

Overlord 231

Chapter 231: I Will Prove It

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't surprised by Li Yaxuan's words. After all, when he had fallen under the control of Hua Cheng's music, he had revealed all his trump cards. Hua Cheng had also directly spoken about the millennium earthcore fire. If Li Yaxuan wasn't a complete idiot, she would definitely be able to connect the dots.

"Thank you for the reminder, but I have my reasons to say no. If that Lightning Kid has the balls to come after me, I don't mind having a great battle with him. I am quite curious how strong exactly the number one expert of Cloud Margin Pavilion's younger generation is," replied Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"Looks like you are not going to change your mind. Just do whatever you want then," said Li Yaxuan in disappointment. After a slight pause, she said, "We had all thought you had been killed in the volcano, but you were actually still alive and well. If Zilong knows this, he will definitely come looking for a battle from you."

"Hehe, a challenge from him is always welcomed," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Zilong is a direct descendant of an Emperor, and he is even more talented than the Lightning Kid. The only thing the Lightning Kid has over him is age. Otherwise, the Lightning Kid might not necessarily be number one among the younger generation after all," said Li Yaxuan. She continued, "Alright, I'm going to leave now. You two need some alone time together."

After saying that, she tossed Gong Qinyin an odd smile and left. Gong Qinyin blushed when she heard that. Under the sunlight, her blushing face made her look even lovelier than before.

"Stay for a bit more," Gong Qinyin said to Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. His initial intention in coming here was to have a talk with Gong Qinyin. With only the two of them left, he could now say what he was here for.

"At the Flame Mountain, Senior Sister Li was the one who had told me about you falling into the lava. I thought you were...well, it's good to see you alive and well," Gong Qinyin sighed.

Xiang Shaoyun could see that Gong Qinyin had been truly worried for him. Because of that, the slight grievance he had toward her reduced considerably. But he still had to ask, "Did you not go to the volcanic crater afterwards? I recall that someone else was actually in charge of the group you had come with."

Gong Qinyin's expression shifted as she answered guiltily, "He is my cousin. Since his strength is above mine, he was the one in charge of the trip. Sorry, Shaoyun. I shouldn't have kept it from you. But..."

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand before she could finish and said, "You don't have to explain. I understand the situation you were in. I just hope that this does not happen again. Otherwise, it will be hard for us to stay friends."

Xiang Shaoyun spoke his last sentence with a heavy tone before standing up and walking away.

Of course, he still remembered that Gong Qinyin was the reason he even knew about the millennium earthcore fire in the first place. Without her, he wouldn't have managed to obtain the millennium earthcore fire. As for the matter about keeping her cousin's identity secret during their trip, Xiang Shaoyun simply had a feeling he was being used and was feeling resentful about it. He hated the feeling of being lied to, especially when his friends were the ones doing it.

Gong Qinyin blocked Xiang Shaoyun's path and explained herself, her regular loftiness nowhere to be seen, "Sorry, Shaoyun. Back then, I had no status whatsoever in my clan. The old man of my clan was terribly sick at the time as well, and he desperately needed the millennium earthcore fire. Even though we were aware that getting the millennium earthcore fire wouldn't be easy, we were still trying to do our best. That is why they had my cousin come. As for me, my only role was to lead the way. Of course, they did plan to use you as a shield. But...I really had no choice!"

She felt terrible after hearing what Xiang Shaoyun had to say. If she did not do anything and only watched on as he walked away, the chasm between them would only grow.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at her calmly and said, "I understand. Don't worry. I will forget about it. But I hope it never happens again."

Although he knew Gong Qinyin had her own reasons, he still couldn't completely let it slide. If it wasn't for the fact that Gong Qinyin had helped him before, he would have been even more cold-hearted toward her.

A layer of mist covered Gong Qinyin's eyes as she choked with emotions and said, "Shaoyun, I know words are pointless at this point. I will prove myself through my actions. In the future, I will never do it again, even if the alternative is death!"

Gong Qinyin spoke solemnly, and it was almost like she was swearing an oath. After speaking, she stepped aside and let Xiang Shaoyun leave. She was different from Lu Xiaoqing. She had always been a proud and aloof person. Even though she adored Xiang Shaoyun, she wouldn't fully display her affection like Lu Xiaoqing. Instead, she behaved in a resolute manner.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at her, his heart softening as he said, "I hope so."

He then strode away from Gong Qinyin's place.

Staring at Xiang Shaoyun's departing back, Gong Qinyin muttered, "I will never commit the same mistake twice! I will also never change the person I like. I will prove myself with actions!"

Xiang Shaoyun was heading back to Long Hui's estate. His plan was to wait there for the estate Hua Cheng was going to give him. Only after that would he think of what his next step should be.

He had a sensation that a crisis was approaching him. It was not a sense of crisis originating from the Lightning Alliance. Rather, he had a feeling the traitors were silently catching up to him.

The feeling had been growing stronger as days went by. He could only hope that the local tyrants could serve as some sort of deterrence. Otherwise, he alone would find it extremely hard to escape his pursuers.

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At a certain dangerous mountain range within the Soaring Dragon Province, a group of powerful cultivators were traveling rapidly toward the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. Each of them was riding a high-level demonic beast and was dressed in high-level battle armor, looking incomparably mighty and heroic. Any one of them was strong enough to instantly be at the very top of the hierarchy of any city they went to.

"Commander, why are we taking such a large detour? This is a waste of time," asked someone in the group.

The commander replied calmly, "The Soaring Dragon Province is the turf of the Dragon Society, and the Dragon Society has always had an unfriendly relationship with our Ziling Sect. If they find out that so many of us have entered their turf, they won't spare us. This detour is for our own safety."

"What? The Dragon Society is powerful enough that we need to show them fear?" that person said in realization. He paused for a bit before saying resentfully, "If it wasn't for that old bastard leading us on a wild goose chase, we would have caught that trash by now."

"If we still fail to capture that trash this time, we might as well cut our heads off ourselves," said the commander gloomily.

He had been leading the group to capture that person for two whole years with no results to show. If they kept failing, they would definitely suffer a terrible punishment at the hands of their own sect. At the thought of that, he urged everyone to move faster.

Chapter 232: White Tiger Essence

Xiang Shaoyun was back at Long Hui's estate. When he arrived, he saw someone kneeling listlessly in the courtyard. Who else could this person be if not Zhuo Yi? After his arm was snapped off by Xiang Shaoyun, he had come back and complained to his master. He had hoped that his master would punish Xiang Shaoyun. That was when tragedy befell him.

Not only was he given a tongue-lashing, he was even punished and made to kneel in the courtyard. He had to wait until Xiang Shaoyun returned and decided what to do with him.

Zhuo Yi felt terrible being treated like that. Inwardly, he kept complaining, Am I your disciple or is he your disciple?

He even started wondering if Xiang Shaoyun was actually his master's illegitimate child. Reaching that conclusion, he found that what he had tried pulling extremely idiotic. If Xiang Shaoyun knew what Zhuo Yi was thinking, he would most likely praise the fellow for being so imaginative.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw Zhuo Yi, he merely glanced at him indifferently before leaving for his own residence. He couldn't be bothered to waste his time on a nobody like this.

Zhuo Yi was the one to speak, "Hey, Xiang Shaoyun, don't go!"

Xiang Shaoyun then turned and looked at the embarrassed Zhuo Yi and asked, "Yes?"

"C-can you speak to my master for me?" Zhuo Yi asked awkwardly.

"Hehe, I seem to recall that you were the one who had made a move on me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"If you can speak to my master for me, I can help recommend you to be a member of the Lightning Alliance. I can also help end the conflict you had with Wen Jinrui and Wang Jiaohua," said Zhuo Yi.

Amused, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Let's not talk about that for now. I thought Elder Long told you to leave the Lightning Alliance? Why are you not listening to him?"

