

## Overlord 291

### Chapter 291: You Shall Be the Young Master of Devouring Ghost

Devouring Ghost was now in Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Dragon Soul Headband, making the dried up body a true corpse that had neither vitality nor a soul. Even so, this dry corpse was still a precious treasure for many cultivators.

Unfortunately, even if someone else found this place, they wouldn't be able to retrieve the corpse. The formation sealing this place was powerful enough to kill Emperors. Xiang Shaoyun withdrew the Nether Dragon Soul Headband back into his head.

In his head, Devouring Ghost's voice rang out, "Pulling me straight into your head like this, are you not afraid that I would devour you?"

"You won't," Xiang Shaoyun replied confidently.

For some reason, he had a sense of trust toward Devouring Ghost after he talked to him. It was as if even if everyone in the world turned on him, Devouring Ghost wouldn't. Devouring Ghost sank into silence when he heard the reply.

Not intending to linger around, a pair of wings sprouted from Xiang Shaoyun's back. He then soared, trying to leave. When he neared the top of the room, Devouring Ghost released his soul power and created an opening, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to fly through it.

Once again, he found himself in the pool of soul spring water. The opening closed, not allowing even a drop of soul spring water through. The instant Xiang Shaoyun was back in the soul spring water, he found his mood calming as a comfortable sensation washed over him. The same sensation that his very soul was about to fly out returned.

"Take your time and wash your soul here. This will be very beneficial for your Nether Soul Domain," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally would not give up on the opportunity. He immediately activated the cultivation method of the Nether Dragon Soul Curse and started absorbing the power in the soul spring water to grow his soul power.

The Nether Dragon Soul Curse was not only a curse. It was also a secret soul cultivation method. Numerous strands of energy coursed into Xiang Shaoyun's head from the soul spring water, enriching his soul. He felt extremely comfortable, as if he was taking a bath in a river during a hot summer.

The senses of his Nether Soul Domain absorbed the power of the soul spring like a sponge, slowly growing and expanding. Xiang Shaoyun's mind went completely blank as he fully immersed himself in the blissful sensation.

After an unknown amount of time passed, his soul grew considerably stronger. All the filth had been washed off his soul, and his Nether Soul Domain had expanded by at least triple in size.

Just a single strand of soul spring was enough to help a peak Transformation Realm cultivator enter the Skysoar Realm. Therefore, it was not surprising for Xiang Shaoyun, who was practically having a bath in an entire pool of soul spring water, to grow his soul several times over.

He innately possessed the Nether Soul Domain, granting him a soul stronger than others. Absorbing the Brain Devouring Bug had further grown his soul, and after cultivating his soul with the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, he had a soul power comparable to the soul power of a third-stage or fourth-stage Skysoar Realm expert.

Now that his soul had been enriched by the power of the soul spring, his soul power was the equivalent of an eighth-stage Skysoar Realm expert. With his valiant soul power and the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, he could totally capture and put any Skysoar Realm expert below the eighth-stage under his control. Of course, that was on the premise that he could catch his target by surprise.

Xiang Shaoyun stayed in the pool and only woke up when the soul spring water could no longer help his soul grow.

He jumped out of the pool and stretched. "That was refreshing."

His strength had also grown alongside his soul power. His cultivation level had reached peak eighth-stage Transformation Realm. Although he had only advanced from the middle eighth-stage to peak eighth-stage, it had brought him to the border of the ninth-stage, cutting the time he would have taken to reach this level by two months.

His gaze then landed on the ghostbloom. Joy covered his face as he muttered, "If I swallow this ghostbloom, my soul power will probably grow even stronger!"

"Young master, don't be in too much of a rush. The ghostbloom might be a treasure, but you are too weak. Eating it now is a waste. It is better to wait until you reach late-stage Skysoar Realm," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and laughed dryly before asking, "What did you just call me?"

"Young master. From now on, you shall be Devouring Ghost's young master. Although you have incredibly horrible talent, you have still obtained my master's inheritance, which can only mean that you will probably be strong in the future. Also, I will help you with all my power from now on so your growth will be even easier," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun grew cheerful as he replied, "Sure, I'll be relying on you."

Inwardly, he grumbled, This young master has horrible talent? Oh, you will know my talent one day.

He made some space in his astral cosmos sea and moved the pool of soul spring water into it together with the ghostbloom. Three wondrous sights could be seen in Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea. First was the vicious tiger gold lotus growing among the gold lunar liquid. Second was the blaze flower growing amid a pool of lava, and third was the ghostbloom growing in a pool of soul spring water.

