

Overlord 261

Chapter 261: You Are Shameless

Dressed in a fiery armor, Huo Linfei looked incredibly extraordinary with the heroic aura he was radiating. He was the one who had issued Xiang Shaoyun a written challenge but had gone missing after the challenge was accepted.

But now, he was stepping forward because he had found out that Xiang Shaoyun was not the one who had broken through into the Skysoar Realm. In fact, when he found out about that, he had given the overseer a tongue-lashing for the face he had lost when he fled from battle.

He wanted to complete the challenge he had issued Xiang Shaoyun now. Although Huo Linfei was not as strong as the Lightning Kid, there was only a tiny gap between the two. For the Lightning Kid to send Huo Linfei against Xiang Shaoyun, one could say that he was already taking his opponent seriously.

Huo Linfei pointed at Xiang Shaoyun with his saber and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, come fight me if you have the balls!"

Xiang Shaoyun shot Huo Linfei a glance before howling in laughter, "HAHAHAHA..."

Xiang Shaoyun's laugh was filled with contempt, causing Huo Linfei to feel extremely humiliated. He said, "What are you laughing at? Are you scared of fighting me?"

"Who is the scared one here? Don't you remember yourself fleeing after issuing me a written challenge? And you have the nerve to talk about someone being scared here? Can't you feel any shame?" shouted Xiang Shaoyun who glared back at Huo Linfei.

Everyone stared at Huo Linfei in astonishment. Evidently, this was the first time many of them were hearing the story.

The gazes felt like a slap to Huo Linfei's face. He braced himself and responded, "Since I was the one who had issued you the written challenge, how would I be scared of you? Let's fight today, then. I shall kill you before the Land of Soul Springs opens!"

"Why should I fight you? Are you stupid?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

Everyone blanked out, not expecting such a response at all.

Huo Linfei fumed. "Say that again if you have the balls!"

"Sure. You are a total idiot. The Land of Soul Springs is opening soon, but instead of preserving strength to fight for the soul springs, you are challenging me instead? Outsiders would think we are mortal enemies or something. In truth, regardless of the result, you will still suffer from our battle. Will you still have any chance at getting a soul spring then? Ask yourself, are you stupid? You are being used like a tool without even realizing it!" said Xiang Shaoyun with an incomparable disdain in his voice.

Huo Linfei's expression shifted several times as he listened to those words.

The guardian beside Zi Jingyun said, "Vice alliance leader, don't listen to his lies! He is trying to sow dissent!"

Xiang Shaoyun pointed at the guardian and said, "You, come out. Let's have a chat."

"I have nothing to say to you," replied the guardian.

This guardian was one of the four great guardians of the Lightning Alliance, Luo Wen.

"I challenge you!" said Xiang Shaoyun.

"W-why the hell are you challenging me? The vice alliance leader is the one challenging you!" said Luo Wen with fear on his face.

Luo Wen had similar strength to Qiu Chonglei. Since Qiu Chonglei had suffered such a terrible defeat in the hands of this person, he was definitely not a match.

"So? I will fight you first. If I lose, I naturally can't fight your vice alliance leader anymore. But if I win by fluke, it won't be too late for me to fight your vice alliance leader then. Why? Are you not willing to exhaust some of my strength for your vice alliance leader? Do you have so little respect for your vice alliance leader?" said Xiang Shaoyun. His sharp words rendered Luo Wen completely speechless.

Zi Jingyun had to interrupt, "Xiang Shaoyun, I have to admit you have a great mouth. I hope you can continue to remain this cocky. Let's leave. We can't let outsiders laugh at the Cloud Margin Pavilion by squabbling among ourselves. I was only here to see if Xiang Shaoyun is a ballsy person, anyway. He did not disappoint."

Zi Jingyun then turned and left. The other Lightning Alliance people quickly followed him as well.

But Huo Linfei was hesitating. He finally gave Xiang Shaoyun a deep look before declaring, "We will fight sooner or later."

Xiang Shaoyun shrugged indifferently. After the Lightning Alliance left, Hua Honglou gazed at Xiang Shaoyun with a mesmerizing smile on her face.

"Hey, why are you staring at me like that? Don't tell me you have gotten yourself smitten by my grace?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in a narcissistic manner.

"Yes, I am totally smitten by you," said Hua Honglou while winking her large eyes.

"Sure, you may warm my bed tonight. Although we have no beds here, well, grasses are everywhere. We can perhaps...," said Xiang Shaoyun with a perverted smile.

"You are so shameless," said Hua Honglou.

"Thank you for the praise," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Stop messing around already. Although Xiang Shaoyun's attempt to sow dissent has failed, there will definitely be some cracks in their ranks now," said Li Yaxuan as she looked at Xiang Shaoyun with a look of admiration.

"No, it won't be that easy. Strength is still the most important," said Chen Zilong. "But Lightning Kid got something right. We can't let the outsiders look down on us."

"Um. The strongest of them, the Myriad Sword Sect and the Devil Blood Society, have extremely terrifying geniuses. We have to be united against outsiders. We can't afford to squabble among ourselves for now," said Hua Honglou.

"Well, if nobody provokes me, I won't be bothered to create trouble for anyone else either," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"Ok. Let's talk about our next move," said Hua Honglou. They then started drawing up their plans.

Since Xiang Shaoyun was not a Red House member, he wanted to move away from the discussion. But Hua Honglou spoke out before he could leave, "Since you have touched my chest, you have to take responsibility over me." That forced Xiang Shaoyun to stay helplessly.

In truth, when entering a unique space like the Land of Soul Springs, one would have to act in according to the ever-changing circumstances. No amount of plans would be helpful. But the Red House was evidently rather capable as most of the plans they had drawn were aimed at any possible unforeseen circumstances.

The higher-ups of the Red House were extremely loyal to Hua Honglou. They would remember every word of hers and carry out her orders seriously. Xiang Shaoyun even had the feeling that if Hua Honglou was a man, she would definitely have a much larger rallying power, establishing a faction that was far stronger than the Lightning Alliance.

However, it was pointless to talk about what-ifs.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you are not a Red House member. But I still hope you can help us and lend a hand when required," said Hua Honglou when she was alone with Xiang Shaoyun.

"What do I stand to gain?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"If you want, you can cup another feel!" said Hua Honglou.

"Haha, you will be my bed warming maid sooner or later. I'm not interested in that reward," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Don't worry, I will help if possible. You only need to locate a few people for me afterwards."

"Who?" Hua Honglou asked.

"You will know after asking Gong Qinyin, but that will have to wait until we're back at the pavilion," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 262: The Land of Soul Springs Opens

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. More organizations had arrived during the period, including the Myriad Sword Sect, Devil Blood Society, Black Ice Palace, and Buddha's Path Temple.

The Myriad Sword Sect were the cockiest of the bunch. Seated on their war chariots, they had arrived in an extremely showy manner. Each of them had a sword hanging on their backs, emanating a terrifying aura. When they arrived, they even drew their swords out and sent numerous sword energies shooting toward the sky to announce their arrival. It was quite a spectacular and terrifying sight.

In fact, the people there thought that the Myriad Sword Sect was declaring war on everyone present. But instead of following with a war declaration, the Myriad Sword Sect people only followed with a chant of their slogan: "The myriad swords return, who dares to cause strife?"

With that chant, everyone's swords seemed to resonate with it and started stirring, as if they were going to leave their respective masters. One ought to admit that the Myriad Sword Sect was really quite capable.

The Myriad Sword Sect had always focused on cultivating the sword. Each of their members was an expert in swordsmanship. According to Hua Honglou, among the younger generation of the Myriad Sword Sect, one of them had already comprehended sword intent. He was Wu Longfei, also known as the Flying Celestial Sword. He was rumored to be the number one swordsman of his generation.

The Devil Blood Society had also created quite a scene when they had arrived. Instead of arriving on war chariots, they were all mounted on numerous devil blood bats. The large number of bats covered the sky, filling the area with terrifying beast roars.

The devil blood bats were sinister demonic beasts that fed on blood and were not supposed to be a beast that could be tamed. The Devil Blood Society had used a devilish blood technique to form some sort of resonance with the devil blood bats, turning them into their companions.

