

Overlord 281

Chapter 281: Time to Send You Off

Equipped in a crimson armor and wielding the Blazing Saber in his hand, Huo Linfei stood before Xiang Shaoyun and blocked his path. He was surrounded by a raging column of flame that seemed to reach the heavens, looking like a god of flame.

"Hehe, you really don't know what's good for you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Come. You had injured the men of the Lightning Alliance. Today is the day we settle the grudge," said Huo Linfei before lifting his saber and slashing at Xiang Shaoyun.

Raging Skyburner!

Huo Linfei used all his strength from the very start. An odd flame raged around his saber as his saber energy shot out and transformed into a fiery tsunami that crashed down at Xiang Shaoyun.

One ought to admit that Huo Linfei indeed had incredible combat prowess. He wouldn't have been able to become the vice alliance leader of the Lightning Alliance otherwise. With the combat prowess he was displaying, he was comparable to even War Kings.

"Playing with fire in front of me? You think too highly of yourself," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer before countering with his Seven Scorching Sun Claws.

With the pair of gloves he wore, he did not need to fear touching the Blazing Saber. His claws moved in an unpredictable manner, instantly ripping Huo Linfei's saber energy apart before reaching toward Huo Linfei's chest. He hit Huo Linfei only to find that his attack had landed on an afterimage.

"You fell for it!" Huo Linfei's voice rang out as he appeared beside Xiang Shaoyun, sending forth an even more overbearing saber energy.

The saber energy raged forth like a torrential flame with a fearsome might. Instantly, Xiang Shaoyun was completely surrounded by the wave of flame. That technique had indeed caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise, but he was still able to pull out from the wave at the last second like an unpredictable phantom.

That was the prowess of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps—capable of crossing worlds with a single step. Xiang Shaoyun had spent the past two years slowly tempering himself and learning more about the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps through the numerous battles he had undergone. He had slowly come to comprehend the essence of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps.

After escaping the attack, Xiang Shaoyun no longer held back. He appeared behind Huo Linfei and started clawing madly with his Seven Scorching Sun Claws. Huo Linfei had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would actually be able to escape his attack and counterattack so quickly. He quickly turned around and started resisting the incoming attacks with his saber.

However, Xiang Shaoyun's claws seemed to be everywhere. No matter what he tried, Huo Linfei failed to block the claws. Numerous claw wounds were left on his body, and if it wasn't for the armor he was wearing, he would have been completely dyed red in blood by now.

Huo Linfei was forced into a repeated retreat, and he finally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun's prowess in combat. Even so, he couldn't just concede defeat. Thus, he shouted in panic, "Blue Lion Flame, full activation!"

Instantly, the apparition of a blue lion appeared behind him. A column of blue flame surged out, increasing his combat prowess to a brand new level. This new blue flame was much more powerful than the flame he had been using earlier. Even Xiang Shaoyun was forced to retreat, and Huo Linfei took the chance to press on by swinging his Blazing Saber at Xiang Shaoyun.

Blue Lion Annihilation!

Four blue lions appeared out of nowhere and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun. Their aura was boundless and fearsome, their prowess creating a massive cloud of dust in the area, leaving destruction everywhere in their immediate surroundings. The people nearby cried out in alarm at the sight of that.

"Who are these people? Both of them are War Kings! This is too scary!"

"The person in the crimson armor is Huo Linfei from Cloud Margin Pavilion. His strength is second only to the Lightning Kid."

"Both of them are giants among men, but that young man in white seems to be only an eighth-stage Transformation Realm cultivator. He is actually able to stand his ground against a peak Transformation Realm cultivator. He definitely has insane potential."

"Who cares? We still need to get on the Moon Gazing Platform."

...

Huo Linfei's attack was extremely powerful, capable of giving even regular Skysoar Realm experts a hard time. Xiang Shaoyun, the target of the attack, had a first hand experience at how powerful it was. An intense sea of blue flame surrounded him, tempting Yun Flame within him to come out and devour all the blue flame in the area. Sensing Yun Flame's desire, Xiang Shaoyun let it release a massive pulling force and devour the flame Huo Linfei was throwing his way.

Whoosh!

Instantly, Yun Flame devoured the blue flame, stripping Huo Linfei's saber energy from the blue flame energy, leaving only a pure saber energy behind. It greatly weakened the offensive might of the saber energy to the point Xiang Shaoyun was able to easily block it.

"What?" Huo Linfei turned pale from fright.

He could not understand why his beast flame had suddenly vanished. On top of that, he could sense an incorporeal devouring force surrounding him, causing the beast flame in his stars to withdraw in fear.

Taking advantage of this distraction, Xiang Shaoyun pressed on and clawed at Huo Linfei. His attack was further powered by Yun Flame, allowing him to tear Huo Linfei's armor apart.

"AHHHH!"

Finally, the attack reached Huo Linfei's flesh, causing him to wail in pain. Even worse for Huo Linfei was the fact that Yun Flame was starting to burn inside his body. The power of Yun Flame was incredibly intense, and Huo Linfei was completely incapable of suppressing it.

At the same time, Huo Linfei also sensed that the beast flame within him seemed to have encountered an apex predator. It did not even dare to resist and was instead fleeing everywhere in a disorderly manner.

"Refine!" Huo Linfei was still a cultivator of the power of flame. While Yun Flame burned his body and suppressed his beast flame, he started relying on himself to refine the invading flame.

But how would Xiang Shaoyun give him a chance to do so?

"You nearly killed me at the volcano. Today, it's my turn to send you off from this world," Xiang Shaoyun said and gripped Huo Linfei's neck.

A look of panic covered Huo Linfei's face. "You...you are..."

He finally knew who Xiang Shaoyun was. But it was too late.

Crack!

His neck was directly snapped. After Huo Linfei died, Yun Flame continued burning and reduced Huo Linfei into a pile of ash. The beast flame was forced to escape, but it was unable to flee from Yun Flame.

Just like that, the high-tier beast flame was turned into Yun Flame's food, further increasing Yun Flame's might. When Yun Flame returned to Xiang Shaoyun's body, he could sense that his own strength had grown considerably, reaching late eighth-stage Transformation Realm. But he did not have the luxury to focus on that. A few other people were attacking him.

"You dare kill our vice alliance leader? The Lightning Alliance will not let you off!" shouted one of the attackers.

These people were Lightning Alliance members, and they were Huo Linfei's loyal followers. They attacked together, sending a massive bombardment toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 282: Climbing Moon Gazing Platform

"I see. Fine, you can all join your vice alliance leader in the afterlife as well," said Xiang Shaoyun as he drew his Purple Lightning Saber.

The blade left the sheath; a bright radiance erupted before vanishing as soon as it had appeared.

Rumble! Rumble!

A loud rumble ensued, followed the instant destruction of a bunch of energy attacks. When everything settled, all that was left on the scene was the corpses of the people who had attacked Xiang Shaoyun.

Without wasting any time, Xiang Shaoyun started rushing toward the top of the cliff. The people in the surroundings were all dumbstruck. All of them were shocked to see Xiang Shaoyun's valiant prowess, and they started wondering who the young man was.

On the Moon Gazing Platform, the numerous young geniuses had also witnessed the entirety of the battle. They all focused on Xiang Shaoyun, their battle intent starting to leak. Even Wu Longfei, who had his eyes shut all the while, suddenly opened his eyes. A sharp sword aura suddenly erupted from his body.

The people around him were instantly on guard when they noticed, but the aura had only appeared for a split second before it vanished. Inwardly, Wu Longfei muttered to himself, Has he reached human weapon unity? Interesting!

