

Overlord 131

Chapter 131: Ninth-Stage Demon King

The dark space within his head was akin to a trap capable of freezing everything within it. It had appeared as a result of the combination between the gift of instincts and gift of visualization.

But to be precise, both the gift of instincts and gift of visualization had in fact originated from this dark space. This was a type of incorporeal power, one that seemed to be innate to Xiang Shaoyun. In fact, he himself had no idea how he came to possess this power. He only knew that he had experienced something similar before when he had accidentally activated this dark space and had eventually survived whatever danger he was facing at the time.

The white tiger soul roared fearfully but was completely helpless. Just like that, he was completely covered by the dark space. The white tiger soul had been knowledgeable when alive. When he saw the darkness, he roared in shock, "This is the Imperial Nether Clan's Nether Soul Domain! Damn it!"

Only a small part of the white tiger soul was sent into Xiang Shaoyun's body. This small part struggled relentlessly in the dark space yet was unable to break free. Instead, his vicious gold aura was completely submerged and suppressed by an indescribable power.

"Roar! Roar!"

The white tiger soul was indignant. If he had sent a larger portion of his power here, this Nether Soul Domain would not be able to trap him. Eventually, the white tiger soul stopped struggling and transformed into a mild clump of vicious gold energy that looked like a docile tiger cub. He no longer tried to harm Xiang Shaoyun.

"Imperial Nether Clan? Nether Soul Domain? What are those? Why have I never heard of them?" Xiang Shaoyun sank into deep thought. His instincts told him a great secret was hidden behind this dark space. Unfortunately, he was completely clueless as to what the secret was.

"Forget it. It's pointless to think too much. I should first focus on absorbing this power," Xiang Shaoyun stopped thinking and started circulating his cultivation technique and drew the white tiger soul's power into his nine stars. He wondered if he should split this clump of energy among his nine stars, but he eventually decided against it.

"I already have a lightning star. I might as well create a golden star as well," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he reached a decision to store the entirety of the white tiger soul's power in his second star.

The moment he deposited the white tiger soul's power, the second star started flickering as it tried assimilating this new source of energy. But this new source of energy contained the white tiger's ire, an innate power of the white tigers. It was terrifyingly destructive, pushing the second star to the brink of destruction.

Learning from the experience he gained when absorbing lightning energy, he immediately pulled out a portion of the white tiger soul's power and redirected that portion to the astral cosmos sea and the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

The astral cosmos sea was capable of absorbing all sorts of energy. So long as the energy was of a reasonable amount, the astral cosmos sea would be able to expand its storage space using the supplied energy.

As for the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, it already contained the power of dragon and tiger. Thus, the white tiger soul's power was compatible with it and served nicely to replenish the saber's lost power, causing it to once again shine with a bright luster. With the split of the white tiger soul's power, Xiang Shaoyun felt much better.

The second star slowly grew larger, and the energy contained within grew bountiful. The excess energy leaking out of the star coursed through his body like a river of stars, flooding his meridians and enlarging his acupoints.

Xiang Shaoyun had just broken through not long ago, but the energy within him reached saturation once again. Mid eighth-stage, late eighth-stage, peak eighth-stage...one bottleneck after another was broken through until finally, he reached the ninth stage. Even so, his cultivation still continued to grow.

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Outside the Golden River Valley, the King Realm experts of both humans and gold serpentine crocodiles were in a massive battle. The reason for the battle? The humans wanted to occupy the Golden River Valley while the gold serpentine crocodiles naturally disagreed.

Thus, a battle had erupted.

Although many gold serpentine crocodile kings had been killed by the disastrous sound wave, they had after all occupied the valley for many years. Years of growth here had given birth to a ninth-stage Demon King among their ranks.

The moment this Demon King appeared, two humans were killed while He Luo, Mo Chage, Young Lightning King, and the others were forced to retreat from the Golden River Valley. No matter what, the gold serpentine crocodiles viewed the Golden River Valley as their territory. Thus, they would not tolerate humans occupying the valley.

Fortunately for the humans, the ninth-stage Demon King stayed in the valley. Otherwise, many more humans would have been killed.

"Back then, we allowed the gold serpentine crocodiles free reign over this place. Nobody had ever expected that they would actually grow this powerful," sighed He Luo, who was looking quite sorry right now.

The ninth-stage Demon King had hit him earlier and destroyed the king armor he was wearing. Fortunately, he was quick on his feet. Otherwise, he would have died in the valley.

"That might be related to the secret of the Golden River Valley as well. The secret can't be kept hidden any longer. It is time we exterminate the gold serpentine crocodiles," said Young Lightning King as he licked his lips.

"I wonder who from the pavilion will come this time. If the vice pavilion master, the Lightning King, can come personally, we will no longer have anything to fear," said someone flatteringly.

The Lightning King was the master and adoptive father of Young Lightning King. He was a peak King Realm expert, and was only half a step from the next realm.

"I doubt my godfather will come for something like this. He is busy breaking through," Young Lightning King said, a worshiping gaze in his eyes. He did not admire many people, and his godfather was one of the few people he actually admired.

"That is great news! The vice pavilion master will most certainly succeed in breaking through!" said the flatterer.

Even He Luo smiled and said, "The vice pavilion master is a peak expert who can hardly find a match. He is also so talented even the old pavilion master admired him. It is very likely that his breakthrough will be a success. Poli, with an Emperor Realm expert backing you, nobody would dare provoke you in the future."

Mo Chage disliked the Young Lightning King's arrogance, but facing the adopted son of an Emperor Realm expert, he was also forced to lower his head. "Congratulations. Our Cloud Margin Pavilion will thus gain another peak expert."

Meanwhile, many gold serpentine crocodile kings had gathered near the newly formed hole. The ninth-stage Demon King gold serpentine crocodile transformed into a tall and slender human. He had a pair of triangle eyes, a head of snake-like hair, and was dressed in a set of crocodile skin armor. His entire person emanated a thick demonic aura.

A large number of Demon Kings stood around him, all of them had also assumed human shape. Looking at the gold serpentine crocodile corpses around them, their faces were filled with fear.

"Clan leader, that tiger roar came from here. It feels like there is a tiger emperor down there," said a Demon King with an anxious expression.

The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader remained silent. He grabbed at the empty air, causing a gold serpentine crocodile corpse to fly into his hand. He then tossed the corpse into the hole. The instant the corpse entered, the vicious gold aura within sliced it to shreds.

The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader's pupils shrunk at the sight. With a hoarse voice, he said, "The gold serpentine crocodile clan has only become strong after having our physique altered by the nourishment of the vicious gold aura. Without the vicious gold aura, there wouldn't be any gold serpentine crocodile clan of today. Revered tiger emperor, if you can hear me, please accept us as your followers."

He then knelt down before the hole.

Chapter 132: Second-Stage Transformation Realm

Three days later, human reinforcements finally arrived.

Several chariots could be seen gliding across the sky. The first chariot was pulled by five blackwind eagles. With only two people on this chariot, it was the chariot with the fewest number of people on

it among the newly arrived chariots. The second chariot was pulled by four blood wolves. Five people were seated on the second chariot. As for the other chariots, they were also pulled by various Demon Kings, and each chariot carried more than 10 humans.

This time, the Cloud Margin Pavilion had deployed 37 King Realm cultivators. The leader of the group was the Cloud Margin Pavilion's second elder, the Black Eagle King. He was the middle-aged old man seated on the first chariot.

Beside him was a delicate young man dressed in black. This young man was similar in age with the Young Lightning King. He stood there with his hands clasped behind his back. With his hair whipping around in the wind, he had a free and unrestrained demeanour.

He was Zhang Xiaoyu, one of Cloud Margin Pavilion's genius disciples. He was as famous as Young Lightning King and was the sole disciple of the Black Eagle King. He was also known as the Young Eagle King. Perched on his shoulder was a demonic eagle. The eagle's sharp eyes and aloof expression made it clear it was no ordinary eagle.

On the chariot pulled by the four blood wolves, there was an elder called Long Xiaolang. He was the seventh elder of the Cloud Margin Pavilion, and in this group, his strength was second only to the Black Eagle King.

These three were the most well-known members of the group. When they arrived, He Luo, Mo Chage, Young Lightning King, and the others stepped forth to offer their greetings.