A resolute look appeared on Zhuo Yi's face as he declared, "I won't leave the Lightning Alliance easily!"

"Why so? Is a mere Lightning Alliance more important than your master's favor?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Hmph. What do you know? Our alliance leader is undefeated, and he is the number one cultivator below the Skysoar Realm. Moreover, he himself will reach the Skysoar Realm before long, making him the first King of his generation. Furthermore, his master is the vice pavilion master, the Lightning King. He's a person in the midst of becoming an Emperor. Following the Lightning Kid, my status in the pavilion will only grow. Back then, even my master praised my choice. If it wasn't for you, this wouldn't have happened!" said Zhuo Yi proudly, not forgetting to push all the blame onto Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun asked, "Number one below the Skysoar Realm? Hehe, I am becoming interested in meeting him."

He then ignored Zhuo Yi and walked away.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you will regret your decision!" Zhuo Yi cried out resentfully.

But right after he said that, Long Hui appeared before him and slapped his face.

"AHHHH!"

The heavy slap caused Zhuo Yi to cry out miserably. A few of his teeth even flew out.

"Piss off immediately! From now onward, you are no longer my disciple!" said Long Hui with a firm tone.

It all completely stunned Zhuo Yi.

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As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was too busy to be bothered about someone like Zhuo Yi. He was planning to enter secluded cultivation for a few days to further improve himself. After that, he would try challenging the limit rooms. It would be even better if he could find a way to cultivate in the Cloud Pavilion for a few days as well. His current focus was to reach the peak of Transformation Realm, and his biggest short term goal was to become a King. After reaching the Skysoar Realm, it would be much easier for him to flee his enemies.

Xiang Shaoyun looked inside his body with his inner gaze focused on his astral cosmos sea. Back then when he was absorbing Yun Flame, he had used some excess flame power to burn the white tiger bone and the top-quality goldsteel stones.

However, that was only enough to smelt the top-quality goldsteel stones, allowing them to blend with the gold lunar liquid that was then absorbed by the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. Much of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber had been repaired as a result, but the white tiger bone was still fine. It had only softened slightly from all the burning.

Therefore, Xiang Shaoyun was going to spend a few days to fully refine the white tiger bone with Yun Flame and repair the Overlord Skyslaying Saber as best as he could. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber was an extraordinary weapon and repairing it would greatly benefit him.

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun started using all of Yun Flame's power to burn the white tiger bone. Yun Flame burned violently, covering the white tiger bone in a fiery blaze. Previously, only a portion of Yun Flame's power was used to burn the bone. It was different this time as the entirety of Yun Flame's power was being utilized.

Even so, the white tiger bone was still not melting. It was insanely tough. But Xiang Shaoyun was patient. He waited silently, faithful that it was only a matter of time before the white tiger bone was fully refined. Yun Flame raged on for three days and three nights. Finally, the white tiger bone showed signs of being refined.

"Roar! Roar!"

Suddenly, a white tiger apparition appeared on the white tiger bone and started roaring. This was the excess white tiger essence that had remained in the white tiger bone. The instant Xiang Shaoyun sensed the white tiger essence, he felt some sort of resonance and intimacy with it. Since he was someone who had refined the white tiger soul, this strand of white tiger essence would definitely not harm him.

Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed when he saw the white tiger essence. When he refined the white tiger soul previously, he had gathered all the white tiger energy in his second star. A part of the white tiger soul power was absorbed by the Nether Soul Domain.

Because of that, the white tiger power within him was slightly lacking. Or perhaps that was simply due to his incompatibility with the white tiger energy. As a result, he hadn't been able to properly make use of the white tiger power. This white tiger essence presented an opportunity to him.

"Come out!" Xiang Shaoyun summoned the strand of white tiger essence.

When the white tiger essence sensed the summons of a power with the same origin, it came out of the astral cosmos sea. Xiang Shaoyun immediately circulated his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual to direct the white tiger essence toward his second star. The white tiger essence did not resist and went along obediently.

The white tiger energy within his second star seemed to have immediately turned alive upon sensing the arrival of the white tiger essence. Roars of tiger started resounding within the second star.

At the same time, Xiang Shaoyun felt some sort of power within his Nether Soul Domain resonating with the white tiger essence. Because of that, even his soul started to grow. He quickly fused the white tiger energy with the white tiger essence before circulating the energy through his body several times, filling his entire body with the power of the white tiger essence, causing his physical body to grow stronger.

Suddenly, the image of some of the white tigers' innate attack techniques appeared in his Nether Soul Domain. They were part of the white tiger inheritance, and Xiang Shaoyun had somehow obtained it.

This was a massive harvest!

Chapter 233: Definitely Comparable to an Emperor-Grade Saber

The white tiger was a species of demonic beast at the very top of the demonic beast pyramid. Their demonic powers were extremely powerful, and the tiny bit of white tiger essence Xiang Shaoyun got was definitely not enough to help him learn the entirety of what the white tigers knew.

In truth, he had already benefited from the white tiger soul he had gotten during the Golden River Valley incident. The white tiger essence had merely awakened something that had been dormant in Xiang Shaoyun, allowing him to obtain a tiny part of the white tiger inheritance.

But just that tiny part was enough to cause Xiang Shaoyun to be wild with joy. What he learned was a technique called Tiger's Roar. Although the technique wasn't as well-known as the Lion's Roar of the demonic lions, that did not mean that it was a weak skill. Rather, those who truly understood the technique would know how terrifying it actually was.

With a roar, the world would tremble in fear! No living beings under heaven would dare to not submit before the roar of a tiger. That was how terrifying the Tiger's Roar could be. In truth, Xiang Shaoyun had already learned the technique when he had obtained the white tiger soul. However, he hadn't been able to unleash much of its prowess.

Now that he had obtained a deeper comprehension of it, it would definitely be alarmingly powerful. Apart from the Tiger's Roar, he had also learned two other techniques—White Tiger Wings and White Tiger Manifestation.

The White Tiger Wings would allow him to grow a pair of wings, which would not only let him fly but would also increase his movement speed. It was a technique that would be a great enhancement for any demonic tiger. But since Xiang Shaoyun was human, would he be able to utilize a demonic technique like this?

The other technique, White Tiger Manifestation, was an offensive demonic technique. It was a technique that let its user utilize white tiger energy to grow their battle intent. It also let them manifest energy tigers to attack their opponent.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun saw these three techniques in his Nether Soul Domain, he had the urge to immediately learn and master all three. However, he was currently busy refining the white tiger bone and could not afford to split his concentration. Thus, he suppressed his urge.

The white tiger bone slowly melted.

Xiang Shaoyun then sent over the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. Roars of dragon and tiger started sounding from the saber, with the tiger roars being much louder as if the tiger had turned alive. The tiger then opened its mouth wide and swallowed the melted white tiger bone.

With that, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber thoroughly consumed the white tiger bone. Instantly, vicious gold energy swirled around the saber, slowly repairing the saber's chips and damages.

The white tiger bone was able to greatly recover the Overlord Skyslaying Saber's lost power. But to fully restore the saber, more top-tier materials would be required. After all, the white tiger bone could only serve as the main material. Supporting materials were still required.

Although the top-quality goldsteel stone was a comparatively valuable material, it still wasn't good enough for the task. But Xiang Shaoyun had no choice and had to make do with what he had.

After the white tiger bone fused with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, the saber's blade became more glossy. Its edge turned even sharper, and with the vicious gold energy combining with the purple lightning energy, the saber's power of dragon and tiger became even more pronounced. Now, anyone would be able to see with a single look that it was no ordinary weapon.

The Overlord Skyslaying Saber had thus recovered about a third of its true power. Just this one third was already far beyond what normal king-grade weapons were capable of. One could say that it was now as powerful as an emperor-grade weapon. If one could further repair the saber, it would most likely turn into a divine saber.