From that alone, it was obvious that there were no good people in the Devil Blood Society. In fact, this was an organization most people intentionally kept a distance from. Each Devil Blood Society member was wearing a black cloak and emanating a sinister aura of bloodlust at all times, which made them look extremely unapproachable.

Similarly, they also had a few outstanding experts among their younger generation. One of them was a woman known as the Devil Fairy, an extremely stunning genius who had killed a King when she was just an eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. She was obviously someone with a terrifying potential as well.

As for the Black Ice Palace, Buddha's Path Temple, and Thousand Forest Academy, these three organizations were similar in strength with the Cloud Margin Pavilion. All three of them had their own extraordinary geniuses as well: from the Black Frost, Qiang Hanchen; from the Black Ice Palace, the Moha Cicada; from the Buddha's Path Temple, Wu Chi; and from the Thousand Forest Academy, the playboy young master Lin Zihan. They were all young geniuses comparable to the Lightning Kid.

Apart from these people, there were also many young experts around that weren't much weaker than them. There were also the hidden geniuses of the various organizations that would only reveal themselves during a real fight.

Xiang Shaoyun did not really care much for these people, but since Hua Honglou had gathered all this information and informed all her companions, he was informed of it as well.

It was not that he considered everyone beneath him. But he was confident he could defeat anyone at the Transformation Realm and below. Only those reaching the Skysoar Realm would be able to pose him some threat.

Finally, the Land of Soul Springs started opening. The environment around the mountain suddenly started changing, and a clump of translucent radiance appeared out of thin air. Strands of incorporeal power started to spread throughout the area.

The strands of incorporeal power gave one an odd sensation, as it did not feel like regular astral energy. Rather, it felt more like some sort of forbidden energy. The crowd turned mad as everyone rushed toward the clump of light.

"The Land of Soul Springs has opened! Charge, everyone!"

"My breakthrough into the King Realm is imminent! This time, I will obtain a soul spring and enter the Skysoar Realm!"

"Piss off! Get in my way and die!"

"Are you in a rush to die or what? The Land of Soul Springs will stay open for a month. What's the rush?"

...

"Ahhhh!"

When those people made contact with the shiny door that had just formed, many of them instantly wailed miserably, and blood sprayed.

"A group of idiots. That is a forbidden door. Without sufficient strength, don't even dream of going through it," sneered someone.

That's right. The door of light was a unique existence that prevented the weak from even going through it. In fact, those too weak to enter would even suffer a backlash from the door. That was also why only late-stage Transformation Realm disciples had been sent here by the Cloud Margin Pavilion. They had long known about the door.

The Myriad Sword Sect, Devil Blood Society, Buddha's Path Temple, Black Ice Palace, and Thousand Forest Academy were naturally aware of the same as well. Instead of charging madly, the disciples of these organizations all entered in an orderly fashion.

When they approached the door, the unaffiliated cultivators in the way were forced to move aside and let them enter first. These large organizations had evidently come prepared. All their disciples were strong enough for the door, and not a single one of them failed to go through it.

When Xiang Shaoyun stepped through the door, he sensed that the destructiveness contained within the door had the power of a seventh-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. Those below that realm or with worse combat prowess would not be able to get through the door.

When stepping through the door, he sensed a sharp power blasting straight toward him. He had been completely focused on the door and was caught by surprise. He had not expected a sneak attack at this time, and the prowess of the attack had completely surpassed the Transformation Realm. It was a King who had sneak attacked him. The attack came too suddenly, and he had no hope of defending himself.

Rumble! Rumble!

The attack landed, causing a series of loud explosions that expanded to even those around him.

"Xiang Shaoyun!" Hua Honglou and Li Yaxuan cried out in alarm.

Unfortunately, the two had already gone through the door and could only watch on as Xiang Shaoyun was attacked.

"Which scoundrel is courting death?" shouted a Cloud Margin Pavilion elder.

That elder wanted to attack someone, but the ambusher had retreated almost immediately, not giving anyone an opportunity to catch him. The ambushing King moved speedily and was already far away in a flash. It was likely that he cultivated the power of wind.

The elder wanted to give chase but was stopped by someone who said, "Don't go. Be careful lest this is merely a bait."

The one who spoke was the other elder, He Luo. And with He Luo's interruption, the ambusher vanished.

"Elder He, are we going to just swallow this? How will the others view us?" asked the elder resentfully.

"Which is more important? How others view us or the lives of our other disciples? In any case, it's not like that kid is dead for sure," said He Luo. But inwardly, he was thinking, Hah, even if that kid is not dead, he has most likely been severely injured. If he can survive with such injuries, I will spell my name upside down from now on!

The other elder wanted to keep arguing but was completely out of words. As for the other organizations, they were still busy going through the door, and they completely ignored the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

Chapter 263: Just the Appetizer

At the forbidden door of light, Xiang Shaoyun coughed up a mouthful of blood before collapsing on the ground. He instantly paled, and it was obvious he had sustained grave injuries. Even so, he was able to go through the door into a different space.

Once he was through, not bothering to even scan his surroundings, he dragged his badly injured body away and started fleeing. With a large amount of blood gushing out of his body, he appeared to be in a terrible condition.

"Xiang Shaoyun, how are you? Don't run!" Hua Honglou called out anxiously.

But just as she was about to go after Xiang Shaoyun with the Red House members, they were blocked by Zi Jingyun and his people.

Zi Jingyun smiled. "Junior Sister Hua, are you interested in grouping up with us?"

"Get out of my way!" roared Hua Honglou like a furious lioness.

"What's wrong with you, junior sister? Why are you so angry? Do you want your senior brother to help you vent your anger?" said Zi Jingyun with a bright smile on his face.

Hua Honglou did not waste any time talking and directly attacked. Moving like a bolt of lightning, Zi Jingyun dodged the attack before smiling and saying, "Looks like Junior Sister Hua holds a lot of enmity toward me. Fine, we'll go separate ways."

He then left, bringing with him the Lightning Alliance people. Hua Honglou was extremely resentful, but she did not dare to start a war with the Lightning Alliance right now. Thus, she could only stamp her foot in anger.

"House leader, are we going after Xiang Shaoyun? I saw Luo Wen going after him with a group of people," asked Li Yaxuan.

Hua Honglou frowned. "That fellow is too reckless. I was planning to borrow his help, but looks like that won't be happening anymore. Forget about him. We need to focus on searching for the soul springs."

Hua Honglou was worthy of being a leader, as she would not change her plan just for the sake of Xiang Shaoyun. She had to always keep her sight on the bigger picture. Although Li Yaxuan was worried about Xiang Shaoyun, she had to obey Hua Honglou's command.

Beside Li Yaxuan, Chen Zilong smiled and said, "Don't worry, Sister Xuan. That fellow will be safe."

Li Yaxuan looked at Chen Zilong in astonishment. When she saw the confidence in his eyes, she seemed to have understood something as well.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun had not gone far from them. He stopped at an area filled with boulders, looking like he was no longer capable of fleeing.

"Haha, run! Why don't you keep running?" a laughter rang out behind him.

Next, a few silhouettes appeared within Xiang Shaoyun's vision. The newcomers were some Lightning Alliance members led by Luo Wen. Long Hui's disciple, Zhuo Yi, was also with them. Evidently, this was a group here for Xiang Shaoyun's head.

"A-are you here to step on someone who has fallen?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, squeezing the words out with strenuous effort.

"Why ask the question you already have the answer to? You challenged me earlier, right? Good, I now give you a chance to challenge us," said Luo Wen as he roared with laughter.

"Shameless!" Xiang Shaoyun spat. "Leave. I really don't care to waste any time with you guys for this."

"Xiang Shaoyun, are you dumb or something? You are still saying that even with your injuries? berated Zhuo Yi.

"Hehe, you will only be given one chance to leave," Xiang Shaoyun sneered.

"Zhuo Yi, stop wasting any more of your breath on him. You have been wanting to kill him for a long time, right? You now have the chance to do exactly that. Go kill him," commanded Luo Wen.