Unlike the others, Devil Fairy wasn't shocked by Wu Longfei's reaction. Her bewitching eyes were completely focused on Xiang Shaoyun, but it only lasted for a split second as well. She withdrew her attention, as if nothing in the world was worthy of her time. Meanwhile, Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou reached the halfway point up the cliff. Not many people could stop their advance.

"Do we wait for Shaoyun?" asked Hua Honglou, not realizing that she was now addressing Xiang Shaoyun in a more intimate manner.

Liang Zhuangmin looked behind him and smiled. "No. We just need to get up there fast enough so we won't be a burden to him."

Liang Zhuangmin was aware that Xiang Shaoyun could fly. If Xiang Shaoyun wanted, he could arrive at the Moon Gazing Platform before anyone else. Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was surrounded by a raging clump of flame as he dashed along the path up the cliff, pushing away everyone in his path with the power of his aura alone, which was already too much for many people here to handle.

There were naturally some who refused to believe in Xiang Shaoyun's strength. One of them was a peak Transformation Realm overseer from Myriad Sword Sect who drew his sword and attacked.

"Get back down there!" said the overseer whose sword nimbly appeared before Xiang Shaoyun's throat in a flash.

Xiang Shaoyun was already prepared to face any incoming attack. He bent to the side and avoided the stab before grabbing the attacker's wrist. He then lifted the attacker and tossed him away.

"AHHHH!"

The overseer couldn't even control himself and tumbled down the cliff. Without sparing him a second look, Xiang Shaoyun continued on his way up. After that little episode, nobody else dared to block him. They let him quickly reach the top of the Moon Gazing Cliff.

After arriving at the top, he had to continue traveling forward for a bit before arriving before the Moon Gazing Platform. Here, a battle would decide if he could get on the Moon Gazing Platform as well. A large number of people were competing against each other to get on the platform. Each of them was a peak Transformation Realm cultivator possessing a mighty combat prowess.

In order to get a soul spring, they were using even all their trump cards. After all, obtaining a soul spring was pretty much equivalent to reaching the Skysoar Realm, which was a dream for all of them, and none of them would be willing to miss out on this chance. Both Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou were standing at a corner. Instead of charging straight toward the platform, they stood there waiting for Xiang Shaoyun.

When Liang Zhuangmin saw Xiang Shaoyun, he laughed heartily, "Haha, I knew nobody could stop you."

"Alright, stop laughing. There are limited spots left. Let's go," said Hua Honglou.

"Sure, let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

The three grouped up and formed an energy barrier around them before rushing toward the Moon Gazing Platform.

"Want to get on the Moon Gazing Platform? You have to go through us." Suddenly, a group of three got in their way.

The three were overseers from the Devil Blood Society; each of them was a peak Transformation Realm cultivator. They were trying to stop Xiang Shaoyun's group to let a different group pass instead.

"Piss off," Liang Zhuangmin was the first to reply. His fists shot toward the three like a pair of heavy boulders.

Liang Zhuangmin had already recovered to his peak condition, and with his combat prowess as a War King, not many people could be his match. The three blocked his attack together, but Liang Zhuangmin alone forced the three to retreat. Following closely behind him was Hua Honglou's attack. Her scarlet sword energy split into three and created three scarlet flowers that bloomed like the most enchanting of fireworks.

"Ahhhh!"

All three of her opponents were stabbed in their stomachs, causing them to wail in pain. Xiang Shaoyun's attack came next as a flurry of kicks shot forth, and they sent the three flying away. Just like that, three peak Transformation Realm experts from the Devil Blood Society were defeated by Xiang Shaoyun's group.

"Haha, that feels refreshing!" said Liang Zhuangmin in excitement.

"Let's go," urged Hua Honglou, who still remained level-headed.

The three continued on. Some other people tried stopping them as well, but everyone failed.

Bang! Bang!

After sending a few groups of people flying away, the Moon Gazing Platform was finally right before them.

The young man the three Devil Blood Society overseers had escorted was standing on the platform. He glanced at Xiang Shaoyun's group. With a red glow in his eyes, he said, "I will teach you guys a lesson when I have the time later."

"Why wait? I'll teach you a lesson right now!" said Liang Zhuangmin, who immediately attacked upon hearing with his sharp ears what the young man said.

From how he was behaving, it was obvious he was intending to battle this young man right on the Moon Gazing Platform.

"Impudent!" said the many geniuses on the platform.

Their auras surged out and pressed down on Liang Zhuangmin. Xiang Shaoyun and Hua Honglou quickly stepped forth and faced the pressure together with Liang Zhuangmin.

"Battles are prohibited on the Moon Gazing Platform," said Wu Longfei, who was seated at the very front of the platform. He spoke with a calm tone, yet his voice seemed to give off a sensation that his words were not to be disobeyed.

Liang Zhuangmin snorted, "Hmph. So are we not going to fight even when a soul spring flies over?"

"We will do what we can to get the soul spring then," replied Wu Longfei calmly.

"Then what's the point of prohibiting battle?" Liang Zhuangmin said.

Right after he said that remark, Wu Longfei opened his eyes and stared straight at Liang Zhuangmin with his sharp eyes. Liang Zhuangmin met his gaze fearlessly. Just as things were about to further escalate between the two geniuses, a sparkling and translucent clump of radiance suddenly drifted toward them.

"A soul spring has appeared!" someone cried out.

Chapter 283: Soul Spring Obtained

The so-called soul spring, also popularly referred to as a strand of soul spring, was in fact only the size of a dewdrop. Regular people would not even notice it when it flew out. But everyone here was a top-tier Transformation Realm expert. Thus, they had much better eyesight than regular people and could immediately notice the soul spring.

Everyone grew excited when they saw the soul spring. Instantly, they all moved, doing what they could to snatch that strand of soul spring. The first person to notice the soul spring reached out and sent out a massive palm that was over 10 meters wide to grab the soul spring. However, before his palm could even touch it, a different attack shattered his energy palm.

Bang!

Following closely after that explosion were numerous other energy attacks flying everywhere. Even with the chaos, everyone was taking great care to avoid damaging the soul spring by sending numerous strands of gentle energy to compete with each other to control the soul spring's trajectory. The numerous strands of energy entered a deadlock, causing the soul spring to stay frozen midair. At this time, only the strongest would be able to get the soul spring.

"Hmph. This soul spring is mine!" coldly snorted Lightning Kid as purple lightning energy bloomed from his palm, destroying many of the competing energies. At the same time, he reached out with his free hand and formed a lightning net that attempted to drag the soul spring to him.

The Lightning Kid was strong, but so was everyone else here.

Fan Ren the Scarlet Broadsword bellowed, "Who do you think you are? Come here, soul spring!"

His sword energy weaved about in the air, pushing away Lightning Kid's lightning energy before directing the soul spring toward him. But at this moment, someone else interrupted and redirected the soul spring's trajectory again. The intense competition continued until someone suddenly lost control over his own energy and accidentally destroyed the soul spring.

"Bastard!" Lightning Kid howled furiously. The intense storm brewing around him was an indication of how angry he was.

But right this instant, someone cried out, "A lot of soul springs are coming this way!"

Sure enough, a few strands of soul spring were flying toward them at the same time from several different directions. On the platform, one could almost smell the greed in the air. Everyone started grabbing at the numerous soul springs.

"Brother Yun, let your big brother get one for you!" said Liang Zhuangmin, no longer staying silent. He roared and erupted with all his strength. A valiant yellow energy wrapped around him as he sent

a yellow energy palm forth, pushing numerous energies aside and pulling one of the soul springs over.

Just as Liang Zhuangmin was about to get that strand of soul spring, someone else intercepted him. The person sent out a cyan energy claw that grabbed Liang Zhuangmin's energy palm and pulled it toward a different direction.

"Trying to snatch food from the tiger's jaws? Are you trying to die?" Liang Zhuangmin did not dare to apply too much strength for fear of destroying the soul spring. Thus, he could only shout at the claw's owner.

