

## Overlord 121

### Chapter 121: Gold Serpentine Crocodile

Why had Xiang Shaoyun gone missing? Naturally, that was because he had left the group by himself. Even before arriving, he had already made his own plans. His main goal at the Battle of Towns was to train and temper himself, not honor and glory. If he stayed with the Martial Hall Palace disciples, whatever difficulties he encountered would be shared with the other disciples. It would be pointless then.

It was not that Xiang Shaoyun was an uncooperative person, but his priority right now was to grow as fast as he could. No matter what danger he encountered, even if his life was on the line, he wanted to face it himself.

Don't worry. If you guys encounter any danger, I will do my best to help, Xiang Shaoyun thought as he looked at the Martial Hall Palace above a boulder not far away.

Only after the Martial Hall Palace set off did he start moving as well.

Apart from gold serpentine crocodiles, goldsteel stones and gold serpent fruits can also be found in the Golden River Valley. These are the actual treasures here, Xiang Shaoyun thought to himself.

The goldsteel stone was a king-grade material. Each of these stones was extremely tough and was excellent for equipment forging. If he could find some, they would be worth no less than high-grade spirit medicines.

As for the gold serpent fruit, it was even more extraordinary. It was capable of helping one form metal energy within one's body. The lowest grade this fruit could be was mid-grade spirit medicine. It also had the chance to become high-grade spirit medicine or even greater. Even Transformation Realm cultivators would covet something like this.

The main goal of the youths participating in the competition was to slay gold serpentine crocodiles. However, they all wished they could obtain some of these treasures as well. Before they arrived, the elders of the numerous academies had already briefed their respective disciples about all this.

Some also suspected that a huge secret was hidden inside the Golden River Valley, and this secret could answer the question as to why everything was gold in color. Unfortunately, many experts had already investigated and none of them could understand what was going on. As time went on, everyone moved on.

Xiang Shaoyun traveled on a remote path that very few disciples used. Because the path was filled with wild weeds and concentrated trees, visibility was low, making it a rather dangerous path to take. After all, with such low visibility, it was very hard for one to react to any danger in time.

Thus, very rarely did people select to travel on this path. But that was what Xiang Shaoyun did.

The most dangerous place is also the best place to temper myself. I need to break through into the eighth stage as soon as possible, Xiang Shaoyun pondered to himself as he traveled.

At this moment, Little White was already perched on his shoulder, lazily stretching his body.

"Boss, the aura of this place gives me an extremely intimate sensation. I love this place," Little White said.

"The aura here is intimate with you? Are you sure?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

Demonic beasts had keen senses. Xiang Shaoyun was sure Little White must have discovered something.

"There, it is coming from the depths over there. Boss, can we go there? But I can also sense a thick demonic aura there," Little White said as he pointed in a certain direction.

"Sure. Just lead the way. Even if there is a Demon King, I am still going to try my luck," Xiang Shaoyun said, his battle intent surging.

They then headed toward the depths where Little White had pointed to. The depths were supposed to be the forbidden zone for disciples like them. Even Transformation Realm cultivators would not dare casually enter. In fact, the King Realm experts from Cloud Margin City had warned them about it before they had set off. It was unlikely for them to lie about this.

But Xiang Shaoyun's strength boosted his courage. Thus, he was willingly heading straight toward danger. Not long after he started moving again, a figure leaped out from a bush. A massive jaw opened above him at a speed so fast any ordinary person would not be able to react to it.

Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have seen this attack coming a long time ago. He stepped to the side and chopped at the back of the attacking beast with his hand.

Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun's body had gone through the baptism of lightning. Every inch of his body was now extremely tough. A chop of his hand was capable of slicing even stones apart. To his surprise, this beast's body was actually even harder than stone.

The beast crashed onto the ground because of the attack, its appearance finally revealed clearly before Xiang Shaoyun. It had the head of a snake and the body of a crocodile. It was about three meters long, and its scales were gold in color. This was a rather odd looking beast.

It was a gold serpentine crocodile, the target of the disciples in this competition. This one was at the Intermediate Demon level.

After taking Xiang Shaoyun's attack, numerous cracks had appeared on the surface of its head. But it was still alive.

It stood up again and whipped its tail at Xiang Shaoyun. With the sharp spikes on its tail, being struck by this tail wouldn't be fun at all. Against such a powerful attack, Xiang Shaoyun merely raised his foot and stomped down. He used 80 percent of his strength, causing the gold serpentine crocodile's tail to burst apart by the stomp.

The gold serpentine crocodile wailed in pain and tried to bite Xiang Shaoyun in retaliation. However, Xiang Shaoyun raised his foot and stomped down again, turning the gold serpentine crocodile's head into mincemeat.

Just like that, an Intermediate Demon level gold serpentine crocodile was stomped to death by Xiang Shaoyun. The jade plate he was carrying immediately reacted. A string of information was also transmitted to his brain: Killing a third-stage Intermediate Demon gold serpentine crocodile, 30 points awarded.

For this competition, Minor Demons would only grant a low amount of points. Even killing a ninth-stage Minor Demon would only earn one five points. Minor Demons below the ninth stage would give even fewer points. On the other hand, Intermediate Demons gave more. One could obtain 10 points from killing a first-stage Intermediate Demon, 20 points from a second-stage Intermediate Demon, and so on.

As for Great Demons, one could obtain 200 points for killing a first-stage Great Demon, 300 points for a second-stage Great Demon, and so on. Thus, the higher the cultivation of the demonic beast, the more points one would be rewarded for killing it.

"Thirty points? This is merely the start," Xiang Shaoyun mumbled. He then continued traveling. But his travel was no longer peaceful. More and more gold serpentine crocodiles appeared. He started slaughtering his way as he traveled.

"Come! More!" Xiang Shaoyun said even as he severed the head of a gold serpentine crocodile with his Golden Wolf Sword.

Minor Demons and Intermediate Demons were hardly a match for Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, he traveled amid slaughtering, his body drenched wet with blood, looking like a grim executioner. With all the killings, the stars within him started pulsing at a greater intensity. The bottleneck of the seventh stage seemed to be swaying, as if he could now enter the next stage at any time.

Suddenly, five late-stage Intermediate Demon gold serpentine crocodiles appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's vision. Behind them was a stalk of shiny gold orchid. The five gold serpentine crocodiles did not give Xiang Shaoyun any time to even think, as the moment he appeared, they pounced on him from five different angles.

Xiang Shaoyun did not fear these five beasts, but he could sense that an even more powerful demonic beast was approaching.

## Chapter 122: Hunting Gold Serpentine Crocodiles

I need to end this quickly, thought Xiang Shaoyun. At that thought, he started using his unique footwork to travel amid the five gold serpentine crocodiles, slashing his Golden Wolf Sword left and right as he dashed in their midst.

Golden Wolf Sword Technique! Full power!

When a cultivator flawlessly executed a battle technique, the might of the battle technique would be further amplified. Sword energies streaked across the air accompanied by wolf howls, and the severed heads of all five gold serpentine crocodiles went flying.

But after unleashing the attack, the Golden Wolf Sword was also completely destroyed. The gold serpentine crocodile's skin and flesh were too tough for the sword. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's strength, the sword wouldn't be able to even penetrate their skin. Thus, severing the heads of the gold serpentine crocodiles became the Golden Wolf Sword's final mission.

Right this moment, an even larger gold serpentine crocodile arrived. This gold serpentine crocodile did not attack the moment it arrived like the other gold serpentine crocodiles. Instead, it fixed its eyes on Xiang Shaoyun and stuck out its tongue every now and then like a snake. It studied Xiang Shaoyun as if it was aware he was a powerful opponent that it shouldn't lightly attack.

When Xiang Shaoyun's gaze landed on the gold serpentine crocodile, it even started retreating. It would seem like it had no intention of battling Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hey, don't run. You're my dinner!" Xiang Shaoyun darted forward and stabbed his broken Golden Wolf Sword at the gold serpentine crocodile.

Other disciples would flee without a second thought when encountering a gold serpentine crocodile at the Great Demon level. But instead of fleeing, Xiang Shaoyun was instead pursuing the beast. This was the result of the difference in their strength.

Clang!