"Thank you, Guardian Luo," answered Zhuo Yi before he shouted at Xiang Shaoyun, "Die!"

He sent an attack straight at Xiang Shaoyun's head, not showing any mercy at all. Zhuo Yi had an intense hatred toward Xiang Shaoyun. If it wasn't for this Xiang Shaoyun, he wouldn't have been kicked out by his master.

Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun moved. The dying Xiang Shaoyun suddenly pounced forward like a leopard and sent a flaming claw at Zhuo Yi's throat before Zhuo Yi's attack arrived. The only sensation Zhuo Yi had was a chill on his neck. Then, he lost all senses and collapsed on his back. Luo Wen and the others were greatly startled. Before they could react, Xiang Shaoyun had already turned into a phantom clawing madly at them.

"Ahhhh!"

Before any of them had even understood what was going on, all their vitals were sliced. Blood sprayed everywhere while miserable wails filled the air. A few of them died instantly, their eyes wide open in indignation even at death.

As for Luo Wen, he was left gripping his chest while he stared at Xiang Shaoyun. "Y-you...h-how..are you fine...?"

"You only realized that now? Unfortunately, I was only able to bait some tiny shrimps like you guys over. If the Lightning Kid had decided to come personally, it would have been great. I could have directly ended him here to rid myself of all future troubles," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Luo Wen realized that he had been fooled. Not wasting any time, he turned to flee. But he had only taken a few steps before collapsing with his face to the ground. A puddle of blood formed beneath him.

"This is just the appetizer," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly before vanishing amid the boulders.

He had been sneak attacked by a King. Why then, was he fine? In truth, when the King had sneak attacked him, the forbidden door of light had suddenly reacted and neutralized more than half of the attack's power.

To be precise, the door had forcefully suppressed the attack to the power level of a Transformation Realm cultivator. Because of that, the damage Xiang Shaoyun sustained was greatly reduced, allowing him to resist the attack safely.

That was how Xiang Shaoyun had escaped with minimal injuries. As for the sight of him fleeing with terrible injuries, that was something he had feigned so as to lure out some of his enemies.

He had believed that the Lightning Kid would be the one to come instead. If the Lightning Kid really wanted to kill him, he wouldn't mind killing the Lightning Kid. However, his target seemed to be looking down on him, or perhaps his target couldn't be bothered to hunt someone so seriously injured. Thus, only Luo Wen, Zhuo Yi, and a few others were sent.

Xiang Shaoyun had already given them a chance to leave, but since they were not interested in the offer, they couldn't blame him for being merciless. Not long after Xiang Shaoyun left, a few burly silhouettes with fur all over their bodies appeared.

The newcomers looked humanoid, and even their faces looked human. However, they looked ugly compared to humans and looked like some cavemen with the bone clubs they were holding in their hands. These were the cannibals residing in the Land of Soul Springs.

The cannibals picked up the corpses of the people killed by Xiang Shaoyun and started tearing the corpses apart before feasting on them. It presented a bloody and disgusting sight. At this time, a different group of people arrived. The sight of the cannibals feasting on human flesh scared them so much they all paled. The timid ones among them even started vomiting on the spot.

"L-leave right now! These are the cannibals!" someone cried out in alarm. Not one of them dared to stay, and they all fled in a disorderly manner.

Chapter 264: Maneater Vine

The Land of Soul Springs was divided into several regions for the different races staying there, such as the cannibals, the demonic beasts, and the ghostrunes. Of the three, the ghostrunes occupied the largest territory. It was also in their territory that the soul springs normally spawned.

Through the efforts of the people before this, many of the humans had a map of this place. Thus, a lot of them rushed straight to the territory of the ghostrunes after entering. On the contrary, the territories of the cannibals and demonic beasts were much more peaceful.

At present, Xiang Shaoyun had appeared within the territory of the cannibals. He had been heading there after killing Luo Wen's group. It was an extremely desolate area occupied by rocks and oddly shaped mountains. Every now and then, some sinister and chilly wind would sweep past, making the area look even more desolate.

Xiang Shaoyun was busy roaming around the area, seemingly looking for something.

There should be a lot of good stuff in the cannibal territory as well. I heard that someone had once discovered a spirit crystal mine here. Some had also discovered an earthstone heart here as well. All those are treasures, especially the earthstone heart which can multiply the defensive power of someone cultivating the power of earth. Now that I am going to cultivate nine different powers, I need to gather many different unique powers to create the strongest battle physique possible, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he wandered around.

The earthstone heart was his main target at the cannibal territory. It was an extremely rare spiritual treasure. Similar to the millennium earthcore fire, it was something that could help a human grow even stronger. However, it wouldn't be easy to locate the earthstone heart. He had to slowly search around patiently. The most likely location of the earthstone heart was the cannibal territory. There was also a possibility that the cannibals had long kept it away.

Obtaining it wouldn't be easy, and Xiang Shaoyun had to be ready to risk his life for it. The cannibals were extremely vicious beings with extraordinary combat prowess and physical flesh that was even more terrifying than a demonic beast's. If Xiang Shaoyun encountered them, things would get extremely troublesome.

Thankfully, with his Nether Soul Domain, he was able to sense everything in his surroundings clearly. Nothing could hope to hide from him. However, even with the 360-degree detection, some dangers would arrive in a form he never expected.

A good example was what was happening currently. He had just passed through a bush when, suddenly, some green vines stretched out and wrapped itself around him. The vines had arrived noiselessly and were extremely hard to defend against.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye, Xiang Shaoyun was tied up. Thorns grew from the vines and stabbed into Xiang Shaoyun's flesh.

Thump!

Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun's body ignited.

The vines were instantly burned to a crisp before they could deal Xiang Shaoyun much damage. However, there seemed to be endless vines as new vines kept growing toward him. But the vines were completely helpless against Xiang Shaoyun, who had Yun Flame's protection. The green vines eventually realized that and started retreating.

"Trying to flee? Not so fast," Xiang Shaoyun sneered and chased after the retreating vines.

He had already realized that they were in fact man eater vines, a type of plant that grew by trapping and devouring the blood of numerous life forms. Because of that, the man eater vines were also extremely beneficial by enriching one's vitality. In fact, a stalk of man eater vine was comparable to a top spirit medicine.

Xiang Shaoyun was not going to let such treasure escape him. With his Nether Soul Domain, he was able to sense that the vines came from a certain crack in a pile of rocks. He punched at the pile of rocks without any hesitation.

Gold Helix Fist!

His sharp golden fist energy shot out.

Bang!

With one punch, the rocks were blasted apart. With the destruction of the pile, almost 100 vines shot forth and tried to tie Xiang Shaoyun up. An ordinary person would definitely be killed by this attack.

However, Xiang Shaoyun did not fear these vines. The instant the vines came into contact with his body, they were burned. His gaze landed on the ground before he reached out toward the roots of the maneater vine.

Everything the maneater vine tried was useless, and it was uprooted by Xiang Shaoyun. He then tore the vines away, leaving only the blood-red roots. These roots were where the essence of the maneater vine was located.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled in satisfaction. "A harvest so soon after entering? Not bad."

He then searched the surroundings and found a few more stalks of maneater vines. All of them were harvested without exception. It was at this instant that Xiang Shaoyun sensed a group of cannibals appearing not far away.

He did not plan to get into any conflict with the cannibals, but when he sensed that the group of cannibals seemed to be rushing somewhere, he became curious and started tailing them.

He kept a large distance from them and was not worried they would discover him. About an hour later, he found that they had arrived before a mountain guarded by a large number of cannibals.

The cannibals he was tailing started to talk to the cannibals guarding the place. Xiang Shaoyun was unable to understand what they were talking about. However, he could still conclude that there was definitely a treasure somewhere on the mountain.

The spiritual energy of this place is much thicker than the other areas. There is probably a spirit crystal mine ahead, thought Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

Spirit crystals were also a type of currency. Thus, nobody would complain that they had too many spirit crystals. Xiang Shaoyun nimbly approached the mountain while keeping his presence concealed. He was planning to find out if there was a cannibal King around before making his move. Unfortunately, the moment he approached, he was detected.

