletons without any of their memories. Like members of other races, those of the bone race grew slowly before forming a unique type of consciousness and becoming a unique kind of expert.

The person who had spoken had recognized the skeleton as a member of the bone race due to the skeleton's unique bone runes.

"Good. Now that you know, return to where you came from. This is the bone race's territory. If you mortals retreat, you will be spared. Otherwise, all of you will die," said the skeleton.

At this time, someone pointed in a certain direction and said, "I think there are some lifebone flowers there. I saw a few other sovereign herbs as well."

Everyone looked over. Sure enough, several stalks of blooming herbs were growing on a certain slope. The sight instantly caused their eyes to light up.

"You greedy bastards. Last warning. Get lost or die," shouted the skeleton furiously.

However, everyone was blinded by greed. They ignored the skeleton and rushed to the herbs.

"You're courting death," the skeleton fumed. With its bone staff raised, it charged them.

The skeleton was unaffected by the grotto's energy suppression and could fly in the air. It could even use the energy unique to the bone clan. A silvery-white chain manifested and slammed into the group of people.

Everyone might have lost access to their energy, but they still had impressive reaction speeds and nimbly dodged the attack. Some failed to avoid the attack. They were struck and sent flying far away. If their armors weren't protecting them, they would have died.

In response, the group drew their weapons and attacked the skeleton. Since the weapons' energies weren't suppressed, they could still unleash an impressive might with their weapons. However, they still couldn't harm the skeleton, who was too fast for them.

"Die, mortals!" the skeleton roared, and its staff shone brightly as though summoning something.

While everyone else was fighting, Xiang Shaoyun had kept to himself with the runic. The two were standing to the side, observing everything. Soon, Xiang Shaoyun noticed something appearing from underground.

A dragon skeleton burst up and pounced on the group of people.

Chapter 1099: Headless Stone Lion

The skeletal dragon attacked alongside the humanoid skeleton, causing everyone to flee for their lives in all directions. The people present were all Sovereigns, but unfortunately, they couldn't display their actual strength. They were unable to do anything to the two skeletons, and two of them were immediately killed.

Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly, Sure enough, this is not a peaceful place.

"Go deal with them. I'll go get the herbs," said Xiang Shaoyun with a trace of excitement in his eyes.

Everyone was greedy, and Xiang Shaoyun wasn't immune to greed either. The herbs were all rare sovereign herbs. If he could bring them back to the Ziling Sect, it would increase the sect's wealth, which would benefit him.

"But I'm not their match!" complained the runic, who felt like crying.

"Don't worry. Afterward, you will owe me nothing," said Xiang Shaoyun before rushing off toward the herbs.

The runic felt extremely helpless. He gritted his teeth and charged forth.

Riding atop the skeletal dragon, the humanoid skeleton attacked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Since you refuse to leave, you can die," said the skeleton as he brandished his bone staff, sending two powerful energy attacks toward Xiang Shaoyun and the runic.

The runic hoisted his weapon and blocked the attack. The impact forced him to retreat in quick succession. As for Xiang Shaoyun, after somersaulting on the ground, he vanished into thin air. Nobody knew where he went. He had used his bloodline ability to turn invisible.

The skeleton and skeletal dragon couldn't sense him anymore, so they focused on the runic. The runic pissed himself from fear and started running away in panic. One ought to admit that runics possessed impressive speed. Using his bloodline power, the runic escaped at an astonishing speed, successfully throwing off the two skeletons.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun reached the slope and plucked all the herbs. There were lifebone flowers, coiling dragon grasses, jadecrystal seeds, and so on growing there. They were all extremely rare herbs. From the fact that they were all growing on this slope, one could only imagine the grotto's vast energy abundance.

Xiang Shaoyun thought to himself, If I have the time for it, I can consider digging around this place. I might be able to find an enormous crystal mine.

It was undeniable that Xiang Shaoyun was incredibly greedy. Even after obtaining the sovereign herbs, he had still set his eyes on what was underground.

"Who's there?" the skeleton roared after sensing that the herbs had been stolen. It swung its bone staff in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

Xiang Shaoyun slipped away without any hesitation. He did not intend to get himself tangled with the skeleton. The two skeletons failed to find him, allowing him to escape easily.

When Xiang Shaoyun reached a different location, he found that there were quite a lot of skeletons living in the grotto.

They interacted with each other, they cultivated, and they lived with their own set of rules and habits like any other race. Seeing these skeletons going on with their daily lives here gave this paradise an eerie feeling.