"How is the current situation? Elder He Luo, explain," said the Black Eagle King who remained seated on the chariot. When he scanned the ground, none of them dared to meet his gaze. He Luo gave him a summary of all that had happened.

"Ninth-stage Demon King!" When the Black Eagle King heard that there was such a high-leveled Demon King, there was finally a change in his expression. He was only a peak eighth-stage King Realm cultivator. Granted, he had some trump cards that would enable him to fight a ninth-stage Demon King, but there was a limit to how helpful trump cards could be.

"Yes. We did not think much about them, but such a powerful Demon King appeared out of nowhere. If we hadn't been quick on our feet, we would have all ended up in the Demon King's belly," said He Luo with a sigh.

"How about the other Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles? How many of them are there?" asked the Black Eagle King.

"The sound wave had jolted a large number of them to death, so not many of them survived. With our current numbers, dealing with them won't be a problem," He Luo answered.

"Since that is the case, we will first occupy the Golden River Valley before we consider anything else," decided the Black Eagle King.

Long Xiaolang interjected, "A ninth-stage Demon King won't be easy to handle. Both of us need to work together if we are to stand a chance."

"There's no need for that. This is a good chance for me to further temper myself. Perhaps it will help me make a breakthrough in my cultivation," said the Black Eagle King confidently. Thus, the group of humans charged toward the Golden River Valley.

Swish! Swish!

Before they even reached their destination, the gold serpentine crocodiles started sounding the alarm. Then, the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader and over 20 Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles appeared in front of the valley. With a vicious expression on his face, he said, "Humans, are you here to intrude upon our domain again?"

"Leave and we will allow you safe passage," said the Black Eagle King, who was standing on a blackwind eagle.

"Not possible. This is where we have lived for many years. Nobody can chase us away," rejected the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader. He added, "You humans are the ones invading our territory. Do you think you can bully us as you like?"

At those words, fierce expressions covered the faces of the Demon Kings behind him. They started sticking their serpentine tongues out, seemingly eager to fight.

"Since you are being stubborn, we'll just have to slaughter all of you," said the Black Eagle King as he waved his hand to signal the start of the assault.

Wielding a pair of eagle claws, the Black Eagle King dashed toward the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader. He moved so fast his entire person blurred. In the blink of an eye, he appeared above the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader, like an eagle out on a hunt.

Demonic beasts were generally rash and feared nothing. That applied to the gold serpentine crocodiles as well. The many Demon Kings all charged forward fearlessly. The human King Realm cultivators would naturally not stand around idly. They drew their weapons and joined the battlefield as well.

Rumble! Rumble!

Instantly, explosions of numerous colors erupted in the sky like fireworks.

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Inside the cave. Xiang Shaoyun had finally fully digested the white tiger soul in him. He had directly jumped to second-stage Transformation Realm, breaking through four stages at once. This was his fastest ever advancement since he had started cultivating.

Apart from talent, luck also played a great role in the advancement of a cultivator. Evidently, Xiang Shaoyun was both talented and lucky. He had not been cultivating for long, yet he was already a Transformation Realm cultivator.

After the breakthrough, his demeanor seemed to have become even sharper than before. His body also seemed to be naturally emanating a sort of presence at all times now, giving him a sensation that nothing would be able to plant any sort of fear in him from now on.

"It has taken me...eight months? In eight months, I advanced from third-stage Basic Realm to second-stage Transformation Realm. It took me less than a year." Even Xiang Shaoyun himself was astonished by this speed. Everything felt unreal to him. Other people had to work very hard to reach this level, but here he was, reaching this level so easily. He could only lament that fate was indeed never fair.

Xiang Shaoyun had completely recovered from his injuries while his astral cosmos sea had expanded twofold in size. With a storage space of 30 square meters, he would be able to store even more things. His advancement had indeed contributed to the growth of his astral cosmos sea, but the white tiger soul's power had also contributed greatly to the growth.

The shaft of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber was now gold in color after devouring the white tiger soul's power. As for the broken blade, apart from the original purple inscriptions, some additional golden inscriptions could now be seen there as well. Purple and gold, both were colors of nobility. With them converging on a single blade, the saber looked even more exalted.

Unfortunately, the shape of the saber remained the same. It was still the same badly damaged saber. If not for that, the saber would definitely be an exceptional weapon. Xiang Shaoyun circulated his energy, causing the projections of a purple dragon and a white tiger to hover around him. Now, both of them were equally matched and appeared to be in a state of equilibrium.

"There are three main phases in the Transformation Realm. The first phase is my current state, the outer energy phase that allows me to form an energy barrier to protect myself. The second phase is known as the inner energy phase, where one can form an inner energy barrier to protect one's organs, meridians, and bones from damage. As for the third phase, it is the energy transformation phase. The so-called energy transformation phase is the phase when one obtains the ability to give shape to incorporeal energy, materialize it, and use it to harm someone through thin air. It's an ability approaching what King Realm cultivators can do. Since I can already perfectly create the outer energy barrier, I should focus on reaching the inner energy phase for now," Xiang Shaoyun muttered.

He did not become overjoyed and forget himself due to his rapid advancement. Instead, he remained level-headed, and he was clear on what he should do next. His gaze landed on Little White, who was wrapped in a golden cocoon.

"I would have died without Little White. How am I going to repay him for this?" Xiang Shaoyun sighed. He then shifted his gaze to the massive tiger skeleton, excitement surging into his eyes.

Chapter 133: Various Treasures

It was unknown what cultivation level this white tiger had when alive, but its skeleton was most certainly a top-tier forging material. The body of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber was still damaged, and the white tiger skeleton could be used to repair it.

That was why Xiang Shaoyun was staring at the white tiger skeleton with excitement. He rubbed his hands as he walked toward the white tiger. When he placed his hand on the skeleton, he could feel that apart from being incomparably tough, the skeleton was also very smooth to the touch.

"The white tiger is indeed worthy of being a top-tier demonic beast. After dying for so many years, the skeleton is still in perfect condition. Each piece of bone on this frame of skeleton can be auctioned off at a high price," Xiang Shaoyun lamented.

He knew that this white tiger skeleton was related to Little White. He himself had also benefited from the white tiger soul. He was not supposed to set his sights on this skeleton after all he had benefited.

But Xiang Shaoyun was left with few options. He had to keep growing. At the same time, his weapon had to keep growing as well. Even though the Overlord Skyslaying Saber was an extraordinary weapon, before its full restoration, it would have limited power.

"Well, since Little White is still busy digesting that clump of power, I will just take a piece of bone off the skeleton. That would be enough for now," Xiang Shaoyun mumbled to himself as he circled the skeleton, trying to look for a suitable piece of bone. Ultimately, his gaze landed on the backbone, which was several dozen meters long. It was a perfect backbone, running along the skeleton like a graceful dragon.

But Xiang Shaoyun was also clear that if he took this backbone, the entire frame of the skeleton would collapse. He sank into deep thought. Should he take it? If he took it off, he would be able to repair the Overlord Skyslaying Saber but that might hurt Little White. At the same time, he found it hard to just ignore such a fine backbone.

"Forget it. This backbone might be very important to Little White. I'll decide after Little White wakes up." Xiang Shaoyun ultimately decided to respect Little White and put the matter aside for now.

No longer distracted by the skeleton, he finally had the chance to study his surroundings. A thick layer of vicious gold aura formed the ceiling of this place, acting as a natural barrier preventing anyone else from entering. As for this space itself, apart from the skeleton, it was nearly empty. He could see everything here with a single glance.

Not far from the skeleton was a puddle of gold liquid. The puddle emanated pure vicious gold aura, and a stalk of gold herb was growing on the puddle. It looked like a gold lotus, and in the middle of the petals, a clump of white tiger energy hovered. Occasionally, the projection of a white tiger would jump out of the lotus, looking extremely vigorous and lifelike.

Xiang Shaoyun darted forward and stared at the puddle and the herb. He gulped and said, "Is this white tiger blood? And is this the gold lunar liquid? And this a stalk of vicious tiger gold lotus! Am I seeing things?"

White tiger blood was naturally a precious treasure. Each drop of it was invaluable. That was also the case for the gold lunar liquid. It was a liquid with pure gold energy, and like the lightning liquid, it was an extremely rare divine liquid. Other spirit liquids could hardly be compared to the likes of gold lunar liquid and lightning liquid. As for the vicious tiger gold lotus, it was something that only existed in legends. It was a plant that would only grow where a white tiger resided. It was an incredibly rare herb with much stronger medical efficacy than regular spirit medicines or even king medicines. Simply put, it was priceless.