"Roar! Roar!"

A few cannibals started roaring before charging toward him.

What sharp senses, muttered Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. He thought he had concealed himself well, but he was still discovered. Since that was the case, he decided to not hide anymore and to grab the initiative by attacking first.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

The moment Xiang Shaoyun attacked, he showed no mercy and blasted the cannibals before him mercilessly with his berserk punch. The cannibals were already prepared for a fight, so they immediately swung their bone clubs at Xiang Shaoyun.

The cannibals might be strong, but they were not as strong as Xiang Shaoyun. The bone clubs were immediately sent flying, and the lightning energy invaded their bodies and wreaked havoc from within.

However, not all of them were weaklings. One certain cannibal suddenly spat a clump of energy known as brutal energy at Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 265: Intense Battle With the Cannibals

The so-called brutal energy was a negative energy innately formed within the cannibals. The moment someone was invaded by this energy, they would start feeling negative emotions, lose their mind, and eventually die through bodily implosion after fully exhausting their own energy. Xiang Shaoyun was aware of all that and had no intention of letting the brutal energy mess with his mind. Thus, he quickly stepped to the side and jabbed forth with his finger.

Star Destroying Finger!

Bang!

A bloody hole opened up on the cannibal's body, causing the cannibal to howl madly in pain. The howls alarmed the other cannibals not far away.

"Roar! Roar!"

Numerous roars rang out as the cannibals all rushed toward Xiang Shaoyun. He no longer dared to hold back and quickly approached the injured cannibal before punching the cannibal's heart. The fist penetrated its energy barrier and went through its heart.

Xiang Shaoyun then pulled his hand back out, but when he did so, he felt an intense recoil from the cannibal's flesh.

What a terrifying defense and flesh. Good thing this cannibal isn't too strong. Otherwise, just this backlash would cause me some trouble. I have to start being careful, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

He then looked at the other cannibals that were approaching him. When he saw the ferocious look in their eyes, his battle intent surged.

"Fine, I will treat this as a training ground. All of you are my training partners!" said Xiang Shaoyun as he strode forth with a purple and gold aura around him. His presence of dragon and tiger also spread out.

The first cannibal to arrive swung its bone club at Xiang Shaoyun. The club was surrounded by a heavy brown energy, making it obvious it was no weak attack. Instead of drawing his own weapon, Xiang Shaoyun slanted his body to the side and sent a purple lightning fist at his opponent's belly.

Bang!

The tyrannical punch sent the cannibal flying and crashing into a few other cannibals, knocking them all down through the impact. Like a ferocious wolf, Xiang Shaoyun charged into the midst of the cannibals and sent lightning punches everywhere, creating numerous destructive explosions in the area.

Rumble! Rumble!

The cannibals were completely helpless against Xiang Shaoyun. They were only some lackeys in charge of guarding the mountain, and the strongest of them were merely at the fourth stage of the Transformation Realm. Although they had great defenses, they stood no chance before Xiang Shaoyun's berserk attacks.

Soon, all the cannibals were defeated. At this time, five powerful cannibals appeared. They were much sturdier than the other cannibals, and they had an extremely overbearing brutal energy around them that seemed capable of rejecting the air itself.

In the cannibal language, the leading cannibal said, "This human is very strong. Xiong Lu, go eat him!"

"Yes, boss. I will eat this kid alive," answered Xiong Lu before he charged Xiang Shaoyun.

The cannibal called Xiong Lu was an eighth-stage Transformation Realm cannibal. He had the same cultivation level as Xiang Shaoyun, but since cannibals were generally stronger than humans of the same cultivation level, this Xiong Lu showed no fear toward Xiang Shaoyun.

But of course, cannibals never feared death anyway. Looking at Xiong Lu charging at him, Xiang Shaoyun could see that with each step the cannibal took, a deep footprint was etched on the ground. From this, it could be seen how powerful this cannibal was.

Before Xiong Lu even neared, he swung his bone club at Xiang Shaoyun's head. There was a layer of brutal energy surrounding the club, enhancing the attack to make it comparable in power to the attack of a ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator.

That was why the cannibals were so powerful, and those incapable of resisting their attacks would die. Faced with this attack, Xiang Shaoyun still did not use his weapon. He used his exquisite footwork and avoided the attack before stepping forward and sending a flaming claw at the cannibal.

Clank!

The claw struck the cannibal's energy barrier, creating some sparks as a crisp grinding sound rang out. A small crack was left on the energy barrier, but the attack failed to deal any significant damage to the cannibal.

What a terrifying defense, Xiang Shaoyun cried out inwardly.

His claw attack could kill even ninth-stage Transformation Realm cultivators, yet this cannibal was able to shake it off that easily. It was truly quite shocking. During the short instant Xiang Shaoyun was blanking out, Xiong Lu roared and swept his bone club at Xiang Shaoyun again.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly reacted and bent down before sweeping his leg at Xiong Lu. Although Xiong Lu had great physical strength, his agility was obviously somewhat lacking in comparison. He wasn't able to react in time and started falling to the ground from the sweep to his legs.

While he was dropping to the ground, Xiang Shaoyun jabbed at him with a finger laced with Yun Flame's power. It instantly tore through Xiong Lu's defense and entered his body.

"AHHHH!"

The burning attack caused Xiong Lu to wail in pain. Xiang Shaoyun did not let that opening go as he followed up by repeatedly stomping Xiong Lu's body. Xiong Lu was completely helpless against the flame attack, and combined with Xiang Shaoyun's repeated stomps, it was highly unlikely he would survive.

"Bastard! Everyone, go together and tear him apart!" howled the leader of the cannibals.

The leader's name was Xiong Huo, and he was the strongest of the cannibals present. He was at the peak ninth-stage Transformation Realm and was in charge of keeping watch here. Thus, he would not allow any mishaps to happen on his watch. As for why Xiong Huo wasn't attacking, it wasn't because he was being careless. It was simply because he was unwilling to lower himself to deal with a lowly human.

Three cannibals that were no weaker than seventh-stage Transformation Realm attacked Xiang Shaoyun together. Although they were rather simple-minded, that did not mean they were unaware of how strong Xiang Shaoyun was. Thus, they did not recklessly approach him, and they instead attacked at range.

Three clumps of brutal energy were blasted toward Xiang Shaoyun. Even before the clumps of brutal energy arrived, they were already giving off an extreme sense of discomfort, causing one to start feeling jittery. Perhaps it was because Xiang Shaoyun had inhaled the air polluted with brutal energy, or perhaps it was a different reason, but his mood started turning sour.

"Die!" Xiang Shaoyun finally drew his Purple Lightning Saber and started slashing around madly.

The two different energies met and exploded. The shockwave expanded outward, turning all the stones in the area into powder. Wielding his saber, Xiang Shaoyun charged at the cannibals, slashing left and right repeatedly, clashing with their clubs.

With Xiang Shaoyun fully unleashing his combat prowess and with the Purple Lightning Saber being a king-grade weapon, the bone clubs were instantly sliced apart. The saber proceeded to slice the bodies of the three cannibals, causing their blood to spray everywhere.

But amid the rain of blood, a brutal aura filled the air, causing Xiang Shaoyun's eyes to turn bloodshot. It was at this moment that Xiong Huo appeared noiselessly behind him before swinging the bone club down at him.

Chapter 266: Spirit Crystal Mine Indeed!

Xiang Shaoyun was already in a somewhat agitated mood. With the brutal energy in the air, his negative emotions were further intensified. Despite his agitation, his Nether Soul Domain still functioned well as he was able to detect Xiong Huo's ambush the moment it came.

He rolled to the side, barely avoiding the bone club that landed on the ground right beside him. Brutal energy rippled out of the point of impact and brushed past Xiang Shaoyun. Just that was enough to cause him great pain. Xiong Huo was a ninth-stage Transformation Realm expert. His combat prowess was comparable to a War King, and he was thus someone capable of posing a threat to Xiang Shaoyun.