Xiang Shaoyun summoned the Overlord Skyslaying Saber out of his body. Holding it in his hand and sensing the intimacy between him and the saber, he was pleased. "Finally, it has recovered somewhat. I reckon it is much more powerful now."

He wanted to test the saber immediately, but he knew that the current Overlord Skyslaying Saber could easily attract the attention of some experts in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. If that happened, things would get troublesome.

"Looks like before I am strong enough to keep the Overlord Skyslaying Saber for myself, I need to look for a different saber to use," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

He understood clearly that having wealth without the strength to guard it was in itself a sin. In any case, a sort of connection had already formed between him and the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. It wouldn't be a bad idea to keep nurturing it in his astral cosmos sea.

Since he would be temporarily without a weapon, he had to look for a new weapon. Fortunately, Long Hui was a King who would naturally have a lot of treasures in his possession. It wouldn't be too hard to get a weapon or two from him.

Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to go look for Long Hui. Rather, his gaze now landed on the Heavenly Eye Stone. The Heavenly Eye Stone was something he had accidentally obtained at the Redwolf Bandits stronghold. A unique power capable of awakening the Heavenly Eye was most certainly hidden within the stone.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to split it apart to see if it actually had what he wanted. But after some hesitation, he decided to not destroy the Heavenly Eye Stone for now. After all, he already had the Nether Soul Domain, which allowed him to sense things others wouldn't be able to sense in his surroundings. Moreover, the Nether Soul Domain covered 360 degrees around him and wasn't any weaker than the Heavenly Eye.

Because of that, Xiang Shaoyun decided to keep the Heavenly Eye Stone for now. In the future, he could give it to that naughty sister of his.

"I wonder how that annoying little devil is doing now. She is probably much stronger than me already," muttered Xiang Shaoyun with a look of recollection.

His younger sister was the person closest to him apart from his father. But she was much luckier than him, as a supreme expert had accepted her as a personal disciple. Thus, she wasn't staying with her family and would only return and visit occasionally. Although they rarely met, they had a very good relationship.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and tossed these distracting thoughts away and got back to business. He was currently staying in Long Hui's cultivation room. There was a formation here separating him from the outside world. Therefore, he did not need to worry that people would notice what he was doing.

Thus, he decided to test the power of the Tiger's Roar. He first replayed the image in his Nether Soul Domain repeatedly. After activating his white tiger energy, he held his breath and abruptly roared.

"Roar!"

The roar reverberated throughout the room. Any expert would be caught by surprise and suffer from the attack, including King Realm experts.

"This is how a true Tiger's Roar should be," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in satisfaction.

He then roared a few more times for practice and was finally able to fully comprehend the technique's essence. Since it was an inheritable technique that had directly appeared in his head and he already had the power of the white tiger soul in his body, it wasn't hard for him to master it.

But the other two techniques proved more troublesome. He was a human, not a tiger. Thus, he would have to rely on his high comprehension skills to learn them.

"White Tiger Wings is more suitable for the current me. The White Tiger Manifestation can only be cultivated after reaching the Skysoar Realm," judged Xiang Shaoyun after thinking about it for a bit.

He thus started learning the White Tiger Wings. If he could learn the technique, he would be able to fly before even reaching the Skysoar Realm. The mere thought of that filled him with excitement.

Chapter 234: I Can Finally Fly

Xiang Shaoyun had been in seclusion for half a month. Apart from the beginning when he spent a few days refining the white tiger bone, he spent the rest of his time comprehending the White Tiger Wings. As he was not a tiger, it was very hard for him to grasp this technique. Fortunately, he had the white tiger energy within him. Otherwise, he wouldn't even know where to start.

After many days of pondering on it, he finally learned something. It was impossible for him to grow a pair of wings like a white tiger. Since that was the case, he would have to form a pair of energy wings before trying to fly with the technique.

After many attempts, Xiang Shaoyun was finally able to fully push his energy out of his body and gather the white tiger energy on his back. Finally, a pair of energy wings unfurled out of his back. The pair of wings was not exactly solid, but anyone would be able to feel its existence.

"Fly for me!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted and pumped his white tiger energy into the wings. He controlled the wings in accordance with what he had learned from the inheritance memory.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Like a real pair of wings, the energy wings flapped, rippling the air around them. However, Xiang Shaoyun did not fly up as he wished. He still remained rooted to the ground.

What is the problem here? Xiang Shaoyun questioned himself. He had successfully created an imitation. Even so, he still couldn't fly. That was quite depressing.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun sank into contemplation. Again and again, he analyzed the wings he created. Finally, he found out what the issue was. Both humans and winged animals needed to manipulate the force of wind in some shape or form in order to fly.

For example, Kings at the Skysoar Realm were only able to fly because they had reached a cultivation level enabling them to form an energy cyclone around them. Using the cyclone, they could create enough wind force to fly. As for winged beasts, they simply relied on their wings to manipulate the wind force, allowing them to fly.

The wind force he was creating with his wings was not strong enough to prop his body up. Of course, that wasn't because he was too weak. Rather, he was simply flapping the wings wrongly. He had to first sense the flow of air around him and flap his wings in accordance to the flow. Only then would he be able to borrow the force of wind and fly.

Alternatively, he could also form a cyclone with his wings to create an even stronger flow of air that could carry his body. Neither were things that could be easily done.

"I'm currently indoor, so the flow of air is relatively mild. Relying on it to fly is not feasible. I can only create my own air flow with my wings. It is strong enough to lift my body," Xiang Shaoyun quickly decided on the second method.

After repeated attempts, Xiang Shaoyun's pair of wings was finally able to flap at a fixed frequency and create a unique flow of air around him. As the wings flapped, the air around Xiang Shaoyun twisted, slowly carrying his body up.

"Haha, I can finally fly!" Xiang Shaoyun laughed heartily in his excitement.

But the moment he laughed, he crashed into the ceiling.

"Arrrghhh!"

He cried out, lost his balance, and started falling. Fortunately, he had not flown too high up, so he was able to land on his feet. Right after he landed, the wings vanished, and he started gasping for breath, looking extremely exhausted.

The energy exhaustion is insane when flying. Moreover, I'm still not too proficient with it, so I won't be able to freely use this technique, concluded Xiang Shaoyun.

He continued practicing and only stopped after getting better at flying. This cultivation session had been a bountiful one. The thought of a Transformation Realm cultivator being able to fly was truly inconceivable.

Xiang Shaoyun was only able to calm his excitement after a while. Done with learning the White Tiger Wings, he did not continue with the White Tiger Manifestation. That was a technique he wouldn't be able to learn for now.

It was time he left seclusion. It had been a month since he had entered seclusion. He needed to go outside and get some fresh air. His next plan was to temper himself at the limit rooms. His priority was still to grow as quickly as possible.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun left seclusion, Long Hui appeared before him and said respectfully, "Congratulations, young master for finishing your cultivation session."

"Um. You kicked Zhuo Yi out? You really do care about this disciple a lot, huh?" Xiang Shaoyun remarked.

Long Hui quickly replied in panic, "Zhuo Yi deserves the punishment for offending you, young master."

"Don't worry. I don't blame you for that. But if he still refuses to stop despite what you did, don't blame me for showing no mercy," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly. He continued, "Prepare a lightning elemental saber and a pair of gloves for me."

"I don't have any lightning elemental sabers here, so I might need to get it from the Weapons Pavilion," Long Hui replied. He added, "Granny Mei came over earlier. Your estate is now ready. Are you going to move there, young master?"

"Yes, I'll move after I get the weapons," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Long Hui continued, "I still have something to report, young master. One of the four great guardians of the Lightning Alliance, Qiu Chonglei, has issued a bounty on you with 5,000 low-grade spirit crystals as the reward."