Any one of these treasures was valuable enough to cause a large number of experts to kill each other to get their hands on the treasure. With them all lying quietly here, Xiang Shaoyun's heart started thumping. Fortunately, he was able to maintain reason as he muttered, "Everything here belongs to Little White. I'll wait until he wakes up."

For Xiang Shaoyun, Little White was like a brother. He would never take the belongings of a brother without permission. He was confident that Little White would definitely be willing to share so long as he asked for it anyway. Thus, he continued looking around. His gaze landed on the pile of golden rocks nearby.

"Top-quality goldsteel stone!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out gleefully.

The goldsteel stone was king among materials, and top-quality goldsteel stone was emperor among materials. Without thinking twice, Xiang Shaoyun darted over. He wanted to put the goldsteel stones away, but found that they were framed around the golden puddle. He could not wantonly dig them out as that would result in the destruction of the puddle.

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was at a buffet where he could only see but not touch anything. Because of that, he grew agitated, but was left with no choice but to step away helplessly. There were other treasures in the room as well, but these treasures were naturally not as valuable as the ones he had found initially.

For example, there were a lot of ordinary goldsteel stones, which were all king materials and could be sold for many spirit crystals. Other than that, there were stones containing vicious gold energy, known as vicious gold stones. These stones could be used to help a cultivator nurture vicious gold energy within their body and increase the cultivator's combat power. Thus, these vicious gold stones were no less valuable than the goldsteel stones.

Xiang Shaoyun tried absorbing some vicious gold energy from one of the vicious gold stones and found that he could do it easily. Only then did he notice that his second star was already completely filled with pure vicious gold energy, also known as the white tiger's ire. Because of that, he now had a certain level of resonance with natural vicious gold energy and was able to easily refine the energy without being harmed.

These random treasures occupied around 20 square meters of the space within Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea. After leaving this place, he would be able to trade the treasures.

Since I am already in the Transformation Realm, there is no longer any need for me to return to the Martial Hall Palace. It's a pity that I can no longer keep participating in the Battle of Towns, though, Xiang Shaoyun pondered.

He had no idea how long Little White would be here. His only option was to wait patiently. He was not worried about the King Realm cultivators outside at all. They wouldn't be able to go through the layer of vicious gold aura. Not even an Emperor Realm cultivator could do that.

Otherwise, the Golden River Valley's secret would have been unearthed long ago. From this, it could be seen that this white tiger definitely had an extraordinary strength.

This will be a great chance for me to stabilize my cultivation base. My advancement has been too fast. Xiang Shaoyun decided to train here.

Having made up his mind, he walked to the corner of the space and lifted a massive boulder. Once again, he was training his physical strength. No matter what cultivation level one reached, training one's physical strength was necessary.

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed his cultivation base and used pure physical strength to lift the boulder, which was at least 30,000 catties in weight. For any other Transformation Realm cultivator, even pushing a boulder of this weight with physical strength alone would be an extremely difficult feat.

Yet Xiang Shaoyun was able to lift it and walk around with the boulder on him. At first, he seemed to struggle. But as time went on, he moved faster and faster. Before long, he was already jogging. Evidently, he had become used to the weight.

While Xiang Shaoyun was training peacefully, the outside world was bustling.

Chapter 134: Inner Shaped Energy

The Cloud Margin Pavilion King Realm cultivators and the Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles had engaged in a massive battle that ended with no clear victor. In fact, both parties had suffered great losses.

The main reason for that was because the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader wasn't a regular ninth-stage Demon King. Instead, he had reached the very peak of the ninth stage. Thus, he was able to defeat the Black Eagle King and even nearly killed him. If Long Xiaolang and others hadn't gotten involved, the Black Eagle King would have been killed.

Still, the Black Eagle King was worthy of his renown, as during the battle, he managed to break through into the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm. That breakthrough was also one of the reasons he survived.

Although the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader was powerful, there were more King Realm humans than Demon Kings. Thus, the gold serpentine crocodiles were unable to obtain any advantage in the battle. Ultimately, the gold serpentine crocodiles retreated back into the Golden River Valley while the humans were forced to leave and ask for more reinforcements from the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

Not long after, Black Eagle King's personal disciple, Zhang Xiaoyu, could be seen rushing back to the Cloud Margin Pavilion with the Black Eagle King's orders. Zhang Xiaoyu traveled on an extremely fast eagle. From the speed, it was clear the eagle was far more powerful than regular blackwind eagles. A few days later, he returned with more Cloud Margin Pavilion experts.

This time, only three experts had arrived. But these were definitely among the strongest in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. The newly arrived experts appeared old yet imposing. With each step they took, they moved a large distance, almost like they were teleporting instead of walking.

"Greetings, pre-elders," greeted the Black Eagle King, He Luo, and the others deferentially.

The so-called pre-elders were in fact ex-elders of the Cloud Margin Pavilion that had retired a long time ago. It was a pity that none of them had been able to enter the Emperor Realm. Thus, they were unable to extend their life span, causing their outer appearance to gradually turn old.

With the appearance of the Golden River Valley's secret, they were sent here to both deal with the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader and seek for a fortuitous encounter that could help them break through into the next realm.

The leader of the three was Xiao Xin. He said, "At ease. Let's enter directly."

Xiao Xin was the strongest of the three newcomers. He also specialized in the power of gold. Thus, the secret of Golden River Valley was very attractive to him. But when they returned to the Golden River Valley, they found that a layer of vicious gold aura had formed around the valley.

"These gold serpentine crocodiles are quite smart to release the vicious gold aura. But that won't be able to stop us." Xiao Xin sneered and dove straight into the valley. The others followed closely behind him. But the moment they actually approached the vicious gold aura, they all turned back in horror.

"W-what kind of vicious gold aura is that? It's so terrifying. Not even our kingly aura can resist it," Xiao Xin said as he wiped some sweat off his head.

"What should we do now? Are we supposed to give up?" Black Eagle King asked in indignation.

"Of course not. Put this place on lockdown. Without the protection of a formation, the vicious gold aura will dissipate before long. We will naturally be able to enter then," said Xiao Xin.

In a sense, he was right. The released energy would disperse naturally without a formation keeping it there. Thus, the Cloud Margin Pavilion members scattered and put the valley on lockdown as they waited for the vicious gold aura to dissipate.

At this time, the Young Lightning King approached Zhang Xiaoyu and said with a smile, "Junior Brother Zhang, a minute of your time."

Zhang Xiaoyu also smiled. "How can I help you, Senior Brother Zi?"

They were both proud geniuses and rarely spoke to each other. In fact, there was even a slight enmity between the two. But that did not mean they were mortal enemies who had to fight the moment they saw each other.

"You're a straightforward person. This is what I like about you," Zi Poli praised. He then went straight to the point, "I heard you have obtained an amethyst core? I wonder if you can trade it to me? Just let me know what you want for it."

The amethyst core was a pure concentration of crystalized lightning energy and would be extremely helpful for those cultivating lightning energy.

"I have no reason to reject you, Senior Brother Zi. But this amethyst core is something I have obtained after a lot of effort. If you really want it, sure..." Zhang Xiaoyu baited Zi Poli.

"What do you want for it?" Zi Poli asked.

"After the vice pavilion master is done with his breakthrough into the Emperor Realm, I need you to borrow his Myriad Poison Sutra for me," Zhang Xiaoyu said. The very thought of the sutra filled him with excitement.

"Myriad Poison Sutra?" Zi Poli was alarmed.

The Myriad Poison Sutra was one of the precious sutras of the Cloud Margin Pavilion. It was extremely attractive to poison cultivators, was an emperor-grade battle technique, and was one of the Cloud Margin Pavilion's trump cards. Generally, only Emperor Realm experts were qualified to study the sutra.

"Yes. You should be aware that apart from cultivating, my only other hobby is to study poisons. I have been longing for the Myriad Poison Sutra for a very long time. Unfortunately, not even my master is qualified to withdraw it. On top of that, he does not approve of my interest in poisons anyway," Zhang Xiaoyu said longingly.

"I really can't guarantee I can get that sutra for you either." Zi Poli shook his head.

"Only talk to me when you are sure you can get it, then," said Zhang Xiaoyu.