After missing the first attack, Xiong Huo continued attacking. Each attack carried with it the power to destroy mountains while the brutal energy leaking out completely surrounded Xiang Shaoyun. After blocking only a few of the attacks, Xiang Shaoyun felt his arms go numb as the impact forced him into retreat.

Despite being forced into retreat, Xiang Shaoyun became even more excited facing the cannibal's attack. The attacks were like an unending storm. He activated his innate purple lightning within him, and his presence of dragon and tiger surged out as he started swinging his Purple Lightning Saber around madly.

Berserk Lightning Blade!

The Purple Lightning Saber clashed with the bone club again and again, creating numerous shockwaves that spread all around them. Now that Xiang Shaoyun had finally decided to fight seriously, Xiong Huo was no longer able to gain any advantage over him.

Xiang Shaoyun was a person who had cleared three King Realm limit rooms. His explosiveness was no weaker than Xiong Huo's. If it wasn't for the stronger energy barrier and the physical strength Xiong Huo had, Xiong Huo would have been defeated by Xiang Shaoyun long ago.

But in this situation where he was forced into a constant retreat, he wouldn't be able to last long under Xiang Shaoyun's bombardment. Finally, traces of fear appeared on Xiong Huo's face. He wanted to flee, but Xiang Shaoyun's attacks were unending. Like a destructive lightning storm, his saber slammed against Xiong Huo without stop.

After blocking a few more attacks, Xiong Huo's bone club finally snapped. He even lost one of his arms, blood gushing from it like a fountain as his miserable wail reverberated in the air. Tightly gripping his arm, Xiong Huo quickly ran, but his speed was completely incomparable to Xiang Shaoyun's.

Afterimages of the Purple Lightning Saber filled his surroundings, slicing even the air apart. Xiong Huo's defense was sliced open like a piece of paper, and the lightning energy set his body on fire and torched him black. And the most fatal of all was that his chest had been split open by the Purple Lightning Saber. He could no longer stop his bleeding.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun gave him a last blow to the neck, severing his head from his body. Just like that, this Xiong Huo, who was comparable to a War King, fell under Xiang Shaoyun's saber.

After dealing with the cannibals, Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to head toward the mountain. Rather, he sat nearby in meditation. It wasn't because he had exhausted a lot of energy, but he needed to calm his agitated mind and force the brutal energy out of his body. Otherwise, his mental state or even his mind would be affected, which would be unfavorable for his future cultivation.

Xiang Shaoyun circulated his cultivation method, trying to force the invasive brutal energy out of his body. However, he found that it was not easy to do. At the same time, he noticed that the brutal energy was even heading toward the depths of his soul. No matter what he did, he couldn't stop it.

Just as he began to get anxious, a strong absorption force erupted from the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, and it devoured the brutal energy clean. After the brutal energy was completely cleared, he felt much better, and his mood calmed down considerably. He was quite astonished by what the headband did as he had not expected that it would have such a function as well.

"Looks like I don't have to be afraid of these cannibals' tricks anymore," said Xiang Shaoyun in relief. He then started heading toward the mountain.

It was a rather low mountain, and when he approached, he was able to clearly see the mountain's surroundings. He also found that there was a cave at the foot of the mountain. Someone had probably dug it, and the cave was also where the cannibals were standing guard earlier.

Using his Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun confirmed that the cave was empty before entering. Upon entering, he saw a pile of spirit crystals to one side. Joy covered his face as he cried out, "This is indeed a spirit crystal mine!"

When he picked up a random piece of spirit crystal and found that it was a mid-grade spirit crystal, his joy grew. Without any hesitation, he kept the pile of spirit crystals away. He then dug at a random spot on the wall and found more spirit crystals.

"This spirit crystal mine is probably quite big. I will need a lot of work if I want to dig them all out," muttered Xiang Shaoyun who started hesitating.

It was at this moment that he sensed a different group of cannibals rushing over. Without thinking twice, he left the cave. He had no intention of getting himself trapped inside, but just as he was about to leave, a sturdy figure appeared before him.

"*&#!**@#&&\$^@..." It was a cannibal king. The moment he had appeared, he pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and started talking in cannibal language.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely confused. But he could see that this cannibal was fuming and was on the verge of attacking. He couldn't be bothered to waste any time here, so he left with his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps.

"Human, after killing my underlings, you won't be able to escape," roared the cannibal.

The cannibal king chased after Xiang Shaoyun. It moved at an extremely fast speed, obviously very unhappy with Xiang Shaoyun. Since Xiang Shaoyun was only running on the ground, his speed was incomparable to the cannibal king flying through the air.

Bone club energy descended from the sky and slammed down at the space in front of Xiang Shaoyun. If he hadn't been able to quickly jump to the side, that slam would have turned him into mincemeat. When the cannibal king saw that his fist attack had missed, he swung his club a few more times.

Xiang Shaoyun kept rolling around and was able to barely avoid the attacks. However, the shockwaves from the attacks still caused his entire body to feel pain. He was now certain that this cannibal was definitely a peak first-stage King Realm cannibal. The combat prowess this cannibal showed was comparable to a second-stage King Realm human.

"Damn it. You think I'm afraid of you? Come, come! Let's fight for a few hundred rounds, then!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun as he drew his Purple Lightning Saber and pointed it at the cannibal king.

The cannibal king then landed and swung his terrifying bone club at Xiang Shaoyun, unleashing a terrifying thick yellow energy and brutal energy toward him. This was a strength Transformation Realm cannibals couldn't compare with.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately sensed a heavy pressure pressing down on him. At the same time, his mental state became tumultuous again. At the moment of crisis, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband reacted again and devoured the brutal energy, reducing the pressure he was in. He then raised his Purple Lightning Saber above his head and blocked the incoming bone club.

Clank!

Taking the attack head-on caused Xiang Shaoyun's arms to go numb. The Purple Lightning Saber nearly flew out of his hands, and half his body was hammered into the ground. It was obvious how terrifyingly powerful this cannibal king was.

Chapter 267: Battling the Cannibal King

"Lowly human, die!" The cannibal king smashed his club at Xiang Shaoyun repeatedly with a terrifying brutish strength, forcing Xiang Shaoyun to be on the defensive. His entire body was hammered into the ground, and a large crater had formed around him. Dust and pebbles flew everywhere as the club ravaged the area.

The intense pressure gave Xiang Shaoyun a sensation that he had returned to the second King Realm limit room. In fact, the attacks of this cannibal king were similar in strength to the attacks he was subjected to in the second limit room.

Good, this is the kind of pressure I need, thought Xiang Shaoyun. His battle intent completely ignited, he roared and unleashed his innate purple lightning. He started slashing the cannibal king with his Purple Lightning Saber, his saber erupting in power like a roaring purple dragon, forcing the cannibal king to retreat.

Lightning was after all the most overbearing of the numerous elements, and with Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess comparable to a King's, he was naturally able to unleash attacks destructive enough to threaten even the cannibal king after combining his combat prowess with the innate purple lightning. With the retreat of the cannibal king, Xiang Shaoyun leaped off the ground and soared to the sky before releasing an incredibly breathtaking saber energy.

Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky!

He used his ultimate technique straight away without holding anything back. The attack arrived like a sudden lightning bolt from a clear sky with a loud and shocking thunderclap. The saber energy tore through the sky and arrived before the cannibal king in the blink of an eye.

Rumble!

The overbearing attack arrived so quickly it felt like a lightning bolt had actually appeared from the ground. Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess had been growing, and now, he was finally able to reveal a tiny bit of the real might of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique.

After sending the slash out, Xiang Shaoyun's body started dropping from the sky. He did not make use of the White Tiger Wings to remain airborne because its energy drainage was too large for it to be used casually, such as in this circumstance. It would be far better to save the wings for crucial moments. In any case, he was confident his slash was enough to give the cannibal king a terrible injury.

The attack landed and injured the cannibal king, but the injury wasn't as bad as Xiang Shaoyun had envisioned. The cannibal king had formed multiple layers of thick brown energy, which had protected his entire body. But from the blood dripping out of his mouth, one could still see that he had been injured by Xiang Shaoyun's attack.