When Xiang Shaoyun's sword struck the gold serpentine crocodile, he failed to penetrate the beast's skin, and a loud clang rang out. This gold serpentine crocodile's skin was even more durable than even a tier-3 weapon, causing Xiang Shaoyun's broken sword to break again.

In its pain, the gold serpentine crocodile counterattacked and spat a golden beam at Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun flipped his body and stepped to the other side of the gold serpentine crocodile's body before striking out with his fist.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation with this fist technique had reached the mid stage. His fist shot out, carrying with it the power of his innate purple lightning, and created an explosion when the fist landed. The electrical currents burned the gold serpentine crocodile's skin black. The gold serpentine crocodile wailed and twitched in pain, creating a mess of its immediate surroundings.

Xiang Shaoyun was not going to spare this gold serpentine crocodile. He went behind the crocodile, hugged its tail, and started slamming the gold serpentine crocodile around.

Bang! Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun repeatedly slammed the crocodile onto the nearby boulders, killing the crocodile ruthlessly. With the death of a Great Demon, his points grew again. In only two days, he had already accumulated 660 points. This was a speed not many disciples could compare to.

After killing the gold serpentine crocodile, he did not continue traveling. Rather, he stopped and roasted the gold serpentine crocodile. He had exhausted a large amount of energy today. It was time for some replenishment.

After Xiang Shaoyun finished eating the gold serpentine crocodile, he found with astonishment that within his body, strains of metal energy were streaming into his stars. Although they were extremely thin strains, they were incomparably pure. With his inner gaze ability, he was able to see everything clearly.

This is not the first gold serpentine crocodile I've eaten, but this has never happened before. So only gold serpentine crocodiles at the Great Demon level will create such pure metal energy? Xiang Shaoyun pondered.

Although these strains of metal energy were very thin, they still replenished a sizable chunk of his energy. They had also increased the intimacy between him and the metal element.

Demonic beast meats are capable of increasing one's vitality. But this is the first time I have ever sensed flowing energy from consuming beast meat, Xiang Shaoyun continued pondering as his mind wandered to the rumors he had heard about the Golden River Valley's secret. That secret must be related to the large number of gold serpentine crocodiles here as well.

He gazed at Little White and found that Little White was enjoying the meal as much as he was. Evidently, Little White had sensed the strains of metal energy too. He recalled what Little White had said earlier. This was a place where Little White had sensed an intimate aura. Perhaps a fortuitous encounter was waiting for him somewhere in the Golden River Valley.

Xiang Shaoyun sat cross-legged in meditation, pushing his cultivation level to the completion of seventh-stage Astral Realm. At this point, he could break through at any time he wanted. But he still

suppressed his breakthrough and continued building his foundation. Rushing was never a good thing.

The next day, he got Little White to swallow the gold orchid. He wanted to help Little White grow quickly as well. Currently, Little White was already a Great Demon and was no weaker than Xiang Shaoyun.

But for Xiang Shaoyun, that was far from enough. He wanted to help Little White become a Demon King as soon as possible. At that time, he would be able to soar through the skies just by riding Little White. Traveling would be much easier then. Little White did not bother holding back when Xiang Shaoyun gave him the gold orchid. He required a large amount of energy to grow, and the gold orchid was indeed very useful for him.

Xiang Shaoyun resumed his travel, and the deeper he went, the more gold serpentine crocodiles he met. Moreover, the gold serpentine crocodiles he encountered were getting stronger as well, slowing his advance considerably. He had a sensation that he was heading to a gold serpentine crocodile lair. Even so, he did not regret his choice. Only bitter battles would properly temper him.

Three days later, Xiang Shaoyun had accumulated 2,500 points. This was his gain from slaughtering a large number of Great Demon gold serpentine crocodiles. His body was riddled with wounds while his clothings were completely soaked with blood.

If it wasn't for the king-grade inner armor he was wearing, he would have died long ago. The gold serpentine crocodiles were no pushovers. They had fearsome defenses and violent attacks. Any carelessness when facing them would result in death.

Today, even Little White was forced to join in on the battle. When Little White enlarged his body, he looked mighty and formidable and was no less fearsome than the gold serpentine crocodiles. He could be seen darting about as he battled the gold serpentine crocodiles he encountered, his body emanating a violent aura.

Just like that, three tier-3 (Great Demon) gold serpentine crocodiles were bitten to death by Little White. Despite his victory, his body was riddled with wounds. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was no longer fighting bare handed, and had just severed the heads of two other Great Demons with his Overlord Skyslaying Saber before retreating with Little White. He was clear that if he continued advancing, he would most likely encounter late-stage Great Demons.

Yes, Xiang Shaoyun wanted to temper himself and obtain the hidden fortuitous encounter, but he was also certain that staying alive was more important than anything else. Both he and Little White hid at a concealed spot and started healing themselves with their backs to a boulder.

Both of them were currently in terrible conditions. If they were ambushed right now, things would get troublesome. But instead of some gold serpentine crocodiles, disciples of a different academy found him instead.

"Hehe, found you. You are truly quite capable, huh? You can reach this deep in the valley?" a sinister voice rang out.

Because of his injuries, Xiang Shaoyun had been paying close attention to his surroundings. Even so, this person had been able to arrive without him noticing it. That proved how good this newcomer was at concealment.

#### Chapter 123: Forced Into an Impasse

Xiang Shaoyun and Little White both stared at the newcomers vigilantly. It was already clear they had not come with friendly intentions. When Xiang Shaoyun finally got a good look at the newcomers, he found that he knew none of them.

"Are you sure you got the right person?" Xiang Shaoyun asked calmly.

There were seven of them, and all of them had mighty cultivation levels. Two of them were already in the Transformation Realm. As for the other five, even the weakest was an eighth-stage Astral Realm cultivator. In the Battle of Towns, such a group could already be considered an extremely powerful group. Xiang Shaoyun studied them carefully and was sure he had never seen these people before.

"It's fine if you don't know who we are. You only need to hand over your jade plate and break your own legs, and we will be done here," said the person who had spoken earlier.

The speaker was a youth dressed in black. He had a robust body and a ruthless expression on his face. After he spoke, he waved his hand and ordered the people around him to move on Xiang Shaoyun.



They were clearly here to rob him without giving him any explanation. Xiang Shaoyun could see that these people were not about to spare him. He naturally couldn't sit there and allow them to do whatever they wanted even if he was currently badly injured.

"Let me pluck his head off his body," said a young man. Eager to perform, he moved ahead of his companions. Dashing forward, he swung his pair of scythes straight at Xiang Shaoyun's neck.

Double Dragon's Feast!

He was attacking to kill, not intending to spare Xiang Shaoyun at all. Xiang Shaoyun did not do anything. Little White was the one who jumped forth to face the incoming attack.

"Howl!"

Little White's thunderous roar rumbled out and stunned the attacker with a shocking soundwave. Then, Little White's merciless paw clawed the attacker's chest, digging a chunk of flesh off the chest to reveal the bones and internal organs within.

"AHHHH!" With a miserable wail, the young man died.

"Bastard! Everyone, attack together!" the youth in black cried out. After giving the command, he dashed forth and led the attack. He was a Transformation Realm cultivator. Although he was only at the first stage, his cultivation was enough to let him defeat many disciples in the competition.

Like a nimble snake, his black sword pierced through the air straight toward Xiang Shaoyun's neck. At the same time, the other Transformation Realm cultivator also slashed his blade at Xiang Shaoyun. The other four cultivators surrounded Xiang Shaoyun and Little White, preventing any escape.

"I don't care who you are. Since you want to die that much, I'll grant you your wish," Xiang Shaoyun roared. Ignoring the pain all over his body, he drew his Overlord Skyslaying Saber and raised it, the saber erupting with the power of innate purple lightning.

Rumble!

The saber attack arrived like a sudden lightning bolt from a clear sky with an unstoppable might. The youth in black was greatly shaken by this attack, but he was still a Transformation Realm cultivator. Clenching his teeth, he pressed on and faced the attack. He felt terrible after meeting the attack head on.

The innate purple lightning was terrifyingly powerful and directly burned his entire body black. He was sent flying far away before crashing on the ground. Even on the ground, his entire body twitched repeatedly, looking extremely sorry.

