

Overlord 241

Chapter 241: Just a Bunch of Useless People With Empty Reputations

The older generation would not involve themselves in the conflicts of the younger generation. This was an unwritten rule in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. Otherwise, if the younger generation all threw the weight of their seniors around to affect how things worked for them, how would the pavilion hope to continue unearthing new talents?

That was why Xiang Shaoyun was so confidently speaking up against Xie Sanqian's guard. The guard clearly knew that unwritten rule as well.

An unhappy look surfaced on the guard's face as the guard said, "Kid, know when to stop. Otherwise, you will only suffer losses in the future."

That was a clear threat.

Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter as he said, "Hahaha, are you threatening me? Do you think you are above the rules? Are you trying to suppress me with your seniority? Are the elders of the pavilion nothing in your eyes?"

Faced with Xiang Shaoyun's series of questions, the guard's expression kept shifting. If those high-level elders heard those words, they would most likely assume that the guard was trying to challenge their authority.

Forced to take a milder approach, the guard asked, "What will it take for you to let go of my young master?"

"See? Things would have been much easier if you had asked this question from the get-go," Xiang Shaoyun replied, smiling. He continued, "Well, that depends on how much your young master is worth to you."

The guard frowned. "I will get someone to deliver you 10,000 spirit crystals later."

He was about to leave with Xie Sanqian when he heard what Xiang Shaoyun had to say next.

"Your young master is only worth that much? If news of this spread, he would lose all his face."

"Hmph. I'm referring to mid-grade spirit crystals," said the guard with a cold snort before lifting Xie Sanqian and leaving without looking back.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before bursting out in laughter, "Hahaha, thank you very much. Oh, be sure to ask around about where I'm currently staying. Don't get the delivery address wrong."

He had assumed that the 10,000 spirit crystals would be low grade, but surprisingly, that old man was actually offering mid-grade spirit crystals. That was a price enough to put a hit on even a Skysoar Realm expert.

But that also served as proof of Xie Sanqian's remarkable background. He was definitely more than just a personal disciple of some elder. Despite the realization, Xiang Shaoyun still felt no pressure whatsoever. In any case, with Hua Cheng having his back now, ordinary people wouldn't dare to do anything to him anyway.

By the time Xiang Shaoyun waved at Gong Qinyin, who was blanking out, and reminded her it was time to keep moving, the crowd finally recovered from their shock. A great commotion erupted among them.

"Xie Sanqian was defeated. That Xiang Shaoyun is really strong."

"Looks like Guardian Qiu is faced with a thorny problem this time. I wonder if he will fight personally or avoid this opponent."

"Don't worry. Xiang Shaoyun might be strong, but we have a lot of talents in the Lightning Alliance. If he dares enter Guardian Qiu's estate, he won't be able to leave safely."

"Come on, let's go already. Xiang Shaoyun is increasing his speed."

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Xiang Shaoyun knew that he had already done enough to establish his dominance. There wouldn't be many random people coming to challenge him anymore. Since that was the case, there was no point in continuing to walk slowly and dragging it out.

Soon, he arrived at Qiu Chonglei's estate alongside Gong Qinyin. The estate was already filled by a large number of people with solemn expressions. It was obvious these people were the Lightning Alliance members that were also inner disciples. Each of them was at least a Transformation Realm expert.

They had received news that Xiang Shaoyun was coming here long ago. All of them were currently glaring at him fiercely. Wen Jinrui and Wen Jinruo were among them. Even Wang Jiaohua was there. But traces of fear could be seen in the eyes of these three in particular.

Even if the Lightning Alliance managed to eventually take Xiang Shaoyun down, the three would have to pay a great price to compensate the alliance for what they did for them. Wen Jinrui would never believe that a regular king-grade weapon would be able to satisfy Qiu Chonglei. After the entire thing ended, he would most likely have to offer Qiu Chonglei even more benefits.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at the group before him and smiled. "Where is your Guardian Qiu? I thought he had a bounty on me? I'm here. Is he not coming out to meet me? Is this how the Lightning Alliance greets a guest?"

"Hehe, if you are willing to join the Lightning Alliance, you will be a friend of ours. And naturally, you will be receiving an entirely different treatment then," said Qiu Chonglei with a smile as he walked out the estate with a small group walking alongside him.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow as he studied the young man before him who was about 20 years old. He clasped his fists and asked, "You're Qiu Chonglei? You don't look that much, to be honest."

One ought to admit that Xiang Shaoyun was pretty good at provoking others' anger. Just a few words from him were enough to put a gloomy expression on Qiu Chonglei's face.

As one of the four great guardians of the Lightning Alliance, Qiu Chonglei was a person who spoke with his strength instead of his looks. As a matter of fact, he really wasn't a person with good looks. When standing near Xiang Shaoyun, the contrast between the two was extremely pronounced. Being a person who cared a lot about his reputation, Qiu Chonglei naturally couldn't swallow what Xiang Shaoyun said about him in front of so many people.

"Impudent. Since you are the one who had harmed someone from the Lightning Alliance first, I shall cripple you today. Men, go!" Qiu Chonglei ordered the people around him.

Just as the people were about to charge Xiang Shaoyun, Gong Qinyin suddenly spoke, "Who dares?"

Gong Qinyin knew Xiang Shaoyun was strong, but she was still afraid that there were too many enemies for Xiang Shaoyun to handle. In terms of strength alone, Gong Qinyin was nothing special in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. But her shout was still able to cause all of them to hesitate. There was nothing they could do. She was the personal disciple of the Zither Empress.

"Junior Sister Gong, this has nothing to do with you. You better leave immediately," said Qiu Chonglei with a frown.

Gong Qinyin raised her head and asked, "What if I say no?"

"Then you can't blame me if I don't hold back against you. I doubt the Zither Empress would interfere too much with this anyway," said Qiu Chonglei coldly.

"You—" Gong Qinyin wanted to continue speaking but was interrupted by Xiang Shaoyun.

He said, "This is a business between men. You don't have to get involved."

Gong Qinyin said anxiously, "But there are so many of them..."

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said candidly, "Just a bunch of useless people with empty reputations."

"He is completely looking down on us! Let me, Sun Qiang, show you what we are made of!" said a young man with his golden sword raised.

After he said that, a golden beam shot forth toward Xiang Shaoyun. Sun Qiang's attack was merely the start. The others attacked as well, and everyone started ganging up on Xiang Shaoyun.

They were aware of what Xiang Shaoyun had done earlier. Thus, none of them held back when they attacked. They were of the opinion that Xiang Shaoyun was most certainly exhausted after several battles. Now would be their best chance to take him. Unfortunately, they had still underestimated Xiang Shaoyun. That mistake was one they would suffer gravely for.

Chapter 242: Courting Death

Even when under attack by so many people, Xiang Shaoyun was able to navigate around their attacks like he was on a casual stroll. After avoiding all the attacks, he attacked with his Seven Scorching Sun Claws, sending fiery claws everywhere with his two hands.

"Ahhhh!"

The Lightning Alliance members, who were all powerful combatants in their own rights, were instantly shredded by Xiang Shaoyun's claws. Wails started ringing in the air. There was strength in numbers, but they had failed to actually surround Xiang Shaoyun, who held an advantage with his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. That was why he had been able to face such a large number of people with ease.

But of course, the fact that he was far stronger than each of them individually played a key role as well. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to defeat them so effortlessly.

After he injured five people in a row, an eighth-stage Transformation Realm suddenly attacked with a concealed weapon.

Xiang Shaoyun had just injured another opponent with his claw attack and did not notice the sneak attack at all. That person was confident his concealed weapon would work against Xiang Shaoyun. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun acted like he had a pair of eyes on the back of his head. He flickered and vanished, causing the sneak attack to hit the person who was in front of him instead.

"AHHHH!"

The person hit just so happened to be Wen Jinnuo. With an arrow in his stomach, he wailed like a pig being slaughtered before collapsing to the ground.

"Bastard!" That person wasn't furious because he had accidentally injured someone from his side; he was just annoyed because he had missed. With a shout, he flooded Xiang Shaoyun with a series of sword energies. One ought to admit that this person was much stronger than the others in the group, but he was still somewhat lacking compared to the likes of Xie Sanqian.