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In the blink of an eye, one month passed. Underneath the Golden River Valley, Xiang Shaoyun was no longer lifting that large boulder. Instead, he was currently cultivating his inner shaped energy.

After spending half a month training his physical strength, he was able to consolidate and stabilize his physical strength, allowing him to better control his new strength.

There were two types of shaped energy, respectively outer shaped energy and inner shaped energy. Outer shaped energy would form around a person's skin while inner shaped energy would fill every inch within a person's body.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was circulating his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual and pulling strains of pure energy from his stars toward his meridians, organs, bones, and so on. By the time energy filled his entire body, he started trying to transform the energy into shaped energy.

His 365 acupoints started blinking, forming a connection with his stars that caused the strains of pure energy to become more and more solid. After a while, a thin layer of shaped energy finally formed within his body, protecting all his organs.

This was the so-called inner energy phase. Generally speaking, to form the inner shaped energy, one had to first reach the fourth or fifth stage of Transformation Realm. But Xiang Shaoyun was a genius in cultivation. Thus, he accomplished the feat as a second-stage Transformation Realm cultivator.

The shaped energy helped improve his defense, reducing the amount of damage his body would sustain when attacked. Generally, only those with a higher cultivation level would be able to harm a person with shaped energy.

Done with his cultivation, Xiang Shaoyun stretched and smiled. "With my current combat power, I won't lose to any mid-stage Transformation Realm cultivators. In fact, I even stand a chance against late-stage Transformation Realm cultivators. Finally, I am no longer as helpless as I was before."

It was at this moment that there was finally a reaction from Little White.

"Roar!"

A furious roar rang out, echoing in the space repeatedly. The golden cocoon around Little White withered.

Chapter 135: Little White's Lightning Tribulation

Little White had changed. He now looked sturdier and mightier. His coat of fur was even whiter and looked exactly the same as the white tiger in the legends. More importantly, his aura felt much more terrifying than it was before.

Xiang Shaoyun was already a second-stage Transformation Realm cultivator, but he still felt a suffocating sense of oppression when he looked at the current Little White. Clearly, Little White's strength had skyrocketed. He had become much stronger.

Did he become a Demon King just like that? Xiang Shaoyun guessed.

But when he recalled that he did not yet see Little White undergo a lightning tribulation, he discarded the thought.

When all the vicious gold aura withdrew into Little White, he opened his eyes and gazed at Xiang Shaoyun. His gaze was akin to a sharp blade, one that gave off an intense pressure.

The viciousness Xiang Shaoyun sensed from that gaze caused him to take a step back as he said, "Little White, are you fine?"

The moment Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out, Little White's pupils dilated as his viciousness lessened. He finally said, "Boss, you need to leave. I am going to face the lightning tribulation."

The moment Xiang Shaoyun heard the term "lightning tribulation", he fled.

Rumble!

Instantly, a lightning bolt struck down from the sky above. Both the gold serpentine crocodiles and the humans outside were flabbergasted.

"Lightning tribulation? And this is not a regular lightning tribulation. It's a unique lightning tribulation. Retreat!" the gold serpentine crocodile cried out.

The gold serpentine crocodiles scattered everywhere when they heard his command.

"This is a demonic lightning tribulation!" Xiao Xin, Black Eagle King, He Luo, Mo Chage, and the others also cried out in alarm when they saw the tribulation from afar.

Young Lightning King was getting agitated seeing the tribulation. He cried out, "T-this is not a regular lightning tribulation! This is the goldflame lightning, a mutated form of lightning. Regular demonic beasts are not capable of causing such a lightning tribulation to form. Is the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader breaking through? That's not possible!"

"Should we go inside to get a better look?" someone suggested.

"A lightning tribulation will punish anyone who gets involved. We will think of something after the tribulation is over," Xiao Xin said with a solemn look on his face.

If it was really the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader breaking through, things would get even more troublesome for them. The goldflame lightning was a golden lightning bolt with an outer layer of purple. Since it was not a regular lightning bolt, it possessed a might regular lightning bolts couldn't compare with. The lightning bolt headed straight into the hole. Not even the vicious gold aura could stop its advance as it landed straight on Little White.

"Roar! Roar!"

Little White roared, his white tiger's ire roiled out and formed a tornado around him that clashed against the goldflame lightning bolt. Xiang Shaoyun had already gotten quite far away, but he was still greatly frightened by what he saw. His ears were aching from the loud rumble, and covering both his ears with his hands did nothing. He only felt better after putting more distance between him and Little White.

What a terrifying lightning tribulation. It was said that the stronger the bloodline of a demonic beast, the more terrifying the lightning tribulation will be. Looks like Little White has thoroughly evolved, Xiang Shaoyun thought.

Suddenly, the lightning bone within him started pulsing as the purple dragon within seemed to be on the verge of breaking out of his body. The intense thirst the lightning bone displayed for the lightning tribulation shocked Xiang Shaoyun.

If he allowed himself to be struck by such a terrifying lightning tribulation, he would most certainly die. He did not believe for a moment that his lightning bone could actually fully absorb the entirety of the lightning energy that hit him.

After all, there was already a precedent for this. During the previous incident, the lightning bone had displayed intense thirst as well but quit halfway, leaving a large amount of lightning energy in Xiang Shaoyun's body that had nearly killed him. Thus, he would definitely not act rashly this time.

"Behave!" Xiang Shaoyun berated. He tried his best to suppress the lightning bone, but the bone refused to listen. One lightning bolt after another came down, each with an extremely fearsome might. Xiang Shaoyun could see Little White's bitter struggle clearly. When he saw Little White's badly mangled body, his heart ached.

Hang on there, Little White! Xiang Shaoyun prayed for Little White.

Outside, both the gold serpentine crocodiles and the Cloud Margin Pavilion humans felt like they were in a nightmare. When the initial wave of lightning tribulation ended, they thought it was over. But the next wave arrived, followed by another wave, each back to back. Each wave was also scarier than the previous. They felt their scalps go numb just looking at the tribulation.

"Go, go now. We need to invite the pavilion master out of his seclusion!" Xiao Xin immediately reached a decision. He was now certain that the one breaking through was most certainly not the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader. Rather, a Demon Emperor had appeared. Otherwise, how would the lightning tribulation be so scary?

And if it was really a Demon Emperor, all of them would die. The secret of this place no longer had anything to do with them. Although the Cloud Margin Pavilion people found it hard to swallow, they had no choice but to leave with Xiao Xin.

Not long after they left, the tribulation ended. Little White was in terrible shape, but he was still breathing, which signified that he had survived three waves of lightning tribulation and had become a third-stage Demon King. With the tribulation over, a large amount of energy surged toward Little White, including the vicious gold aura above them.

As the energy gathered, Little White started to heal at a speed visible to the naked eye. His demonic aura also started to rise rapidly. Xiang Shaoyun finally stopped suppressing his lightning bone and released the purple dragon projection. The purple dragon immediately devoured the remnant goldflame lightning energy in the air.

Fortunately, Little White had only absorbed the golden energy from the air and ignored all the lightning energy. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun also benefited from Little White's breakthrough. The

additional energy Xiang Shaoyun absorbed did not increase his cultivation level. It only caused his lightning bone to undergo a slight change. A slight trace of goldflame was now mixed into his innate purple lightning.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense that his lightning bone was not satisfied by the amount of energy it had absorbed at all. The intense hunger of the lightning bone caused Xiang Shaoyun to feel dizzy.

Looks like this damned bone wants to consume more lightning, Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

He also finally understood why the lightning bone had stopped absorbing lightning energy when he had gathered lightning bolts the previous time. It was quite likely that the lightning bone had absorbed enough of the ordinary lightning energy where it could then generate the same lightning energy itself. That was why it had stopped. Only a higher quality lightning energy could attract it.

Finally, everything calmed down, and the vicious gold energy once again covered the hole's exit. As for Little White, his size had increased once more. His kingly aura was even more impressive now, and the characteristics of a king of beasts started showing on him.

"Roar!"

In his excitement, Little White roared. The destructive and fearsome sound wave rippled everywhere. This was a true tiger's roar, similar to the lion's roar of the demonic lions. With a leap, Little White arrived beside Xiang Shaoyun. He was now as tall as Xiang Shaoyun and much bulkier.