The two companions beside the youth in black were scared shitless by what they saw. Just as the two were distracted, a purple trail streaked across the air, followed by two severed heads.

After killing the two, Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and was about to continue attacking the youth in black when a fresh fountain of blood burst out of an old wound on his arm. He nearly dropped his saber in pain. Forcing himself to fight at full power had worsened his injuries. These were the injuries he had sustained when killing gold serpentine crocodiles. If he kept on fighting, he would be in an even worse condition.

"Little White, let's leave," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Little White wasn't any better off than Xiang Shaoyun. He bit a head off one of the attackers before jumping back to Xiang Shaoyun. The two then fled.

"Damn it! He is already so injured yet is still so powerful. No wonder the Gateflag Academy people are willing to pay to have him killed. They won't be able to run far. You, stay behind and look after them. I'll chase after them," said the other Transformation Realm cultivator that was still uninjured.

He left the other uninjured person behind to look after the others while he went after Xiang Shaoyun alone. The reason he went after them was because of the heavy injuries Xiang Shaoyun and Little White had sustained. If he was able to kill Xiang Shaoyun, not only would he obtain Xiang Shaoyun's points, he would even obtain the reward Gateflag Academy was offering for Xiang Shaoyun's head.

Xiang Shaoyun's vitals were protected by his king-grade armor, but his four limbs were badly injured. His aura was growing increasingly unstable, as he could no longer suppress his cultivation base, which was trying hard to rush into the eighth stage. But this was not the time for a breakthrough.

"You won't be able to escape!" shouted the young man hot on his tail.

A short while later, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the edge of a deep canyon that was more than 10 meters wide. It was also so deep the bottom couldn't be seen. With his injuries, it was impossible to jump over the canyon. As if to make matters worse, he could see gold serpentine crocodiles in his immediate vicinity, blocking all other paths. This left him with nowhere to go.

"Hehe, run, keep running. Why are you not running anymore?" the Transformation Realm cultivator smiled gleefully.

At present, the gold serpentine crocodiles were attacking Xiang Shaoyun and Little White. Because the Transformation Realm cultivator had arrived later, the gold serpentine crocodiles ignored him.

He was in no rush to attack. Rather, he stood there waiting for the gold serpentine crocodiles to further injure Xiang Shaoyun and Little White. If Xiang Shaoyun and Little White were outright killed, it would be even better.

To his disappointment, Xiang Shaoyun and Little White were still fighting on valiantly and were able to kill the gold serpentine crocodiles attacking them. But because of the battle, their injuries worsened.

One of Xiang Shaoyun's arms had a fractured bone while the other had a long wound on it. Both his legs were filled with bloody cavities, and his entire person was soaked red with blood, looking to be in an extremely terrible shape.

Propping himself up with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, he kept his back straight and stared at the young man that was leisurely walking toward him. Numerous expressions flitted through his eyes.

"My...my only...question is...which academy are you from? Why are you after me?" Xiang Shaoyun spoke with great difficulty.

"You are already a dead man. What is the point of telling you?" the young man sneered.

"Sure, come on then. We shall see who is the actual dead man," Xiang Shaoyun said, a ruthless glint surfacing in his eyes.

By his side, Little White was also roaring furiously. But his injuries were even worse than Xiang Shaoyun's. He couldn't even stand anymore.

"Haha, fine, you are going to die anyway. I'll let you know. You are going to die in the hands of Sun Songli." The young man roared with laughter before darting forward. He attacked with his full power.

#### Chapter 124: Breaking Through During Crisis

Sun Songli was one of the most outstanding disciples of Blackhill Town's Blackhill Sect. He was an 18-year-old young man and had a cultivation level of first-stage Transformation Realm. He mustered all his strength and released his energy before giving shape to them, creating several shadows that dashed straight toward Xiang Shaoyun and Little White.

Stacked Shadow Kill!

Although Xiang Shaoyun and Little White appeared completely helpless, Sun Songli had no intention of being careless. He still attacked with his full strength. He filled the area with his shadows and sword projections, which proceeded to destroy everything in the area and turned even the grasses in their path into fine powder. Both Xiang Shaoyun and Little White could sense how dangerous this attack was. They were in a critical situation.

"You want to kill me? I'll kill you first!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and stopped suppressing the astral energy within him, allowing it to run wild. The energy coursed through his veins and meridians, instantly flooding his entire body with energy. His 365 acupoints started shining brightly, and his badly injured body started recovering after the rich astral energy coursed through it.

It was at this moment that Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level broke through the seventh stage to the eighth stage. At the same time, his lightning bone reacted as the purple dragon escaped from it. His nine stars and his astral cosmos sea formed a resonance with the bone, forming a river of stars connecting all of them while Xiang Shaoyun's boundless aura surged to the peak.

At this moment, Sun Songli's sword had already arrived at Xiang Shaoyun's forehead. He was attacking to kill. At this critical moment, a layer of purple energy formed a barrier around Xiang Shaoyun's body, protecting every inch of his body, his forehead included.

Clang!

The purple barrier blocked the sword, creating a crisp clang.

"Shaped energy? So what? Break!" Sun Songli could sense the change, but he yelled and pushed himself over the limits, unleashing 120 percent of his might and concentrating it into his sword. He could not allow his attack to fail.

Xiang Shaoyun started retreating with the sword on his forehead. Cracks were already appearing in his barrier. The sword only needed to go a tad bit deeper, and it would be able to penetrate his forehead.

Under pressure of death, Xiang Shaoyun completed the final step of his breakthrough. His strength reached a brand new level. With nothing to distract his focus, he managed to lean to the side and avoided the sword before raising his unbroken hand and pointing it at Sun Songli.

Sun Songli was right in front of Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, the moment Xiang Shaoyun leaned to the side to avoid his sword, he swung his sword to the side, attempting to follow up with a slash.

He could sense how powerful Xiang Shaoyun was. If he couldn't kill this opponent as soon as possible, he would no longer have a chance. He was right. But unfortunately, he had misjudged Xiang Shaoyun's strength.

His slash landed on Xiang Shaoyun's energy barrier and was able to slightly penetrate the barrier to wound Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder. Even that was only possible because Xiang Shaoyun's activation of Star Destroying Finger had weakened his own energy barrier.

Bang!

Sun Songli had been focusing too much on killing Xiang Shaoyun and had not expected such a speedy counterattack. The attack opened a bloody hole in his body, causing him to wail in pain. The attack had been mixed with Xiang Shaoyun's innate purple lightning. Thus, it was dreadfully destructive.

Sun Songli was completely helpless against the innate purple lightning invading his body. The innate purple lightning proceeded to destroy his organs, and his vitality rapidly dropped.

"Say it! Why are you trying to kill me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, ignoring his own injuries.

Sun Songli stared at Xiang Shaoyun in disbelief, blood spilling from his mouth without stop. With great difficulty, he spoke his last words: "The Blackhill Sect will not spare..."

He breathed his last before completing his sentence.

"Blackhill Sect? One of the top 10 academies?" Xiang Shaoyun frowned. He did not have the time to ponder. He snatched Sun Songli's jade plate and transferred all the points to his plate. With that, he now had over 1,000 points. What a great gift this Sun Songli had given him.

Now, Xiang Shaoyun definitely had one of the highest points in the competition. But he did not seem to care much about the points. Rather, he was more worried about the injuries he and Little White had sustained. Although he had entered the eighth stage, his injuries were too severe. Moreover, he had suffered excessive blood loss. He had to find a safe place to heal himself.

Fortunately, the gold serpentine crocodiles in the area had all been killed. This place would be temporarily devoid of gold serpentine crocodiles. Moreover, it was rather out of the way, and it was unlikely that someone else would come here. Thus, he selected a random spot in the vicinity and hid himself.

He then took out a low-grade spirit medicine—a blood mushroom—and fed it to Little White to help replenish his vitality. He also directly consumed a blood ginseng stored within his astral cosmos sea to replenish his own vitality. At the same time, he took out a large number of old medicines and mixed them together before using them to treat his and Little White's external wounds.

They had both suffered terrible injuries and would not be able to fight for a short period of time. Even worse was the fact that one of Xiang Shaoyun's arms had been broken. It was not easy to recover a broken arm. He had to first mend his displaced bone before his arm would start recovering.