The cannibal king's eyes turned bloodshot as he shouted, "Human, I will tear you apart alive!"

For the high and mighty cannibal king, Xiang Shaoyun was but a puny human. But it was this same puny human who had injured him, and that caused him to be furious. He flew toward Xiang Shaoyun and let loose a mighty roar from his mouth.

Cannibal's Roar!

This was a type of sound attack unique to the cannibals, and it did not target only one's ears. After the cannibal king roared, an apparition of a cannibal head formed from brutal energy and bit down at Xiang Shaoyun.

The attack came suddenly and arrived before Xiang Shaoyun in the blink of an eye. Meanwhile, he was still stunned from the sudden soundwave attack, allowing the cannibal head to bite him. After biting him, the cannibal head dissolved and entered his body. The brutal energy released all his negative emotions and started messing with his mind.

Swish!

Once again, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband reacted. Strands of energy trailed out and devoured the invading brutal energy, saving Xiang Shaoyun from it. However, the cannibal king had arrived before him.

"Die!" shouted the cannibal king before slamming his bone club at Xiang Shaoyun's head.

Xiang Shaoyun did not look like he would be able to avoid the attack. If the club landed, his head would most likely be smashed apart.

"Nether Dragon Soul Headband, come out!" In his panic, Xiang Shaoyun released his Nether Dragon Soul Headband from his head.

Clank!

The bone club struck the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, causing a crisp sound to ring in the air. Not only had the Nether Dragon Soul Headband successfully blocked the attack, the impact from the collision had even jolted away the cannibal king. The cannibal king was greatly alarmed as he had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would have such a treasure on him.

Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief before lifting his head and looking at the cannibal king. Killing intent surfaced in his eyes as he said, "That scared me shitless! How dare you scare me like that? Today, you die!"

He then withdrew the Nether Dragon Soul Headband before jabbing forward repeatedly, releasing numerous beams of finger energy toward the cannibal king. The Star Destroying Finger wouldn't be

able to harm the cannibal king. He only used the attack to provoke the cannibal king into attacking him again.

Cannibals were simple-minded and had bad temper. Thus, when the cannibal king sensed Xiang Shaoyun's provocation, he attacked again. This time, he switched his target to Xiang Shaoyun's body.

"This is what I'm waiting for!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold snort.

Once again, he activated his innate purple lightning. At the same time, he pushed his concentration to the peak and entered a unique state where he seemed to have become one with the Purple Lightning Saber. Finally, he swung his saber, releasing a purple lightning bolt. It was still the same Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky, but this time, it was also powered by his saber intent.

Sphhlt!

The cannibal king's attack crumbled apart before Xiang Shaoyun's slash. At the same time, a bloody cut appeared on his belly. Blood gushed out without stop even as the lightning energy proceeded to wreak havoc in his body. Assailed by the intense pain, he wailed before flying away.

"Fleeing? You won't be able to flee!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. The white tiger wings unfurled from his back. With a flap, vicious gold energy rippled out and created a cloud of dust around him.

Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun shot toward the cannibal king. His speed of flight was fast enough for him to catch up with the cannibal king in the blink of an eye. The cannibal king was already seriously injured and could only fly slowly. Xiang Shaoyun being able to fly was something he had never expected. Looking at the approaching Xiang Shaoyun, he roared and started madly swinging his club at Xiang Shaoyun.

Flapping his wings, Xiang Shaoyun avoided the attacks and released another slash in human saber unity mode. After a few slashes, the cannibal king started falling from the sky, looking like he could no longer fight back. Xiang Shaoyun was about to deal the final blow when he suddenly stopped.

"Rather than killing you, I'm better off turning you into my helper," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Having made up his mind, he started chanting the Nether Dragon Soul Curse. Numerous ancient symbols started drifting through the air while the Nether Dragon Soul Headband showed itself once more. It turned into the shape of a dragon and wrapped itself around the cannibal king's head. The cannibal king was already seriously injured and was completely helpless. Thus, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband was able to lock itself around his head successfully.

"Roar! Roar!"

The cannibal king started roaring madly, but the more he struggled, the worse his injuries became. Although the cannibals had terrifying physical prowess, their souls were comparatively weaker. After his soul was attacked by Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Dragon Soul Curse, a brand was quickly left behind. Just like that, a Nether Dragon Soul Curse formed of Xiang Shaoyun's soul power was left in the cannibal king's head.

As for the original Nether Dragon Soul Curse, it was summoned back into Xiang Shaoyun's head while Xiang Shaoyun continued chanting the curse to complete the process of subduing the cannibal king.

Chapter 268: Harvesting the Spirit Crystal Mine

Each species would have things they were good and bad at. For the cannibals, they had powerful physical flesh and a brutal energy that made them incredibly strong. But their weakness was rather obvious as well. They were simple-minded, and their souls were innately weak. Because of that, it did not take Xiang Shaoyun long to gain full control of the cannibal king.

This control was completely different from the type of control he had exercised on Long Hui. The entirety of this cannibal king's soul and consciousness had been fully taken over by Xiang Shaoyun. After all, this cannibal king's soul was too weak and couldn't resist the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, resulting in his complete defeat.

And thus, both the soul and consciousness were fully under Xiang Shaoyun's control. Xiang Shaoyun then learned that the cannibal king's name was Xiong Bao. He had a rather high status among the cannibals as he was the son of their patriarch.

"Great, this will make things much easier." Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed when he found out Xiong Bao's identity. He took out a spirit medicine and fed some of it to Xiong Bao before applying the rest to Xiong Bao's external wounds. He was not doing all this just to get a new puppet. Rather, he had something else he needed Xiong Bao for.

Soon, a day passed. Xiong Bao had recovered considerably. One had to admit that the cannibals really did have amazing physiques. Xiang Shaoyun no longer wasted any time and called Xiong Bao over before returning to the spirit crystal mine. Earlier when the cannibals had arrived, only Xiong Bao had gone after Xiang Shaoyun. The rest of the cannibals were still at the mine working.

"Go tell them to increase the mining speed," Xiang Shaoyun commanded through thought transmission.

The entirety of Xiong Bao's soul was already under Xiang Shaoyun's control. Thus, unlike Long Hui, he couldn't even think of resisting. He merely nodded obediently before heading toward the spirit crystal mine.

Xiang Shaoyun was still able to clearly sense Xiong Bao even with a large distance between them. He couldn't understand the cannibal language, but from Xiong Bao's soul undulations, he understood what was being said.

Xiong Bao was indeed doing as told.

"With free labor, I can now have a nice rest," muttered Xiang Shaoyun cheekily.

He then sat down and started meditating. In his Nether Soul Domain, the scenes of his battle with the cannibal king replayed repeatedly. After each battle, he would revise it to seek for his own insufficiencies. That was how he could further increase his combat experience, and it would help him greatly when he faced future opponents.

After fully analyzing his battle with the cannibal king, finding the weaknesses of the other cannibals he might encounter later would be easier as well. Soon, two days passed. Under the hard work of the tens of cannibals, the spirit crystal mine was completely emptied.

With the mining done, Xiang Shaoyun ordered Xiong Bao to send all the cannibals away. The cannibals would never disobey Xiong Bao, and they all left obediently. Next, Xiang Shaoyun rushed into the cave. He was greeted with piles of pure spirit crystals; a feeling of intense joy surged out from him.

"Haha, great! Awesome!" Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter and started stowing the spirit crystals.

His current astral cosmos sea was big enough to store all these spirit crystals. After stowing them all, he found that a large part of the astral cosmos sea had been filled. A rough assessment of his concluded that the spirit crystals had occupied at least a space of 30 square meters.

With the average size of a spirit crystal, about 500 spirit crystals would take the space of one square meter. With 30 square meters occupied, after taking into consideration the height as well, he now had about 150,000 mid-grade spirit crystals in his possession.

That was an extremely large sum of wealth, more than what ordinary organizations would possess. Any Kings would go mad stumbling on such riches, and even Emperors would covet something like this.