"Hahaha! Little White, congratulations for becoming a Demon King! It's your turn to take care of your boss now!" Xiang Shaoyun stroked Little White's neck and said joyfully.

Instead of answering, Little White opened his mouth wide, frightening Xiang Shaoyun.

Shit! Is Little White going to make a move against me now? Xiang Shaoyun was alarmed.

Chapter 136: I Like the Fiercest Tigress

Whoosh!

A massive and damp tongue licked Xiang Shaoyun's face.

"Thank you, boss. If you had not brought me out here, I wouldn't have obtained the inheritance of my ancestor," said Little White gently.

That was right. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun, Little White wouldn't have left the Hundred Beast Mountain Range at all. He also wouldn't have obtained the demonic core, the tiger's tooth, and the white tiger inheritance. All three of those were obtained thanks to Xiang Shaoyun.

Hearing those words, Xiang Shaoyun regained his courage. He hugged Little White's neck and said, "We are brothers. There's no need to thank me." He paused slightly and continued, "Little White, there are still a few treasures there. Go take a look. They will definitely be very helpful to you too."

Little White did not even bother to look and said, "Those were left behind by my ancestor, so they will definitely be helpful. But I also know that you need them more than me, boss."

"Do you mean you are going to give me all of them?" Xiang Shaoyun got so excited he couldn't even breathe properly anymore.

"That's right. Just take whatever you need, boss. The only thing I need is my ancestor's teeth," Little White reaffirmed.

"Well well, your boss won't be holding back, then," Xiang Shaoyun said gleefully.

Soon, both him and Little White arrived before the puddle of gold liquid. He then sank into thought, thinking of a way to harvest these treasures.

"Boss, I will swallow the blood of my clan. You can have the pure leftover gold lunar liquid and the vicious tiger gold lotus. But you can only store them for now. It will be too wasteful to use them with your current cultivation level," Little White said before opening his mouth and sucking in the gold liquid.

To be precise, he was absorbing the white tiger bloodline mixed in the gold liquid. Only pure gold lunar liquid and vicious tiger gold lotus were left in the puddle. Both these and the top-quality goldsteel stones by the side would occupy more than 10 square meters of space in Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea.

Xiang Shaoyun had no choice but to give up some of the ordinary goldsteel stones and vicious gold stones to make enough space for the treasures. His initial plan was to dig these treasures out with his Overlord Skyslaying Saber, but the plan changed since Little White was going to help him dig everything out instead.

Little White walked to the skeleton and roared. He then licked it, and finally, he tore two of the sharpest teeth off the skeleton.

White tiger's teeth!

The teeth were the most important part of a white tiger's body, the part where they could best unleash their innate prowess. Little White did not swallow the teeth immediately. Instead, with the teeth in his mouth, he swiped the teeth around the puddle. Not even the top-quality goldsteel stones could resist the sharpness of the teeth as they were immediately sliced apart.

What terrifying teeth, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

These white tiger's teeth were as good as the best of weapons.

"Boss, all ready," said Little White after he separated the entire puddle and its immediate surrounding from the ground.

Xiang Shaoyun did not waste any time as he immediately pulled everything into his astral cosmos sea. With the entry of the gold liquid, the astral cosmos sea seemed to have gained some vitality. It also started to emit a gold radiance, like a sun appearing amid the stars in his inner body.

Xiang Shaoyun then moved the Overlord Skyslaying Saber into the gold lunar liquid, using the liquid to nourish the saber, which would be very beneficial for the saber's recovery. The moment the saber soaked in the liquid, it immediately reacted. The presence of dragon and tiger hovered out as the mystical power contained within the liquid nourished the saber. The blade of the saber looked even more lustrous, and the cracks on the blade started closing up. Xiang Shaoyun did not notice, as his attention was on the white tiger skeleton.

"Little White, are you going to just leave your ancestor's skeleton here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked while rubbing his hands.

"According to demonic beast custom, it should be given a sky burial," Little White said.

"Sky burial? How so?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Dissolve the corpse, allowing it to return to nature," Little White explained.

"W-wouldn't that be a waste?" Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Yeah. That's why I am planning to put it away. It will be useful when I start accepting followers in the future," Little White said honestly.

This was a white tiger skeleton, a divine object that the various tiger species would dream to have. Not only could it upgrade the bloodline of demonic tigers, it could also strengthen their innate abilities. Little White understood how valuable this skeleton was. He would naturally not waste it.

After all, the demonic beast customs were different from human customs. Humans would bury the dead as a sign of respect, but for demonic beasts, only the demonic core and some unique parts of a dead beast were worth keeping. The rest of the corpse would usually be returned to nature.

"Haha, that is a good idea," Xiang Shaoyun laughed. Expectation filled his face as he said, "Little White, actually, that backbone will be very helpful to me. How about—"

Without a second thought, Little White flew over with the tiger teeth still in his mouth and sliced the backbone off the skeleton. With the removal of the backbone, the skeleton collapsed.

Little White then shouted, "Boss, come take it!"

Xiang Shaoyun was incredibly touched. He had never expected that Little White would give him the backbone without so much as a thought. No words could express how touched he was right now.

Ultimately, Xiang Shaoyun only took a small portion of the backbone. After all, the entirety of the backbone was too thick and long. He did not need that much to repair the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. Thus, there was no need to take more. The rest of the skeleton was swallowed by Little White. That's right. Little White opened his mouth and swallowed the entire skeleton.

"Have you formed an inner cosmos?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

Little White nodded. "Yes, it is the devouring cosmos, the first innate talent I have awakened after my evolution."

Based on what Xiang Shaoyun knew, this ability was similar to the humans' astral cosmos sea. He asked, "So can you assume human form now?"

Little White did not waste his breath saying anything. Instead, he directly transformed. Soon, a white-haired, resolute-looking young man appeared before Xiang Shaoyun. His handsome face and his flawlessly proportionate, symmetrical, and sturdy body caused even Xiang Shaoyun to feel envious.

"Boss, this is my human form," Little White said as he scratched his head awkwardly, seemingly not used to this form.

"Haha, you look so handsome. Countless tigresses will be smitten when they see you," Xiang Shaoyun said and roared with laughter as he patted Little White's shoulder.

"I am not interested in any regular tigress," Little White said firmly.

"Do you mean you like a fierce tigress instead?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I like the fiercest of tigresses," Little White affirmed.

"Wow, you sure are amazing." Xiang Shaoyun raised his thumb. Inwardly, he mused, Demonic beasts sure have a unique taste.

"Boss, should we leave now?" Little White asked.

"Yes, it's about time we leave." Xiang Shaoyun nodded. He looked at the vicious gold aura above them and said anxiously, "But can we even leave?"

Chapter 137: It Is Jin Wo's Honor

A thick layer of vicious gold aura gathered above them, separating them completely from the outside world. This layer of vicious gold aura was the work of the white tiger prior to his death. And it was precisely this thick vicious gold aura that had caused everything in the Golden River Valley to turn gold in color. Not even the river was spared, which was how the gold serpentine crocodiles had come into existence.

"Boss, get on me. I'll bring you out," Little White said after transforming back into his tiger form.

Xiang Shaoyun hopped onto Little White without hesitation as he thought smugly to himself, I did hope that Little White would one day evolve into a pure white tiger. Now, he has really evolved into a white tiger. I will look so cool riding him now!

Little White flapped his wings and soared up. When he approached the layer of vicious gold aura, the aura immediately split and opened a tunnel for him to pass through. Through the tunnel, Little White flew to the outside world with Xiang Shaoyun on his back. After they left, the opening in the layer of vicious gold aura closed again.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun and Little White were back at the Golden River Valley's surface. Suddenly, they noticed that a large number of Demon Kings in human form were staring at them.

"Shit! They are all transformed Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm.

"Fear not, boss. I'm here," Little White said nonchalantly before roaring at the Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles. "Roar!"

The tiger's roar carried with it the majesty of the king of beasts. The roar frightened the gold serpentine crocodiles as an intense instinctual fear rose from the depths of their hearts, forcing them to bow.

"Greetings, your highness the prince." The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader was the first to kneel down before Little White.

With his lead, the other gold serpentine crocodiles all knelt down and cried out as well, "Greetings, your highness the prince."

The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader was certain that a Demon Emperor was residing beneath the valley. After all, the roar earlier had killed a large number of Demon King gold serpentine crocodiles.