The fact that these three treasures were growing well in Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea was something many people couldn't even imagine. Xiang Shaoyun had never imagined that the treasures he kept in his astral cosmos sea would bring about an inconceivable change to his astral cosmos sea. That was something he would come to learn in the future.

"Young master, you already have an astral cosmos sea?" asked Devouring Ghost in surprise when he saw the pool vanishing.

"Yes, I got lucky and managed to cultivate one," said Xiang Shaoyun smugly.

Astral cosmos sea was something even many Skysoar Realm experts failed to cultivate. Generally, people would only have one upon reaching the Emperor Realm. Even that was on the premise that one possessed a secret astral cosmos sea cultivation method.

"How much space do you have currently?" asked Devouring Ghost with a somewhat rushed tone.

"Not much. About 500 square meters, I guess?" Xiang Shaoyun estimated. The combination of his growth in strength and the numerous fortuitous encounters he had stumbled upon had helped his astral cosmos sea grow steadily.

"What? So big already?" Devouring Ghost was shocked.

"That's nothing," Xiang Shaoyun said nonchalantly.

Devouring Ghost offered no reply. Instead, he sank into silence. Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave the Soul Stone Mountain when his Nether Soul Domain detected a large number of people rushing toward his location.

"They actually have the balls to intrude into the territory of the ghostrunes?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered doubtfully.

But then he recalled how Devouring Ghost had killed a large number of ghostrunes, causing all the ghostrunes in the vicinity to flee, stripping the defenders from this area.

"Whatever. I already have all the treasures anyway. I don't fear them," Xiang Shaoyun told himself. He then leaped down from the peak of Soul Stone Mountain without attempting to conceal himself at all.

One person who was running in front of the group noticed him and shouted, "Haha, is this what people call enemies meeting on a narrow path? Xiang Shaoyun, today you die!"

## Chapter 292: Not Me Sparing You?

The person who shouted was none other than Zi Jingyun the Lightning Kid. He had not come alone. Behind him were about a dozen people, all of them experts of the Lightning Alliance. With a surging battle intent, Xiang Shaoyun looked straight at Zi Jingyun and said, "Oh, you want to kill me? Bring it on!"

He was itching for a battle, and he longed to have a fight with this Cloud Margin Pavilion's number one cultivator below the Skysoar Realm and see for himself how impressive Zi Jingyun was.

"There's no rush. Men, watch him. I'll go up there and see if there is a soul spring," said Lightning Kid before turning into a bolt of lightning shooting toward the summit of Soul Stone Mountain.

Apart from Lightning Kid, other experts were arriving from different directions as well. A few of them were no weaker than Lightning Kid, and they similarly soared toward the mountain's summit.

Xiang Shaoyun was in no hurry, so he waited there calmly and sank into thought, I harvested both the soul spring and the ghostbloom, but I did not find the soul raising stone. Looks like I need to ask Devouring Ghost about it.

"Devouring Ghost, any idea where I can find the soul raising stone?" asked Xiang Shaoyun through soul transmission.

"Oh! So you're here for the soul raising stone?" asked Devouring Ghost.

"Yes. I thought that the soul raising stone would be here, but even after excavating the entirety of the soul spring, I found nothing," replied Xiang Shaoyun.

"I ate the soul raising stone," admitted Devouring Ghost forthrightly.

Xiang Shaoyun staggered and nearly fell to the ground. "Y-you can eat that?"

"Of course. How would I have restored my soul foundation? Remember, I was completely sealed by those bastards back then and couldn't even use my soul power! Fortunately, a soul raising stone was hidden here as well. Left with no other options, I ate it and recovered my soul power," said Devouring Ghost. He added, "That is also why I can open this space once every 10 years, all for the sake of looking for someone who can help me. Finally, my efforts paid off and you appeared, young master."

Xiang Shaoyun had never imagined even the opening of the Land of Soul Springs every 10 years was also the work of Devouring Ghost. This was a truth that would leave many people shocked if exposed.

But he couldn't be bothered to think too much about it as the fate of the soul raising stone was bothering him. The mission he had received from Hua Cheng was to obtain the soul raising stone. The fact that he couldn't accomplish his task soured his mood.

"Why do you want the soul raising stone? Sure, it is a decent item, but it's not very useful for you at your current stage," said Devouring Ghost.