"We are all doing all we can to get the soul spring," came the reply.

Right after he said that, a different energy arrived and sliced his energy claw apart, allowing Liang Zhuangmin to quickly pull the soul spring back. The new attacker was none other than Hua Honglou.

A few other people were also trying to snatch the soul spring from Liang Zhuangmin, but Hua Honglou stopped them all, allowing the soul spring to land in Liang Zhuangmin's palm.

Liang Zhuangmin immediately stored the strand of soul spring into a jade bottle before giving it to Xiang Shaoyun. "Brother Yun, this is my gift to you."

Xiang Shaoyun seemed to just now only notice what was happening, as he was recovering from his daze. He said with a surprised tone, "You got a soul spring already?"

"Yes, of course. Your big brother is not one to break his promise. But of course, my sister-in-law helped greatly," said Liang Zhuangmin with a hearty laugh.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou with gratitude and said, "Thank you. Big brother, keep this soul spring for yourself first."

"Are you looking down on your big brother?" Liang Zhuangmin grumbled.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled helplessly. "No, of course not. Fine, I will accept it."

He then accepted the bottle of soul spring.

Liang Zhuangmin smiled. "That's more like it."

By this time, the other strands of soul spring had also been obtained by a few of the geniuses there. Those who had failed to obtain one were filled with envy. But they were not overly anxious as they still believed that there would be even more soul springs flying over.

"Big brother, Honglou, let's go," Xiang Shaoyun suddenly proposed.

"What? What's the rush? I am planning to get a few more strands of soul spring," said Hua Honglou unwillingly.

Liang Zhuangmin agreed, "Yes, it's not easy for us to get a good spot like this. It will be too much of a waste to leave this early. We still have plenty of time."

"If you trust me, leave right now. Otherwise, everything will be too late," said Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

Hua Honglou and Liang Zhuangmin looked at Xiang Shaoyun in confusion, not understanding why he was being anxious. Xiang Shaoyun no longer said anything and directly sped off as he dragged them along. The moment they left the platform, some other people occupied their spots.

"What are you doing? Don't you want more strands of soul spring?" asked Hua Honglou in indignation.

"Nothing is more important than our lives," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"What do you mean?" Hua Honglou became even more confused.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun did not need to answer as someone else had answered for him.

"S-so many ghostrunes are flying over! That is so...terrifying!" someone cried out in alarm.

Not far away, a large number of ghostrunes could be seen flying toward them. At a glance, there were a few thousand of them. Before they had even arrived, a hail of rocks started raining down at the humans on the cliff. By the time the humans noticed what was happening, rocks were already falling everywhere around them. Chaos instantly erupted.

Those who couldn't react in time were instantly injured. Wails of pain filled the air. They started working together to destroy the rocks, but as debris filled the air, the chaos grew. Finally, Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou understood why Xiang Shaoyun had dragged them off the platform so quickly.

Liang Zhuangmin looked behind him and cried out in alarm, "Heavens, are all the ghostrunes coming for us?"

Hua Honglou also shivered. "That is really terrifying. If we had been a moment slower, we would have been completely surrounded up there with the others."

"Big brother, work with Honglou and help our people escape. As for whether we can get more soul springs, I suggest we don't try too hard. There are too many ghostrunes here, and even ghostrune kings have arrived. We can't stay here for long," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"What? Even ghostrune kings are here?" Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou cried out.

As if to prove Xiang Shaoyun right, some people on the cliff suddenly started gripping their heads, wailing in pain. It was as if these people had gone mental all at the same time and could no longer fight, helplessly allowing the rocks to smash them into mincemeat.

Chapter 284: Ghostrune King

Unlike regular ghostrunes, ghostrune kings weren't only limited to lifting and throwing objects. They could also directly attack one's soul. The people gripping their heads in pain had been attacked by the soul attacks of the ghostrune kings, causing them to be completely defenseless against the hail of stones.

The weakest part of any cultivator was the soul, and the moment one's soul was injured, one's mind would be affected. The effects of an injured soul varied from losing one's mind or even dying through the withering of one's soul.

The geniuses no longer dared to stay on the platform. All of them started leaving at the fastest speed they could muster. The other people on the cliff also started fleeing everywhere.

There was only a tiny path leading up the cliff, and in this situation, the path became filled with people while chaos ensued. A large number of people were pushed off, and they started falling down the cliff.

"Ahhhh!"

Screams filled the air. As for Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou, they survived the calamity thanks to Xiang Shaoyun, who had dragged them off before all that happened. But that did not mean they were completely out of danger. After all, they still had to help the members of Red House and Free Society escape.

"Honglou, use your crossbow to protect our people and leave with them," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"How about you? Are you not leaving with us?" asked Hua Honglou, who sensed that Xiang Shaoyun had decided on something.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "I'm not leaving. These ghostrunes won't be able to do anything to me."

"Brother Yun, this is not a joke. You have to leave with us too!" Liang Zhuangmin persuaded.

"Just trust me, big brother. I'll cover your retreat. Go," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

Right this moment, a large number of stones rained down on them. With the Purple Lightning Saber in hand, Xiang Shaoyun slashed repeatedly, sending numerous lightning energy sabers toward the stones, turning them into powder. But since only a small number of ghostrunes had reached this far, Xiang Shaoyun was able to protect everyone's rear all by himself.

When Liang Zhuangmin and Hua Honglou saw that Xiang Shaoyun had made up his mind, they did not dally around and immediately rushed the others to leave. But even without them rushing them, the others were already fleeing madly after witnessing what had just happened on the cliff.

Finally, a few ghostrunes arrived and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun. Instead of attacking with stones, they flapped their ghostrune wings, causing several odd light waves to ripple out around them.

Wave after wave of the rippling light spread out, and anyone who looked at them were hit with a dizzy spell. Xiang Shaoyun was no exception as he felt his vision going blurry, and even his soul was starting to be affected.

Right this moment, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband in his head activated, stabilizing his soul and helping him regain clarity. And the first thing Xiang Shaoyun saw upon regaining his clarity was a few massive boulders smashing down at him from above. He quickly dodged to the side.

Bang! Bang!

The boulders crashed into the ground, creating numerous craters as the ground shook repeatedly.

"What a close call," Xiang Shaoyun muttered. He knew the Nether Dragon Soul Headband was able to defend against all soul attacks, but even so, he was nearly hit.

"The ghostrunes have a weak physical body, but their unique attacking methods are too hard to deal with," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he started retreating as well.

The only reason he had stayed behind was to buy more time. He had not intended to fight these ghostrunes to the death. In any case, he could already sense the location of the soul raising stone. He had to go harvest it. Moving at an astonishing speed, Xiang Shaoyun headed straight toward an important area of the ghostrunes.

Although a large number of ghostrunes had been sent to attack the humans, a large number of them still remained back home. A short while later, some ghostrunes appeared around Xiang Shaoyun. The ghostrunes did not have much variety in their attacks. They would either attack by throwing objects or by dazzling their opponents with their ghostrune wings.

Xiang Shaoyun did not fear either of these attacks. His Purple Lightning Saber was swung around madly, destroying all the objects the ghostrunes threw at him. He even took the chance to slash at the ghostrunes that couldn't escape in time.

Just like that, the ghostrunes were killed by him. After killing a few ghostrunes and scaring the rest away, he continued on his way. The escaped ghostrunes started shouting for reinforcements. Soon, a large number of ghostrunes flew over from the distance.

Xiang Shaoyun understood that if he allowed himself to be surrounded by these ghostrunes, he would definitely be dead. He might be able to defend himself against the objects thrown by a few ghostrunes, but if a few hundred ghostrunes were throwing objects at him at the same time, even if he wasn't killed by the thrown objects, he would be killed by exhaustion.

Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun activated his White Tiger Wings and shot away like an arrow let loose from a bow. In his optimal condition, he could fly at a speed comparable to even Kings. Thus, regular ghostrunes would not be able to match his speed.

With his Nether Soul Domain, he constantly sensed the area in front of him, allowing him to know about any obstacles he might encounter. But since he was already very close to the ghostrunes' home, it was practically impossible to continue advancing without encountering any ghostrunes. Ghostrunes kept appearing everywhere, all of them attacking him without mercy.

Unfortunately, their ghostrune wings seemed ineffective against Xiang Shaoyun. They were also weak in close combat, and it did not take long for a few dozen ghostrunes to die under his saber. He did not waste any time and moved on the moment there was an opening.

The other ghostrunes were about to give chase when a ghostrune king arrived and said, "Leave. I will deal with this human."

He was speaking the ghostrune language. Thus, only the ghostrunes understood what he said. With one command, the massive number of ghostrunes retreated like a receding tide. Then, the ghostrune king flew toward Xiang Shaoyun at an incredibly fast speed. This ghostrune king had a high cultivation level, and it did not take him long to catch up.

"Human, for intruding upon my race's forbidden area, die!" the ghostrune said to Xiang Shaoyun through soul transmission.

"Oh, this is your race's forbidden area? Great! Now you got me even more curious!" replied Xiang Shaoyun.

"You are really seeking death. Very well. Die!" said the ghostrune king with a nasty smile before blasting an incorporeal force of soul power toward Xiang Shaoyun's head.

Soul power had no shape or form and was very hard to detect. Only one with a sufficiently sensitive soul would be able to sense it. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was able to sense the soul power through the Nether Dragon Soul Headband. Thus, he did not need to fear soul attacks.

Right after the soul power entered Xiang Shaoyun's head, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband completely stopped it before it could even do any harm to him. But Xiang Shaoyun still pretended to be hit, and he fell from the sky, gripping his head and wailing.

The ghostrune king smiled smugly and said, "Nobody can stop the innate ability of the ghostrunes."

After saying that, he lifted a stone spike and threw it at Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 285: What Secret Is There on This Stone Mountain?

Xiang Shaoyun was feigning pain, but he was in fact fully on guard against the ghostrune king. He deliberately twisted his body to one side, barely avoiding the stone spike the ghostrune king threw his way.

"Huh? What a lucky fellow," muttered the ghostrune king in astonishment. He then flew closer to the ground before lifting a few more stone spikes and throwing them at Xiang Shaoyun.

As a King Realm expert, the ghostrune king's offensive power was far greater than a regular ghostrune's even when he was just attacking by throwing objects.

If Xiang Shaoyun was hit, death was certain. He stopped pretending to be in pain and instantly soared upward, swinging his Purple Lightning Saber.

Lightning Slash From the Clear Sky!

He used his strongest attack immediately, not holding anything back against the ghostrune king. His sudden counterattack gave the ghostrune king a fright. The ghostrune king wanted to retreat, but it was already too late. Xiang Shaoyun's slash was too fast.

Rumble!

The thunderclap shook the area as the lightning slash took the ghostrune king's life. After killing the ghostrune king, Xiang Shaoyun did not waste any time and immediately shot toward a stone mountain not far ahead.

This was the only stone mountain in the area. It wasn't exactly a tall mountain, but it had a very peculiar shape. It looked like an arm, with the peak of the mountain looking like a palm. From far away the mountain looked like the arm of a giant trying to grab some treasure from the heavens.

Based on what Hua Cheng had told him, this was where he could find the soul raising stone, and it might also be the origin of the soul spring strands. The reason he suddenly came here was because when he was on the Moon Gazing Platform, he suddenly sensed an intense calling in his head. It was as if something had formed a resonance with him, making him long to obtain that something.

Traveling in accordance to the call, he eventually reached this place, and when he arrived before the stone mountain, he stopped moving. He did not charge straight toward the mountain rashly. Not a single ghostrune could be seen.

This is too weird, thought Xiang Shaoyun. He then extended the senses of his Nether Soul Domain toward the entirety of the stone mountain. He would plan his next step after scouting the mountain.

Unfortunately, his Nether Soul Domain did not work for some reason. He was unable to see everything hidden within the stone mountain. To be precise, some sort of power seemed to be cutting off the Nether Soul Domain from the inside of the mountain, putting a veil of mystery around it.

After the failed scouting attempt, Xiang Shaoyun found that the call in his head had turned even more intense. The sensation originated from the Nether Soul Domain and Nether Dragon Soul Headband, as if something was waiting for them to devour it.

"There must be some soul treasures in there," Xiang Shaoyun concluded.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to start climbing the mountain, he sensed a large number of ghostrune kings behind him. All of them were glaring at him ferociously. They immediately launched soul attacks at Xiang Shaoyun, trying to kill him where he stood. Unfortunately for them, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband in Xiang Shaoyun's head was a divine item which blocked all the incoming attacks.

"Stop wasting your time. You won't be able to harm me," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Vile human, you can block our attack? But that doesn't mean you will survive!" said the ghostrune king leading the group before lifting and throwing a large number of rocks at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shit! Do you need to be so fierce?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm and immediately flew toward the stone mountain with his White Tiger Wings.

But the moment he got near the mountain, he felt a terrifying soul power surround him. The soul power was so strong it almost felt solid as it slammed right into Xiang Shaoyun's soul. This attack was far more powerful than the ghostrune king's attack.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely dumbfounded. He stood no chance against such imposing soul power. But when the soul power was about to hit him, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband suddenly activated. It turned into a dragon which then coiled around Xiang Shaoyun's head, blocking the entirety of the soul attack.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely unscathed. It was clear how powerful the defense of this Nether Dragon Soul Headband was.

"Phew. Good thing the Nether Dragon Soul Headband does not disappoint," said Xiang Shaoyun. Just as he thought he had survived, another wave of even more powerful soul attack came slamming down at him.

Through the Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun was able to clearly sense that the soul attack was so powerful it was as if the sky itself was collapsing upon him. It was extremely fearsome, causing fear to start rising from the very depths of his heart.

Once again, the soul attack slammed at his head. This was an attack capable of giving even Emperors a hard time. But once again, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband blocked the attack for him. He was still completely unharmed. Finally, everything settled down. No new attacks came for him.

"It's over?" Xiang Shaoyun mumbled before he continued on his way.

"That human has successfully entered the area of the mountain proper," a ghostrune king cried out in alarm.

"How did this human do it? Is he really immune to soul power?" asked another ghostrune king. "We need to report this to the patriarch."

This stone mountain was known as the Soul Stone Mountain, and it had always been the ghostrunes' forbidden zone. Xiang Shaoyun did not realize that he had shocked all the ghostrunes as he cautiously approached the Soul Stone Mountain.

When he arrived at the foot of the mountain, he found that there was no path leading to the peak at all. The entire mountain was incomparably steep and stood almost perfectly straight up until the peak.

Xiang Shaoyun gently caressed the surface of the slope and found that the mountain was incomparably glossy and sleek. He lamented, "What secret is there in this mountain?"

He stomped the ground and shot upward. At the same time, his White Tiger Wings unfurled behind him, carrying him straight to the peak of the Soul Stone Mountain. The mountain wasn't very tall. With a few flaps of his wings, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the top.

The peak of the mountain was in the shape of a palm. The five fingers stood tall, as if the palm was clawing at the heavens. And at the center of the palm was a pool of spring water giving off an extremely refreshing sensation.

"Soul spring!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm.

He had always believed that it was impossible for each soul spring to come into existence in the form of droplets. Now that he found this pool of soul spring, his belief was reaffirmed. This pool of soul spring was enough to shock any organization out there. But this Soul Stone Mountain was a relatively unknown mountain.