The tiger before them was only a Demon King, but his roar was very similar to the first roar they had heard. Thus, this tiger here was most likely the descendant of a Demon Emperor. Therefore, it made complete sense for them to address the tiger as prince. They were doing this to express their sincerity in pledging their allegiance to the Demon Emperor.

"That's a smart choice. Alright, rise," Little White said with his head raised proudly.

Little White had obtained the white tiger inheritance, and among the inheritance was the memory of the white tiger soul. He was thus naturally aware of the story behind the gold serpentine crocodiles. It was completely within his expectation that these gold serpentine crocodiles would pledge their allegiance to him.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, joy covered his face as he said, "Well done, Little White. You are actually able to subdue the gold serpentine crocodiles." After a momentary pause, he continued, "Ask them about the current situation of the valley. Also check if the competition has ended."

The deadline of one month had ended a long time ago. Xiang Shaoyun needed to figure out the latest news. He did not really care about the competition result, but he was worried about the Martial Hall Palace people.

The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader gave Little White a simplified explanation. By the side, Xiang Shaoyun heard everything clearly. In his shock, he interjected, "The humans have all retreated, and only the King Realm cultivators are still trying to occupy the Golden River Valley?"

"That's right. If the vicious gold aura had not spread around the valley, the humans would have occupied the place by now," the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader replied. He paused slightly before looking at Little White. He said, "Your highness, what should we do? Should we beg for the emperor's help to eliminate all the human invaders?"

Instead of replying, Little White looked to Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Boss, what do you think?"

Xiang Shaoyun sank into a short contemplation before he said, "Will they listen to you?"

"Yes. They wouldn't dare disobey me!" Little White said confidently.

"Ok. Get them all to leave for now. They can just come back after everything is over," Xiang Shaoyun proposed.

Xiang Shaoyun knew humans all too well. The harder it was to obtain something, the more they would want that thing. They were definitely aware that there was a great secret here. Without figuring out what the secret was, they would not give up.

If the gold serpentine crocodiles remained, death would be their sole fate. Xiang Shaoyun did not give them that advice because he pitied them; he gave them the advice out of respect for Little White. Of course, he had his own agenda in mind as well. And after Little White told the gold serpentine crocodiles what Xiang Shaoyun told him, the gold serpentine crocodiles grew anxious.

"Your highness, we do not fear the humans!" said the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader indignantly.

"Bastard! Are you disobeying me?" Little White yelled furiously.

The gold serpentine crocodile clan leader quickly replied, "I dare not."

Little White spoke again, this time with a milder tone. "The humans have almost endless reinforcements. Do you think you have enough numbers to keep resisting? I am only telling you to leave temporarily. When the humans leave empty handed, you can come back again."

"But won't they disturb his majesty the emperor?" the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader probed carefully.

"Hahaha, they can try," Little White replied, seemingly hinting at something.

It gave the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader the impression that the Demon Emperor was staying behind to face the human reinforcements alone. He was endlessly grateful when he reached that assumption and quickly said, "I'll tell the kids to leave."

Soon, the gold serpentine crocodile clan leader commanded the various Demon Kings to each lead a group of gold serpentine crocodiles out of the valley. Since the gold serpentine crocodile possessed

the characteristics of both goldwater serpent and gold crocodile, it was entirely possible for them to move back into the river. So long as they remained hidden in the river, they would not have to worry about the humans.

"Tell this gold serpentine crocodile to stay behind," Xiang Shaoyun said.

He could see that this gold serpentine crocodile was the leader of all the gold serpentine crocodiles. And this gold serpentine crocodile was also the strongest of them. He naturally had to keep a Demon King of this caliber at his side.

Presently, apart from growing strong himself, Xiang Shaoyun also needed a large number of followers. Otherwise, he would have a hard time reclaiming his possessions in the future fighting alone.

"You may stay by this prince's side from now on," said Little White.

"It is Jin Wo's honor to have that opportunity," said the overjoyed gold serpentine crocodile clan leader.

Demonic beasts were strictly segregated according to the level of their bloodlines. The gold serpentine crocodile only had a mid-tier bloodline, while the white tiger had a top-tier bloodline. It was glorious for a gold serpentine crocodile to be able to become the follower of a white tiger.

"Ok. Pack up. We will leave immediately," Little White said.

Jin Wo nodded and returned to his nest. He started packing his belongings such as his goldsteel stones, gold serpent fruits, and gold orchids. He offered a part of them to Little White as a sign of respect. Little White had no need for them, but since Xiang Shaoyun needed them, Xiang Shaoyun told Little White to accept some.

Xiang Shaoyun was even able to obtain a complete gold-serpentine-crocodile skin. This was the skin Jin Wo had shed during his previous breakthrough, and it was at least a tier-7 king-grade material.

"Since my king armor had been destroyed, this serpentine crocodile skin will serve nicely as a replacement. With this skin and some top-quality goldsteel stones, I can even forge several king

armors. In fact, I will have enough to even forge a pair of gloves," Xiang Shaoyun said, satisfied with his harvest.

Then, they left the valley from a different exit. Not long after they left, the reinforcements of the Cloud Margin Pavilion arrived.

Chapter 138: Ziling Sect

The Nine God Provinces was made up of nine regions. The nine regions were respectively the Eastern Pass, Western Desert, Southern Wasteland, Northern Border, Central Region, East Divine Island, West Demonic Cave, South Divine Devil, and North Illusionary Sea.

Each of the regions was extensively vast and made up of numerous prefectures, cities, and towns. Each region was inhabited by millions and millions of populations of different races. Different organizations also filled the various inhabited regions and were classified into nine tiers.

Tier-1 organizations were the weakest and lowest of all, and their existences were generally not acknowledged. Tier-2 and tier-3 organizations were better off, as these were mostly the organizations populating the smaller towns such as the various clans. Upon reaching tier-4, an organization would start being acknowledged.

As for the tier-5 and tier-6 organizations, they were naturally much more powerful. As these organizations were more powerful, it was natural that their influence spread across larger swathes of lands. As for tier-7 organizations, they were famed and well-known organizations that were the elites of the various regions. As for the tier-8 and tier-9 organizations, they were basically legends. Sitting on their thrones, they overlooked the Nine God Provinces and were extremely feared.

Organizations such as the Martial Hall Palace and the Gateflag Academy were basically tier-1 organizations whose existences were not even acknowledged. As for the organizations in Cloud Margin City, these were tier-2 organizations. As for the Cloud Margin Pavilion which also acted as the main cultivation academy of a city, it was considered a peak tier-3 organization that had a chance at becoming a tier-4 organization.

The Cloud Margin Pavilion had Emperor Realm cultivators in their ranks yet was still a mere tier-3 organization. One could only imagine how frightening the higher tiered organizations could be.

At a certain mountainous area within the Western Desert.

Towering mountains littered the mountain range while numerous pavilions and buildings stood erect in the middle of the mountains. The peak of the mountains were filled with mist, and from far away, the entire mountain range looked like a painting of paradise.

Numerous cultivators could be seen flying in the air, roars of land and flying beasts resounded without stop, the verdant and lush trees swayed gently in the air, and a certain fragrance filled the air. The mountain range was also filled with swirling purple radiance, which gave it an incredibly auspicious appearance.

A massive gate that was about 100 meters tall stood at the mountain range's entrance. On the door, the words "Ziling Sect" could be seen.

As a tier-7 organization, there was no doubting Ziling Sect's position as one of the most powerful organizations in the region. In fact, it even had a chance at becoming a tier-8 organization.

Unfortunately, the number one expert of the sect, also founder of the sect, Xiang Yangzhan had gone missing after battling a super expert of the region, the Death Magistrate, Shangguan Wusheng. The battle happened at a forbidden zone, the Wumo Pass. Nobody knew the result of the battle, as both of them had vanished afterwards.

Some claimed that both of them had died in the battle. Some claimed that they were both trapped in the Wumo Pass. Some also claimed that Shangguan Wusheng had killed Xiang Yangzhan.

The Ziling Sect originally had a hope of becoming a tier-8 organization within 1,000 years, but the disappearance of Xiang Yangzhan had struck a heavy blow to the sect. Apart from that, an internal disorder had also erupted within the sect. Some traitors took the chance to try killing Xiang Yangzhan's sole son and took over the sect.