"I was looking for it on behalf of someone else. But since the stone is no more, I'll just have to forget it," said Xiang Shaoyun in disappointment.

"I see. You might be able to find more in the gostrune territory," said Devouring Ghost.

"That's great news! I'll go look for one right now!" said Xiang Shaoyun joyfully. But he had barely moved when he was surrounded by the Lightning Alliance people.

"You won't be able to escape. Just obediently wait here for our alliance leader to come deliver your verdict," said one of them with a sneer.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to give a reply. His figure simply flickered before he vanished into thin air. Before that person could react, a slap landed on his face.

Pa!

He was sent flying, with a few of his teeth flying out of his mouth. The others were alarmed, and one of them shouted, "Move together and detain him!"

They attacked together, surrounding Xiang Shaoyun with a flurry of energy attacks.

"Since you are seeking death, you can't blame me for what I'm going to do next," said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold snort.

His Nether Soul Domain surged in power, pushing his senses to a new height that gave him a detection capability comparable to an eighth-stage Skysoar Realm expert's. With that, the openings of all the incoming attacks were laid bare before him. It was the gift of instincts granted to him by his Nether Soul Domain.

Xiang Shaoyun charged into the openings he found and lashed out with his fists. The punches were all aimed at the openings, scattering all the attackers. Two of them were even sent flying with grave injuries.

Xiang Shaoyun was not holding back as his fists shot out like guided missiles before hitting a few more of his attackers. Before they could even erect any sort of defense, they were struck and sent flying while coughing blood.

"You are all from the Cloud Margin Pavilion, so I will spare you for now. If you continue pushing it, don't blame me if I kill you the next time we meet," said Xiang Shaoyun, who still decided to show them mercy.

If he wanted to kill them, not one of them would be able to escape. There were a few of them who had yet to attack, and fear was currently plastered all over their faces. They were people who knew very well Xiang Shaoyun's prowess.

Instead of attacking them, Xiang Shaoyun tried to leave. But Lightning Kid's voice suddenly rang out, "Stop him. He must have gotten the treasure!"

Next, Lightning Kid shot down from the top of Soul Stone Mountain toward Xiang Shaoyun. When the new arrivals heard his words, they blocked Xiang Shaoyun's path. Apart from the Lightning Alliance members, people from other organizations were also surrounding Xiang Shaoyun.

Lightning Kid finally arrived and said, "Xiang Shaoyun, hand over the treasure and I might consider sparing you."

Lightning Kid was confident there was a treasure on the Soul Stone Mountain because he had seen a newly dug spot there. And since he had personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun leaving the top of the mountain earlier, he concluded that Xiang Shaoyun must have obtained the treasure.

"Hehe. You? Sparing me? Not me sparing you?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered.

"Good answer. You may now die," said Lightning Kid with narrowed eyes before sending forth a palm attack.

Rapid Lightning Palm!

The lightning palm energy arrived in front of Xiang Shaoyun's face in the blink of an eye. The palm was worthy of its name, as it truly moved rapidly. Even some Skysoar Realm cultivators would find it hard to dodge the attack. This attack proved that Lightning Kid did not have his reputation for nothing. Xiang Shaoyun was not proficient in palm techniques, but he could meet the palm with his fist. Thus, he greeted the incoming palm with a Lightning Bolt Fist.

Bang! Bang!

In a flash, the two exchanged over 10 attacks, sending lightning energy splashing everywhere. After yet another exchange, they separated from each other. It seemed like neither of them was able to do anything to the other.

"So you actually cultivate the power of lightning as well? But you are overestimating yourself if you think you can defeat me with lightning," said Lightning Kid with a nasty laugh. The lightning energy around him surged and grew even more fierce. Numerous electrical currents coiled around his body, with a massive apparition of a lightning snake appearing behind him. The snake looked extremely fierce and dreadful.

This was Lightning Kid's true strength and the source of his resounding reputation. He had once obtained a lightning snake egg by fluke. After consuming the egg, his lightning power grew exponentially, granting him the might of a demonic lightning snake.

The lightning snake was a rare high-tier demonic beast. Thus, it possessed an extraordinarily powerful demonic power. Once again, Lightning Kid attacked. His strength had grown by more than onefold, and even a first-stage Skysoar Realm expert would have a hard time facing the current him.

Lightning Snake Exits the Cave!