"Oh? There are bounties here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"The Cloud Margin Pavilion is like an independent world in itself. Elders like us will not interfere much so that the younger generation can grow through their struggles. This is a place where the survival of the fittest applies. Young master, do you want me to interfere and make them remove the bounty?" asked Long Hui.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled calmly and said, "There is no need for that. Just a few thousand low-grade spirit crystals for my life? How naive. I will personally pay this Qiu Chonglei a visit later. Let's see how capable he is. I am itching for a fight anyway. It has been a while since I last fought someone." He then asked, "How about Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan who I told you to take care of? Are they fine?"

Long Hui replied, "The Zither Empress's disciple, Gong Qinyin, had made a declaration that anyone who touched them would be her enemy. Since the Lightning Alliance people don't really want to overly offend the disciple of an Empress, the two have been left alone."

"Um, that's good to hear. Alright, go prepare my weapons for me," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Long Hui nodded and left. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he washed himself up, feeling refreshed after doing so. While he was enjoying some food he had ordered, Long Hui's eldest disciple, Qin Yu, had suddenly appeared. He was about 40 years old and had a cultivation level of first-stage Skysoar Realm.

When he arrived and saw Xiang Shaoyun enjoying a feast, his face sank as he berated, "Impudent brat! You dare coax my master into kicking out my junior brother?"

Chapter 235: This Kid Is Actually a War King

Qin Yu was a person who kept mostly to himself and focused only on cultivation. He had been trying very hard to reach the second stage of the Skysoar Realm. He had not been paying much attention to Xiang Shaoyun who had just arrived at the estate. But surprisingly, this newcomer only took half a month to get his junior brother kicked out.

He had also heard from the other followers in the estate of how special a treatment his master had accorded this newcomer. When he arrived, he found that the followers were right. This fellow was actually having a feast here, not behaving like how a follower should at all.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and looked at Qin Yu calmly. "Elder Qin, shouldn't you be asking Elder Long about this instead?"

Xiang Shaoyun was no longer the same person. He now had the jade plate given by Hua Cheng. With that plate, he could probably do whatever he wanted in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. He had no need to stay deferential before Qin Yu. In any case, this person was here for Zhuo Yi. There was no need for him to show this person any respect.

"Impudent!" Qin Yu fumed and bellowed before kicking Xiang Shaoyun's dining table.

Crash!

The table flipped, and the food fell everywhere. Xiang Shaoyun was able to avoid all the food, but his mood had been completely ruined.

"You dare glare at me? Impudent! Do you think you don't have to show me respect just because of your relationship with my master? Men, beat him to death!" shouted Qin Yu while glaring at Xiang Shaoyun.

He was a Skysoar Realm King and an elder of Cloud Margin Pavilion. He wouldn't lower himself to personally attack a Transformation Realm kid. At his command, a group of people charged into the room. They were all the followers residing in Long Hui's estate. They were all Transformation Realm cultivators, with two of them having a higher cultivation level than him.

In Long Hui's estate, after Long Hui, the person who enjoyed the most power was naturally Qin Yu. His command was like an imperial edict for them. Without any hesitation, they all rushed Xiang Shaoyun.

"Who do you think you are to dare offend Elder Qin like this?" shouted someone who was eager to prove himself. This was also the first person to attack.

As a response, Xiang Shaoyun merely shut his eyes and kicked. Despite attacking after that man attacked, his kick landed first, sending the man flying.

"Very well. Everyone, go. If he dares resist, kill!" Qin Yu shouted with a frown.

He had never imagined that a follower would dare disobey him like that. This follower was completely disrespecting him. This time, Xiang Shaoyun did not wait for the attacks to arrive. Instead, he attacked. Moving at a rapid speed, his overbearing fist shot out repeatedly.

Bang! Bang!

The room wasn't that big, and the impact of the punches immediately filled the room with a series of explosions. The followers weren't even able to approach Xiang Shaoyun before they were all sent flying, including a peak eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. For Xiang Shaoyun, these people were nothing.

After doing all that, Xiang Shaoyun acted like he had done something completely insignificant. He looked at Qin Yu, who was in shock, and said, "Elder Qin, let's talk outside. If we stay here, I don't think the room will hold."

He then strode past Qin Yu, completely unworried that Qin Yu would suddenly attack. Qin Yu had not seen any of this coming. Xiang Shaoyun actually dared to walk past him like that, displaying complete contempt toward him.

He was about to attack when he suddenly sensed the presence of dragon and tiger emanating from Xiang Shaoyun. Instantly, he felt like a sovereign had descended, giving him an intense sense of pressure. It caused Qin Yu to stand there blankly, not daring to attack as Xiang Shaoyun casually sauntered out of the room. When he finally noticed that he had been frightened into inaction, he felt completely embarrassed.

"Let's see how strong a Transformation Realm kid like you can be," Qin Yu cursed before leaving the room as well.

Outside the room, Xiang Shaoyun did not try to escape. Rather, he stood there in complete calmness waiting for Qin Yu.

It's time to test my current combat prowess, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Ever since he had reached seventh-stage Transformation Realm, he had not gotten into a fight where he had to use his full power. Having a great opponent like Qin Yu was something he himself had been longing for.

"Elder Qin, if you want to make a move against me, you have to do it yourself," said Xiang Shaoyun with complete disdain.

When Qin Yu saw how confident Xiang Shaoyun was, he started hesitating. The person before him clearly knew he was a Skysoar Realm cultivator yet still dared to challenge him. He was either a mentally challenged person or someone who had something he was relying on. Of the two, the latter was more believable.

Does he really think that master will protect him? Qin Yu questioned himself.

"Huh? I thought Elder Qin was very angry just a moment ago. Why are you suddenly scared?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"You sure have a boastful mouth. Fine. I will teach you a lesson on behalf of my master," said Qin Yu.

As a Skysoar Realm expert, why should he be afraid of a Transformation Realm kid? Qin Yu attacked, sending a claw attack flying toward Xiang Shaoyun like a fiery dragon. A King was indeed different from ordinary cultivators. The moment he attacked, an extraordinary might was unleashed. His claw attack was strong enough to rip any Transformation Realm cultivator apart.

Xiang Shaoyun was able to clearly see the entirety of the attack with his pair of keen eyes. He quickly used his footwork and avoided the attack before pushing in toward Qin Yu. Moving like a phantom, Xiang Shaoyun arrived before Qin Yu in the blink of an eye. There, he sent a claw attack toward Qin Yu as well.

First stance of the Seven Scorching Sun Claws, Iron Tearing Stance!

Xiang Shaoyun arrived and attacked quickly, but Qin Yu was nevertheless a Skysoar Realm expert. He was naturally equipped with an incredible reaction time, as he quickly reacted. He countered with yet another claw attack, claspings Xiang Shaoyun's claw attack.

Xiang Shaoyun's other hand did not remain idle as it clawed at Qin Yu repeatedly with strands of flame swirling around it. Qin Yu had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun was actually powerful enough to battle a King. He no longer dared to be careless and gradually unleashed his full power.

Pa! Pa!

The two fought without stop, creating a series of intense explosions in the courtyard. Numerous terrifying claw marks were left in their surroundings. After a while, Xiang Shaoyun's new set of clothes were reduced to shreds. Qin Yu was no better off either, as the defensive barrier formed of his kingly barrier was unable to block Xiang Shaoyun's attack at all.

The longer the fight went on, the more fearful Qin Yu felt. He finally understood why his master favored the kid so much.

So this kid is actually a War King!

The so-called War King was a title given to those possessing combat prowess comparable to a King before reaching the Skysoar Realm. From the combat prowess Xiang Shaoyun was displaying, he had obviously reached that level.

"Even if you are a War King, you still can't step on me! Lose already!" Qin Yu shouted furiously as he clawed madly with both hands.

Flame Dragon Tearing the Clouds!

It was as if a flame dragon had appeared, soaring straight into the sky with sharp, fearsome claws capable of destroying everything in existence.