"It won't be hard to realign the displaced bone if there is someone else here. But looks like I can only rely on myself now." Xiang Shaoyun sighed. From the moment he decided to move alone, he had expected to encounter numerous difficulties. He did not regret his decision as his heart grew even more resolute. He was now at the eighth stage. Thus, with the abundant energy in him, his recovery speed had also increased.

After one day, he felt much better. His fast recovery was mostly attributed to the blood ginseng and his recent breakthrough. In a much better condition now, he walked to a boulder, stuffed his broken arm into an opening, and twisted his body.

Crack!

Just like that, he forced the displaced bone into its rightful position. Beads of sweat formed on his forehead, and an expression of deep pain covered his face, but he did not make a sound.

"I can finally meditate normally now." Xiang Shaoyun heaved a sigh of relief. He returned to his previous spot, ate some dried meats, and started meditating. Circulating his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, he sent his energy coursing through his injured spots to help them heal faster.

He did not notice that by his side, the sleeping Little White had a layer of faint golden radiance around his body. His injuries were healing rapidly and even his demonic aura was growing increasingly strong.

This is too slow. If this continues, I will only fully recover in like 10 days or half a month. At that time, it will be too late to do anything for the competition. I need to think of something, Xiang Shaoyun pondered.

Then, his inner gaze landed on his lightning bone. The lightning bone had an innate purple lightning, a destructive power that nobody at his cultivation level could hope to block. Moreover, this bone also had the magical ability of devouring lightning energy to grow itself.

I'll have to give it a try, Xiang Shaoyun hesitated before activating the lightning bone. Strains of lightning energy started coursing toward his injured spots.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

Instantly, a numb sensation filled his body while an expression of pain covered his face.

## Chapter 125: The Legendary White Tiger Wings

Pain! Intense pain! The pain was so much that Xiang Shaoyun couldn't stop himself from groaning. The injuries were already hurting badly, but after his innate purple lightning coursed through the

injured spots, it felt like adding oil to fire or adding salt to a wound. The resulting pain was so intense it seemed to have drilled into his bone marrows.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to withdraw the innate purple lightning, he felt a change. His pain had lessened while his clotted blood was slowly dissolving. At the same time, his vitality was increasing. It was clear he was recovering. Because of that, he allowed the innate purple lightning to stay at his injured spots, and he endured the intense pain.

This was yet another tempering, yet another rebirth he had to undergo. Lightning power was a destructive power, but it also contained a power of awakening, capable of awakening the potential of a person's life force.

A large amount of medical power was hidden in Xiang Shaoyun due to all the years his father spent boiling him in medicinal concoctions. The lightning power had merely activated the buried medical power within him, helping accelerate his recovery. As he healed rapidly, the pain he felt started waning.

He felt better as time went on, and after an unknown amount of time, he felt like his injuries had been completely healed. He no longer felt any pain, and he finally regained his clarity. He quickly ripped his bandages off and found that the newly grown flesh looked as tender as a baby's skin, and the scabs had all fallen off.

"I've recovered! I've really recovered! Haha!" Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter. It was a bad idea to carry around a serious injury in his current environment, as danger could come at any time. But now, everything was fine. He had completely recovered. His combat strength had also grown, boosting his confidence to face whatever would come next in the competition.

Xiang Shaoyun saw Little White not far from him. Little White seemed to have recovered even earlier and was currently chomping down on a gold serpentine crocodile he had hunted earlier. Xiang Shaoyun was aware that demonic beasts healed much faster than humans, but Little White's recovery speed had still surpassed his expectation.

"Little White, are you fine?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Yes, I'm all fine now, boss," Little White answered.

"That's quick! What's your current strength exactly?" Xiang Shaoyun asked curiously.



"I'm now a fourth-stage Great Demon! I had fully digested the final bit of the undigested demonic core earlier. It had increased my recovery speed and had also strengthened both my cultivation level and physical flesh," Little White answered honestly.

"What? Fourth-stage Great Demon already?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm.

"Yes. Both the demonic core and tiger's tooth I ate previously belonged to Demon Kings, and after nearly fully digesting them both, it is normal for me to reach this level," Little White said, not surprised at all.

That answered Xiang Shaoyun's doubts. Little White had relied on digesting more of the demonic core and tiger's tooth to reach the fourth stage of the Great Demon realm. Xiang Shaoyun remembered that even before this, Little White was already capable of killing fourth-stage Great Demon gold serpentine crocodiles. Now, he would probably be able to fight gold serpentine crocodiles in the fifth or even the sixth stage.

Looks like Little White truly has an extraordinary bloodline. It's a pity his bloodline has been diluted with some other ordinary bloodline as well. If I can find him some white tiger blood, he might be able to transform into an actual white tiger, Xiang Shaoyun mused.

With both of them healed, they continued their journey. This time, Xiang Shaoyun was not going to charge on rashly like he did before. Otherwise, he might not be able to reach the place Little White was talking about earlier. He started observing his surroundings, trying to look for an alternative route to reach his destination. But all he saw were weeds and trees. He really had no idea which route would have fewer or even no gold serpentine crocodiles.

"Little White, with our strength, it will be very hard for us to reach the place you sensed," Xiang Shaoyun said with a bitter smile.

Little White did not say anything. Instead, he started roaming around sniffing at the air repeatedly. After a while, he ran back to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Boss, we can take the route where there are no gold serpentine crocodiles."

"By relying on your sense of smell?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"No, by relying on my senses," Little White replied resolutely before adding, "I'm not a dog!"

"Sure, we'll give it a try. In any case, we already have a large number of points. We can focus on treasure hunting for now. We'll just have to kill more gold serpentine crocodiles when we're done." Xiang Shaoyun nodded.

Xiang Shaoyun then hopped onto Little White's back and let Little White to lead the way. He had full confidence Little White would not bring him to his death. But what Little White did next shocked him so much his heart nearly popped out of his mouth. The route Little White had selected was actually the wide canyon from earlier. Little White charged head on and jumped off the cliff.

"Little White, what are you doing?" Xiang Shaoyun nearly jumped off Little White's body. But if he did that now, he would only fall into the bottomless abyss below him. Just as his heart was pumping wildly in anxiety, a pair of white wings suddenly grew out of Little White's back.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The sleek white wings danced in the air gracefully, moving as fast as lightning.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned. He had never expected that Little White would actually grow a pair of wings. That felt like a dream.

"The legendary white tiger wings!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm when he sensed the sharp aura the wings were emitting.

In the legends, the white tigers were tigers with wings. Xiang Shaoyun was unsure if that was true, as that was something he had only seen from some ancient text. After witnessing Little White's transformation, he now believed the ancient text was right. He was also finally sure Little White's bloodline was related to the white tigers'.

Carrying Xiang Shaoyun on his back, Little White dove into the canyon and flew at a low altitude so as to avoid being discovered by other humans and demonic beasts. Since Little White was capable of flight, they could travel quickly without having to worry about being attacked by gold serpentine crocodiles. They only needed to worry about Demon Kings.

The canyon led all the way into the depths of the Golden River Valley. If they continued flying, they would be able to reach their destination. At this thought, Xiang Shaoyun suddenly grew nervous.

Even if Little White could reach there safely, what could they do if there was a Demon King gold serpentine crocodile there?

"Little White, slow down a little bit. Let me think," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Don't worry boss. I don't sense any gold serpentine crocodile around," Little White answered.

"I know, but that does not mean it will stay the same at our destination," Xiang Shaoyun said. After a pause, he continued, "How far are we from the place you sensed? And what had you sensed exactly?"

"It's right over there. I don't know what it is either. I just know it's related to my bloodline, giving me an intensely intimate sensation. Boss, I must go there. I am even willing to go alone," Little White said, a burning thirst in his eyes.

"No, it's even more dangerous for you to go alone. We will face all dangers together. Since you need to go, I'll go with you. But try to stay hidden. Don't provoke fellows we can't afford to provoke," Xiang Shaoyun said, deciding to take the chance seeing how resolute Little White was.

Perhaps an astonishing secret was truly hidden there.