Wherever the skeletons were found, Xiang Shaoyun could find many emperor and sovereign herbs. There were also some other low-level herbs, but he mostly ignored them.

With his invisibility, he was like a fish back in water, able to fish for benefits in peace. As for the others, they had to struggle a lot for a tiny benefit and might even lose their lives for it.

However, Xiang Shaoyun knew that the grotto's biggest secret was definitely not the herbs. There would definitely be more valuable treasures here.

Eventually, he discovered that a large number of skeletons would come from a certain direction. That was perhaps the place they were searching for. But before he could reach his destination, danger finally came for him. A headless stone lion appeared and charged toward him.

Xiang Shaoyun realized that the stone lion had probably sensed him with some unique senses it had. Otherwise, the lion shouldn't have noticed him when he was invisible.

The stone lion was massive. Its ash-gray body was filled with power that seemed extremely suited for tackling. Anyone it rammed would probably be crushed into mincemeat.

Xiang Shaoyun might have impressive physical strength, but not even he wanted to face this headless stone lion. Thus, he tried to flee but suddenly saw an odd object on the stone lion. Seeing that object caused him to halt his steps.

The headless stone lion charged him, and Xiang Shaoyun relied on his nimbleness to move out of the way. He jumped onto the lion, aiming to retrieve the object on the lion's body. When he approached the lion's body, stone spikes grew out as the lion attempted to impale him to death.

Xiang Shaoyun was caught by surprise. As the spikes pierced him, he was assaulted by intense pain. If it wasn't for his body's durability, he would have been killed. He bent his body and avoided the sharp spikes before reaching for the object on the lion's back. After grabbing the object, he found that he couldn't pull it off. Evidently, it had fused with the lion.

Just as he was about to try something else, the lion rolled and slammed its back against the ground, trying to crush him to death. Xiang Shaoyun reacted speedily and pushed at the lion before sliding away on the ground.

The headless stone lion thrashed about, creating numerous craters in the ground. It leaped up and stomped at Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun rolled on the ground repeatedly and managed to barely avoid the stomps.

However, he had now lost the initiative. It was only a matter of time before he was crushed under the lion. He rolled to a boulder and used the boulder to jump off the ground and slam his body into the stone lion.

As he rammed into the stone lion, he could feel that the lion was as strong as a peak Sovereign. He did not dare to underestimate the lion. He hurriedly moved away from the lion, searching for an opportunity to recover. The headless stone lion chased after him, moving at an even faster speed.

Xiang Shaoyun stabilized his footing and gathered all his strength into his fist before throwing a punch at the charging lion.

Dragonscale Arm—Total Annihilation!

His arm contained the might of a magnificent army, the swing of his arm causing the earth to quake and the mountains to shake. The stone lion's body was incomparably tough, but even such a tough body cracked from the punch. Ash gray blood started flowing out of the cracks. The attack was a success, but the impact also caused his arm to go numb. He had to take several steps back to neutralize the impact.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to put more strength into the lion, he saw a one-legged ox charging at him from far away. It only had a single leg, so it was essentially hopping on the ground. However, it moved at an incredible speed.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun saw the ox, his pupils constricted. He exclaimed, "This is a kui ox from the legends!"

Chapter 1100: Kui Ox and Three-Colored Snake

The kui ox was supposed to be an extinct species. They were primordial beasts that were terrifyingly powerful. As this kui ox charged him, a raging deluge followed its path while ox roars that were extremely uncomfortable to hear resounded in the air. The kui ox arrived with a ferocious momentum and was definitely a much scarier beast than the headless stone lion. This was a beast in the highest of tiers.

Since Xiang Shaoyun had no access to his astral energy, relying on his physical strength to deal with this kui ox would probably be difficult. However, he also didn't want to miss out on the object on the stone lion. Left with no choice, he drew his saint weapon, preparing to end the fight as quickly as possible.

But the moment he drew his saint weapon, numerous bone race members appeared in his vicinity. An encirclement had formed around him, giving him a fright. He quickly put the weapon away and fled.

"Damnable mortal, you dare intrude upon our territory? Get lost or die!" roared the leader.

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun ignored the skeleton and ran as fast as he could.

"Grab him!" roared the leader before it started humming an odd tune that sounded like an ancient summoning ritual.

Sure enough, numerous skeletons burst out of the ground and swarmed Xiang Shaoyun. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's rich experience in dealing with the many skeletons at the academy's Back Graveyard, he might have been creeped out by the skeletons running around all over this paradise-like place.