After all, it was located at the depths of the ghostrune territory, and not many humans could even reach and leave this place alive. Suddenly, something happened at the pool of soul spring.

Chapter 286: A Ghostbloom and a Terrifying Human Face

Xiang Shaoyun was excited to see the pool of soul spring water, but he did not lose his rationality from the excitement. He was certain that there must be something else here. Otherwise, how would he have gotten attacked by the terrifying soul attacks out of nowhere earlier?

His gaze landed at the middle of the pool. There, a black flower was blooming. It had a total of 49 petals on it, each sparkling and translucent, with droplets of soul spring flowing about on the glossy, bright petals. The flower looked dainty and elegant, possessing a majesty fit for the king of flowers.

Xiang Shaoyun's breathing stirred when he laid eyes on the flower. He couldn't help but to cry out, "Ghostbloom!"

The ghostbloom was an extremely rare and precious plant. With the 49 petals this particular stalk had, it had certainly matured to a top-tier emperor medicine. Note that it was an emperor medicine, not a king medicine.

One ought to know that just one king medicine was enough to cause a massive battle between numerous Skysoar Realm experts. It went without saying that this emperor medicine would be capable of spilling the blood of Emperors.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected to stumble upon something so rare here on the Soul Stone Mountain. If he could obtain this ghostbloom, he would have a total of three rare plants on him, with the other two being the vicious tiger gold lotus he had obtained from the Golden River Valley and the blaze flower he had obtained from the Flame Mountain.

Any one of the three could be considered a massive fortune for any cultivator. For Xiang Shaoyun to stumble upon them one after another, one had to admit that he was truly loved by the heavens. Suddenly, the water in the pool started rippling. At first, there were only some small waves, but soon, a whirlpool formed, slowly throwing out drops of soul spring water repeatedly.

Swish! Swish!

Drops of soul spring water flew in all directions. This was most likely the origin of the so-called strands of soul spring flying everywhere. It was also at this moment that something seemed to be trying to charge out of the pool, causing Xiang Shaoyun to grow nervous.

"Roar!"

A fearsome roar rumbled in the air as a terrifying mouth soared before crashing down on Xiang Shaoyun. He was totally dumbstruck. Before he could even react, he was swallowed by the massive mouth.

At this critical moment, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband in his head suddenly shone, releasing rays of light that proceeded to defeat that mouth. It turned out the massive mouth was still a soul attack. It was merely a mouth formed through soul power that looked extremely real, giving one an illusion that it was an actual mouth.

Without the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, the attack would have been enough to completely devour him. Xiang Shaoyun broke out in cold sweat from the fright, drenching his entire body. That was a near-death experience, and it was dreadful.

"Kid, you really have a treasure on you capable of blocking my full-powered attack!" a voice suddenly rang out. The voice was extremely sinister, as if it had come from the ninth hell itself.

The voice pulled Xiang Shaoyun's mind back from his shock. He looked down and saw the shape of a terrifying human face in the pool. The face was filled with wrinkles, looking like the bark of an old tree. On the left cheek was a long scar that looked more like a centipede. Messy hair cascaded down the face, making it look like it was the face of a devil that had risen from hell. Xiang Shaoyun could not understand why something like this was here. He felt his legs go weak from the creepy sight.

Xiang Shaoyun swallowed and asked, "Are you a human or a ghost?"

"Tsk ts, this lord is a ghost, and I am going to eat you!" said the face with the same creepy voice.

Xiang Shaoyun took a step back, but when he recalled the protection he had from the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, he regained some of his courage. He replied, "Hehe, even if you are a ghost, you still won't be able to eat me. Don't you remember your previous failed attempt?"

Numerous possibilities rose in Xiang Shaoyun's mind. This face might be the remaining consciousness of some expert, or it might be a spiritual brand. A ghost was not the only thing it could be. But it was certain that the face could only release soul attacks. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been trying to scare him from within the pool. At that realization, much of his fear vanished.

"Bastard, do you really think I can't touch you?" the face roared and sent another massive mouth toward Xiang Shaoyun. It was still a soul attack, and it similarly failed.

"Stop wasting your time." Xiang Shaoyun smiled. The Nether Dragon Soul Headband essentially granted him immunity to all soul attacks. He had no need to fear this face anymore.

"Hmph, it's still too soon for you to be happy," the human face snorted as numerous rocks started hovering in the air. Then, all the rocks were slammed in the direction of the ghostrunes.

Bang! Bang!

Like a rapid-fire catapult, the face rained stones down on the ghostrunes, causing wails to ring in the air. Chaos ensued, and the ghostrunes started fleeing farther away. But no matter how they fled, the stones still hit them.

In the span of a few breaths, almost all the ghostrunes in the vicinity were killed. Only a few lucky ones escaped. Even the survivors had only escaped because the human face had intentionally stopped attacking. Otherwise, none of the ghostrunes would have been able to escape.

Xiang Shaoyun witnessed everything, and once again, he broke out in cold sweat. He had been too smug earlier. If the human face attacked him the same way, he would definitely end up as mincemeat.

"Hehe, scared now? Don't think you can insult this lord just because you can stop my soul attacks. I can kill you as easily as squashing an ant," said the human face.

"Yes, lord. You are truly brilliant and mighty, your valiance unrivaled. Before you, this kid is nothing but an ant. In fact, you will only be dirtying your hand killing me. This kid shall quickly piss off from the presence of your exalted self," said Xiang Shaoyun respectfully while wiping his cold sweat before quickly retreating from the place.

Yes, the ghostbloom was a very precious treasure, but his life was even more precious. Unfortunately, before he could even start flying, floating rocks completely surrounded him, rendering escape impossible.

He sullenly grumbled to himself, I knew treasures wouldn't be obtained so easily!

Fortunately, the human face did not seem to have any plans of killing him. Otherwise, the rocks would not stop at merely surrounding him.

"O great lord, why are you even wasting your time on a tiny thing like me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Hehe, now you know to beg?" said the human face with a creepy smile.

"What do you need to consider sparing me, great lord?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, having a feeling that this fellow was not going to kill him after all.

Chapter 287: A Terrifying Man

Before absolute strength, Xiang Shaoyun was left with no choice but to be subservient. He was still young and had a long road ahead of him. He also still had a mission to accomplish, and he had no intention of dying prematurely here. A real man would know when to bow and when to stand tall. There was no shame in that.

"Come down here," said the human face.

"Down? Where?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, confused.

"Just come to the bottom of the pool. I will be waiting," said the human face before the soul power forming the face dispersed.

The rather wondrous scene shook Xiang Shaoyun. His belief that an absolute expert had been here was reaffirmed. He dared not dally about and quickly jumped into the pool. The instant his body touched the soul spring water, he was flooded by a wondrous sensation, feeling as if his soul was about to ascend to the heavens. Strands of energy started flowing into him, pulled in by the Nether Soul Domain. His soul felt like it was being baptized, and it flooded his entire body with a comfortable sensation akin to soaking in a hot spring during a cold winter.

Xiang Shaoyun was fully intoxicated in the sense of comfort when the voice rang out again, "Enough. Get down here. You will have plenty of time to enjoy it later."

Xiang Shaoyun shivered when he heard the voice. He did not dare to waste any time and directly dove down into the pool. When he arrived at the bottom, a certain force surrounded him and pushed away the soul spring water around him. An opening appeared before him, and he was pulled into it.

After Xiang Shaoyun entered, the opening closed up again, with him continuing to fall downward. He had a feeling this was the inside of the Soul Stone Mountain, but he also had a feeling that this was a space created by a unique formation.