Chapter 236: Defeating a King

Qin Yu was no longer holding back, completely surrounding himself in a kingly presence. Suppressing an opponent with presence before killing the opponent with attack techniques was a combat tactic only available when one reached the King Realm. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun was unaffected by Qin Yu's kingly suppression. His presence of dragon and tiger surged out, instantly pushing his combat prowess up.

Third stance of Seven Scorching Sun Claws, Silver Tearing Stance!

Two different claw energies clashed repeatedly in the air, threatening to rip everything in their surroundings to shreds. The intense collisions fell all the trees in the courtyard. In the first series of exchanges, a bloody claw wound was left on Xiang Shaoyun's chest, and he was also jolted backward by the kingly presence.

"Kid, do you think just because you are a War King, you are comparable to a true King? You are too naive! Die!" After gaining an advantage over Xiang Shaoyun, Qin Yu roared with laughter as he pressed on, trying to rip his opponent apart with violent claw attacks.

Although Xiang Shaoyun had been injured in the first exchange, it did not mean he would remain in a disadvantaged position all the time. He pushed his eyes to the extreme, stripping Qin Yu's attacks completely naked before him. Then, he utilized his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and moved, leaving a series of afterimages everywhere.

Qin Yu's claw attacks only landed on the afterimages and were unable to harm Xiang Shaoyun. Like the wind, Xiang Shaoyun's body drifted everywhere before he attacked from Qin Yu's flank using the same Silver Tearing Stance. A thin layer of Yun Flame's power was wrapped around the claw, greatly increasing the offensive might of Xiang Shaoyun's attacks.

Qin Yu had not expected Xiang Shaoyun's speed to suddenly rise sharply, but he was confident in the layer of energy around him and was not afraid of Xiang Shaoyun's attacks at all. Unfortunately, he had underestimated Xiang Shaoyun's offensive power. The claw tore through his defense like butter and left a deep claw wound on his shoulder.

Qin Yu hissed in pain and quickly dodged to the side. He wanted to send an instant counterattack, but the wound on his shoulder actually started burning, further worsening his wound.

"Piss off!" Qin Yu howled as his energy rippled out, jolting the flame off his shoulder.

That short distraction was enough for Xiang Shaoyun to launch a fierce offensive. He turned his claw into a fist and sent punches powered by white tiger energy toward his opponent. The golden energy carried with it a dreadful destructiveness that was able to smash Qin Yu's defense apart.

After being hit by two punches in a row, Qin Yu could no longer keep calm. He directly flew up, getting away from Xiang Shaoyun's following attacks. Circulating his energy repeatedly, he pushed the flame and golden energy out of his body. He then fiercely glared down at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Today, I won't stop unless I kill you!"

He then dove down from the air with a fiery sword in his hand. A flaming crane shot out from the tip of the sword and flew straight at Xiang Shaoyun, who greeted the crane with a fully powered punch.

Gold Helix Fist!

The revolving energy was powerful enough to break all defenses, and combined with the prowess of the golden energy, the punch directly smashed the crane apart. That was only the first of Qin Yu's attacks. In the blink of an eye, nearly 100 sword energies shot down from the sky. Numerous flaming cranes surrounded Xiang Shaoyun, trying to tear him apart.

One ought to admit that the height advantage gave Qin Yu a great superiority in the fight, forcing Xiang Shaoyun into a defensive position. Defeat was only a matter of time if one stayed on the defensive. A few more new wounds had already appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's body. He was already doing very well just staying alive.

"Hahaha, I will slice your flesh off one piece at a time, making you die in pain!" said Qin Yu with a cocky smile. Xiang Shaoyun did not reply. He started running around the courtyard, avoiding Qin Yu's attacks. By this point, the courtyard had been completely ravaged by Qin Yu's flame attacks.

Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun leaped on the roof before he propelled himself toward Qin Yu. At the same instant, he unleashed all his power. Even the innate purple lightning in his lightning bone was ready to attack. He seemed to have turned into a lightning bolt that shot toward Qin Yu at an extremely fast speed.

Qin Yu had not expected such a sudden change and couldn't fly higher in time. The only thing he could do was meet the incoming attack with a slash of his sword.

Raging Crane Forest!

It was an attack Qin Yu had unleashed with all his power. The wrath of a King should never be underestimated. Even a mountain could be flattened if one wanted. Right this moment, the energy around Xiang Shaoyun changed. It was as if a pair of wings had grown out of his back, instantly changing his trajectory midair.

It completely caught Qin Yu by surprise. His attack completely missed. On top of that, he was once again flanked by Xiang Shaoyun.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Both of Xiang Shaoyun's fists shot out. Powered by his innate purple lightning, his fists turned into lightning bolts that shot toward his opponent. He attacked with full power, releasing an offensive power comparable to second-stage Skysoar Realm experts.

Rumble!

The unprepared Qin Yu was struck. His defense instantly crumbled, and he started dropping from the sky. Xiang Shaoyun continued attacking, blasting his opponent repeatedly with his fists. As for Qin Yu, he was reduced into a punching bag that could only take the attacks helplessly.

Lightning energy was the most offensive power in the world, and not even a Skysoar Realm expert like Qin Yu could last long under its attack. Fortunately for Qin Yu, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to kill him. Qin Yu was only badly beaten up, and after Xiang Shaoyun was done venting his anger, he stopped.

By the time the beating ended, Qin Yu's entire body was scorched black. His aura was extremely chaotic, and his body was badly ridden with wounds. He had to struggle just to stand back up.

"Y-you..." Qin Yu's eyes were opened wide as he tried to speak. But he kept coughing up blood, so he couldn't even form complete sentences.

"I will spare your life out of respect for Elder Long. If you dare provoke this young master in the future, you won't be let off so easily," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

Qin Yu did not know what to say at that. Thus, he directly gave up and fainted. It was simply too embarrassing to be defeated by a Transformation Realm kid. At a different corner of the courtyard, the followers and servants had witnessed the entirety of the battle. All of them were extremely shocked.

It was only now that they realized this young man was actually a War King. When they looked at Xiang Shaoyun again, they looked at him with revering eyes. Xiang Shaoyun glanced at them and said nonchalantly, "Carry Elder Qin away and begin treating him. Also, clean up the mess in the courtyard. Otherwise, you will be the ones to suffer when Elder Long returns."

The trembling followers quickly did as told.

Chapter 237: I Am Xiang Shaoyun

There were some other elder estates neighboring Long Hui's estate. The large battle between Qin Yu and Xiang Shaoyun had naturally attracted the attention of some elders. But of course, they did not actually approach the estate to see what was going on. Approaching was a taboo among the elders, but it did not prevent them from clearly seeing everything that had happened.

"Who's the one fighting Qin Yu? He was actually able to defeat Qin Yu?"

"That kid is still so young, and he's not even at the Skysoar Realm yet! He's already able to defeat Qin Yu? Is he a War King?"

"Looks like we need to ask Long Hui about this. Perhaps yet another freak is going to appear in the pavilion."

...

Xiang Shaoyun had naturally noticed the prying eyes as well, but he did not care. Why? Because he was soon going to be a famous person in the Cloud Margin Pavilion anyway. Him defeating Qin Yu wouldn't even be the reason for that.

Rather, it would be due to the favor the Zither Empress was suddenly showing him. People would most likely be trying to figure out what was going on when they noticed that. At that time, he wouldn't be able to stay low profile even if he wanted.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to his own room and started replaying his battle with Qin Yu with his Nether Soul Domain. He entered a meditative trance, and it was as if he was experiencing the battle all over again.

He was able to see his weaknesses clearly, and he was also able to see the holes in Qin Yu's defenses. One could say that he had gained even more from that one battle through meditation.

Long Hui had also returned. He arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and knelt down on one knee as he apologized, "Sorry, young master for disturbing your peace again."