After all, spirit crystal mines were extremely rare. Most of them were already under control of those large organizations. It wouldn't be easy for anyone else to get one for themselves. Xiang Shaoyun had only entered the Land of Soul Springs, and he already had such a harvest. One ought to admit that he was truly a person of great fortune.

With so many spirit crystals, I can do a lot more things in the future, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun then told Xiong Bao to bring him toward the lair of the cannibals. Why? Because he was now sure that the earthstone heart was being kept at a place important to the cannibals. There, it was placed on an altar, treated as the cannibals' most precious treasure. It wouldn't be easy for Xiang Shaoyun to obtain the earthstone heart.

There are a lot of Kings among the cannibals. Moreover, that earthstone heart is being kept in their ancestral temple. With Xiong Bao's identity, he can get it for me. But there is an even stronger cannibal king guarding the temple. Xiong Bao will not be able to retrieve it easily. I need to think of something, pondered Xiang Shaoyun.

After the two traveled for about half a day, they arrived near the cannibals' lair. He could sense a large number of cannibals moving everywhere. Occasionally, some cannibals could be seen returning with the corpses of humans and demonic beasts, which would serve as their food.

If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's ability to detect the cannibals long before they neared him, he would have stumbled upon them by now.

Just as he was about to look for a place to hide himself, he sensed a battle happening not far away. After a slight hesitation, he brought Xiong Bao toward where he heard the battle. Soon, he saw a human fighting a group of cannibals alone.

When Xiang Shaoyun focused, he found that the human was actually Liang Zhuangmin from Cloud Margin Pavilion. Liang Zhuangmin was once a super genius of the Cloud Margin Pavilion, and he was the previous owner of Xiang Shaoyun's first-class estate. But after being stuck in the Transformation Realm for seven years, he was kicked off the first-class estate by the disappointed higher-ups. He was also the society master of the Free Society.

As he fought, brown energy swirled around his body. With the prowess he was displaying, he was definitely a War King. Currently, he was fighting the cannibals with his physical flesh as well. Like a mad beast, he fought the cannibals head-on and killed them off one by one.

How strong, Xiang Shaoyun cried out inwardly when he sensed how overbearing Liang Zhuangmin's strength was.

Liang Zhuangmin was not only strong in terms of combat prowess. He also had a powerful defense that was akin to an impenetrable bastion. No matter how many bone clubs slammed into him, his defense stood tall.

That was why Xiang Shaoyun was so shocked. He watched on silently as Liang Zhuangmin killed about a dozen cannibals without even breaking a sweat. But since this place was near the lair of the cannibals, the battle had attracted a cannibal king.

The cannibal king immediately clashed with Liang Zhuangmin upon arriving. An intense battle erupted, and even when facing the cannibal king, Liang Zhuangmin was still able to stand his ground, showcasing his valiant strength.

However, Liang Zhuangmin had no intention to drag the fight on. Thus, he fought while retreating, trying to leave this place instead. But the cannibal king kept pushing on. To make things worse, a second cannibal king had also arrived. The two cannibals worked together and surrounded Liang Zhuangmin.

Liang Zhuangmin instantly sank into a crisis.

Chapter 269: I'm a Nice Guy

Two cannibal kings had arrived, with one of them being a second-stage King. Even when facing two cannibal kings, Liang Zhuangmin was still able to protect himself, but his speed made it very hard for him to actually escape them.

"You really think you can eat me?" Liang Zhuangmin sneered and erupted with power. His body suddenly enlarged, his muscles becoming even more explosive. With his pair of axes, he started releasing overbearing axe energies at the two cannibal kings, forcing them to reduce the aggression of their attacks.

Even when faced with a disadvantage, cannibals would never escape. They kept Liang Zhuangmin surrounded, trying to take him down. As for Liang Zhuangmin, the longer the battle dragged on, the more valiant he seemed. His axe technique was extremely exquisite, allowing him to stand his ground against two cannibal kings at the same time.

If it wasn't for the advantage the two cannibal kings had due to their ability of flight, Liang Zhuangmin would have killed them by now. But it was not like Liang Zhuangmin was completely helpless against them. He suddenly revealed an opening and collapsed to the ground, causing one of the cannibal kings to dive down trying to finish him off.

Suddenly, Liang Zhuangmin swung his two axes at the incoming cannibal king. The cannibal king tried to block the attack, but he failed to endure the overbearing strength of the axes. Thus, two terrible cuts were left on his chest.

Liang Zhuangmin was able to pull off his plan successfully, but the cannibal king hit him with his final attack—the cannibal had roared before his death, sending out a wave of brutal energy that invaded Liang Zhuangmin's body and started corroding his mind.

On top of that, the other cannibal king had also resumed attacking Liang Zhuangmin, smashing his energy barrier apart in order to finish him off.

Liang Zhuangmin had astonishing willpower. Even as he resisted the brutal energy invasion, he still faced the other cannibal king tenaciously. Unfortunately, with the condition he was in, the prospects of him surviving was rather low.

"God damn it! Am I fated to die here?" roared Liang Zhuangmin in indignation.

The cannibal king's bone club struck him, sending him crashing toward a pile of rocks while coughing up blood without stop.

"Roar!"

The cannibal king roared before charging at Liang Zhuangmin again. He was planning to rip Liang Zhuangmin apart alive. During this moment of crisis, a silhouette appeared out of nowhere. Saber energy streaked through the air straight toward the cannibal king.

As a response, the cannibal king surrounded his body with barriers formed of multiple layers of brutal energy. Alas, that slash had an extraordinary might and was able to instantly slice through the barriers before landing squarely on the cannibal king's back. Accompanied by a wail, the cannibal king rolled to the side.

"Die!" The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. With a roar, he continued swinging his saber, sending powerful saber intent attacks toward the cannibal king.

Here in the Land of Soul Springs, Xiang Shaoyun was unable to borrow the power of natural lightning for some reason. However, the innate purple lightning within him was enough for him to deal with this second-stage King Realm cannibal. He pressed on after the successful first hit with an unending wave of attacks, not giving the cannibal king any respite.

Although the cannibal king had been hit by the first slash, it did not mean that he was completely helpless now. On the contrary, he turned even more ferocious after sustaining the injury. He roared furiously, sending a wave of even more powerful brutal energy wrapping around Xiang Shaoyun's body.

Xiang Shaoyun completely ignored the brutal energy and pushed the power of his saber intent to the peak. Combined with the Lightning Slash From The Clear Sky, even facing this cannibal king head-on was possible for him. The two clashed repeatedly, and eventually, the injured cannibal king was forced into retreat. He flew into the sky in his attempt to avoid Xiang Shaoyun's attack.

Right this moment, Xiong Bao descended from the sky. When the cannibal king saw Xiong Bao, he quickly cried for help. Xiong Bao responded and quickly flew toward the cannibal king only to suddenly attack, smashing the head of the cannibal king apart. Even at his death, the second-stage King Realm cannibal still had no idea what had happened.

After killing the cannibal king, Xiong Bao vanished again. Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to fully reveal this card of his. As for the other cannibal king that was nearly dead due to Liang Zhuangmin's attack, he was finished off by Xiang Shaoyun.

After dealing with the two cannibal kings, Xiang Shaoyun went over toward the badly injured Liang Zhuangmin. Liang Zhuangmin was trying his best to control his mental state to no avail. His entire mind was flooded by the effect of the brutal energy. The moment Xiang Shaoyun approached, Liang Zhuangmin started howling and dragged his badly injured body forward, trying to attack Xiang Shaoyun. But due to the injuries he had sustained, his combat prowess had dropped significantly.

"Shut up already," said Xiang Shaoyun as he gripped Liang Zhuangmin's arm before activating the Nether Dragon Soul Headband to draw all the brutal energy out of Liang Zhuangmin.

The Nether Dragon Soul Headband did not disappoint, as it was still able to devour the brutal energy that was not in Xiang Shaoyun's body. After the brutal energy was cleared from Liang Zhuangmin, the clarity in his eyes returned as he looked at Xiang Shaoyun with gratitude on his face.

Xiang Shaoyun spoke before Liang Zhuangmin could say anything, "You are badly injured. Heal up first. We'll speak later."