"Sneak attacking me? Real nice," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. He did not even bother dodging the incoming sword energies and welcomed them with a punch.

Gold Helix Fist!

Nowadays, Xiang Shaoyun was already very proficient with this technique. His golden fist shot out like a golden drill, crushing all the incoming sword energies.

Clank!

The gloved fist then struck the tip of that person's sword before sending the sword flying from his hand. The person's face fell as he quickly retreated, but Xiang Shaoyun was much faster than him. Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun arrived and grabbed his collar. He slammed the person right into the attack of another who just happened to be trying to mount a sneak attack on Xiang Shaoyun as well.

"AHHHH!"

The first attacker suffered his companion's slash, which left a terrible wound on him. His blood gushed out without stop.

"Ah, s-sorry Senior Brother Zhao! That was an accident!" cried out the second attacker in panic. After all, the person he had hit was a senior brother whose strength was above his own.

The only thing poor Senior Brother Zhao could do was grip his wound and cry out miserably, "Save me! Save me..."

His wound was quite deep, and it had even hit a vital point. It was understandable that Senior Brother Zhao was begging for help. Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to keep pressing his attack. He knew that things would get tricky if someone actually died. Meanwhile, Wen Jinrui took the chance and snuck an attack at Xiang Shaoyun while Xiang Shaoyun was distracted.

"You are courting death," said Xiang Shaoyun, who was furious at the constant sneak attacks. He turned and grabbed Wen Jinrui before slamming him into the ground.

Bang!

Wen Jinrui crashed heavily into the ground and started vomiting everything he had in his stomach.

Even Qiu Chonglei couldn't remain calm after witnessing everything. He immediately commanded, "Save Senior Brother Zhao first."

He then led a group of people and quickly rushed toward the battlefield. The others stopped fighting when they saw him arriving. But to be precise, they weren't exactly stopping. It was more like they had all been dropped by Xiang Shaoyun and were no longer capable of attacking. Xiang Shaoyun did not attack. He also wanted to see if that Zhao guy was still alive.

"This is bad! Senior Brother Zhao is...dead!" cried out one of them in alarm.

"What?" cried the person who had slashed Senior Brother Zhao, his face paling. He shivered and dropped the sword in his hand while his body slumped down weakly.

This Senior Brother Zhao was a personal disciple of an elder. Since he was the one who had accidentally killed this Senior Brother Zhao, he would not have a good ending either.

Qiu Chonglei had not expected that things would escalate to this point. After all, although internal struggles were allowed in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, killing was absolutely prohibited. To do so would be a provocation of the pavilion's rules.

Qiu Chonglei quickly pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and shouted furiously, "Xiang Shaoyun, how audacious! You actually killed Junior Brother Zhao? Nobody can save you now! I will avenge my Junior Brother Zhao!"

A layer of yellow radiance appeared around Qiu Chonglei's body while a yellow saber appeared in his hand. He then charged Xiang Shaoyun. He was a late eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator with combat prowess comparable to ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators.

He swung his saber at Xiang Shaoyun, releasing a dreadful and thick saber energy that no normal person could survive. The combat prowess Qiu Chonglei displayed was much greater than even Xie Sanqian's, whom Xiang Shaoyun had defeated just a while ago. He was indeed worthy of being one of the four great guardians of the Lightning Alliance.

With the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, Xiang Shaoyun avoided the attack and sent a fiery claw toward Qiu Chonglei. The claw easily tore through Qiu Chonglei's defensive energy shield and

struck his body. However, it failed to do any damage, as Qiu Chonglei was protected by the high-level armor he had on him.

"That's a strong claw, but it is impossible for you to harm me with that," said Qiu Chonglei. The layer of yellow energy around him turned thicker and heavier, looking like an impenetrable wall.

At the same time, he slashed repeatedly, sending numerous saber energies that surrounded Xiang Shaoyun. Even Xiang Shaoyun had a solemn look when he faced this new attack, thinking, He is indeed quite capable. He is strong enough to fight any ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator.

He drew his Purple Lightning Saber and met Qiu Chonglei's attack with a slash of his own. This time, he had no intention of dragging it out like he did when battling Xie Sanqian. Instead, he directly smashed through Qiu Chonglei's attack.

Xiang Shaoyun's saber energy seemed boundless, and coupled with his remarkable innate purple lightning, not even Qiu Chonglei was his match. Qiu Chonglei's saber snapped, his energy shield shattered, and not even his armor was able to defend against the tier-5 king-grade Purple Lightning Saber. Several saber wounds instantly formed on his body.

At this point, Qiu Chonglei was already regretting his decision, It is totally not worth offending this kid for the sake of Wen Jinrui!

"Help me! What are you waiting for?" shouted Qiu Chonglei toward the people around him as he was forced to retreat repeatedly.

His companions quickly worked together to attack Xiang Shaoyun.

They were all eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators and were the final line of defense Qiu Chonglei had. If not even they could stop Xiang Shaoyun, then their defeat would be wholly justified.

Chapter 243: The Curtain Drops

Xiang Shaoyun's strength had exceeded Qiu Chonglei's expectations. When Qiu Chonglei's companions worked together, they were strong enough to defeat even ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators.

However, Xiang Shaoyun only needed one slash to defeat them all. He raised his saber and slashed downward, sending an enchanting saber energy that flashed forth and instantly broke the combined attacks of the group attacking him. A slash wound appeared on each and every one of them as well.

"Ahhhh!"

They collapsed to the ground, wailing miserably without stop. All of them were eighth-stage Transformation Realm experts. For them all to be defeated by a single slash, it was obvious how powerful Xiang Shaoyun was. The crowd that had followed Xiang Shaoyun here all opened their mouths wide agape in shock.

They felt like they were already overestimating Xiang Shaoyun's strength earlier. But now, they felt like Xiang Shaoyun's strength was bottomless, to the point they wondered if there was actually a limit to his strength.

"T-that's way too strong! Has he been hiding his actual cultivation level? He was taking so long to fight Xie Sanqian earlier, but he's suddenly so strong now?"

"No, that's not possible. His cultivation base has been constantly stable, but his energy is really very thick and powerful. H-he might be a War King!"

"That's right. Not even a peak Transformation Realm expert will be able to defeat so many senior brothers with one move. He is most certainly a War King!"

"No wonder he has the guts to challenge the Lightning Alliance. So it turns out his courage is backed by actual strength."

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After defeating them, Xiang Shaoyun started striding toward Qiu Chonglei one step at a time. Qiu Chonglei had already been injured by Xiang Shaoyun, and although he was still capable of combat, he no longer had the courage to fight after witnessing the might Xiang Shaoyun had just displayed.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you better not act rashly. You have already killed Junior Brother Zhao. He is the disciple of Elder He Luo. You need to start worrying about yourself now," warned Qiu Chonglei.

He Luo was stronger than Long Hui and was similarly a high-level elder. He had a rather high status in the pavilion. Thus, Qiu Chonglei thought bringing He Luo's name up was enough to scare Xiang Shaoyun off. Too bad he was completely wrong.

"Hehe, your Junior Brother Zhao was not killed by me. It won't be that easy for you to frame me for something I didn't do," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. His body flickered as he dashed toward Qiu Chonglei.

Qiu Chonglei was unable to react in time and was lifted up by the neck. An intense murderous intent surged out of Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, greatly frightening Qiu Chonglei.

Qiu Chonglei could sense a clear threat of death. When he got the feeling that Xiang Shaoyun was really going to kill him, his fear started suffocating him. He was so frightened he started peeing and shitting, causing a foul stench to drift about in the air.

Xiang Shaoyun covered his nose and tossed Qiu Chonglei away before saying, "Shit! Guardian Qiu, you are shitting in public like this? You got to be more civil-minded! Alright, alright. I admit defeat, alright?"

When Qiu Chonglei heard that, he coughed a mouthful of blood before fainting from pure shame. Xiang Shaoyun was greatly disgusted by the stench and quickly distanced him from Guardian Qiu. In any case, he no longer felt any need to stay.

Not a single person dared to block his path. They all moved away to make way for him, all of them looking at him with revering gazes. Gong Qinyin followed behind Xiang Shaoyun obediently and left with him without saying a single word. After Xiang Shaoyun and Gong Qinyin left, a massive uproar erupted there.