After a while, he finally landed on the ground. It was a pitch-black enclosed room, and an ordinary person would be as good as blind here. But Xiang Shaoyun was able to see clearly. The space was about 300 square meters in size. Apart from the glossy and clean stone walls, there was nothing special about the space.

"Lord, where are you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked when he found nobody around.

"Here," the voice rang out again.

At the same time, sounds could be heard from the wall behind Xiang Shaoyun. He turned around and found a dry figure imprinted on the wall, as if that figure had become one with it. If one did not pay great attention to the wall, one could easily miss this detail.

Xiang Shaoyun had a far better eyesight than many people and was thus able to get a clear look at the figure on the wall. And that gave him yet another fright.

The figure on the wall was a wizened person who looked more like a corpse, a bag of bones. It was as if the person's vitality had completely dried up. His messy hair drooped down his head to completely cover his face, his person constantly emanating an intensely creepy sensation. Even in such a condition, he had still been able to display such mighty soul power. It was obvious how terrifying an existence he was.

"Lord, you..." Xiang Shaoyun was completely speechless.

"Are you scared?" asked the person slowly.

Although his voice could be heard, his mouth wasn't moving. He did not resemble a living being at all. But Xiang Shaoyun was sure that the voice had come from this person. He was merely using a soul transmission method to directly send the words to him. Physically uttering those words were not required in such a situation.

"N-no, of course not. I was merely curious," answered Xiang Shaoyun after a slight hesitation. He mustered some courage before stepping forth and asking, "Lord, do you have an errand for me?"

While Xiang Shaoyun was approaching, the person's hair suddenly flared, revealing a pair of ghostly eyes. The eyes glowed with a green radiance, looking more like two clumps of ghostfire. They were capable of causing one's hair to stand on end, and Xiang Shaoyun was so frightened he came to a halt.

Fortunately, he wasn't exactly a coward. He was able to quickly compose himself and stabilize his footing before looking straight into that person's eyes, waiting to see what the person wanted of him.

"Resemblance...the resemblance..." the person muttered. Emotions flared in the green eyes, but the withered body still remained completely still.

"Lord, do you have an errand for me?" Xiang Shaoyun repeated his question.

"What is your family name?"

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before answering, "This kid's family name is Xiang, with the given name Shaoyun."

"Xiang...and the resemblance...is he really the descendant of master?" The person suddenly grew excited.

As his emotions stirred, his messy hair whipped about, revealing the terrifying face once again. The face was exactly the same as the face Xiang Shaoyun had seen earlier, with the exact same scar on it.

Xiang Shaoyun did not understand what the person was getting at, but he had an inkling that things might turn for the better for him.

"Lord, who is your master, if I may ask?" Xiang Shaoyun probed.

"Haha, my master is the undefeated being across the nine heavens and the ten lands," he proclaimed, howling with laughter.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard that, he thought with derision, Sure, why are you trapped here if so?

Of course, he would not dare vocalize that thought. Rather, he replied respectfully, "Lord, you are already such a mighty and unrivaled existence. Just what kind of amazingly brilliant individual is your master?"

"Kid, don't bother flattering me. Tell me. Do you come from the super clan, Xiang Clan? Is your ancestor Xiang Dingtian?" he asked impatiently.

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "Yes, I come from the Xiang Clan, but I am not sure if it is the same Xiang Clan. After all, the Xiang Clan is a big clan with many branches, and I don't know who my ancestor is."

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun knew his origin very well, and he was also aware that his father had bad opinions of the Xiang Clan. As for who his ancestor was, he was truly clueless. Oddly, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber within him suddenly stirred, seemingly trying to rush out of his body.

"You don't even know your ancestor's name? Are you still worthy of being a descendant of the Xiang Clan?" questioned that person resentfully.

Xiang Shaoyun asked curiously, "Lord, do you happen to be surnamed Xiang as well? Are we actually family?"

"You don't need to know that. Now, remove your soul defense. I need to find out if you are actually the descendant of the Xiang Clan," said that person coldly.

Xiang Shaoyun replied with some hesitation, "No, I don't think that is required. I have my own way of proving my identity."

He then activated the lightning bone within him. The innate purple lightning flared up around his body while the apparition of a purple dragon appeared behind him. The dragon roared, appearing incredibly valiant.

The person grew excited again. "It's the Xiang Clan's lightning bone. Haha, yes, there is no mistaking it."

It was at this moment that the Overlord Skyslaying Saber within Xiang Shaoyun finally went mad and charged out of his body by itself.

Chapter 288: New Secret Information

Swish!

The moment the Overlord Skyslaying Saber charged out of Xiang Shaoyun's body, the presence of dragon and tiger appeared as well, dazzling the entire room. Although the saber had yet to return to its perfect form, part of the might it once possessed was starting to show.

And as the Overlord Skyslaying Saber flew out, an object flew out of the person's body as well. It was a crude-looking medal that emanated the same aura as the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

"Master's Overlord Skyslaying Saber!" he cried out in alarm, emotions flaring in his pair of green eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned. He had sensed the Overlord Skyslaying Saber stirring earlier and had wanted to suppress it. But it had still flown out and had even summoned something out of the person on the wall as well.

Inwardly, he felt relief as he thought, Looks like this person is related to the original owner of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. Surely, he won't make trouble for me anymore.

Staring at the saber and the medal in the air, he asked in confusion, "Lord, what is going on here?"

"Do you really not know anything at all?" asked the person after taking some time to calm himself.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded solemnly and said, "This is a saber I had acquired by fluke. I do not know its origin."

"This is a saber that only my master can own. He is also the only person who can activate it. Thus, it is certain that you have the blood of my master coursing in you, allowing you to form a resonance with the saber. Looks like you really are a descendant of my master. Anyone else wouldn't have been able to make use of this saber even with the saber in hand," he said with an utmost certainty.

Xiang Shaoyun was out of words, so he circulated the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual before waving his hand at the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. The saber flew back to him, but surprisingly, the medal came along as well.

He hesitated slightly before wrapping his hand around the medal.

The moment he had the medal in his grip, a sense of intimacy rose within him, as if he had known the medal for a long time. The blood within him started stirring while his lightning bone started crackling with lightning energy as well. The presence of dragon and tiger around him grew even more solid while a seemingly matchless aura started appearing around him.

With his eyes fixed on the character carved into the medal, Xiang Shaoyun bellowed, "Overlord!"

His shout was filled with ample aggression that shook the tiny space he was in. The look of someone viewing the entire world with contempt appeared in his eyes. That look had come so naturally to him, as if he was truly unrivalled and that the medal was merely a fuse that had sparked this true side of his.

"M-master!" the person on the wall cried out emotionally, more and more emotions filling his pair of eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense a vague and indescribable emotion covering his mind, yet he couldn't figure out what the emotion was for some reason.

Shortly after, he recovered from deep thought and looked at the person before asking, "Please tell me the history of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber and this medal."

Xiang Shaoyun was now much calmer when facing this person; much of the fear he had earlier was nowhere to be seen.

"Yes. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber is a weapon my master had personally forged. My master was once the strongest existence in the Nine Gods Dominion. His name is Xiang Dingtian, known as the Overlord, one who had founded the super clan, Xiang Clan. He ruled over the Western Desert and had nearly conquered the other eight regions as well. Alas...my master fell victim to the tricks of some villain, causing him to be surrounded by the strongest experts of the other eight regions. He alone fought the various heroes, and they battled until the sky itself dimmed. Finally, after slaying most of them, he helped his followers escape while he himself perished from pure exhaustion," said the person.

In Xiang Shaoyun's head, the image of a lone imposing hero appeared in his mind. Alone, the hero battled the strongest the eight regions had to offer. How overbearing was such a person? It was no wonder that he dared proclaim himself the Overlord.