This time, he had zero hesitation when kneeling. It was obvious he was starting to gain actual respect for Xiang Shaoyun as well. It was not a respect he had obtained purely because of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband. Rather, it was due to Xiang Shaoyun's feat of defeating his eldest disciple, Qin Yu.

That feat was a proof of how mighty Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess was. Although Xiang Shaoyun still wasn't comparable to a late-stage King Realm expert, he was still so young. He simply had boundless prospects.

On top of that, Xiang Shaoyun was also receiving the care of Granny Mei. Everyone knew Granny Mei was a follower of the Zither Empress. Did that not mean that Xiang Shaoyun had managed to establish some sort of connection with the Zither Empress? All these factors combined caused Long Hui to start sincerely wanting to submit to Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "That is not your fault." He continued, "So are my weapons ready?"

Long Hui handed over the weapons respectfully and said, "Please take a look, young master."

Xiang Shaoyun took a step forward and accepted the saber and the pair of gloves from Long Hui.

He gently stroked the remarkable-looking purple saber. He could sense that the saber definitely had an excellent quality.

He looked at the "Purple Lightning Saber" carved on the blade and praised, "Although the shape of the saber looks rather bland, it is at least a tier-5 king-grade weapon. You have been thoughtful when selecting this weapon."

"It is only natural that I be thoughtful when serving the young master," said Long Hui.

Xiang Shaoyun then looked at the pair of gloves. The gloves had a lower quality in comparison, but they held the advantage of flexibility, as they could be used with all elements. They were one of those weapons that would not be restricted by any particular element.

Xiang Shaoyun was very satisfied with the two weapons. He hung the saber on his back and put the gloves on. After dealing with the injuries he had sustained during the battle, he walked out of Long Hui's estate.

"Long Hui, in the future, stay by my side. I doubt anyone will dare say anything now," said Xiang Shaoyun when he reached the gate of the estate. As he said that, he showed Long Hui the jade plate he got from the Zither Empress.

Long Hui was naturally able to recognize that it was an exclusive jade plate of the Zither Empress. He immediately knelt down and said, "Yes, young master! Long Hui hereby pledges his life to the young master!"

If Xiang Shaoyun wanted to live in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, it would be inconvenient to not have anyone he could use. Long Hui would be the perfect person for the task. In the past, he did not want to expose the fact that he had Long Hui under his control. Now that he had a jade plate given by the Zither Empress, he could openly order Long Hui around.

"Alright, just go to my estate and get everything in order. Just let the people there know that you're there on my order," said Xiang Shaoyun before heading off.

Not long after Xiang Shaoyun left, a burly young man carrying a massive axe appeared before him. The young man looked to be around 25 years old and was a peak seventh-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. It wasn't a particularly outstanding feat, but it was enough to qualify this man as an inner disciple.

"So you are Xiang Shaoyun?" asked the young man with an axe.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Yes, I am Xiang Shaoyun."

"Good. Surrender immediately and spare yourself the pain," said the young man with a toying look on his face.

"Hehe, is that so?" Xiang Shaoyun smiled faintly, not even bothering to stop walking.

"What a stupidly stubborn person," said the young man with a fierce gleam in his eyes. He then swung his axe at Xiang Shaoyun.

It was a rather impressive swing. Too bad it was nothing for Xiang Shaoyun. He met the axe with his fist, sending a golden spiraling fist energy toward the axe.

Bang!

The axe was directly sent flying from the young man's hand. As for the young man, the intense impact also caused blood to spray out of his torn hand. Just one exchange was enough to cause the young man to lose his weapon and suffer an injury. He was greatly shaken by the result, and he resentfully decided to leave. But how could Xiang Shaoyun allow that?

Xiang Shaoyun approached him, grabbed him by the neck, and lifted him.

"Wuu...wuuu..." The young man's face instantly flushed red. A terrifying presence was suppressing him so much he was completely powerless. Fear covered his eyes as he was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would kill him off just like that.

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't brash enough to kill so easily. He controlled his strength carefully and said, "At times, spirit crystals won't be something you can easily earn. Are you not aware of that?"

He then tossed the young man away before sauntering off without even sparing him another glance. Xiang Shaoyun was not heading toward the estate the Zither Empress had given him. Rather, he was heading toward Qiu Chonglei's estate. Qiu Chonglei was the one who had issued the bounty on him, and he was also one of the four great guardians of the Lightning Alliance.

Xiang Shaoyun was planning to strike back against the Lightning Alliance in the most direct manner. And the way to do that was to show Qiu Chonglei his strength. At this point, he no longer intended to keep a low profile. Otherwise, trouble would only keep coming for him. It was best to solve everything at once.

Before long, Xiang Shaoyun could sense a large number of people around him. Some of them were there for him, and others were spies sent by the numerous factions within the pavilion.

"Xiang Shaoyun, man with a bounty, die!" a shout suddenly rang out in the air. Next, two young men mounted on demonic lions rushed toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 238: I Want to Go With You

The two attackers were known as the Twin Stars. They were twins and had a similar cultivation level with the young man Xiang Shaoyun had just defeated. But when they joined hands, they were able to defeat even eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators.

They were each mounted on a Great Demon gold lion, both arriving in a ferocious fashion. Their plan was to capture Xiang Shaoyun and claim the bounty reward of 5,000 spirit crystals. The Twin Stars were acting quite overbearingly, as they did not even bother saying anything. They rushed at him and attacked straight away with their massive sabers.

Two saber energies flew out and transformed into two roaring lions that charged Xiang Shaoyun. From this attack alone, Xiang Shaoyun could see that the two were above the previous young man in terms of combat prowess.

Little did they know that Xiang Shaoyun had been able to battle eighth or even ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators since he was only a second-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. Now that he had defeated even a Skysoar Realm expert, would he fear them?

"Come on, then. Let me teach the Lightning Alliance a good lesson today. You will come to learn that some people you just can't offend," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself. He then formed a claw with each of his hands, directly tearing at the two lions.

The Twin Stars attacked him from two different directions, completely surrounding Xiang Shaoyun's path of escape, not giving him any chance to avoid their attacks. One had to admit that the Twin Stars were really quite capable. It was no wonder that many people with higher cultivation levels were afraid of them.

Unfortunately, they had selected the wrong opponent today. Their attempt to surround Xiang Shaoyun was nothing to him. He was able to easily tear a gap open with his claws, which continued on to leave dreadful claw wounds on the two lions.

"Roar! Roar!"

The two lions wailed in pain and started struggling, nearly throwing their riders off. Xiang Shaoyun seized the opening and jabbed at the two with his finger.

"Ahhhh!"

The two were unable to avoid Xiang Shaoyun's finger energy. A bloody hole was left in each of them, leaving them wailing in pain. Xiang Shaoyun then strode off, not bothering to look at them again. A calm smile was on his face, as if nothing had happened at all. That left an enigmatic impression in the hearts of all the observers.

"How powerful. He was able to defeat the Twin Stars with only two moves. No wonder Guardian Qiu has to issue a bounty for him. But the bounty reward is way too low for an opponent like this."

"Who would have guessed that an outsider would be so strong? Both Big Axe and Twin Stars were defeated successively. It is obvious this person's combat prowess is above the eighth-stage Transformation Realm. Ordinary cultivators would not dare to try anything against him."

"Is he heading toward Guardian Qiu's estate? He is a tad bit too brave, isn't he? Guardian Qiu is not someone ordinary cultivators can compare to."

"Let's go. A good show is going to unfold. It has been a while since someone dared challenge the Lightning Alliance."

...

Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush. In fact, he was intentionally slowing down. He looked more like someone taking in the scenery on a casual stroll than someone heading toward his enemy. In truth, he was only waiting for more opponents to arrive so he could properly establish his dominance.

Sure enough, some people could not stand how he was behaving. Thus, new challengers arrived. This time, five Transformation Realm experts had arrived at the same time. One of them was an eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator while the other four were also Transformation Realm experts of different levels. All of them were experts from the Lightning Alliance.