Because of that, even more resources of the Ziling Sect were exhausted, causing this sect that originally stood a chance at becoming a tier-8 organization to barely be able to remain a tier-7 organization. Within the Ziling Sect was a mountain called Shaoyun Peak, and on the mountain was an incredibly luxurious estate.

The building occupied half the space halfway up the mountain. Within the spacious estate, several refined pavilions could be seen. Each pavilion was constructed from wood over 1,000 years old. These pavilions were exquisitely designed; the dragons and phoenixes carved into the beams and pillars made the pavilions look incredibly exalted.

The courtyard of the estate was filled with rock gardens, springs, booths, jade platforms, and so on. Every part of the estate looked like it was something out of a painting. When walking in the estate, each step one took made one feel that a new scenery would open up before one's eyes. Looking at the estate from different angles gave one different sensations as well, and the estate as a whole seemed to be designed to give one the epitome of pleasure.

It was such an elegant estate that was completely devoid of people, looking bleak and desolate. Occasionally, the wind whistled through the estate, lifting the dead leaves off the ground.

Today, a young man and a young woman had arrived at the long-abandoned Shaoyun Peak. The two emanated flawless grace, looking like immortals who had descended upon the mortal world. Hand in hand, the two stepped into the estate.

The young man looked to be about 18 years old. His face was as fair as the purest white jade, his eyes akin to a luminous pair of moons. Body tall and straight, his bearing was so impressive one would never be able to forget him after only looking at him once.

The young woman's face was as pretty as a blooming flower, her eyes were as clear as the clearest pond, and her skin was as fair as snow while her bearing was graceful and subdued. Revealing a clear outline of her flawless figure, her gorgeous silk outfit fluttered in the wind as she took graceful steps with her perfect legs that seemed to exist for the sole purpose of tugging one's heartstrings.

Anyone who saw this couple would exclaim that the man and the woman were a flawlessly attractive pair.

"Shaoyun Peak, a place once bustling with noise and excitement is now a desolate and quiet place. It is really quite a pity," said the young man as he gazed at a stele with "Shaoyun Peak" written on it.

The young woman also looked at the stele; sorrow covered her eyes for a split second before it vanished. From her alluring lips, her voice rang out, "He was once a self-proclaimed number one playboy scholar. Unfortunately, this is a world of martial cultivation. A weak scholar is but a trash regardless of his talent."

"Hehe, do you think he is truly a playboy though?" the young man asked.

"This place was once filled with hundreds of enchantingly attractive maids, all to serve him alone. Living such a life, how is he not a playboy?" said the young woman, a complicated look in her eyes.

"Haha, the people only know him as a trash and playboy scholar, but how many people know that he is also a proud genius in cultivation?" the young man roared with laughter.

He then slammed his palm in the direction of the stele, sending forth a crushing power.

Bang!

Instantly, the stele was reduced into powder. At such a young age, he was already a King Realm cultivator. In fact, he was more than a regular King Realm cultivator; he was at least a mid-stage King Realm cultivator.

The instant the stele was crushed, the young woman felt her heart stop beating for a moment. A sense of sorrow surged out, nearly causing her to lose control over her emotions for a moment.

Let him drift away along with the wind..., the woman thought as a vicious glint replaced the sorrow in her eyes.

"From now onward, Shaoyun Peak no longer exists," said the young man coldly.

"Yes, there is no more Shaoyun Peak. But how about him? Have you eliminated the weed at its roots?" asked the young woman.

"Hmph. If his loyalists hadn't protected him with their lives, he would have been killed long ago. He has most likely escaped to our enemy's territory. I already have some men there looking for him. I believe they will be able to capture him soon," said the young man murderously. He paused before continuing, "Even if he is already dead, I won't rest until I see his corpse. I won't take any chances."

"Yes, we can't allow him to live," the young woman said. She then added, "Let's go. I don't want to stay here any longer."

Chapter 139: Separation of Brothers

After leaving the Golden River Valley, Xiang Shaoyun did not head toward the Martial Hall Palace. Instead, he roamed about aimlessly with Little White and Jin Wo. As he wandered about, his mind drifted away as well. Scenes of his previous life surfaced in his mind, the paradise he once lived at,

the tall and straight man who had protected him all those years...all of them resurfaced in his mind, filling him with a yearning desire for a past long gone.

"You are my son. Therefore you are free to waste all I have made. Who dares to say anything about it?"

"Son, the maid you want is here. If you are really capable, you should get me a dozen grandchildren or something. Your father shall take care of your kids for you."

"What? You're feeding the dog a king medicine? Sure. Feel free to grab more king medicine if you want. We have too many of those anyway."

"Son, I need to battle someone. Wait for me to return in triumph. When I'm back, I'll arrange a wedding for you. In the future, you only need to focus on making grandchildren for me. I really want to be a grandfather."

...

Slowly, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes turned moist. He grew up without a mother. His father played the role of both parents and had always pampered him. It was the happiest period of his life. His father's disappearance after the battle was something he could not let go of.

That was a man powerful and confident enough to battle the entire world. Xiang Shaoyun refused to believe that someone like that would suffer defeat.

Father, you said that you will arrange my marriage after you get back. If you still refuse to come back, I will just stay single until I die of old age. Our Xiang Family's bloodline shall end with me, Xiang Shaoyun thought inwardly.

For him to vow that he would stay single forever if that man did not return, it was clear how important that man was to him.

"Boss, where are we going?" Little White suddenly asked, bringing Xiang Shaoyun back from his thoughts.

He calmed his emotions before saying, "What do you have in mind?"

"I want to pay the Hundred Beast Mountain Range a visit," Little White said. He added, "I need to complete something on behalf of the ancestor. I must go back at least once."

"Sure, you can go, but I won't be going with you," Xiang Shaoyun said. Although he was reluctant to part with Little White, he still decided to let Little White go. Of course, he would not think that Little White was now looking for an excuse to leave him after growing strong. Little White definitely had something he had to do.

"Why don't you come with me, boss? I will continue following you anywhere you go when I'm done with my mission," said Little White. He was similarly reluctant to part with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun patted Little White's shoulder and said, "Your boss has his own mission to complete. A day will come when we meet again."

"Boss, I will go look for you after completing my mission. Or you can come look for me at any time," Little White said.

"Haha, alright. There's no need to get all soapy. Ok, this is where we part," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Boss, take this. With this, we will be able to sense each other whenever we are in close proximity of each other. It will make it easier for us to meet each other again in the future," said Little White as a drop of blood flew out of his forehead.

It shocked Jin Wo greatly. He was well aware that the drop of blood was in fact heart essence blood. It was the true essence of a white tiger and was incomparably precious.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted it and kept the drop of blood into his astral cosmos sea. He then gave Little White a big hug and said, "I don't know what your mission is. I can't help you with it either. But I do hope that you will be careful in everything you do. Who knows, maybe you can unify the demonic beasts and assist me in dominating the entire world!"

"Yes, I will work hard, boss," Little White said confidently.

The brothers were going to go separate ways. Little White wanted Jin Wo to stay and protect Xiang Shaoyun, but Xiang Shaoyun rejected. Little White would most definitely need help at the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. Thus, he would need Jin Wo even more.

By the side, Jin Wo was completely confused listening to the conversation. After all, telling him to follow Xiang Shaoyun was the same as Little White abandoning him. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun made the proper choice of allowing him to stay with Little White.

Thus, Little White left with Jin Wo for the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. He kept looking back at Xiang Shaoyun as he walked, his eyes filled with reluctance. It persisted until Xiang Shaoyun finally waved his hand, turned, and walked away in a carefree manner.

Boss, I'll come look for you soon! Little White inwardly vowed before he hopped on to Jin Wo's back and flew away.

Only after Little White left did Xiang Shaoyun turn around. His eyes lit up as he muttered, "Little White, you will be the king of beasts. Your boss will be the overlord of humans."

Now, he was all alone, his heart in low spirits. But at the same time, he was also filled with expectations for the hopeful future. Along with the growth of his strength, Xiang Shaoyun's confidence in retaking what was his in 10 years grew as well.

In the coming days, Xiang Shaoyun traveled on foot. Every now and then, he stopped to take in the view and immersed himself in nature. Occasionally, he would pass by some villages and would come into contact with people of different customs and backgrounds. Through his experiences, his heart grew calmer and clearer.