## Chapter 126: One Howl to Shake Mountains and Rivers

The Golden River Valley wasn't large, neither was it small. With Little White's flying speed, they would be able to reach their destination in half a day. Their journey had proceeded smoothly; they hadn't encountered even one Demon King on their way. But the peace caused Xiang Shaoyun to feel more uneasy. There must be a reason for the abnormal peace.

But since they were already near their destination, he couldn't exactly make Little White turn back. Thus, he started observing his surroundings vigilantly. A gold radiance could be seen flickering not far ahead of him. The gold radiance was incredibly bright, to the point it was hard to look directly at the source of the radiance.

The rocks, flowers, grasses, trees, and everything there were gold in color. They all looked extremely sinister and odd, giving an impression that there was definitely something hidden within the Golden River Valley. Otherwise, why would there be a world of gold here? Many experts had explored this place before. Unfortunately, none of them had found anything, and they had

eventually moved on. They had all concluded that the color might be a result of a dense concentration of metal energy due to the condition of the soil and river here.

Xiang Shaoyun fully activated his gift of instincts; his gaze tore through the layers of radiance to see that below them, a large number of gold serpentine crocodiles were lying dormant. If it wasn't for his impressive eyesight, he would have thought that the dormant gold serpentine crocodiles were actually rocks.

Now that Xiang Shaoyun saw them for what they were, his hair stood on end. There were tens of thousands of gold serpentine crocodiles. Even a King Realm cultivator would flee at this sight, much less Xiang Shaoyun who was only an eighth-stage Astral Realm cultivator. On the contrary, Little White was getting more and more excited as he dove straight to the ground.

"Slow down, Little White. If we go down like this, we will both die," Xiang Shaoyun cried out.

"Boss! I can sense it! It's really my clan's bloodline! It will be greatly beneficial to me! I must go down!" Little White said in excitement. So excited was he that he disobeyed Xiang Shaoyun and continued diving straight down.

"We're screwed! We're screwed!" Fear was the only thing Xiang Shaoyun felt right now.

No matter how arrogant he was, he was not arrogant enough to believe he would be a match for so many gold serpentine crocodiles, especially when there were Demon Kings among them.

Swish! Swish!

Sure enough, as Little White dove down with Xiang Shaoyun, several thick and solid figures dashed upward from below. Five Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles! Each was about seven or eight meters in length, and they were as wide as massive pillars with numerous sharp spikes running along their skin, giving them a fearsome appearance.

"Any human who dares to intrude upon our domain shall die!" shouted one of them.

After that shout, one of them attacked.

Swish!

An over 10-meters-long golden energy blade appeared and glided across the air toward Little White and Xiang Shaoyun. This was the might of a King. Killing could be accomplished in the blink of an eye.

"It's over!" Xiang Shaoyun's mind went blank. He still had a lot of things to do. He was definitely unwilling to die now, especially not here trying to get something that he knew nothing about. He started regretting his rashness. If he hadn't thoughtlessly agreed to Little White's request, he would never have taken a risk like this. He had always been a cautious person.

Right this moment, an earth-shattering roar came out of Little White's mouth. One roar to shake the mountains and rivers! This was the roar of the king of beasts, the essence of a tiger's roar. It tore through the skies, forming a resonance with some sort of natural power.

Even that couldn't stop the gold serpentine crocodile's attack. After all, the gap between their levels was too large. Just as the attack was about to hit them, an incorporeal power suddenly descended from the skies above.

Rumble!

The incorporeal power blocked the incoming attack before sending five separate attacks toward the five gold serpentine crocodiles. Before the five gold serpentine crocodiles could even react, they were all slashed into two. Sparkling drops of blood rained down upon the earth below, painting a picturesque scene.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned. He had not expected such a dramatic change. Before he and Little White could react, they were shackled by some incorporeal power that proceeded to drag them down.

Apart from that, a dreadful sound wave appeared out of nowhere and surged into the sky above before it erupted and rippled throughout the Golden River Valley. This sound wave was much more powerful than Little White's roar. It directly killed swathes of gold serpentine crocodiles below, while the survivors started fleeing for their lives.

It created a stampede of gold serpentine crocodiles with many of them stomped to death by their own companions in the chaos. Even the young disciples at the outer fringe of the Golden River Valley heard the sound, their hearts trembling in fear.

"What sound is that? It's so scary..."

"It's a tiger's roar. Oh come on, don't tell me there's a tiger king here as well? The roar was so fearsome."

"A new Demon King tiger must have appeared here. But I thought this was the territory of the gold serpentine crocodiles?"

"I don't think it's as simple as a Demon King. It felt like something even more powerful."

"Damn it! A lot of gold serpentine crocodiles are rushing out. Shit! Run!"

...

The sound wave threw the entire Golden River Valley into chaos. Many young disciples hunting gold serpentine crocodiles suffered as a result, with many of them either killed or injured by the stampede.

Fortunately, the King Realm cultivators had been paying attention to the valley. They immediately rushed over on their chariot when they sensed what was happening. The leader of the group was Mo Chage, a commander from Cloud Margin City. He was currently a fifth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator possessing extraordinary strength. The people around him were all Skysoar Realm experts as well.

"Commander, something has changed within the Golden River Valley," said one of them.

"Yeah, is the puzzle of the Golden River Valley about to be solved?" Mo Chage said with a frown.

"Do we save the children?" someone asked.

"Crisis is required to unearth the true talents. Only by surviving this will they become elites. Let's go take a look over instead," Mo Chage said indifferently.

"Commander, even gold serpentine crocodile kings are flying out of that place. If we go in that direction, things will get troublesome," said someone.

"We don't have any other choice right now," Mo Chage said.

Then, their chariot sped toward the depths of the Golden River Valley. But before they could even get near, they stumbled upon a large number of gold serpentine crocodile kings who then attacked them. It forced them to stop and deal with the gold serpentine crocodile kings.

But before long, they found themselves unable to hold on any longer. There were too many gold serpentine crocodile kings. Right this instant, a few figures could be seen darting over at an astonishing speed. The newcomers joined in on the battle and instantly killed a large number of gold serpentine crocodile kings.

"Thank you for the assistance, senior brothers," Mo Chage said gratefully after they finally managed to beat the gold serpentine crocodiles off.

"Alright, enough of the pleasantries. Let's go see what's going on," said the leader of the newcomers.

## Chapter 127: Play the Fool

Xiang Shaoyun was in a miserable state. He had fallen from Little White's back. With nothing protecting him, he crashed heavily onto the ground below. He nearly fainted from the crash, his entire body filled with pain.

If he had not reacted quickly enough and sent an attack downward to slow his descent, he might have fallen to his death. On top of that, his tough physical flesh and energy barrier had also contributed greatly to his survival.

By the time he got back on his feet, the only thing he saw was an expanse of gold serpentine crocodile corpses. Even Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles were among them. All of them had been killed by the sound wave, forming a spectacular field of death.

The sight of this stunned Xiang Shaoyun. A single sound wave to kill so many Demon Kings. How fearsome was that sound wave? Being a well-read person, he immediately understood that the so-called secret here was in fact a terrifying one.

Demon Emperor? Or something stronger? Xiang Shaoyun pondered.

Since the owner of that sound wave had dragged Little White away, it could only mean that the owner was somehow related to Little White. This was Little White's own fortuitous encounter.

Xiang Shaoyun started studying his surroundings and found a large hole emanating a vicious gold aura not far from him. Little White must have been dragged in there. He wanted to approach the hole, but the vicious gold aura immediately left numerous cuts on his skin.

"This vicious gold aura is so violent. Perhaps there's a unique type of metal energy gathering in there?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself as he studied the gold aura with his sharp eyes.

Each type of power existed in a different form, with each form possessing an extraordinary ability. If one was to absorb this vicious gold aura and cultivate with it, one would grow stronger while one's attack grew even more destructive.

Although Xiang Shaoyun already had innate purple lightning within him, he did not mind absorbing a different energy to increase his combat prowess. Unfortunately, he was having a hard time approaching the hole. The vicious gold aura was able to kill even King Realm cultivators, much less him.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun readjusted his mood and shifted his gaze to the dead gold serpentine crocodiles instead. He drew his Overlord Skyslaying Saber, preparing to harvest all the demonic cores of these corpses.