They were not here for the little amount of spirit crystals offered on the bounty. Rather, they were here to battle for the glory of the Lightning Alliance. Unfortunately for them, they were still too weak for Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't even trying as he defeated them easily. Finally, the crowd realized how powerful Xiang Shaoyun was. Some of the people that were stirring no longer dared to do anything.

At this time, Gong Qinyin appeared riding on a snow lion with a zither hung on her back. She said, "I want to go with you!"

She spoke with an incomparable resoluteness in her eyes, as if she was not going to take no for an answer. The people around them were all stupefied.

"Isn't that Junior Sister Gong Qinyin? She's here to attack him as well?"

"Are you dumb? See the look in her eyes? She's obviously here for him. Oh god, I can feel my heart shattering."

"But Junior Sister Gong is Lord Zither Empress's personal disciple. How does this kid know her? What kind of bullshit luck does he have?"

"Maybe this kid has a shocking identity as well? If that is the case, the Lightning Alliance is going to suffer this time."

"Hmph. With the alliance leader around, nobody can challenge the glory of our Lightning Alliance!"

...

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at the beauty before him and nodded when he saw the resolute and aloof look in her eyes. "Come along then."

He then continued on. As for Gong Qinyin, she smiled before getting off the snow lion, and she obediently followed. In the eyes of others, she was following his lead, which shocked the crowd even more.

Meanwhile, in Qiu Chonglei's estate, a lot of Lightning Alliance members were gathered. Suddenly, a young man arrived on a demonic eagle. The demonic eagle landed before Qiu Chonglei. Then, the young man hopped down in a flustered manner before saying, "Reporting to Guardian Qiu. Xiang Shaoyun has defeated the Big Axe, Twin Stars, and a few others. He is currently heading here."

"Haha, what a ballsy kid. He dares to come on his own accord?" Qiu Chonglei roared in laughter.

"Guardian Qiu, permission for me to go harvest his head for you!" said someone.

"It's fine. Since he wants to come, we will let him come. I do want to see if he can actually reach my estate," said Guardian Qiu with a sneer on his face. He then shouted, "By my order, the bounty for Xiang Shaoyun is hereby increased to 10,000 low-grade spirit crystals!"

For any Transformation Realm cultivator, 10,000 low-grade spirit crystals was a sum large enough for them to risk their lives.

"Yes, Guardian Qiu!" someone answered.

A certain young man in the estate suddenly stood up and said, "Qiu Chonglei, keep the 10,000 low-grade spirit crystals for me. This young master shall capture him for you."

Next, a young man could be seen rushing out of the estate on a flame wolf. Very few people dared to address Qiu Chonglei by his name directly. The young man who had just charged out happened to be one of them.

"Hehe, that kid actually got his interest piqued? Looks like I won't have a chance to fight that Xiang Shaoyun myself anymore," said Qiu Chonglei with a faint smile.

Chapter 239: How Boring

Xiang Shaoyun and Gong Qinyin looked like a perfect immortal couple out on a casual stroll. They were completely calm and content, and one would not imagine when looking at them that the two were currently a target of a massive amount of aggression.

The crowd following them was still growing, and they were all inner disciples and overseers of the pavilion, each of them a Transformation Realm cultivator. They were all curious to see how strong this young man who had appeared out of nowhere with such great fanfare was. After all, this was a person who had the audacity to challenge the Lightning Alliance.

"I have been here for a month, but I have yet to properly take in the scenery. Now that I'm getting a good look at the place, it isn't really a paradise. However, it is still a decent place with its verdant hills and limpid water," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Gong Qinyin said, "In Cloud Margin City, this is already the best cultivation place countless people dream of entering."

A trace of pride was apparent in her voice. It was clear she was very satisfied with her current situation. Xiang Shaoyun did not comment. He merely smiled before shifting the topic, "You don't really need to get involved in this. If you end up scaring my opponent away, where am I supposed to find an opponent?"

Gong Qinyin's identity was known by everyone in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. Nobody would willingly become her enemy. Gong Qinyin looked at Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment and asked, "You are heading toward Qiu Chonglei with such fanfare just for the sake of looking for an opponent?"

"Why else?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I thought..." An unnatural look flashed past Gong Qinyin's face as she did not know what to say.

"You think I am doing this because I can't hold in my temper anymore, right?" Xiang Shaoyun completed her words for her.

Gong Qinyin apologized, "Sorry, I was trying to help but have ended up messing with your plan."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "It's fine. I'm just kidding. You don't have to be so serious. In any case, these are just tiny fish that will be boring to fight anyway."

Although Xiang Shaoyun wasn't speaking very loudly, the people behind him were all experts with great hearing. They had naturally heard him.

Tiny fish!

That was a very infuriating term for all of them to hear, regardless of whether they were here just to enjoy a show or to claim the bounty on Xiang Shaoyun's head. After all, the people Xiang Shaoyun had defeated were all considered top experts within the Transformation Realm. If even those people were tiny fish, what were they then?

It was simply an insult.

One of them was so angry he stepped out and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, you are too arrogant! Let me teach you a lesson!"

This person was no weakling. But still, he wasn't Xiang Shaoyun's match and was instantly defeated. With his defeat, the others could only swallow their anger. At this time, a fiery figure suddenly appeared from far away, streaking toward Xiang Shaoyun at rapid speed.

Someone with sharp eyes among the crowd quickly cried out in alarm, "It's Xie Sanqian from the Lightning Alliance! Is he here to challenge Xiang Shaoyun?"

"It has been a while since Xie Sanqian has shown himself. Since he gave up on the millennium earthcore fire a year ago, he has been missing."

"I heard he left to hunt for other flames. I wonder if he managed to find one?"

"Xie Sanqian has a valiant combat prowess. After a year, his cultivation level has probably grown as well. Looks like there will be a big battle between him and this kid."

...

Xiang Shaoyun had noticed Xie Sanqian as well. An odd smile formed on his face. Xie Sanqian arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and Gong Qinyin on his flame wolf. He was handsome and heroic; his valiant presence made it clear he was a rare genius in cultivation.

"Can I help you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked with a faint smile. His tone was completely calm and filled with grace, as if he had no idea that Xie Sanqian had come for his head.

Even the crowd sighed when they saw this, "What a calm response."

"Submit to spare yourself some suffering," said Xie Sanqian while looking down at Xiang Shaoyun from his mount.

"I can't remember how many times I have heard those exact same words today. You guys are so boring," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

Xie Sanqian snorted coldly and said, "Since you don't know what's good for you, I'll just have to cripple you!"

He immediately charged forth on his mount as the spear on his back flew out and transformed into a flaming wolf that pounced on Xiang Shaoyun. One ought to admit that Xie Sanqian had grown a lot in one year. His cultivation level had increased from the fifth stage to the seventh stage.

As for his attack, it was powerful enough to pose a threat to even eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators. It was understandable, though. He had always been a young genius capable of punching above his weight.

When Gong Qinyin sensed the dreadful pressure from the attack, an anxious look crept on her face. Although she was a disciple of the Zither Empress, her speed of growth was still incomparable to the likes of Xiang Shaoyun and Xie Sanqian. She was currently only a third-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. Thus, she naturally couldn't resist the pressure Xie Sanqian was releasing.

But Xiang Shaoyun stood tall before her like an unyielding mountain, facing the mighty attack head-on. He responded with a heavy punch.

Bang!

The two attacks collided, creating a massive shockwave that spread outward through the area. Xie Sanqian never expected to defeat his opponent with just one attack. After the first collision, his follow-up attacks arrived like a storm.

Wolf Devouring Kill!

Strands of light-blue flame appeared and pounced on Xiang Shaoyun like a pack of wolves. Xie Sanqian had been fighting with his full power the moment he arrived, revealing his combat prowess that was capable of threatening ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators.