"How did you end up trapped here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Back then after my master perished, we fought the eight regions to the death in order to protect the Xiang Clan from being wiped out. The eight regions were unwilling to force our hand too much. Thus, we parleyed. The eight regions agreed to withdraw from the Western Desert and no longer make trouble for the Xiang Clan. But the Xiang Clan was also required to live in seclusion. They were no longer allowed to claim hegemony over the Western Desert or to extend their influence to the other eight regions. Apart from that, we, the main generals of my master, were all imprisoned at different locations. The imprisonment was to last 5,000 years!" said the person with intense indignation. He continued furiously, "But the period of 5,000 years has long passed. In fact, I reckon it has been more than 10,000 years! Those damnable bastards still have me trapped here!"

Xiang Shaoyun was completely dumbfounded.

In the Nine God Provinces, cultivators generally had longer lifespans than regular humans. A Transformation Realm cultivator would have no problem living for about 200 or 300 years, and those in the Skysoar Realm could live for 500 years. As for those in the Emperor Realm, they could live for 1,000 years.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun was not a person with only such shallow knowledge. He was well aware of the higher realms above the Emperor Realm. Those capable of living beyond 10,000 years were most certainly the top existences of the Nine Gods Dominion.

Xiang Shaoyun calmed himself down before asking, "Do you want me to release you?"

"If you are that strong, you wouldn't have been afraid of my threats," said the person. "Tell me about yourself. I can sense that not only are you the descendant of my master, but you are also his chosen heir."

Xiang Shaoyun gripped the medal in his hand. His intuition was telling him that this person would most likely be related to the so-called inheritance he was supposed to obtain. He then told him the story of how he had entered a strange land out of nowhere to obtain the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual while he was still a child.

"Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual! It really is the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual! I thought this inheritance had been severed with my master's death, but it had actually survived! Haha! What great news! Looks like the inheritor for my master's legacy has appeared!" said the person in excitement. But then he suddenly sighed, "I wanted to borrow your body to escape, but looks like I can't do that anymore."

Xiang Shaoyun shivered when he heard that as he thought, Turns out this fellow did harbor ill intentions toward me.

He couldn't help but to feel grateful that he was in some way related to this person. Otherwise, the consequences of coming down here would have been grave.

"How should I help you escape then?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Find me a body that can store my soul. That will be enough to free me."

"That's easy enough. I'll just kidnap someone. You'll be free then?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

The Lightning Alliance people were most certainly hunting for him. He only needed to grab one of them.

"Haha, that sounds simple, but it's not all that simple." The person laughed before he continued with a grave tone, "After 10,000 years of imprisonment, my body has completely dried up. My vitality has been severed, and in truth, I am already dead. But they had never expected that my soul foundation is capable of self restoration. That is how I have survived until now. But they had still left a backup plan behind in the form of formations. Only weaklings below the Skysoar Realm will be able to come here. Because of that, I haven't been able to find a body capable of storing my soul even after so many years. How vile of them!"

Chapter 289: Devouring Ghost of the Five Skyslaying Generals

Others might not know what the term soul foundation referred to, but Xiang Shaoyun knew exactly what it was. There were no limits to cultivation, and at certain points in one's cultivation, one would have to take a step forward to continue to grow.

One would start at the Basic Realm and advance to the Astral Realm, then to the Transformation Realm before eventually reaching the Skysoar Realm, also known as the King Realm. Beyond that

realm was the Emperor Realm, whose official name was the Dragon Ascension Realm, as it was during this realm that one would be akin to a dragon among humans, known as Emperors. Those in the next realm were known as Sovereigns, with the official name of the realm being Soul Foundation Realm.

Since this person had mentioned soul foundation, it could only mean that he had a terrifying cultivation level, high enough to have a soul foundation. Xiang Shaoyun came from a tier-7 sect. Thus, he was clear that even those at the Sovereign Realm would have a hard time living for 10,000 years. This person was most likely above that realm.

Of course, his physical flesh was already dead and only his soul survived. But his soul alone was so powerful few people could contend against him. Because of that, when that person noticed that Xiang Shaoyun had talent in soul cultivation as well, he lured him down here so as to snatch a new body for himself. But since Xiang Shaoyun was the heir of his master, he gave up on that plan.

"You are saying I need to find a body capable of storing your soul foundation? That is the only way you can leave?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"That's right. There is a formation in place preventing my soul from leaving. Thus, I am forced to remain in this body. Otherwise, I would have been free long ago," he said with a sigh.

"What cultivation level does a person need to be at to be able to store your soul foundation?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

This person would be a great help to him if released. The thought of that tempted him more to help this person.

"I need the body of at least a late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator," he said.

Dragon Ascension Realm, commonly known as the Emperor Realm, and the cultivator even had to be in the late stage. That was quite a high requirement. One ought to remember that it was basically impossible for Emperors to enter this place. They would be killed by the formations here.

"I'm afraid I won't be able to get that done," said Xiang Shaoyun helplessly. "Are there no alternatives?"

"Yes, you have to find me some treasure capable of storing souls," he said. "But forget it. With your strength, it will be impossible for you to get one. Just go look for the experts of the Xiang Clan to come rescue me. Tell them I am the Devouring Ghost of the Five Great Skyslaying Generals serving under the Overlord. They will know to come for me after hearing that."

Devouring Ghost, a name that struck fear in one's heart. In truth, 10,000 years ago, this person was indeed a top expert that was greatly feared by many. But it had been too long since that era, and because of that, Xiang Shaoyun had never heard of the affairs from back then.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled bitterly, "I won't be able to reach the Xiang Clan, so I'm afraid that will not be an option either."

"Looks like the Xiang Clan of today has changed," said Devouring Ghost with a sigh. "Fine. Just wait until you grow strong enough. You can come for me then. But I really don't know if I can last that long. AHHHH! Damn it! I can't accept this!"

His voice was extremely mournful, filled with enough hatred that anyone hearing it would feel their hairs stand on end. Xiang Shaoyun sank into silence, but a voice seemed to have appeared in his head, telling him he had to rescue Devouring Ghost.

Perhaps the Nether Dragon Soul Headband will be able to help. Xiang Shaoyun decided to try using the Nether Dragon Soul Headband after thinking about it for a bit.

The Nether Dragon Soul Headband was a treasure that could be used to control the soul of others. But it was unknown if it could be used to store Devouring Ghost's soul. The only thing Xiang Shaoyun knew was that his own soul was currently stored in the space between the two ends of the headband. Staying there, his soul was protected from all sorts of soul attacks and could grow at an enhanced speed.

If he moved his soul out of that place, he might be able to allow Devouring Ghost's soul to enter it instead. At that thought, he summoned out the Nether Dragon Soul Headband.

When Devouring Ghost saw the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, his eyes lit up as he cried out, "This...is this the Nether Dragon Soul Headband from the Imperial Nether Clan? Why is it on you?"

"You know about this thing as well?" Xiang Shaoyun was surprised.

The Nether Dragon Soul Headband was something he had obtained from the Cloud Margin Pavilion auction. The Cloud Margin Pavilion people knew nothing about the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, yet Devouring Ghost was able to recognize it with one glance. It was obvious Devouring Ghost had seen the headband before.

"Haha, how would I not know it? Back then, the Imperial Nether Clan was one of the main forces besieging my master. Their ancestor was killed by my master, but the headband had actually fallen into your hands? Only the direct descendants of the Imperial Nether Clan are supposed to be able to control this headband," said Devouring Ghost as he roared with laughter. "Wait, you can't have the blood of the Imperial Nether Clan in you as well, right?"

Xiang Shaoyun smiled helplessly. "You said it yourself. Only the direct descendants of the Imperial Nether Clan can control the headband. I suppose I do have their blood after all."