"Guardian Qiu and the others were actually defeated? Xiang Shaoyun is really trampling on the honor of the Lightning Kid!"

"Things will become interesting now. The Lightning Alliance will not let this slide. When their experts that are outside on missions return, Xiang Shaoyun will suffer."

"But how many people in the Lightning Alliance can actually defeat Xiang Shaoyun? I think only the alliance leader and the two vice alliance leaders can be his match."

"I think this will end soon. No matter how strong Xiang Shaoyun is, Senior Brother Zhao's death will draw Elder He Luo into this."

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Xiang Shaoyun had charged straight to Qiu Chonglei's estate and defeated the numerous Lightning Alliance experts. He had also killed Zhao Changshui and frightened Qiu Chonglei so much he shat himself in fear. This news spread like a wildfire in the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

In a certain estate of a high-level elder, He Luo was being informed about the death of his disciple. With a gloomy expression, he asked the overseer making the report and asked, "Tell me everything that had happened. Do not miss a single detail."

The overseer then told him everything.

He Luo frowned and said, "Cripple the disciple who killed Changshui and toss him out of the pavilion. As for that Xiang Shaoyun, hehe. Even if he is a War King, he still needs to die."

"Lord, he has some sort of relationship with the Zither Empress's disciple," reminded the overseer after a slight hesitation.

"So long as he is not her lover, everything will be fine. I doubt the Zither Empress will be bothered by something this trivial. Just do as told," said He Luo with a wave of his hand.

There was indeed a rule that the older generation should not interfere in the affairs of the younger generation. But everything changed now that someone had died.

In a different estate, Xie Sanqian's guard had also heard what Xiang Shaoyun had done. He sneered and muttered, "Looks like I don't even have to waste the 10,000 spirit crystals anymore."

In many elder estates, the various elders were being briefed on the same news as well. Unlike He Luo, they did not hold any hostility toward Xiang Shaoyun. But a lot of them became curious about this newcomer.

For any elder, accepting a young man like that as a disciple would be glorious. Furthermore, with a disciple like that, they would have a future King or even a future Emperor under their wings. For them, this had suddenly turned into something extremely important.

Thus, a lot of elders started asking more about Xiang Shaoyun, trying to understand him and to see if he had a master or if he was from some influential clan. In the deepest part of the Cloud Margin Pavilion was a high-level estate. Here, a vice pavilion master resided.

This vice pavilion master's name was Tian Xu. From his looks, he was about 30 years old, still in his robust years. But in truth, he was already over 100 years old. Back in the day, this Tian Xu was also a young genius. He wouldn't have been able to rise to the position of vice pavilion master relying on his own power.

Currently, two people were before this scholarly and smart-looking vice pavilion master. One was Liu Xinji, the other was Zi Changhe. Why was Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe here? That was because Liu Xinji was a follower of this vice pavilion master. As for Zi Changhe, he was naturally here because of Liu Xinji.

"Is this Xiang Shaoyun really a young man from the Martial Hall Palace?" asked Tian Xu curiously with one hand behind his back and the other holding an ancient scripture.

Chapter 244: Offended Someone Again?

"Vice palace master, it is better if my disciple explains it," said Liu Xinji. He looked at Zi Changhe and continued, "Explain Xiang Shaoyun's origin in detail to the vice pavilion master."

Zi Changhe hesitated slightly but ultimately told the vice pavilion master what he knew. He was aware that the information about Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be hidden forever anyway. If this vice pavilion master wanted to know, he would have a way to find out everything with or without him.

"Oh, a five stars illuminating the sky physique, and reaching seventh-stage Transformation Realm from third-stage Basic Realm in only two years?" Tian Xu muttered as his eyes lit up.

In small towns, a five stars illuminating the sky physique might be extremely rare. But in Cloud Margin City, a disciple with this physique would appear every year during their recruitment.

Therefore, the five-star physique was not the thing that had shocked Tian Xu. He was more astonished by the speed at which Xiang Shaoyun was growing. All of these Cloud Margin Pavilion

geniuses were individuals who had cultivated since young. By relying on talent and luck, they were able to grow one step at a time.

However, in a short period of two years, Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level had soared crazily. That was incredibly shocking. Apart from his speed, he was also a War King, which made it clear his growth was not due to herbs or pills. Rather, he had been growing stably through both talent and luck.

Looks like this is a young man with great fortune, concluded Tian Xu inwardly.

At this time, Liu Xinji spoke, "Xiang Shaoyun was brought here by Elder Long Hui. I heard he is Elder Long Hui's distant relative. I wanted to accept Xiang Shaoyun as my disciple, but Elder Long Hui was unwilling to agree. But he has not accepted Xiang Shaoyun as a disciple either. He has just been allowing that kid to stay in his estate. I had never expected that kid to have caused such a great commotion."

Liu Xinji could see that this vice pavilion master was also thinking of accepting Xiang Shaoyun as a disciple. That was why he had intentionally reminded the vice palace master that Xiang Shaoyun still did not have a master for now.

Sure enough, a faint smile surfaced on Tian Xu's face as he said, "Good. Go bring this kid here for me to take a look at him. A young man with such extraordinary talent is someone worthy of being raised by me personally."

"Yes, vice pavilion master," said Liu Xinji.

This vice pavilion master was not the only person who had taken interest in Xiang Shaoyun. Many other elders had the same thought as well. As the culprit of all this, Xiang Shaoyun himself had no idea how much of a commotion he had caused. He was currently checking out the estate Zither Empress had given him.

It was completely out of his expectation that the estate was only 100 meters away from Gong Qinyin's estate. They were practically neighbors now! The estate was extremely delicate and was also not inferior to Gong Qinyin's estate. It was an excellent spot for cultivation.

But thinking about it, Xiang Shaoyun came to the conclusion that this had most likely been an occupied estate. Otherwise, the servants wouldn't have been in such a rush to clear it.

Beside Xiang Shaoyun, Gong Qinyin noticed the doubtful look on his face and said, "A senior brother used to stay here. But...uhm...that senior brother could no longer stay here. Therefore, Granny Mei got him to move out and let you stay here instead."

"Wait, so I have offended someone out of nowhere again?" Xiang Shaoyun asked gloomily.

He could guess that the person who stayed here previously was most likely someone with great talent in cultivation as well, or perhaps that that was someone with a decent background. With the Zither Empress forcing that person out of this estate, the blame would most certainly land on Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't worry, Shaoyun. Nobody in the pavilion dares to disobey my master," said Gong Qinyin proudly. She continued, "In any case, that senior brother has lost his qualification to continue staying here."

From how Gong Qinyin was speaking, the previous owner of this place had probably experienced something that had caused him to lose favor.

Whatever. I will deal with the trouble when the trouble comes, Xiang Shaoyun said to himself.

Gong Qinyin did not remain by Xiang Shaoyun's side. After giving him some introduction to the estate, she returned to her own estate and resumed her cultivation. She was feeling great pressure from the prowess Xiang Shaoyun had displayed.

Right after Gong Qinyin returned to her own estate, she called Granny Mei over and said, "Granny Mei, can you help keep an eye on Shaoyun? I really don't want anything bad to happen to him. I believe my master wishes the same as well."

Granny Mei nodded. "Don't worry, young lady. I was the one who had personally arranged the new accommodation for him. I believe the news of that will spread soon. Nobody will dare create trouble at the estate."

"Um, that's good to know. Alright, I'm resuming my cultivation," said Gong Qinyin before entering her cultivation room.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had just summoned Long Hui over to find out more about the estate's previous owner. Long Hui clearly knew about the previous owner as well. He did not need to ask anyone and was able to directly tell Xiang Shaoyun about the previous owner.

"Only the super geniuses of the pavilion will be able to stay in estates like this. These geniuses are the best of the best in the pavilion. The disciple staying here previously is called Liang Zhuangmin, a rather simple and honest child. He is very talented and had reached peak Transformation Realm at a young age of 22 years old. His speed was even faster than the likes of our current superstars such as the Young Lightning King, Young Eagle King, and Flower Immortal King.