A pair of skeletal hands caught his legs, slowing his escape and causing him to curse. He applied some force to his legs and crushed the skeletal arms only to be greeted with more skeletons. Escaping the swarm wouldn't be easy.

Xiang Shaoyun attacked in all directions, clawing, punching, and kicking as he tried to create a path of escape and send the skeletons flying away. The skeletons did not have any consciousness and were still in the growing stage. Thus, they were much easier to deal with.

But as Xiang Shaoyun was trying to escape, the kui ox arrived. An overwhelming deluge of power rippled out of its single leg toward Xiang Shaoyun. He had no way of dodging the deluge, and he was instantly swept off the ground. The world spun around him, and the sensation of his body being torn assaulted him.

If he hadn't tempered his body with the Limit Stimulation Technique, the kui ox's move alone would have been the end of him.

Xiang Shaoyun was thrown onto the ground, but he still maintained a clear mind. There were no longer any skeletons around him since they had also been smashed out of the way.

Confident that Xiang Shaoyun must have died, the kui ox didn't even bother chasing after him. Xiang Shaoyun, instead of getting back on his feet immediately, stopped breathing and focused on sensing his surroundings. He discovered that he had been swept into a valley.

Boulders and bushes surrounded him. The bushes seemed to contain some spiritual objects that were releasing a fragrance into the air. Xiang Shaoyun slightly opened one of his eyes and saw a sparkling flower not far from him. The flower was split into three parts that were different in color. One was blue, one was green, and one was brown. Each color emanated a different aura. When Xiang Shaoyun saw the flower, his pupils constricted, and a look of astonishment covered his face.

"Th-this is the three-colored auspicious flower!" he exclaimed in shock.

The three-colored auspicious flower was extremely rare. It was only an emperor plant, but it was of the highest quality within the grade and had a unique medicinal effect.

The blue petal could greatly enhance one's water star and help in the comprehension of water profundity. The green petal was extremely helpful in healing. The brown petal was incredibly toxic. Not even the gods could save someone who had consumed it by accident.

The three-colored auspicious flower was extremely picky with its environment. It wouldn't grow in any regular environment. This flower's presence signified that the valley was probably an extraordinary place.

Sure enough, after observing his surroundings, Xiang Shaoyun noticed a towering stele within the valley. Behind the stele was a massive graveyard.

Skeletons were standing guard all around the graveyard. They were the most devoted guards, protecting the graveyard with airtight security. Nobody would be allowed to take even a single step inside.

At this time, someone appeared in the area with a saint weapon in hand. A large number of skeletons were chasing the intruder. Some never-before-seen beasts and some lifeless beings also showed themselves, causing massive chaos in the area.

All of them seemed to be guarding the graveyard, and they were incredibly powerful. They could easily deal with the intruders, who were basically Sovereigns crippled of astral energy. There also seemed to be even more dangerous beings hidden in the area. They had merely been keeping still because the intruders weren't worth their time.

After this realization, Xiang Shaoyun realized that the deluge had sent him to the most important place within the grotto. His heartbeat accelerated.

When he was about to reach for the three-colored auspicious flower, he saw a three-headed snake slowly slithering over from a cave. Like the flower, the snake had three colors. Each head had a different color, giving the snake an incredibly unusual appearance. Its heads were flat, making it obvious that the snake was highly poisonous.

A pseudo-Saint three-colored snake? thought Xiang Shaoyun, his body going limp. This snake was basically the overlord of vipers, the most poisonous snake in existence. Anyone encountering this snake would consider retreating, including Saints.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to move, and he even used his bloodline ability to turn invisible. He was afraid that the snake would discover him. The three-colored snake was an intelligent beast. Its tongues went in and out of its three mouths as it constantly scanned its surroundings. Its six eyes were shining with a sinister glow.

One pair of eyes suddenly looked in Xiang Shaoyun's direction. Xiang Shaoyun was so frightened he shivered and prayed inwardly, Please don't notice me. Please don't notice me.

Alas, the snake had indeed discovered him. It slithered over with its tiny body and spat highly poisonous venom at him. It was clear to Xiang Shaoyun that his invisibility had failed him yet again. Like a bullet, his body shot away as he fled rapidly. He rushed out of the valley only to encounter many members of the bone race.

"Bring it on! I have a rich experience in exterminating skeletons!" Knowing that he could no longer escape, Xiang Shaoyun roared and charged the skeletons with his Radiant Saint Sword in his hand.