This was in fact a large harvest, one that many people would dream of. Even the corpses were all valuable. But Xiang Shaoyun had no way of gathering all of them. After all, his astral cosmos sea only had a storage space of 10 square meters.

Gold serpentine crocodiles had hard skulls. Xiang Shaoyun was unable to slice one open just by slashing his saber. Instead, he had to channel his innate purple lightning to the saber before he could actually open the skull.

Soon, a demonic core appeared before him. The demonic core looked like a round bead emanating a gold radiance and was shrouded in a thick demonic aura. A demonic core could not be consumed directly. One had to first refine it with some herbs before it could be consumed to increase one's strength.



In truth, demonic cores were excellent materials that many pill refiners would love to get their hands on. Xiang Shaoyun had personally witnessed many such refining processes. Thus, he kept the demonic core into his astral cosmos sea. After finding suitable king medicines, he would then refine the demonic core before consuming it. After opening the skulls of about a dozen gold serpentine crocodiles, he obtained seven demonic cores. It was obvious these were among the strongest demonic beasts in the valley.

By the time Xiang Shaoyun harvested his ninth demonic core, he noticed something. He found that these demonic cores were also emanating faint traces of vicious gold energy that was much purer than what he gained when consuming gold serpentine crocodile meat.

"Looks like this is the reason for the gold serpentine crocodiles to be so strong here," Xiang Shaoyun muttered. While he was busy harvesting demonic cores, he suddenly sensed an intense battle happening not far from him. It was obvious human experts had arrived as well.

"Looks like the incident has been so flashy even human experts were attracted. What should I do now?" Xiang Shaoyun was troubled. He wished badly that Little White could come out here and bring him into the hole as well. But he was also clear of how unlikely that was to happen. He had to rely on himself.

While Xiang Shaoyun was anxiously thinking of a solution, his gaze landed on a gold tree. On the tree were five gold fruits. The fruits were shaped like snakes, looking incredibly dazzling and lively.

"Gold serpent fruit!" Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up.

This was a high-grade spirit medicine, containing boundless energy within. High-grade spirit medicine was the best quality a medicinal herb could be below king medicine. Xiang Shaoyun darted forward and plucked all the gold serpent fruits he saw. He could immediately reach the Transformation Realm just by swallowing one of them if he wanted. But this was not the best time for that. He had to prioritize hiding himself.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was trying to decide where to hide, he discovered that the vicious gold aura near the hole was withdrawing. By the time all the vicious gold aura had withdrawn into the hole, the gold radiance in the area had dimmed considerably. Angry roars were also ringing out from within the hole.

"Roar! Roar!"

The roars were filled with a majestic aura as they echoed repeatedly in the hole. Different than the first roar, these roars no longer seemed as murderous as earlier. At this time, the human experts had arrived above the hole as well. Here, they were undisturbed by the gold serpentine crocodile kings who dared not approach out of fear for whatever was inside.

As for the group of King Realm cultivators, they were all hesitating on whether they should enter the hole. Suddenly, one of them noticed Xiang Shaoyun and said, "There's a young man down there."

"Let's conceal our aura and take a look down there," said someone else.

Thus, the King Realm cultivators descended toward Xiang Shaoyun's position. Xiang Shaoyun had long sensed that he had been noticed. His brain worked rapidly, trying to think of something to save his skin.

Thus, when the group of King Realm cultivators landed, Xiang Shaoyun merely hugged his head as he shouted repeatedly, "Don't kill me! Don't kill me!"

"Kid, which academy are you from? What are you doing here?" Mo Chage asked.

"Are you gold serpentine crocodile kings in human shape? You're not thinking of making me your human pet, right? No, no, no, please spare my chrysanthemum!" Xiang Shaoyun screamed with a frightened expression.

Play the fool!

This might be the best way to dispel any suspicion they had toward him. He really couldn't think of a good excuse explaining how he managed to get here otherwise. After all, this was the deepest part of the Golden River Valley guarded by countless gold serpentine crocodiles with Demon Kings among their ranks. It would make no sense for an Astral Realm cultivator to be able to reach this place safely.

"Demon King? Human pet? Are you a disciple kidnapped by a gold serpentine crocodile king?" asked a different person.

This person's cultivation level was even higher than Mo Chage's. He was a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, a late-stage in the Skysoar Realm. He was an elder from Cloud Margin Pavilion

and his name was He Luo. As for the people behind him, they were all his junior brothers from the Cloud Margin Pavilion. One of them looked particularly familiar to Xiang Shaoyun.

That person was about 30 years old, the youngest of the bunch. Despite his age, he emanated a thick purple aura. Standing there with his back perfectly straight, he was akin to a bolt of lightning that one couldn't look straight at.

## Chapter 128: You Are Treating Human Life Like Grass

Young Lightning King! A familiar name surfaced in Xiang Shaoyun's head. He still remembered that when he was gathering lightning at the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, a King Realm cultivator had appeared to try to tame the lightning condor king. That person was precisely this Young Lightning King.

At the time, Xiang Shaoyun was only able to look at this Young Lightning King from afar. Thus, he never got a good look at this person. In any case, this fellow was busy fighting at that time. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun had not paid him much attention.

After sensing the familiarity of this person's aura with the Young Lightning King's aura, Xiang Shaoyun concluded that this person was definitely the same Young Lightning King. The Young Lightning King was a tall and handsome young man. His purple hair whipped about in the wind, a lightning armor covered his body, and his hand wielded a lightning spear. A thick and fierce lightning energy swirled about him, making it clear he was a rarely seen genius in cultivation.

Young Lightning King was also the personal disciple of Cloud Margin Pavilion's vice pavilion master, the Lightning King. In both the Cloud Margin City and Cloud Margin Pavilion, the Young Lightning King was among the top 10 disciples of his generation, and his real name was Zi Poli.

Sensing Xiang Shaoyun's gaze, the Young Lightning King shot him an indifferent glance.

Eighth-stage Astral Realm cultivator? He seems familiar... Young Lightning King pondered doubtfully.

During the Hundred Beast Mountain Range incident, all his focus had been on the lightning condors and the lightning tribulation. Thus, he had not noticed Xiang Shaoyun. Even if he did manage to catch a glimpse of Xiang Shaoyun, he wouldn't put such an insignificant cultivator in his mind.

"Are you the seniors of the human race? Please, take me away from here! The Demon Kings are all perverse freaks! They all claimed that they are going to tear my chrysanthemum apart!" Xiang Shaoyun said anxiously, looking like he was on the verge of tears. They were all convinced that Xiang Shaoyun was telling the truth. That was the only explanation as to how an Astral Realm cultivator could reach this place safely.

"No, wait a minute. Even the Demon Kings here have been jolted to death by the sound wave. Why are you still alive?" the Young Lightning King suddenly questioned.

One ought to admit that Young Lightning King was quite an observant person. With that question, everyone focused on Xiang Shaoyun once again.

"I-I don't know. I really am a disciple of Martial Hall Palace. Look, this is my jade plate!" Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and decided to continue playing the fool. As he spoke, he showed them his jade plate.

When Mo Chage took the jade plate in his hand, astonishment crept into his eyes, and he said, "You actually have 4,350 points?"

He was the one who had announced the rules for this year's Battle of Towns. He was thus naturally aware of what 4,350 points signified. One first-stage Great Demon gold serpentine crocodile was worth 200 points. Since Xiang Shaoyun had over 4,000 points in his jade plate, that was equivalent to killing over 200 first-stage Great Demon gold serpentine crocodiles.

But this kid was merely an eighth-stage Astral Realm cultivator. So how had he accomplished that? Not even an early-stage Transformation Realm cultivator could gather so many points in only 10 days.

"Alright, since he is one of the disciples participating in the competition, forget about him. Our top priority is to figure out what's going on here," said He Luo. He could no longer be bothered with Xiang Shaoyun and was now focusing on the hole not far away.

"Look at how many dead Demon Kings there are here. Should we really go? Why don't we return to the pavilion and report this to the higher ups?" someone suggested.

"No, things might change further if we take the time to return. We must first try to enter. We will think of something if we really can't do anything," said He Luo.