"The pavilion looked very highly upon him and had given him this estate and had also supplied him with a rich amount of cultivation resources. They all hoped he could reach the King Realm as soon as possible, but it is a pity that he was stuck as a Transformation Realm cultivator for seven whole years. Even after the pavilion gave him some king-grade medicines to help with his cultivation, he was still stuck. Thus, he became a source of disappointment instead."

Xiang Shaoyun was astounded to hear the story. Reaching peak Transformation Realm at 22 years old was an absolutely stunning cultivation talent in a small city like this, but he was actually stuck for 7 years? Sure, an ordinary cultivator could even be stuck at the same cultivation level for 17 years and nobody would say anything about it. But for a genius, 7 years was a long time.

For the so-called geniuses, they competed in terms of talent and cultivation speed. The faster their growth, the more time they would have to grow even more. After missing the window of opportunity during one's prime, a so-called genius would be reduced into history.

This time, Granny Mei's act of chasing this genius out of the estate was most likely a signal that the pavilion was already giving up on this genius.

After listening to the story, Xiang Shaoyun did not ask more about it. He proceeded to tell Long Hui to get Xia Liuhui, Wang Zhenchuan, and Lu Xiaoqing into the inner pavilion.

Xiang Shaoyun had decided on that after his fight with the Lightning Alliance. He was afraid that the Lightning Alliance would do something against the three instead. Bringing them to the inner pavilion was something trivial that Long Hui could easily accomplish.

Chapter 245: Martial Uncle Is Amazing

Making use of his authority as an elder, Long Hui sent his followers to summon Lu Xiaoqing, Xia Liuhui, and Wang Zhenchuan to his estate and let them cultivate there. All three of them were shocked and excited.

They were shocked because they had not expected that Elder Long Hui would suddenly do something like that. They were excited to have a chance to cultivate in the inner pavilion, as its cultivation environment was much better than the outer pavilion's.

"Why is Elder Long Hui taking care of us so well? Is it because of Shaoyun?" asked Lu Xiaoqing doubtfully.

Xia Liuhui said confidently, "Definitely. Only my boss is that capable. Looks like my boss is afraid that the gap between us and him will be too big. That's why he helped us enter the inner pavilion."

Wang Zhenchuan agreed, "Yes, we need to work even harder in our cultivation."

At present, an overseer under Long Hui was arranging their accommodation in an extremely friendly manner. They were also told to cultivate here without worries and to look for him if they needed anything.

"Lord overseer, can I ask where my boss, Xiang Shaoyun, is?" Xia Liuhui couldn't help but to ask about his boss.

The overseer's name was He Can. He was a peak Transformation Realm cultivator serving as a butler in Long Hui's estate. He flashed them a friendly smile and answered, "Lord Xiang is not here."

"No way! My boss was still here when we came a month ago," questioned Xia Liuhui.

"Liuhui, don't be rude!" berated Lu Xiaoqing.

Xia Liuhui was only an Astral Realm cultivator. Questioning an overseer like that was considered very rude. Xia Liuhui also realized what he did was wrong and quickly apologized, "S-sorry, lord overseer, I have a big mouth, but I don't mean to question your words."

He Can waved his hand. With the same smile on his face, he said, "Don't be nervous. It's not like I'll eat you or something." He continued, "Lord Xiang is heroic and talented. Of course he can't keep staying at Elder Long Hui's place. He now has his own estate, which is even better than this place."

"I see. So my boss has his own estate now. My boss is awesome!" said Xia Liuhui.

Lu Xiaoqing also felt proud with what Xiang Shaoyun had accomplished. "I knew Shaoyun would amaze everyone here!"

When He Can heard that, he started sighing and said, "Yes, Lord Xiang has truly amazed everyone here with a single brilliant feat. Now, nobody in the inner pavilion doesn't know his name."

"Oh? What's the story, lord overseer? Has my boss done something shocking?" Xia Liuhui asked.

He had always known that his boss was not someone who would sit around silently doing nothing. Instead, his boss was someone who wouldn't rest without doing something amazing every now and then.

"Hehe, Lord Xiang fought nearly a quarter of the Lightning Alliance members all by himself. Even one of the four great guardians, Qiu Chonglei, was defeated by him," said He Can before leaving.

Inwardly, he lamented, These three sure are lucky to have a friend as outstanding as Lord Xiang. He is a Super War King who can defeat even a King like Elder Qin Yu.

A Super War King referred to someone like Xiang Shaoyun who was able to defeat a King Realm expert before even reaching peak Transformation Realm. That was much more terrifying than those War Kings who could only defeat Kings after reaching peak Transformation Realm.

He Can left, leaving behind Xia Liuhui, Lu Xiaoqing, and Wang Zhenchuan standing there blankly. Yes, they were outer disciples. But that did not mean that they were not aware of the Lightning Alliance's existence.

After all, the Lightning Alliance had always been recruiting the more remarkable outer disciples. Thus, they were aware of how powerful the Lightning Alliance was. And Xiang Shaoyun was able to fight a quarter of the Lightning Alliance all by himself. He had even defeated one of the four great guardians. Just what sort of accomplishment was that?

After a while, Xia Liuhui cried out in excitement, "My boss is really too amazing! In the future, with his backing, nobody can bully me in the Cloud Margin Pavilion anymore!"

Wang Zhenchuan also spoke in excitement, "My martial uncle is really amazing."

But Lu Xiaoqing did not look too happy. An anxious look was on her face instead. "I heard the Lightning Alliance leader is a very strong senior brother. He is known as the number one person below the Skysoar Realm. Shaoyun wouldn't have gotten himself into deep trouble, right?"

Both Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan were stunned. They were too busy being happy and had neglected the fact that the Lightning Alliance was a scary enemy to have.

"Sister-in-law, I-I think my boss will be fine. Didn't you hear the lord overseer addressing my boss as Lord Xiang? Elder Long Hui will not allow any harm to come my boss's way," said Xia Liuhui.

"Yes, you are right. But I am tired of feeling like this all the time. I need to grow faster. I am going to challenge the limit rooms!" said Lu Xiaoqing with a resolute look on her face. She looked at Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan before saying, "I hope you two can go with me as well. We need to grow as soon as possible. That way, we will be of help to Shaoyun."

Xia Liuhui and Wang Zhenchuan nodded without hesitation. They both agreed with what she said. With their average talent, they had to work even harder in order to grow faster.

...

In He Luo's estate, the person he sent to kill Xiang Shaoyun had returned.

"Lord, the disciple who had accidentally killed Changshui has been crippled. As for that Xiang Shaoyun, I...I'm afraid we won't be able to do anything to him," said the overseer with a complicated expression.

"Why? Not even you people can defeat him? Or is someone protecting him?" asked He Luo with a frown.

The overseer replied, "Xiang Shaoyun is now staying in a first class estate under Granny Mei's arrangement."

He Luo's expression changed visibly when he heard that. "Granny Mei arranged a first-class estate for him? Is he also a disciple of the Zither Empress?"

"I don't know about that, but his estate is only 100 meters away from the estate of Zither Empress's disciple," said the overseer, trying to hint at something.

He was trying to say that in this situation, even if Xiang Shaoyun was not a disciple of Zither Empress, he was most likely a lover of Zither Empress's disciple and had gained the favor of the Zither Empress as well. After all, in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, Granny Mei was a representative of the Zither Empress. Even the current pavilion master had to show her some respect.

He Luo sank into silence. After a long while, he shrugged helplessly. "Fine, we will let this rest for now. Just let the Lightning Kid deal with him."

Since he already knew that Xiang Shaoyun was under Zither Empress's care, he could no longer do anything. Even if he convened an elder meeting to call for Xiang Shaoyun's punishment, nothing would come of it.

After all, the person who had killed his disciple was someone else. Xiang Shaoyun merely had a conflict with his dead disciple.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun's estate was bustling with noise and excitement. The subordinates of many elders had arrived, all here to look for him.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that so many people would come looking for him. When he first saw them, he thought they were looking for trouble. To his surprise, they were all sent by those high-level elders who wanted to see him.

It placed him in a rather difficult position.

Chapter 246: A Dog Bullying Others With the Power of Its Master

"You're Xiang Shaoyun? My lord wants to meet you. Are you willing to come with me?" an overseer with a short height was the first to start.