Yes, he was a member of the Xiang Clan, but he had most likely gotten the blood of the Imperial Nether Clan from the previous generation. Since his father was a Xiang Clan member, it could only mean that the mother he had never met was the one who had given him the Imperial Nether Clan's blood. But of course, he wasn't sure about that either.

"The Xiang Clan has never got along well with the Imperial Nether Clan. It is very rare to see someone with the blood of these two clans. But that also grants you the talents unique to the two clans, giving you an even brighter future in your path of cultivation. Then again, you sure are weak. You're only at the Transformation Realm?" said Devouring Ghost.

"Now is not the time to talk about all that. See if you can enter the headband," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"If even the Nether Dragon Soul Headband can't store my soul foundation, nothing else in this world will be able to cut it," said Devouring Ghost. "Put it on my forehead."

Xiang Shaoyun did as told and sent the headband flying toward Devouring Ghost's forehead. Abruptly, strands of fearsome power surged out of Devouring Ghost.

Bang! Bang!

The dreadfully destructive power slammed right into the headband. Fortunately, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband was incredibly tough and wasn't the least bit damaged. Xiang Shaoyun was given a fright, and because of that, he lost control over the headband, and it started to drop down to the ground.

"Bastards! You people imprisoned me for so many years! You dream of preventing my escape? Impossible! Just you wait. I, Devouring Ghost, shall reappear in the world. I will not spare a single one of you!" roared Devouring Ghost as he lifted the headband with his soul power and placed it on his forehead again. Next, a clump of boundless soul power converged at the space between the two ends of the headband.

Chapter 290: Young Woman of Remarkable Beauty

The Celestial King Province was a province near the Soaring Dragon Province, and like the Soaring Dragon Province, it was also located in the Western Desert.

At a certain hidden location in the Celestial King Province was a lush area where numerous flowers bloomed and spirit medicines grew abundantly. Chirps of birds and insects filled the air, graceful rivers streamed through the land, and majestic waterfalls cascaded like great rivers. This place was akin to a hidden paradise, a place too beautiful for words to describe.

In this paradise was a young woman in black. Like a butterfly, she fluttered about in the air repeatedly. In truth, she was training in the sword, and the sight of her training was a sight to behold—dancing about like a graceful and joyful butterfly.

She swung her blade repeatedly, creating numerous rays of light that weaved about in the air before coming together and taking the shape of a butterfly. It was truly a wondrous and enchanting sword technique.

The young woman returned back to the ground in satisfaction, and the sword energies slowly dissipated in the air. If one looked at this woman, one would find that she had a breathtakingly beautiful face.

Her bright eyes were like a pair of luminous moons, emanating a brilliance that could intoxicate any person. Just her eyes alone were beautiful enough to cause even the most beautiful of flowers to feel dull. Her delicate nose was fair and smooth and was perfectly proportionate to the size of her face. Her red lips were like a blooming flower, emanating a fragrance capable of seeping straight into one's heart. Her long hair cascaded down her shoulder like a waterfall, swaying about as the gentle wind brushed past her.

She was beautiful enough to cause kingdoms to fall, possessing a perfect face that could bewitch all men. Apart from her beautiful face, she also had a captivating figure. The black robe she wore underlined her peerless figure, as if she was a perfect creation of the gods. She looked about 16 or 17 years old, yet she was already a late-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, an extremely shocking feat

for her age. A person possessing a look and a talent like this was as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns.

"Young lady, Guardian Duo Ji requests an audience," came a respectful voice.

"Guardian Duo Ji? One of the eight great guardians under Father? Why is he here?" muttered the young woman in astonishment. "Invite him in immediately. No, wait, I'll just go meet him instead!"

She then dashed away and arrived at a grassy area shortly after. There, a one-armed old man stood waiting. Beside the old man stood a bulky man. This one-armed old man was once Xiang Shaoyun's guardian, Duo Ji.

Currently, he was dressed sloppily with blood stains all over him. He looked like he had experienced many great battles before arriving here, and in fact, he looked quite sorry at the moment.

When the young woman appeared, Duo Ji was slightly astonished before he quickly knelt down on one knee and said, "Duo Ji greets the young lady."

"Guardian Duo Ji, please rise," the young woman said quickly. A slight trace of anxiousness appeared in her eyes as she asked, "Guardian Duo Ji, why do you look so terrible? Has something happened at the sect?"

Looking at the young woman who had now grown into a breathtaking beauty, he sighed, "Young lady, you were not aware, but three years ago, great changes happened in the sect. The sect master fought Shangguan Wusheng the Death Magistrate at the Wumo Pass and went missing afterwards. His current status is completely unknown. Then, the vice sect master, Di Batian, took the chance to revolt and kill the guardians before seizing the spot of sect master for himself. The young master was hunted and nearly died."

Hearing that, rage covered the young woman's face as she asked anxiously, "My father is missing and my big brother is being hunted? Why did nobody tell me something this big?"

The young woman was furious. She glared at the sturdy man beside them, as if she was going to rip him apart.

The man quickly got on his knees and said, "Soothe your anger, young lady. When I heard, it was already too late to do anything. Lord Wu Xie had then told us to not inform you for fear that your cultivation would be affected. Therefore—"

"Therefore, you have been keeping me in the dark! But do you realize how that involves the safety of my father and brother? How can you not tell me? You bastard!" the young woman raged, getting the urge to even kill the sturdy man. But when she recalled his loyalty to her during all these years, she held back.

"Young lady, the young master did not wish for you to know either," said Duo Ji.

"Why?" asked the young woman.

"The young master does not want to see you take any risks," Duo Ji answered. "I shouldn't have appeared here to disturb your peace at all. The young master only had me protecting you in secret, but things are looking bad at the moment. I had been leading the traitors on a wild goose chase, intending to interrupt their efforts to search for the young master. But they discovered my plan, and I'm afraid the young master will be plunged into danger soon."

"My brother does not cultivate. How can he be a match for those traitors? How can you abandon him? Tell me, where is he? I will go to him immediately!" shouted the young woman anxiously.

"Calm down, young lady. Just the two of us won't be able to save the young master. We need the help of more experts, and we also need to use a teleportation formation to reach the Soaring Dragon Province as quickly as possible," Duo Ji said.

"First Eagle, assemble the Thirteen Eagles!" commanded the young woman.

First Eagle did not dare to waste any time as he quickly answered, "Yes, young lady."

He then vanished into thin air, heading off to gather his 12 companions.

"Guardian Duo Ji, tell me, how are my father and my brother? Are they fine?" asked the young woman, caring more about her family than the sect they had lost.

"The sect master fought the Death Magistrate at a forbidden zone, Wumo Pass. I don't know their status, but the sect master has been missing for half a year when the coup happened. That was why Di Batian had the courage to snatch the position of sect master. As for the young master, he is doing decently. He is hiding at a small town in Soaring Dragon Province and has started cultivating. He is not willing to have me by his side, so I went to lead the traitors on a wild goose chase. Unfortunately, they found out the truth and sent half their numbers after me while the others continued hunting for the young master. I'm afraid....," said Duo Ji anxiously.

"My big brother will be fine. He is brilliantly intelligent and will definitely have a way of hiding from them," said the young woman, seemingly trying to comfort herself with those words.

At this moment, 13 men each mounted on a demonic eagle arrived before the young woman. "The Thirteen Eagles await the young lady's command!"

"Good. Come with me to the nearest teleportation formation. We will be going to the Soaring Dragon Province," commanded the young woman overbearingly.

"Young lady, do we need to inform Lord Wu Xie about this?" asked First Eagle.

"You are not the men of my master, and you only need to obey me. Why do you need to report to him? Just come!" said the young woman resentfully.

She waved her hand in a certain direction, and a black feline quickly dashed over. She then hopped onto the massive cat's back and soared to the sky.