Apart from that, he also spent a lot of time studying battle techniques during his travels, gaining quite a lot of improvement through his studies. The two tier-3 battle techniques he knew, Berserk Lightning Blade and Star Destroying Finger, were both fully mastered.

With the newly gained vicious gold energy, he started studying the tier-3 Gold Helix Fist he had obtained from the ex-town head of Wu Town. There were 18 stances in the Gold Helix Fist, each stance stronger than the stance before. Each of the stances involved sending out tough and indestructible spiraling punches.

Now that Xiang Shaoyun was a Transformation Realm cultivator, he had a much easier time practicing tier-3 battle techniques. Even before actually testing the Gold Helix Fist in a real battle,

he was able to reach 80 percent mastery. But to fully master the technique, he would need actual combat experience.

After all, actual combat was the only way a person could utilize and fully master a battle technique and gain a better comprehension of the essence of a battle technique. Apart from the Gold Helix Fist, Xiang Shaoyun also started practicing the first stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky.

The Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique had an impressive might, a technique capable of slaying even gods. Thus, practicing even the first stance of this technique wouldn't be easy.

Generally speaking, it was impossible for one to practice the first stance, Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky, without first reaching the Skysoar Realm. That was because the first stance required the power of lightning to unleash the prowess of this technique.

A normal cultivator had to first reach the Skysoar Realm before he could start borrowing the power of lightning with his presence of a king. He would then be able to start blasting his opponents with the borrowed lightning power.

Since Xiang Shaoyun had an awakened lightning bone containing innate purple lightning, he had an advantage over regular cultivators. Therefore, by using his innate purple lightning, he was able to unleash a tiny portion of the Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky's real power.

One should never look down on this tiny portion of power. It was strong enough to give even late-stage Transformation Realm cultivators a hard time. Traveling aimlessly, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the Blackhill Town without realizing it. This was the territory of the Blackhill Sect.

When he realized where he was, Xiang Shaoyun narrowed his eyes and muttered, "The people who tried to kill me at the Golden River Valley are Blackhill Sect members."

He then strode into the Blackhill Town, one of the top 10 towns under Cloud Margin City.

Chapter 140: Is He a Crossdresser?

The Blackhill Town was a town surrounded by mountains on all sides. The specialty of this town was the blackiron ore, a smithing material. Although this was not a king-grade material, for a small town, it was still a rather valuable material.

The Blackhill Sect owned several blackiron ore mines. Each year, a large number of blackiron would be mined. Part of them would be submitted to the town while the balance would be traded to other towns for numerous precious resources.

Because of that, the Blackhill Sect was much wealthier compared with many other organizations in the region. And with an abundance of resources, cultivating talented young disciples was naturally an easier task. Thanks to that, the strength of the town as a whole grew as well.

However, during the Battle of Towns three months ago, they had suffered a disastrous loss. They were especially distressed by the fact that, of the five sole Transformation Realm disciples they had, one of them was nearly crippled while another one was lost during the competition.

These young geniuses carried the hope of the Blackhill Sect. Losing even one of them would be extremely distressing. They naturally knew who the culprit was, but it wasn't proper for them to take revenge against that person openly and were thus forced to swallow the loss.

Fortunately, they subsequently found out that the culprit had also failed to survive the competition. That caused them to feel somewhat better. Little did they know that the culprit had arrived in their territory.

Xiang Shaoyun never thought of himself as a good person. He always held a principle that all grudges must be repaid. If anyone caused him any discomfort, he would ensure that the other party would not feel good either.

He strutted into the town, not worried that someone would recognize him at all. Although he did not know why the Blackhill Sect acted against him during the competition, he was still sure that they were not sent by his family traitors. After all, the type of people his family traitors would send were capable of destroying him before he could even react. They wouldn't have sent those bugs only to be killed.

In fact, Xiang Shaoyun suspected both the Gateflag Academy and the Wu Clan. One of them must be somehow related to the Blackhill Sect and had gotten their help to get rid of him. All that did not matter. He was now here to let the Blackhill Sect have a taste of his revenge.

Xiang Shaoyun strolled randomly through the town as he listened in on the conversations of the locals, trying to gather more information about the Blackhill Sect. Unfortunately, he was not able to find anything useful.

"Screw it. I have been on the road for quite a while. I'll just think about it after a proper meal," Xiang Shaoyun muttered before heading toward a luxurious looking restaurant.

The restaurant was doing very well with streams of customers entering and exiting without stop. In the restaurant, Xiang Shaoyun selected a random seat and sat down before ordering a large amount of food and liquor. When his order arrived, he started his feast. The way he was eating gave off an impression that he had been starving for a very long time.

After a while, he finally finished everything. He lifted a bottle of liquor and poured it into his throat. When the intense flavor of the liquor hit him, he couldn't help but mutter, "Eating good food, drinking good liquor, a life worthy of immortals."

It had been a while since he last had such a satisfying meal. Right this moment, someone walked over and sat down in front of him. The newcomer said, "Brother, you are clearly a carefree person. I wonder if you would mind me drinking a glass of your liquor?"

Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and looked at the random newcomer only to find that this person was even more handsome than him! To be precise, this man here had a face prettier than a woman, his bearing gentle and reserved. If he dressed himself up in woman's clothing, others might really think he was a woman.

"Hey, are you a woman dressed in a man's clothing?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in a low voice.

The newcomer blushed slightly before taking out a fan and gently waving it. "You are funny, brother. Do I look like a woman?"

Xiang Shaoyun sized up the newcomer. Feeling uncomfortable, the newcomer was forced to speak again, "Are you done staring at me?"

"Almost." Xiang Shaoyun nodded before he continued, "Apart from your completely flat chest, every single part of you looks like a woman."

"Y-you...scoundrel!" the newcomer stood up and rebuked.

"Hey, I thought you said you're not a woman? Why are you behaving like a woman? Come on, stop pretending," Xiang Shaoyun said with a smile on his face.

The newcomer finally realized he had forgotten his manners. He quickly explained himself, "I just did not expect you to be such a shallow person."

"Sure, sure, whatever. I don't really care about your gender. Drink if you want, but you will have to pour the liquor yourself," Xiang Shaoyun said lazily. The newcomer was about to leave, but he hesitated slightly before sitting down again. He poured himself a full glass of liquor and started drinking.

"Cough, cough...umm, what a fine liquor!" The newcomer choked on the liquor, but excitement filled his face when he praised it.

Xiang Shaoyun threw him a glance and noticed that there was an Adam's apple on the youngster's neck. Thus, he mused to himself, So this fellow is really a man. But why is he so effeminate? He's not a damned crossdresser, right?

That thought placed Xiang Shaoyun in some sort of discomfort.

"Brother! Come! Let's drink to us, two strangers coming together by chance!" the newcomer said, becoming friendlier and friendlier.

It was rude to say no, so Xiang Shaoyun raised his glass and emptied it.

"I'm done here. You can have the rest of the liquor. You can order more if you want," Xiang Shaoyun said before standing up to leave. He did not want to stay any longer.

"What's the rush, brother? It's no fun to drink alone," the newcomer urged Xiang Shaoyun to stay.

Xiang Shaoyun insisted on leaving, causing the newcomer to speak again, "Brother, you are probably a disciple of Blackhill Sect, right? If you can have a couple drinks with me, I will tell you a secret of Blackhill Sect."

This proposal was too attractive for Xiang Shaoyun to reject.

"You're not lying, are you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Feel free to leave if you don't believe me," said the newcomer. He seemed rather good at keeping one interested.

Xiang Shaoyun sat down helplessly and called out to the waiter, "Waiter, two bottles of fine liquor and two plates of peanuts."

"Haha, that's more like it," said the newcomer, pleased.

"So what do you know about the Blackhill Sect?" Xiang Shaoyun whispered.

"We'll talk after I have my fill of liquor," said the newcomer. The newcomer seemed to be a liquor lover.

Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun started drinking as well. He did not forget to ask, "Brother, what is your name?"

"I am Dong Zi. What about you?" asked the youngster.

"Me? I am he who does not change his name, he who is loved by all, he whose very presence causes flowers to bloom, the one and only, the handsome, Overlord Xiang!" Xiang Shaoyun said, emptying a glass of liquor.

Those words caused the newcomer to spit out all the liquor in his mouth.

Sphhlt!

Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had a fast reaction time and was able to dodge the spit. Otherwise, he would have gotten himself drenched with liquor.