"I wonder who your lord is?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"My lord is the eighteenth elder, Lord Chen Kuan," stated the overseer proudly.

In the Cloud Margin Pavilion, all the top 20 elders were famed and reputable individuals. All of them had the cultivation level of at least seventh-stage Skysoar Realm. Thus, the pride of this overseer was understandable.

"Ohhh, you're real tough, Overseer Leng. But our Elder Huang is interested in meeting this young hero as well," said a tall and slim man with a sneer.

"Overseer Huang, I was here first," said Overseer Leng with a frown. He knew who Elder Huang was—an elder with a similar strength as his lord.

"That really doesn't matter at all. What's important is who Xiang Shaoyun wants to see," said a tall and slim man. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and added, "My lord is the seventh elder. He is preparing to accept you as his disciple. Just pack up and prepare for the disciple taking ceremony."

"My lord the eighteenth elder has taken an interest in you as well. Xiang Shaoyun, if you come with me, my lord will ensure you can become a King," offered Overseer Leng.

The two overseers started bickering with each other, giving Xiang Shaoyun a headache. At this time, someone else arrived at the estate. The bickering overseers stopped talking.

"By the order of my lord the seventh elder, Xiang Shaoyun has been summoned to have an audience with my lord," said the newcomer, who was even more haughty than the first two overseers. The reason for his arrogance was his identity as an elder instead of an overseer. He naturally felt himself above the two overseers.

Both Overseer Leng and Overseer Huang quickly stepped forward and greeted the newcomer, "Greetings, Elder Ge."

The elder's name was Ge Qiu, a second-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, and a trusted aide of the seventh elder, Long Xiaolang. The top 10 elders were definitely among the peak existences in the

Cloud Margin Pavilion, which was also the reason and source of Ge Qiu's pride. To top it off, he himself was a King as well. His pride was perfectly understandable.

"May I ask this elder why the seventh elder is summoning me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"You don't need to know why. Just know that it's something good for you," said Ge Qiu while sizing Xiang Shaoyun up. Inwardly, he muttered, This kid sure is lucky to have caught the eyes of the seventh elder.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before saying, "The three lords have all invited me, but how can I decide who to visit?"

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun did not want to meet any of them. That was why he gave such an indirect reply. He started considering bringing up the name of his big sister, Hua Cheng, to give these people some pressure.

"Hmph. If the seventh elder summons you, everyone else has to make way," said Ge Qiu coldly after tossing both Overseer Leng and Overseer Huang a glance.

The two elders blushed in embarrassment, but they did not dare to offer a rebut. Inwardly however, they cursed, Just a dog bullying others with the power of its master.

"See that? Alright, come with me. Don't keep the seventh elder waiting," said Ge Qiu haughtily.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was hesitating, someone suddenly spoke, "Wow, look at the airs around Elder Ge. But I'm afraid the seventh elder has to move aside as well. The vice pavilion master wants to meet Xiang Shaoyun."

Then, two people walked into the estate. These two were none other than Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe.

"Elder Liu, Senior Brother Zi, why are you here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Hehe, you're a genius from the Martial Hall Palace. With what you just pulled off, you are now the glory of the Martial Hall Palace. See, even the vice pavilion master wants to see you," said Liu Xinji in an extremely friendly manner.

"Elder Liu, what's going on here?" asked Ge Qiu. It was his turn to have a gloomy look on his face.

"Oh, did Elder Ge not hear me earlier? Vice Pavilion Master Tian Xu is summoning Shaoyun. Do you think I'm lying, Elder Ge?" Liu Xinji asked.

"Of course not. Since the vice pavilion master wants to meet Xiang Shaoyun, I will not waste any more of Xiang Shaoyun's time," said Ge Qiu before leaving gloomily.

Overseer Leng, Overseer Huang, and the other overseers who didn't even get a chance to say anything all took their leave as well. They all knew that with the vice pavilion master getting involved, this no longer had anything to do with them. One ought to admit that all these people were very proficient in politics.

Xiang Shaoyun was about to serve Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe tea when Liu Xinji spoke urgently, "Shaoyun, don't waste any time. Come with me and meet the vice pavilion master first."

Liu Xinji was behaving in an extremely friendly manner. After all, he could see that the vice pavilion master intended to accept this Xiang Shaoyun as a disciple. If that happened, it would be very beneficial for him to maintain a good relationship with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly, but when he stole a glance at Zi Changhe, he nodded in agreement. "Ok. I'll come with you."

Even if he did not want to become the disciple of that vice pavilion master, for the future of Zi Changhe and the others in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, he had to meet this vice pavilion master. Otherwise, if the vice pavilion master held a grudge against him and his friends by extension, things would be bad.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun followed Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe to Tian Xu's estate. On the way, he started observing Zi Changhe and found that this senior brother had reached peak ninth-stage Transformation Realm.

It would seem that after receiving a high-level cultivation method from Xiang Shaoyun coupled with some resources supplied by the Cloud Margin Pavilion, this senior brother had grown rapidly.

"Senior brother, looks like you are going to enter the Skysoar Realm soon," said Xiang Shaoyun.

A confident look surfaced on Zi Changhe's face as he said, "Um. Master told me that after two or three years, I will be able to take that step."

Liu Xinji spoke in agreement, "That's right. Although Changhe is decently talented, adequate preparations are required to attempt the Skysoar Realm breakthrough. Igniting the stars rashly might result in a backlash instead."

Xiang Shaoyun did not retort, but he disagreed. Although the breakthrough would be easier with sufficient preparation, Zi Changhe was still in his prime. He was only about 30 years old. The earlier he entered the Skysoar Realm, the easier it would be for him to have a higher achievement in the future.

Looks like I have to find some time to help senior brother enter the Skysoar Realm, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the vice pavilion master's estate with Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe. As the vice pavilion master, Tian Xu's estate was naturally much better than the elder estates. Tian Xu was not waiting in the estate. Rather, he sat in front of his estate, as if he was there waiting for Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shaoyun, come greet Vice Pavilion Master Tian Xu," said Liu Xinji.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to slight the vice pavilion master and quickly gave his respects, "Greetings, vice pavilion master."

Chapter 247: Conversation With the Vice Pavilion Master

Tian Xu was a scholarly and refined man that looked about 30 years old, which was much younger than his actual age. When Xiang Shaoyun laid his eyes on the vice pavilion master, he muttered to himself, Looks like this vice pavilion master is a person with an outstanding talent in cultivation as well. Only someone with a rapid cultivation speed can maintain a young look. Sigh, what a pity.

The sigh was because he was feeling sorry for someone as talented as Tian Xu to be stuck in a tiny city like this. His environment would limit his future accomplishments despite his talent.

After all, the Cloud Margin Pavilion only had the resources to nurture someone to the Emperor Realm. To grow further, the resources available to the Cloud Margin Pavilion was far from enough. One had to leave this place entirely and head toward some other province—or even some other region—where powerful organizations assemble. Only at those places would one find enough resources to support one's further growth after reaching the Emperor Realm.

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun would not tell the vice pavilion master all that. He could only keep his thoughts to himself.

"The two of you may leave first," said Tian Xu with a wave of his hand.

Liu Xinji and Zi Changhe both left at his command. Tian Xu then looked at Xiang Shaoyun, noticing the complete confidence emanating from the young man standing with his back perfectly straight. This young man was completely unlike others who would be in shock when meeting a vice pavilion master. Noticing that, a look of approval appeared in Tian Xu's eyes.

"I've heard all about you. You have a praiseworthy courage, but you are still a tad bit too rash. Do you know that the tallest tree in the forest is normally also the first tree to fall?" said Tian Xu with a gentle tone.

Xiang Shaoyun pondered the words for a bit before saying, "Thank you for the advice, vice pavilion master. Shaoyun will keep the advice in mind."

Yes, the tallest tree was usually the first to fall. Xiang Shaoyun had been having an impression that with his impressive combat prowess, he could now protect himself. But there were still a lot of people who were much stronger than him.

Now that he was behaving in such a high-profiled manner, he could still die if someone decided to assassinate him. After all, the Zither Empress wouldn't be able to keep an eye on him at all times. At that realization, Xiang Shaoyun started regretting going overboard in his attempt to establish his dominance.