Even more stunning was his light-blue flame. It emanated an intense sense of danger, as if it was a fire that could never be extinguished once it caught someone on fire. This was a type of high-level beast flame that was much scarier than ordinary flames. However, it was completely incomparable to Yun Flame.

Xiang Shaoyun lightly said to Gong Qinyin, "Step back for now. I don't want to hurt you by accident."

After saying that, he dashed forward to face the incoming attack. He shifted his fist into a claw and raked the strands of flame.

His flame was far more powerful than Xie Sanqian's attack. Moreover, he was completely immune to Xie Sanqian's beast flame. With absolute brute force, he tore open a path to Xie Sanqian before clawing at Xie Sanqian's mount.

Xie Sanqian had completely not expected his opponent to be so strong. He was forced to jump off his mount before unleashing an attack while midair.

"Die! Berserk Wolf Kill!" He unleashed all his power while his light-blue flame turned into azure flame, and he sent a rain of spear energies of dreadful prowess toward Xiang Shaoyun. It was an attack even ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators had to face seriously.

Everyone stared unblinkingly at the fight, wondering if Xiang Shaoyun would be able to survive this attack as well.

Chapter 240: Defeating Xie Sanqian Again

Xie Sanqian's energy surged out, creating a dreadful destruction around him. Facing the attack, Xiang Shaoyun drew the Purple Lightning Saber from his back and slashed at the incoming attack. He did not even need to use his saber intent. Only a simple Berserk Lightning Blade was enough to overwhelmingly crush Xie Sanqian's attack.

Rumble! Rumble!

A series of explosions erupted, and the area around them shook. When the explosions settled, a figure could be seen flying away with blood spraying. Everyone opened their eyes wide and stared at the person sent flying with disbelief. Why the disbelief? Because the person sent flying was Xie Sanqian and not Xiang Shaoyun.

"H-how is that possible? Not even Xie Sanqian is his match? How strong is he exactly?"

"Cultivation level wise, he is definitely a seventh-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. But the energy he releases is so thick it is probably comparable to the energy released by even ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators!"

"This is a genius capable of punching above his weight! Even Xie Sanqian is not his match! No wonder he has the guts to offend the Lightning Alliance."

"I heard the Red House had invited him to join as well, but he rejected them. I wonder what his background is."

"I think he probably came from some hidden organization. Or maybe he's a genius from some other city. Otherwise, how is it possible that he has been unnoticed until recently?"

...

Gong Qinyin's eyes were twinkling with an indescribable emotion as she looked at the tall and straight figure before her.

He is really getting stronger and stronger. I need to work hard as well! Gong Qinyin vowed to herself.

"Just this much strength is not enough," said Xiang Shaoyun while wagging his finger at Xie Sanqian, who was clasping his wound.

Xie Sanqian had impressive combat prowess, but the gap between him and Xiang Shaoyun was too big. He would need to be a King Realm cultivator to be able to put up a fight against Xiang Shaoyun.

Xie Sanqian glared at Xiang Shaoyun with fury, blood gushing from the wound on his shoulder without stop. He had suffered a one-sided defeat in the hands of his opponent. More importantly, his opponent seemed to be about a year or two younger than him. With so many of his fellow apprentices bearing witness to his defeat, he felt terrible.

"Not enough? NOT ENOUGH? Let me show you if I'm enough!" Xie Sanqian roared and erupted in power again, completely ignoring his wound.

"Young master, you can't!" Right that moment, an old figure appeared in front Xie Sanqian and stopped him.

This old man was a Skysoar Realm cultivator, one of Xie Sanqian's guards. He knew that Xie Sanqian was trying to increase his combat prowess with a forbidden technique, but doing so had a great price attached to it.

"Stay out of this. If I don't teach him a lesson today, how can I still stand tall in the future?" said Xie Sanqian with a vicious expression on his face.

His strength kept growing, pushing him from the seventh-stage to the ninth-stage. The guard's face fell when he saw. He knew that he wouldn't be able to stop Xie Sanqian. Thus, he could only turn around and warn Xiang Shaoyun with his eyes. It would seem like he had placed all the blame on Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the warning and looked at Xie Sanqian with a calm look. Inwardly, he thought to himself, This kid is most likely paying a great price to activate this forbidden technique. But it's pointless.

"Xiang Shaoyun, die!" Xie Sanqian shouted when he was finally done gathering his strength. Wielding his spear with both hands, he swept it toward Xiang Shaoyun. The spear swept forth like it was a massive pillar with an incredibly destructive might.

With Xie Sanqian's current strength of ninth-stage Transformation Realm, he possessed the strength at the peak of the Transformation Realm and was only a step away from reaching the level of a War King. Nevertheless, the gap of one step was still a gap. How could he be a match of a legitimate War King like Xiang Shaoyun?

Facing the new attack, Xiang Shaoyun still did not bother dodging. He raised his saber and met the incoming attack with a slash. The slash contained the power of innate purple lightning, pushing the might of Xiang Shaoyun's saber energy to an even more terrifying level.

The saber and spear clashed, destroying all the trees and plants around them. Even the people were forced to pull farther away from the battlefield. Nobody wanted to be accidentally harmed by the clash's shockwave.

Xiang Shaoyun actually did not defeat Xie Sanqian instantly this time. Rather, they seemed to be evenly matched. With Xiang Shaoyun's strength, he was definitely not weaker than Xie Sanqian. He was intentionally holding back for a reason.

He was afraid that if he defeated Xie Sanqian too easily, the potential opponents that he might get to face later would all hide in fear. If others knew what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking, they would most likely feel pity for that Guardian Qiu.

Xiang Shaoyun and Xie Sanqian exchanged a few dozen moves; the intensity of their battle was immensely satisfying to watch for the crowd around them. Since Xie Sanqian had increased his combat prowess with a forbidden technique, he was now able to utilize king-grade techniques. Each attack he unleashed was incredibly stunning. Every now and then, he would conjure the apparitions of wolves when attacking, shocking everyone witnessing the fight. From the combat prowess he was displaying, his reputation as a young genius was not in vain.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun was still able to meet all of Xie Sanqian's attacks head on with his Purple Lightning Saber. He looked incredibly graceful and elegant as he drifted about the battlefield, his purple lightning attacks similarly possessing a shocking might that could not be underestimated. In fact, regular ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators were completely not a match for him when one considered the might he was displaying.

"They are really strong. I won't be able to take even one of their attacks."

"You think too much. Anyone who is not a peak Transformation Realm cultivator will stand no chance against them. It is really surprising how terrifying that Xiang Shaoyun kid is. Xie Sanqian still can't defeat him even after using a forbidden technique."

"From the look of things, Xie Sanqian will most likely be the one to lose. After all, he was the one who had used a forbidden technique, not his opponent. It is obvious who is the stronger one here."

"This Xiang Shaoyun uses the power of lightning, similar to the Lightning Kid. What will happen when the two meet?"

...

They kept on fighting for a while, and Xiang Shaoyun intentionally restrained even more of his strength, letting Xie Sanqian deal him some superficial wounds, making it look like he was the one at the disadvantage.

As for Xie Sanqian, the longer they fought, the more excited he became. He could already see Xiang Shaoyun being skewered by his spear. But right as victory seemed so near, he reached the time limit of his forbidden technique. Just as he was about to give Xiang Shaoyun a fatal attack, his entire body was suddenly emptied of all energy. He collapsed on the ground and started twitching.

"Ahhhh!"

The veins on Xie Sanqian's arms became visible, as if they would burst at any moment. He was in so much pain he started wailing. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun pushed on, looking like he was going to beat up Xie Sanqian.

Xie Sanqian's guard appeared before Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Our young master has conceded defeat. This ends here."

"Hmph. It ends just because you say so? According to the rules of the pavilion, the struggle between us of the younger generation has nothing to do with old fellows like you," said Xiang Shaoyun overbearingly.