He assumed the stance of a snake with his hand and stabbed it at Xiang Shaoyun. His hand shot forth like a snake shooting out of a cave at an unimaginably fast speed, the lightning energy around it dreadful and mighty.

Chapter 293: Intense Battle With Lightning Kid

"So this is the number one Transformation Realm expert of the Cloud Margin Pavilion? His combat strength is indeed something else."



"The power of lightning has always been the most offensive power. The Lightning Kid looks decently capable, but he is still not comparable to the strongest swordsman of our Myriad Sword Sect. I reckon just Fan Ren, the Scarlet Broadsword, is enough to defeat him."

"Who is that person putting on a fight against Lightning Kid? I think he doesn't look like a pushover either. Why have I never heard of him?"

"He is Xiang Shaoyun, also from the Cloud Margin Pavilion. He does not get along well with the Lightning Alliance, and he is a genuine War King."

"Why are there so many War Kings among this generation's Cloud Margin Pavilion disciples? There's Zi Jingyun the Lightning Kid, Chen Zilong the Son of Qilin, and now, we have this Xiang Shaoyun. Is this the sign that the Cloud Margin Pavilion is about to rise in prominence?"

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The people in the area started talking among themselves. Meanwhile, the lightning snake wreaked havoc, kicking up clouds of dust as the lightning energy shone brightly. Lightning Kid was worthy of being known as the number one under Skysoar Realm in the Cloud Margin Pavilion. The lightning power he erupted with was incredibly dreadful.

Facing his attack head on, even Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat pressured. He judged that Lightning Kid's combat prowess was comparable to his big brother Liang Zhuangmin, strong enough to battle a second-stage Skysoar Realm expert, and Lightning Kid even stood a chance against a third-stage Skysoar Realm expert.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to hold back against such an opponent. He erupted with power as well. Innate purple lightning wrapped around his fists, and each punch he released contained a force powerful enough to crush stones. Further enhancing the prowess of his punches was the incredibly destructive innate purple lightning.

Instantly, the two of them exchanged over 100 moves. The battlefield was in complete chaos, and most of the people couldn't even see clearly what was happening. The only thing they could see were slithering lightning snakes and roaring purple dragons.

The lightning snake was a rare variation of demonic snake while the purple dragon was a true emperor among beasts. When the battle first started, they were evenly matched. However, the purple dragon was still the higher tiered beast. With the overbearing dragon's presence, the lightning snake was ultimately forced into retreat.

Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun's fist met Lightning Kid's palm, his innate purple lightning coursing forward to suppress Lightning Kid's lightning power before sending him flying. Lightning Kid felt his arm go numb, his bones assailed by an intense pain as if his arm was about to be crippled.

"What lightning power is this? It can actually damage me? That's not possible!" shouted Lightning Kid as he gripped his injured arm.

"If that's all you got, prepare for defeat," said Xiang Shaoyun, losing interest. He increased the intensity of his attacks, flooding the area with his innate purple lightning.

Lightning Kid tried his best to defend himself, but he found that Xiang Shaoyun's lightning power was too terrifying. It was as if he was facing a true natural lightning, a power capable of damaging even him. If it wasn't for the high-grade armor he had on, he would have been seriously injured by now.

"Piss off!" Not willing to keep taking the beating, Lightning Kid unleashed all the energy contained in his stars.

Lightning That Shakes the Heavens!

A terrifying shockwave of lightning energy spread out from him, forcing even Xiang Shaoyun to temporarily pull away from him. He took the chance to press close to Xiang Shaoyun.

Lightning Step!

Using a footwork that made him move like a bolt of lightning, he caught up to Xiang Shaoyun instantly. Lifting his spear, he plunged it at Xiang Shaoyun's chest. This was the strongest attack Lightning Kid could muster. His spear transformed into a lightning snake over 10 meters long. It opened its mouth wide, trying to swallow Xiang Shaoyun.

The sudden shockwave from earlier had caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise. Because of that, he nearly fell victim to this follow-up attack. He quickly punched at the tip of the spear, but he was not able to gather enough strength behind the punch. Thus, he was sent flying. Furthermore, the impact of the collision had even temporarily disabled his arm.

The Lightning Kid was not a War King for nothing. It was simply impossible for Xiang Shaoyun to easily defeat him with brute force alone. Smarter attacks would be required. With the success of his attacks, Lightning Kid started gaining confidence. Again, he stabbed and sent a massive lightning snake biting down at Xiang Shaoyun.