After revealing so many of his trump cards, if someone wanted to kill him in the future, that person would definitely come fully prepared to deal him a sudden blow powerful enough to kill.

I have been too careless, cursed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

"Hehe, don't feel discouraged. Back when I was your age, I was a hot-blooded young man as well. I did things without thinking it through all the time. Only after much suffering did I survive till this day," said Tian Xu with a warm smile. He then entered the main topic, "I heard you are now staying in a first-class estate under Granny Mei's arrangement?"

With the wide network of information Tian Xu had, it was easy for him to know about Xiang Shaoyun's affairs. But he was more interested to hear the true story from Xiang Shaoyun's mouth.

To be precise, he wanted to know if Xiang Shaoyun was related to the Zither Empress. Although he knew that Xiang Shaoyun was from the Martial Hall Palace, he kept having a feeling that Xiang Shaoyun might have a powerful master behind him. It wouldn't be easy to grow this fast just relying on talent and luck alone.

That was why Tian Xu had not openly declared his intention to accept Xiang Shaoyun as his disciple. Xiang Shaoyun scratched his head and spoke with an innocent expression, "Yes, Granny Mei was the one making the arrangements, but it was under the order of Big Sister Hua Cheng."

He spoke like a naive and innocent young man who did not know the ways of the world. But he was actually using Hua Cheng's name to scare the vice pavilion master off his back. Sure enough, Tian Xu shivered when he heard Xiang Shaoyun address the Zither Empress as "Big Sister Hua Cheng". He staggered and nearly collapsed from shock.

"What did you just call the Zither Empress?" Tian Xu stabilized his footing and cried out in alarm.

"Big Sister Hua Cheng. Why?" asked Xiang Shaoyun while feigning a doubtful expression on his face.

Tian Xu stared straight at Xiang Shaoyun with a piercing gaze that seemed capable of reading minds. He found that Xiang Shaoyun still stood tall under his gaze with no fear whatsoever.

At that, Tian Xu took a deep breath and asked, "Tell me. How do you know Junior Sister Hua Cheng? Tell me everything."

It was worth noting that Tian Xu and Hua Cheng were from the same generation, but Hua Cheng's talent was above Tian Xu's, and she was able to reach the Emperor Realm, whereas Tian Xu was still stuck at the peak of Skysoar Realm. Also, he had always admired Hua Cheng. But unfortunately, Hua Cheng had someone else in her heart.

As the gap between the two grew, he came to realize that there was not much of a chance that he could actually be together with Hua Cheng.

Xiang Shaoyun did not hide anything and told him everything. Of course, he exaggerated his story a bit, bragging about how he had managed to reach the human zither unity phase. That was how he caught Hua Cheng's attention and caused her to accept him as a little brother.

Tian Xu did not doubt a word of that, as he knew Hua Cheng was a friendly person who appreciated those with artistic talent. It was completely possible that Xiang Shaoyun had gained her favor by his talent in the zither.

And with the relationship between Gong Qinyin and Xiang Shaoyun, Hua Cheng would favor this young man even more. Tian Xu started lamenting the good luck this Xiang Shaoyun had.

"Since you have the backing of Junior Sister Hua Cheng, I doubt anyone will dare to give you any trouble in the pavilion," said Tian Xu with a sigh. But he still couldn't help asking, "Since Junior Sister Hua Cheng has not accepted you as her disciple, do you actually have a master?"

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "Not for now, but Big Sister Hua Cheng told me she would find me a powerful master."

"I see. Yes, that would be good for you," said Tian Xu in disappointment. They continued chatting for a bit before he let Xiang Shaoyun leave.

"Shaoyun, did the vice pavilion master accept you as a disciple?" asked Liu Xinji when sending Xiang Shaoyun off.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "No."

"What? Did you say something to offend the vice pavilion master?" asked Liu Xinji who instantly turned nervous. He was hoping that Xiang Shaoyun could become the vice pavilion master's disciple. With that, the status of both him and Zi Changhe would grow as well.

Xiang Shaoyun answered, "Not really. Don't think too much, Elder Liu."

He then stopped Liu Xinji from continuing to send him off. He wanted to take a walk with Zi Changhe alone. Since Liu Xinji was feeling discouraged because his plan had failed, he agreed and let the two walk alone.

Is it possible that this kid already has a master? Is it the Zither Empress? questioned Liu Xinji inwardly while looking at Xiang Shaoyun's departing back.

While walking through the pathway between two mountains with Xiang Shaoyun, Zi Changhe nagged repeatedly, "Shaoyun, you have challenged the Lightning Alliance. I'm afraid the stronger members of the alliance will start showing up. You need to be careful."

He was one of the few that knew about Xiang Shaoyun's extraordinary origin, which was why he had never viewed Xiang Shaoyun as an ordinary young man, and he had been keeping Xiang Shaoyun's origins a secret from even his master.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and said, "Don't worry, senior brother. I will be careful." He paused for a bit before saying solemnly, "Senior brother, I think it is best you attempt your Skysoar Realm breakthrough within this month."

"Why so?" asked Zi Changhe in astonishment.

Chapter 248: Senior Brother Will Succeed

Skysoar Realm! Who wouldn't want to reach this realm as soon as possible? The moment one reached that realm, one would gain an ability to fly and undergo a complete change in status, akin to the transformation from a carp to a dragon.

Zi Changhe was already a late-stage Transformation Realm cultivator back when he was at the Martial Hall Palace. After receiving a high-level cultivation method from Xiang Shaoyun, he was able to advance three stages in two years, reaching peak Transformation Realm, getting infinitely closer to the Skysoar Realm.

Recently, he had been hesitating whether he should attempt a breakthrough, as he had a feeling he would have a chance to succeed if he was supplied with enough spirit crystals. But his master disagreed with taking the risk. Instead, he was suggested to take two or three more years consolidating his cultivation base. After building a firmer foundation, he could then attempt the breakthrough.

That was a very safe and stable way of growth, and it had the lowest amount of risk. But Xiang Shaoyun was actually telling him to attempt a breakthrough within the month, which caused him to start hesitating again. Should he listen to his master or should he listen to Xiang Shaoyun?

"The earlier you break through, the more beneficial it would be for your future cultivation. The higher the cultivation level you reach when young, the more perfect your spirit, flesh, and vitality will be. It will be of great help when pursuing the Emperor Realm, or even the Sovereign Realm," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

"I-is that even possible for me?" Zi Changhe trembled. He had never even dreamed of reaching the Emperor Realm.

"Why not? You think those Emperors were born Emperors? They have merely relied on astonishing talent, firm willpower, and hard work to reach that realm. Senior brother, you are still young. If you can enter the Skysoar Realm now, you will have a wider path ahead of you. The longer you wait, the narrower your future path will be," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was not a Skysoar Realm cultivator and definitely not an almighty Emperor Realm cultivator. However, he was far more knowledgeable than Zi Changhe. As Zi Changhe listened on, he appeared visibly moved as he found himself believing almost everything Xiang Shaoyun was telling him.

"Senior brother, do you have any other misgivings that make you hesitate?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Zi Changhe hesitated slightly and said, "You may be right, but I am completely unprepared for a breakthrough attempt right now."

"You're worried about spirit crystals?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

An awkward look covered Zi Changhe's face as he said, "I can ask for some spirit crystals from my master, but my master recommends that I only attempt the breakthrough after two or three years."

No matter what, he still couldn't fully commit to it. Xiang Shaoyun pondered for a bit and said, "Come to my place, senior brother. We'll talk about it."

Zi Changhe agreed and went along to Xiang Shaoyun's estate. At the estate, Xiang Shaoyun brought Zi Changhe into his private cultivation room. Before Zi Changhe could say anything, strands of

innate purple lightning surged out of Xiang Shaoyun's body. Zi Changhe's eyes instantly widened when he sensed the pure power of natural lightning coming from Xiang Shaoyun's body.

"T-this is...innate purple lightning!" Zi Changhe cried out in alarm.

"Good eyes, senior brother. That's right. This is the innate purple lightning. With my innate purple lightning and these mid-grade spirit crystals serving as the foundation for your breakthrough attempt, will it be enough?" said Xiang Shaoyun while taking out a few thousand mid-grade spirit crystals.