Thus, the group started cautiously approaching the hole. All was peaceful with nothing happening at all as they approached the hole. At the hole entrance, they looked inside with thoughtful gazes.

"Do we enter?" They hesitated.

"I-I saw some goldsteel stones! There are so many goldsteel stones in there!" Mo Chage suddenly cried out.

The goldsteel stone was a rare material capable of forging king equipment and was an extremely valuable material.

"There really are goldsteel stones there! A thick vicious gold aura is also leaking from within the hole. Is there really some treasure hidden in there?" He Luo muttered as his eyes lit up.

"So do we enter or not?" someone asked.

"If we enter like this, we will most certainly die. That aura within is a pure vicious gold aura. We can only stand guard and wait for reinforcements from the pavilion," said someone else.

The others also nodded in agreement. They all understood that whatever treasure was down there, it was not something they would be able to leave alive with. They could not act rashly.

"Eh, why not we send a scout to explore the hole and see if anything will come out of it," Young Lightning King suggested with a sneer. Right after he said that, his figure flickered and vanished. He then appeared right before Xiang Shaoyun who was trying to sneak away.

"Big brother, how may I help you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. The Young Lightning King couldn't be bothered to say anything. He directly grabbed Xiang Shaoyun before dragging him over to the hole.

"Poli, what are you doing? He is a disciple participating in the competition," Mo Chage said.

"It's normal for disciples to die during the competition. We might as well use him to scout the hole for us," said the Young Lightning King with a sinister smile. Right after saying that, he tossed Xiang Shaoyun into the hole.

Xiang Shaoyun finally understood what was going on as he quickly grabbed the edge of the hole entrance and glared at Young Lightning King. "You are treating human life like grass!"

"Oh? You have quite the reaction time, huh? Too bad, your life is worth less than a dog in my eyes," said the Young Lightning King before sending a kick toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to be sent into the depths of the hole. He would be turned into a clump of blood if that happened.

"Screw you!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted furiously. But before he could even fully muster his strength, Young Lightning King's foot had already landed on his face, causing him to feel dizzy. Blood blood spurted out of his nose.

The gap between him and a King Realm cultivator was too wide. He was completely helpless before this opponent. The kick caused Xiang Shaoyun to lose his balance and fall into the large hole.

"Poli...you..." Mo Chage was infuriated by this action. But when he recalled the mighty master the Young Lightning King had, he swallowed the remaining words he had to say.

"Don't worry, Commander Mo. It is better we focus to see if this will cause any changes," said the Young Lightning King. He did not care about Mo Chage's anger at all. His gaze was focused on the hole. He Luo and the others had the same reaction. In their eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was nothing but a bug. The death of a bug was not worth mentioning.

Thus, everyone looked down into the hole and watched on as the raging vicious gold aura instantly swallowed Xiang Shaoyun. Blood could be seen splashing everywhere as well. Just like that, a life was erased before them.

"Looks like this vicious gold aura is extremely thick. Is this the domain of a Demon Emperor?" He Luo said as a solemn look crept onto his face.

"If there is a thunderstorm here, it won't be hard for me to split this place apart with the power of lightning. Unfortunately, it is not easy to borrow the power of natural lightning," lamented the Young Lightning King. He then continued, "We should send someone back and report this."

## Chapter 129: Untimely Death

Xiang Shaoyun felt he was going to die for real this time. The thick vicious gold aura surrounded him and shredded his skin, as if he was swimming in a lake of blades. Numerous cuts were left on his newly grown flesh, which was as tough as steel, and his blood sprayed everywhere. The intense pain of being cut alive was unbearable.

"Ahhhh!"

Xiang Shaoyun wailed madly. The pain was even worse than being struck by lightning. During this critical moment, the purple dragon hidden in his lightning bone woke up. It charged out and formed a clump of innate purple lightning that shrouded Xiang Shaoyun's body and protected him.

"Roar! Roar!"

As the purple dragon roared, Xiang Shaoyun's presence of a king surged out. At the same time, the projection of a tiger appeared around him as well. Meanwhile, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber in his astral cosmos sea started emitting clumps of lightning energy that reinforced the tiger, strengthening the tiger to the point it was comparable to the purple dragon.

Presence of dragon and tiger!

The dragon and tiger surrounded Xiang Shaoyun like guardians. They roared repeatedly as they protected Xiang Shaoyun with all they could, preventing him from being sliced to death.

Alas, there was a limit to their strength. This was a place with concentrated vicious gold energy. Strains of destructive energy sliced the dragon and tiger, leaving wounds all over them. If this continued, Xiang Shaoyun would turn into mincemeat before long.

Xiang Shaoyun tried his best to save himself. He even fully activated his nine stars. But his struggles seemed pointless.

"I am not willing to accept this! I am not willing!" Xiang Shaoyun howled madly. Finally, when all his defenses were shredded apart, including his king armor, he finally sank into despair.

"Roar!"

Suddenly, a roar sounded from below him. Then, the boundless vicious gold aura started splitting apart, forming a tunnel free of the vicious gold aura, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to fall straight down through the tunnel.

Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun's badly cut body crashed onto the ground, giving him a feeling like his bones had broken from the fall.

Is it Little White? Xiang Shaoyun wondered with the final bit of consciousness he had. He then fainted.

...

Meanwhile, the Battle of Towns had been put on hold because of the gold serpentine crocodile stampede. The disciples had no way of resisting the stampede and more than half of them had been killed. If it had continued, all the disciples would turn into beast fodder before the month ended.

Because of that, the academies were forced to withdraw their disciples from the competition. Naturally, some of them also had an inkling that the real reason for this was because the secret of Golden River Valley was about to show itself.

Regardless of the reason, the elders of the numerous academies withdrew their disciples to prevent even greater losses. Tan Guanghua and Jie Shi were only able to save a little over 20 of their disciples from the valley.

Only half survived? Tan Guanghua questioned inwardly, his heart in pain. He knew each Battle of Towns was incomparably cruel, but they had never suffered such disastrous losses. One ought to know that it hadn't even been 10 days since the start of the competition.

"Vice palace master, there are too many gold serpentine crocodiles. Even Demon Kings have appeared. We're lucky even half of us survived," said Mo Zhu with a grim expression. Following that, the other disciples started complaining.

"Everything was fine, but suddenly, the gold serpentine crocodiles went crazy. Wave after wave of them charged out. If we were a tad bit slow, we would have been stampeded to death as well."



"I think I heard the roar of a tiger. The roar is like a nightmare. It's so scary my legs went limp when I heard it. I suspect that roar scared all the gold serpentine crocodiles into a stampede."

"I heard that roar too. It sounded like a Demon King tiger. It's really, really scary, and the sound wave spread like a tsunami. That was when the gold serpentine crocodiles started going crazy."

"I don't know what happened, but I do know that I am never participating in another Battle of Towns. How is this different from suicide? A gold serpentine crocodile had ripped off one of my arms. If Senior Sister Gong had not rescued me...I...sob sob!"

...

These surviving youths were all filled with fear. Both Tan Guanghua and Jie Shi both smiled bitterly. They were clear that the surviving disciples had all lost their courage. A cultivator without courage was as good as a cripple.

In this situation, the disciples capable of remaining fearless in face of death would forge ahead vigorously and boldly in their path of cultivation, and their future would thus be bright. Just as the ship was about to set sail, a voice rang out, "Vice palace master, first elder, can we wait longer? My boss is not back yet!"

The speaker was Xia Liuhui. He was in a miserable condition as well. His entire body was riddled with wounds, but fortunately, he still had all four limbs attached.

After he said that, Lu Xiaoqing also spoke anxiously. "Yes, yes, Shaoyun is not back yet. We have to wait for him!"

Tan Guanghua and Jie Shi exchanged glances before Jie Shi said, "It has been a day. All the ships have already left. The surviving disciples would all have appeared by now. I'm afraid..."

"No, no! I refuse to believe he would die! I am going back there! I need to look for him!" Lu Xiaoqing could not accept that Xiang Shaoyun had been killed. In her agitation, she tried jumping off the ship.

Beside her, Chen Xin quickly hugged her and said, "Calm down, junior sister. Going back is tantamount to suicide."