Liang Zhuangmin nodded before taking out a healing pill and a stalk of spirit medicine to heal himself. He entered meditation right where he was. Since Xiang Shaoyun was already helping, he decided to finish the job and stand there as a guard.

For reasons unknown to even Xiang Shaoyun himself, he had helped this Liang Zhuangmin. Perhaps he was simply feeling apologetic for having taken over the first-class estate. He also commanded Xiong Bao to stop the other cannibals heading this way before having him return to the lair as well.

Xiang Shaoyun would wait until the right time before making a move on the earthstone heart. Liang Zhuangmin was well aware that it wasn't wise to stay here for long. Thus, after a slight recovery, he stopped his meditation and said, "I did not expect you would actually help me."

"Hehe, well, I'm a nice guy," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"No matter what, I have to thank you," said Liang Zhuangmin. "I will definitely repay your favor."

"There's no need for that. I will be happy enough if you don't hold a grudge against me for snatching your estate from you," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

"Haha. Do you think I, Liang Zhuangmin, will bear a grudge for something so trivial?" said Liang Zhuangmin. "Although it was indeed embarrassing for me, it's not like I haven't been an embarrassment these years. You've probably heard about me, right? A mere estate is nothing compared to the prospects of entering the Skysoar Realm."

As Liang Zhuangmin spoke, a helpless look covered his face. Evidently, he had not expected himself to be stuck at the Transformation Realm for so many years either.

"With your talent, entering the Skysoar Realm shouldn't be difficult at all. Why are you stuck, then?" asked Xiang Shaoyun curiously.

"Yes, it's supposed to be easy. But at times, things will turn out contrary to what one would expect," said Liang Zhuangmin with a look of pain. From his expression, he seemed to have a trouble that was hard to talk about.

"Let's leave this place first. This is the territory of the cannibals. They can find us too easily here," suggested Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 270: Why Don't We Work Together?

Liang Zhuangmin went along with Xiang Shaoyun's suggestion as he was also aware that the cannibals were way too close for comfort. Xiang Shaoyun's original plan was to just bring Liang Zhuangmin to a random place they could rest. But Liang Zhuangmin offered to lead the way as he apparently knew a good hiding place.

That got Xiang Shaoyun curious, so he followed along without asking much. Soon, Liang Zhuangmin arrived with Xiang Shaoyun at an inconspicuous place. After pushing a boulder to the side, a small cave was revealed.

"I will be recuperating in this cave. If you don't have anything to do for now, you are welcome to hide here for a bit as well. Nobody will find us here," said Liang Zhuangmin.

Xiang Shaoyun did not hesitate and stepped right into the cave. Liang Zhuangmin also entered before blocking the entrance with the boulder again. The cave sank into darkness, but Xiang Shaoyun was still able to see everything clearly with his unique pair of eyes.

As for Liang Zhuangmin, he sat down and took out a lustrous pearl that caused the darkness to retreat. It was only then that Xiang Shaoyun noticed that Liang Zhuangmin was awfully pale. Evidently, the short rest earlier was far from enough for him to recover.

"Focus on recovery," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ok. We'll chat later," said Liang Zhuangmin. He then started focusing on recovery.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun thought, This guy sure is trusting of me.

But when he thought about it, he was after all the person who had saved Liang Zhuangmin earlier. Thus, it was understandable that Liang Zhuangmin believed Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't hurt him. Since that was the case, there was no point in needlessly staying on guard against his savior.

Xiang Shaoyun started thinking about his next steps. At the same time, he also started wondering the reason for Liang Zhuangmin to appear here. After all, most of the humans were here for the soul springs. Very few people would actually come to the territory of the cannibals.

He guessed that Liang Zhuangmin was most likely here for the same reason as him—to search for the earthstone heart. After all, Liang Zhuangmin cultivated the power of earth. The earthstone heart would be very helpful to him and could even help him enter the Skysoar Realm. Half a day later, Liang Zhuangmin finally woke up from his meditation. He was in a much better condition now.

"Xiang Shaoyun, are you here for the earthstone heart as well?" asked Liang Zhuangmin.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out from the sudden question before admitting, "Yes, I'm here for the earthstone heart. You are here for the same reason, right?"

"Looks like we have the same goal. Why don't we work together?" Liang Zhuangmin suggested.

"Work together? Are you not afraid that I will be the one to get the earthstone heart?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Haha, since I dare to propose a partnership, I am naturally not afraid of that. We can fight between us after obtaining the earthstone heart. It will just go to the victor," said Liang Zhuangmin boldly.

Liang Zhuangmin's heroic bearing gave Xiang Shaoyun a very favorable impression. Xiang Shaoyun nodded and said, "Ok. Since Brother Liang has such confidence, let's partner up. However, there are a lot of Kings among the cannibals. What are our odds of succeeding since there are only the two of us?"

"Yes, that is quite tricky. But it's not like we are completely helpless. We just have to take some risks," said Liang Zhuangmin.

"What plan do you have in mind?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Liang Zhuangmin sighed and said, "I came once 10 years ago, so I am aware of a secret tunnel leading to the cannibals' nearby ancestral temple, which is where they keep the earthstone heart."

"What? You were here 10 years ago?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in astonishment.

"That's nothing surprising. I was about your age back then, and that was my first time here. I was proud and arrogant, coming to retrieve the earthstone heart with a bunch of apprentice brothers. However...almost all of us died. I only survived because I found the secret tunnel by fluke," said Liang Zhuangmin with a look of melancholy. "Earlier, I was trying to get to the tunnel again when I noticed that the tunnel was already sealed by the cannibals. Otherwise, they wouldn't have detected me at all."

"Huh? Since it is already sealed, how will it help us?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"It's sealed, but we can open it again. That's why I need your help," said Liang Zhuangmin frankly.

"You mean we can open the tunnel again and use it to approach the ancestral temple and snatch the earthstone heart from the cannibals? But there are most likely powerful cannibal kings guarding that place as well. Are the two of us even enough to get the earthstone heart?" questioned Xiang Shaoyun.

With a helpless smile, Liang Zhuangmin replied, "I know this will be a difficult task, but I have no other choice. If you don't want to go, I will still go alone."

Xiang Shaoyun could sense Liang Zhuangmin's resoluteness. The man had resolved to try even at the cost of his own life.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Since Brother Liang has already decided to give it your all, I shall play along as well."

"Are you sure?" Liang Zhuangmin asked. He was astonished that Xiang Shaoyun would still agree even after knowing the dangers involved.

"Of course. I was here for the earthstone heart in the first place. How can I give up so easily?" Xiang Shaoyun gave a firm answer.

"Good. Let's not wait, and go right now," said Liang Zhuangmin impatiently.

"No, we can't rush something like this. You are still badly injured. You need to first recover to your peak. Going in your current state is the same as suicide," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"But I'm afraid I will need two or three days to recover to my peak," said Liang Zhuangmin with a sigh.

"That doesn't matter. We have a month here, remember? What's two or three days?" Xiang Shaoyun placated him. "If Brother Liang trusts me, tell me where the tunnel is. I will reopen it. When you are back to your peak, we can then go straight to the cannibals' lair."

Liang Zhuangmin narrowed his eyes and studied Xiang Shaoyun for a bit before saying, "Fine! I'll tell you!"

The two then left the cave. Liang Zhuangmin pointed in a certain direction, telling Xiang Shaoyun where the tunnel was. Looking over, Xiang Shaoyun realized that the tunnel was located close to where he had rescued Liang Zhuangmin earlier. Evidently, Liang Zhuangmin had been trying to get into the tunnel before he was found by the cannibals.

"Alright. Focus on recovery. I will reopen the tunnel as soon as possible," said Xiang Shaoyun before dashing away.

Looking at the departing Xiang Shaoyun, Liang Zhuangmin thought to himself, Hopefully you won't disappoint me.

He then entered the cave and resumed recovering. This time, he entered an even deeper meditation fully focused on healing himself. The energy revolving around him this time was much more powerful than earlier, increasing the speed at which he was recovering. It would seem like although he looked simple and honest, he still knew to keep some of his actual strength hidden.