These were not the spirit crystals he had earned from Xie Sanqian. Rather, they were the crystals he had traded for using his top-quality goldsteel stones. He hadn't spent them all during the previous auction.

Staring at the pile of mid-grade spirit crystals, Zi Changhe was stunned. He had a feeling not even his master could afford giving him that many spirit crystals for a breakthrough attempt. These were mid-grade spirit crystals, not some ordinary low-grade spirit crystals.

"Shaoyun, are you sure?" Zi Changhe had an unreal feeling.

Ignoring the innate purple lightning, just these mid-grade spirit crystals were worth more than everything Zi Changhe had. That was why it felt so unreal to him.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled, "Since when did you become such a hesitant person? The innate purple lightning is something I can regenerate at any time. As for the spirit crystals, this really isn't much. I have more coming my way soon. How can all this be more important than your breakthrough to the Skysoar Realm, senior brother?"

Xiang Shaoyun had always felt gratitude toward Zi Changhe. If Zi Changhe hadn't brought him into the Martial Hall Palace back then, he really couldn't imagine where he would be now. Just for that alone, he wished that Zi Changhe could be even stronger. That would be his way of repaying Zi Changhe.

"Fine, am I a man if I still hesitate after you said all that?" Zi Changhe finally made up his mind.

"That's more like it!" Xiang Shaoyun smiled.

He then started planning the breakthrough with Zi Changhe. First, he would transfer his innate purple lightning to Zi Changhe, allowing the latter to refine his innate purple lightning. Zi Changhe was a cultivator of the lightning power and would benefit greatly from refining the innate purple lightning.

Although he still wouldn't be able to regenerate an endless amount of innate purple lightning like Xiang Shaoyun, refining some innate purple lightning would still help him further increase his combat prowess and his compatibility with the lightning power.

After Zi Changhe was done refining the innate purple lightning, when he was in his peak state, he could then make use of the spirit crystals to start the breakthrough attempt. By doing that, the odds of him succeeding would be much higher.

"Senior brother, just attempt the breakthrough in my estate. I will send someone to notify Elder Liu," suggested Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ok. Let's start. Let me have a taste of the power of innate purple lightning," said Zi Changhe after taking a deep breath.

Xiang Shaoyun started transferring his innate purple lightning to Zi Changhe. He had only transferred a tiny bit, but the moment Zi Changhe took the power in, he started twitching and wailing in pain.

"Senior brother, hang in there! Guard your mind and refine the energy as quickly as possible," shouted Xiang Shaoyun.

With the reminder, Zi Changhe clenched his teeth, ignored the pain, and started refining the innate purple lightning. After four full hours, Zi Changhe's condition finally stabilized. The pain on his face vanished, and his entire body was shrouded by a purple luster. His aura had also grown more powerful.

"Again, Shaoyun!" said Zi Changhe after finally opening his eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun wasted no time and started transferring innate purple lightning to Zi Changhe again. This time, Zi Changhe only needed two hours to finish the refining process. His speed had increased considerably.

Then, Xiang Shaoyun transferred some innate purple lightning to him again. This time, he transferred double the amount, making Zi Changhe take on even more lightning power at once.

This continued for three whole days before Zi Changhe was done absorbing 49 strands of innate purple lightning energy from Xiang Shaoyun. He had absorbed as much as he could. He now needed to focus on consolidating his gains and preparing himself for the breakthrough attempt.

The somewhat exhausted Xiang Shaoyun left the cultivation room, thinking to himself, Senior brother will succeed!

Chapter 249: Depths of Hundred Beast Mountain Range

After leaving the cultivation room, the only thing Xiang Shaoyun could do was return to his room and start recovering from energy exhaustion. Although he had the lightning bone that could generate innate purple lightning for him, he had transferred an excessive amount of innate purple lightning essence to Zi Changhe. It was completely different from regular innate purple lightning exhaustions during battle.

After refining the 49 strands of innate purple lightning from Xiang Shaoyun, Zi Changhe would be able to unleash part of the innate purple lightning's power in the future as well. Even though it wouldn't be comparable to the pure innate purple lightning Xiang Shaoyun had, his new lightning power would still be much stronger than his original lightning power.

From the benefit Zi Changhe stood to gain, the massive toll the energy transfer took on Xiang Shaoyun was understandable. Currently, Xiang Shaoyun could feel that his lightning bone was completely empty, and a large amount of energy was required to satiate its hunger.

But even after refining a large amount of spirit crystals, the lightning bone was still not satisfied. It was as if the bone had no interest in the energy within spirit crystals.

Looks like I need to absorb some natural lightning, Xiang Shaoyun told himself.

Since there was no way he could quickly replenish the energy of his lightning bone, he called Long Hui over. Nowadays, Long Hui was acting as Xiang Shaoyun's butler. If news of this spread, it would cause a massive uproar.

"Long Hui, has Xie Sanqian sent the 10,000 mid-grade spirit crystals over yet?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Long Hui replied respectfully, "Yes, two days ago. But since the young master was in seclusion, I did not disturb you with it."

"Good. Take the spirit crystals and buy some lightning elemental items for me," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Long Hui then left to carry out the order.

...

At the depths of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, a group of extremely powerful individuals were in an intense battle with the local demonic beasts.

Rumble! Rumble!

World-shaking explosions erupted unendingly, collapsing numerous mountains and reducing many ancient trees to powder. The energy explosions were extremely terrifying, and not even Kings could create such explosions. These individuals were at least Emperor Realm cultivators.

"Damn it! Leave! We need to leave or we will all die!" shouted a person fearfully. He was mounted on a seven-tailed silver fox, swinging a saber repeatedly at the demonic beasts around him.

This was a group of experts that had arrived from a different province. As for the man on the seven-tailed silver fox, his name was Linggu Haonan. He was the leader of the group and was an extremely strong combatant.

As for why they were here instead of somewhere else searching for the person they were supposed to be hunting, that was because they had accidentally discovered the tracks of a top-tier beast, the white tiger.

Thus, they put their mission on hold and focused on taming the white tiger first. After all, they could sense that the white tiger they had discovered was only a Demon King. If they managed to

capture the beast and train it into a top-tier white tiger, it would be an accomplishment worthy of pride. In comparison, accomplishing their mission of killing a cripple was a negligible feat.

But right as they were about to capture the white tiger, a large number of demonic beasts appeared to attack them. Even Demon Emperors had appeared, which made them realize that this mountain range was probably the territory of the white tigers. Moreover, they also realized that it was an ancient mountain range. There wouldn't be so many terrifying demonic beasts otherwise.

Leading his subordinates, Linggu Haonan carved a path of blood away from the demonic beasts. Many of them were killed during the escape. Tiger Emperors, lion Emperors, wolf Emperors, mutated three-eyed ape Emperors...all these powerful demonic beasts were working together to attack the group.

Inwardly, Linggu Haonan cursed, Good thing I escaped when I did. I can feel there are even more terrifying beasts deeper in the mountain range. If those beasts had been provoked as well, none of us would have been able to escape.

More than half of Linggu Haonan's group had been killed, and the survivors were forced to find a place somewhere hidden to recuperate. They no longer dared to try anything against the white tiger. The only thing they could do was report this to their sect when they returned. Their sect would have to send some powerful experts to come deal with this white tiger.

In the depths of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, a sturdy and handsome young man was standing facing the wind on top of a mountain. He was dressed in a white pelt outfit that clearly showcased his finely-defined muscles.

Staring into the distance, he muttered, "I think I heard them mentioning boss's name. Are they here for my boss?"

After thinking about it for a bit, he called out, "Jin Wo, come."

At that command, a sturdy middle-aged man appeared noiselessly beside him. In a deferential manner, he said, "Jin Wo is here, your highness."

"Come on a trip with me. I need to look for my boss," said the young man.

The man called Jin Wo replied, "Your highness, the patriarch has commanded that you are not to leave so early."

"Bastard, not even you are listening to me anymore?" the young man turned around and bellowed.

Jin Wo trembled and quickly said, "Jin Wo dares not."

"Come with me, then," commanded the young man overbearingly.

Just as the young man was about to leave with Jin Wo, a few silhouettes appeared noiselessly before them and blocked their way.

"Prince, please do not make things difficult for us," said the newcomers deferentially.