Xia Liuhui had the urge to head back in as well, but stopped when he heard Chen Xin's words. The current Golden River Valley was flooded with gold serpentine crocodiles. Not to mention looking for Xiang Shaoyun, he would probably die the moment he entered.

"Junior Sister Lu, calm down. Junior Brother Xiang went missing the moment we entered. Perhaps he has gotten lucky and stumbled upon some fortuitous encounter," Mo Zhu comforted Lu Xiaoqing.

"Alright. Let's leave," Tan Guanghua commanded with a resolute light in his eyes. He was regretful for the loss of Xiang Shaoyun, but he could not allow everyone to die here for Xiang Shaoyun. "If we stay any longer, the gold serpentine crocodiles will surround us. At that time, I won't be able to protect all of you."

"Shaoyun! You must stay alive! Sob, sob..." Lu Xiaoqing started crying bitterly. Her sorrow seemed to be contagious as the other disciples' eyes turned misty as well.

"Boss! You must return! You told me you would take care of me in the future!" Xia Liuhui clenched his fists and howled in the direction of the Golden River Valley.

In a corner of the ship, Gong Qinyin had a look of regret on her face as well. Inwardly, she sighed, Just like that, he had died an untimely death?

"Vice palace master, first elder, I need to report something. The Gateflag Academy people and Blackhill Sect people once joined hands against us. If the gold serpentine crocodile stampede hadn't erupted when it did, I'm afraid..." Mo Zhu reported.

"Gateflag Academy? We won't forget this!" Tan Guanghua said, a sinister glint in his eyes.

"After returning, I think we need to get Elder Zhen Peng to take a trip to the Gateflag Academy. Otherwise, they would think they can bully us anytime they want!" Jie Shi proposed. He paused before adding, "We can even blame them for Xiang Shaoyun's death."

"But..." Tan Guanghua hesitated, not knowing how he should go about doing this.

## Chapter 130: White Tiger Demonic Soul

Within the cave.

This place was still filled with vicious gold aura that swirled about without stop. Each strain of this aura was capable of slicing apart even the defense of a King Realm cultivator. Thus, nobody could enter the cave.

Beneath all the vicious gold aura was an empty space. It almost felt like someone had created this space using the vicious gold aura as its natural borders. Within the space, a massive skeleton lay on the ground. The skeleton was a few dozen meters long and more than 10 meters tall. It had the shape of a tiger, evidently the remains of a demonic tiger that had been dead for an unknown amount of time.

On the forehead of the skeleton was a bead as large as two adult human heads. The bead was currently emitting rays of golden radiance. This was a demonic core, an extremely large demonic core.

Generally, a regular Demon King's demonic core would be as large as half a fist. As for this demonic core here, it was more than 10 times larger than that. This alone served as proof of how fearsome this demonic tiger was when it was alive.

Currently, the skeleton seemed to have turned alive. The projection of a tiger was hovering above it as if it was the dead tiger's soul. The projection seemed to have appeared from within the demonic core. In truth, this was the soul of the demonic core. Humans had human souls while demonic beasts had demonic souls, and the demonic core was where a demonic soul resided.

The soul was in the form of a massive white tiger. On its forehead was a golden "king" character (王). The "king" character was so very dazzling, the tiger eyes seemed capable of penetrating a person's very soul, and the tiger fangs were sinister and dreadful. This was a true white tiger. Apart from the gold "king" character on its forehead, its entire body was purely snow white.

Presently, Little White was roaring against this white tiger soul. His blood seemed to be boiling as he roared with all his might, trying to restrain the instinctive fear he was feeling. Unfortunately, he did not have a pure bloodline. Before a true white tiger, he was so very tiny, no different than a cub. Before long, the pressure from the white tiger soul caused him to sprawl on the ground, unable to budge.

Before this white tiger soul, Little White was akin to a helpless baby. This white tiger soul only needed to lightly touch him and he would be dead. Fortunately, this white tiger had been dead for many years. The only reason the demonic soul remained here was because the power within the demonic core had not fully dissipated. It had been lying in wait for someone carrying the white tiger bloodline to appear so as to pass on its inheritance.

"Ahh, screw it, I suppose. Little fellow, you only have half of my clan's bloodline, but there is an indication that your bloodline is slowly returning to its roots. Fine, I will give you everything I have left. I can only hope that you won't bring shame to the white tigers. The white tigers are the king of beasts, with the dragons being our sole opponent. The other races are nothing before us," said the white tiger soul with a sigh.

After saying that, the white tiger's remaining power returned to the demonic core. Then, the demonic core hovered toward Little White. So long as Little White swallowed the demonic core, he would be able to obtain the inheritance of the white tigers.

"Thank you, ancestor," Little White thanked respectfully before opening his mouth and swallowing the demonic core. Right this moment, a strain of gold radiance shot out of the demonic core toward a young man not far from them.

"Since fate seems to have brought you and this human together, I will give him a helping hand as well. Let's see if he can survive the white tiger's ire," said the white tiger soul.

After swallowing the demonic core, a boundless energy started coursing all over Little White's body. His body swelled while a clump of vicious gold energy formed a golden cocoon around him. The cocoon was formed of pure power, one that nobody could hope to approach.

On the other hand, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to be in a rather bad state. He was badly injured and was lucky to still be alive. Just like that, the strain of energy from the white tiger soul drilled into his forehead.

"Roar! Roar!"

The white tiger soul was an outsider in Xiang Shaoyun's body. Within him, the white tiger soul roared, jolting the consciousness of his soul awake.

"W-what's going on? You're not Little White!" Xiang Shaoyun's soul cried out in alarm when he saw this white tiger soul.

"I am a white tiger, the king of beasts! Lowly human, bow before me!" the white tiger soul commanded.

"Oh...are you really a white tiger? The species occupying the second place of the beast ranking?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment. He was certain this white tiger before him was the real deal. After all, the pressure he was feeling from this white tiger was far superior to Little White's.

"Of course...wait, what? What do you mean by second place? We, the white tigers, are the king of all beasts!" the white tiger soul replied resentfully.

"But I thought dragons occupied first place? Don't you even dream of scamming me! I'm a well-read person!" Xiang Shaoyun retorted.

"Bullshit! Us white tigers are the masters of the heavens. We are capable of tearing the dragons apart, swallowing the vermilion birds, and stomping the black tortoises into mincemeat! We are feared by all beings under heaven!" the white tiger soul roared furiously.

The roar caused Xiang Shaoyun's vision to blur and for a humming sound to linger in his ears. He had a sensation his soul was going to disperse from the might of the sound wave.

"Human kid! Take the wrath of the white tigers! White tiger's ire!" the white tiger soul stopped talking and started emitting a boundless vicious gold aura that rushed forth toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The white tiger's ire was a product of the combination between vicious gold energy and tiger's presence. The two joined and transformed into a storm that proceeded to sweep forth toward Xiang Shaoyun. Even a single strain of the white tiger's ire was sufficient to slice Xiang Shaoyun's soul apart, which would only result in his death.

At this critical moment, a dragon and a tiger charged out of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber in his astral cosmos sea and started guarding Xiang Shaoyun's soul. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber was a spiritual weapon. That was why it could automatically protect its owner.

Unfortunately, it had been too badly damaged. Otherwise, its presence of dragon and tiger would not have been so weak. Even so, it managed to buy Xiang Shaoyun some respite. Given time to think, he immediately realized that he was currently in the space within his head. This was his turf. Here, he had the home advantage. And if his soul was destroyed, he would most certainly die.

"I need to strike back!" Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth. He did not want to die. Not at all. He had to think of a way to deal with this white tiger soul if he wanted to stay alive.

"Roar! Roar!"

The dragon and tiger guardians were finally torn apart by the white tiger's ire, causing the Overlord Skyslaying Saber to lose some of its luster. It had already done its best.

"Without your guardians, what can you do now? Lowly human, die!" said the white tiger soul coldly before the white tiger's ire swept forth once more.

"You want to kill me? Dream on! Gift of instincts! Gift of visualization! Activate!" Xiang Shaoyun was left with no choice but to unleash everything he had.

Instantly, the space within his head turned into a pitch black space. The darkness covered everything, including the white tiger soul. The white tiger soul roared as it started struggling. The darkness must be pushed back.