"This is so infuriating. I'm going to look for the patriarch right this moment!" said the young man furiously.

With his current strength, he would not be able to leave with brute force. The only way he could leave was by the permission of the patriarch. No matter what, he did not wish to see harm come to his boss.

...

Within the Cloud Pavilion, Long Hui had just finished gathering some lightning elemental items for Xiang Shaoyun.

Looking at the lightning elemental spirit-grade medicines of pitiful quality, he was left speechless. He said, "Long Hui, is this all the Cloud Margin Pavilion has? Only the high-tier spirit medicine thunderbloom and the mid-tier spirit medicine lightning snake vine? You can't find anything with better quality?"

A guilty look covered Long Hui's face as he said, "Sorry, young master. We have a vice pavilion master called the Lightning King. He has been in seclusion trying to break through to the Emperor Realm for the past two years. Thus, many lightning elemental items have been sent directly to him. The rest were all shared between the various disciples cultivating the lightning power. Furthermore, lightning elemental herbs have always been rare. The pavilion never has much of them in stock."

Hearing that explanation, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even bring himself to blame Long Hui.

"Fine. You may leave first. I will be in seclusion for a few days," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, young master," Long Hui answered.

After Long Hui left, Xiang Shaoyun entered his cultivation room. When he failed to sense any signs of breakthrough from Zi Changhe, he muttered, "Looks like senior brother has not finished refining the lightning power. Well, I will focus on entering the eighth-stage first then."

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun returned to his own room and swallowed the two stalks of spirit medicines to replenish some of his lightning energy. He also made use of the two herbs to try breaking through into the eighth stage.

While Xiang Shaoyun was in seclusion, someone came delivering him a challenge.

Chapter 250: Zi Changhe Becoming King

It was a silent and starry night. Within his room, Xiang Shaoyun had just consumed the two spirit medicines, filling his body with a large amount of lightning energy. Regular Transformation Realm cultivators would be able to grow or even enter the next stage after consuming spirit medicines.

But Xiang Shaoyun's lightning bone instantly devoured the energy from the two spirit medicines, leaving nothing behind. Even so, the lightning bone was still radiating intense hunger. Of course, the hunger wasn't as bad anymore.

Xiang Shaoyun reminded himself, Looks like I can't excessively exhaust the essence of the innate purple lightning in the future. That will only harm my own foundations.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the lightning bone for now and started circulating his energy through his meridians. At the same time, strands of energy swirled around the star congregation jade hanging on him as it incessantly absorbed the energy from the stars. The energy congregated around Xiang Shaoyun, greatly increasing the speed of his astral energy absorption.

This was a star congregation jade of great quality, and it was capable of gathering a large amount of astral energy and increasing the energy absorption speed of a cultivator by three or even five times.

That was why Xiang Shaoyun had the confidence to enter the eighth-stage in only two or three days.

Back when he obtained Yun Flame, he had reached peak seventh-stage Transformation Realm. He had been consolidating his foundations since then. Coupled with the battle he had with Qin Yu and the Lightning Alliance members, he could feel that he was going to break through soon. With the star congregation jade helping him grow even faster, there was no need for him to wait any longer.

After three days and three nights of nonstop energy absorption, Xiang Shaoyun was filled to the brim with energy. During this period, he had also used spirit crystals to compress and purify his energy a few times as well. His foundations were now completely stable, ready for a breakthrough.

...

Outside his estate, a cold-looking overseer had appeared. The overseer was stopped by Long Hui, who was guarding the estate.

"Who are you?" asked Long Hui. As an elder, he was still quite imposing when he spoke.

When the overseer saw who the person speaking was, he quickly bowed and greeted, "Greetings, Elder Long Hui. I am here to issue Xiang Shaoyun a challenge on behalf of my young master, Huo Linfei."

After saying that, he passed Long Hui the written challenge. It was a very simple message. On it, only the word "battle" was written, undersigned by Huo Linfei's name.

Long Hui accepted the written challenge and said calmly, "Xiang Shaoyun is currently in secluded cultivation. I will be keeping the letter on his behalf. He will decide if he wants to accept the challenge after he leaves seclusion."

"Yes, Elder Long Hui. I'll be taking my leave then," said the overseer. He did not dare to act too rashly in front of Long Hui and quickly left after completing his mission.

But inwardly, he was questioning himself doubtfully, I heard Xiang Shaoyun was brought to the pavilion by Elder Long Hui. But what exactly is the relationship between them?

The overseer had not gone far when a powerful aura suddenly soared into the sky from Xiang Shaoyun's estate.

The overseer turned around in astonishment. Shock immediately covered his face as he cried out in alarm, "Igniting the star, a King is born! H-how is this possible?"

This overseer was not the only one who was alarmed. Some people nearby had also noticed the phenomenon. All of them wondered who was the one who had ignited the fate star to enter the King Realm.

"Isn't that the estate of the genius Liang Zhuangmin? Is he finally going to break through?"

"You are too slow. Liang Zhuangmin has been chased out of the first-class estate. Now, Xiang Shaoyun the War King is the new owner of that place. Surprisingly, he is going to enter the King Realm already. This speed is simply inconceivable."

"Everyone knows he is only a peak seventh-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. Why is he suddenly breaking through into the Skysoar Realm?"

"What's the big deal about that? He is a War King. Maybe he had been suppressing his cultivation base for a very long time. Now that he is finally allowing his cultivation base to erupt, it is completely normal for him to soar through several stages in a row. But will he be able to succeed?"

...

The person in the cultivation room was Zi Changhe, not Xiang Shaoyun. He was currently at an optimal mental state, and he had an abundant supply of energy within him. He was in a perfect condition to ignite his fate star.

He could feel his soul leaving his body, flying straight to the sky above, staring directly into his fate star. So long as he went over and ignited his fate star, the corresponding stars in his body would wake up. He would then be able to hold even more astral energy within him and have much more devastating power under his control.

But when Zi Changhe felt himself getting near the fate star, he suddenly had a sensation he did not have enough strength to go on. It was as if he was going to drop back down to the world below at any moment. This was when the perseverance and the foundations of a cultivator were tested.

"I can do it! I can't disappoint Shaoyun after all he has done!" said Zi Changhe resolutely. He then activated his cultivation method, erupting with the terrifying power he had gained refining the innate purple lightning. Instantly, his soul returned to peak condition. He continued flying toward the fate star.

Thump!

Ignite the fate star!

Suddenly, Zi Changhe felt the river of stars within his body ripple. His astral energy erupted, and his strength started to grow. Strands of pure astral energy coursed through his meridians, pushing him straight to first-stage Skysoar Realm. It was then that a flickering star suddenly appeared high above in the night sky, notifying the people in the Cloud Margin Pavilion of what was happening.

"Someone has entered the Skysoar Realm. But which overseer is it? Or is it a disciple?"

"There are a lot of peak Transformation Realm experts in the pavilion. Every now and then, some of them will break through. But generally, they will apply for some resources from the pavilion before attempting their breakthrough. On top of that, us, the enforcers, will also be requested to keep watch while the person attempts the breakthrough. But I don't recall receiving any notifications about a breakthrough recently?"

"That is the direction of the first-class estates. Is one of the freaks living there breaking through?"

"What a lucky person. Becoming a King is akin to a carp becoming a dragon."

...

The overseer who was there to send Xiang Shaoyun the written challenge could clearly sense the terrifying kingly presence rippling out of Xiang Shaoyun's estate. He shivered and cried out in alarm, "Shit! If Xiang Shaoyun is the one breaking through, wouldn't Young Master Linfei suffer?"

He hesitated slightly before muttering to himself, "Well, there is no way I can withdraw the challenge. I need to return and inform the young master so he can think of what to do next."

Right after he left, Zi Changhe walked out of the cultivation room. The overseer would most definitely have an amusing reaction if he was here to see that the person who had broken through was actually not Xiang Shaoyun.

"Congratulations for reaching the Skysoar Realm," congratulated Long Hui.

"Thank you, Elder Long Hui," said Zi Changhe, who did not dare to slight the elder. He then asked, "Where is Shaoyun?"

"He is in secluded cultivation. I believe he will leave soon," said Long Hui. Right after he said those words, he sensed something from Xiang Shaoyun's room.