Stab after stab was sent, flooding the area with lightning snakes. Xiang Shaoyun was not given a chance to do anything at all as Lightning Kid strove to defeat his opponent once and for all with this series of attacks.

Rumble! Rumble!

The battlefield, filled with a massive amount of lightning energy, shook without stop. The surrounding people were forced to retreat; they didn't want to be hit by a random shockwave.

"What a terrifying offensive power. Is this the real strength of Lightning Kid? This is the strength of a genuine War King!"

"I think he is already a Super War King, right? Regular Skysoar Realm experts won't be able to stop his attacks at all."

"Definitely. Things aren't looking well for Xiang Shaoyun."

"We can't be sure just yet. Xiang Shaoyun had the advantage just a short while ago. I doubt he will be defeated so easily."

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Xiang Shaoyun was bombarded by a series of attacks to the point his energy barrier was destroyed. Fortunately, he was wearing a high-grade armor as well. Otherwise, he would have been seriously

injured by now. A battle was not only a competition of strength, but it was also a competition of equipment.

Although Xiang Shaoyun was not gravely injured, his arm had still been hit by the spear twice, causing his blood to seep out.

"Young master, do you need me to act?" asked Devouring Ghost, who could no longer stand it. He was very disappointed with the combat prowess Xiang Shaoyun had displayed, but he still did not want to see his new master dead.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense Devouring Ghost's contempt, causing his mood to sour. He replied, "No. Defeating him is nothing hard at all!"

"Roar!"

The presence around Xiang Shaoyun underwent a complete change as his presence of dragon and tiger roiled out. Next, he utilized the Tiger's Roar and sent a sound attack forth.

Lightning Kid had been focused on sending attack after attack at Xiang Shaoyun and had not expected such a terrifying sound attack to come from his opponent. Instantly, he felt an intense pain stab into his ears. A white tiger king seemed to be pouncing at him, frightening him and causing his presence to weaken.

"Time to end this," Xiang Shaoyun roared and unleashed the aura of a tiger king accompanied by the roars of a dragon. An aura of utmost majesty appeared around him as he dashed forward.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Xiang Shaoyun was still not using any weapons, and he attacked with his fists. This time, he was not holding anything back and sent his fist blasting toward one of Lightning Kid's vitals. The attack struck, and blood spurted out like a fountain. Intending to finish Lightning Kid off, Xiang Shaoyun followed with even more punches.

Bang! Bang!

The rain of punches made Lightning Kid feel like he was a small boat out on sea during a storm. He no longer knew what was going on around him anymore.

"Don't you dare harm our alliance leader!" The Lightning Alliance members realized that things were getting serious and immediately acted.

Numerous attacks were sent, completely surrounding Xiang Shaoyun in their attempt to stop Xiang Shaoyun from killing Lightning Kid.

#### Chapter 294: You Must Be Sick

"Anyone getting in my way will die!" Xiang Shaoyun gave an overbearing reply and finally drew his Purple Lightning Saber.

With a swipe of the saber, blood splashed everywhere, and a few people instantly collapsed, forming a pool of blood beneath them. Xiang Shaoyun then shifted his attention back to Lightning Kid, intending to finish the job.

Right this moment, a shout rang out, "Xiang Shaoyun, with my status as an elder, I command you to stop right now!"

That shout seemed to have worked and stopped Xiang Shaoyun from attacking. When he looked to the side, he saw an unknown old man. Looking at the elder token the old man was showing, he concluded that the man was most likely a King Realm expert who had suppressed his cultivation base to enter the Land of Soul Springs.

Apart from the old man, there were two different individuals with unstable cultivation bases. They kept hovering between eighth-stage Transformation Realm and peak Transformation Realm, and it was evident they were also Kings who had suppressed their strength to enter.

"Tell him to stay away from me in the future. He won't be this lucky each time," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Those are big words. Do you even know who Lightning Kid is? He is the personal disciple of the vice pavilion master, Lightning King, and his big brother is the renowned Young Lightning King. If you get on your knees, beg for his forgiveness, and hand over the treasure you had gotten earlier, we might consider begging for leniency on your behalf," said the person holding the elder token.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow and said in astonishment, "You want me to kneel down and apologize to him?"

"That's right. As an elder, I command you to do so. Otherwise, you will no longer be allowed to remain in the Cloud Margin Pavilion," the elder said with a harsh tone.

The person beside the elder echoed the same sentiment, "He is right. Apologize to the young master, or you won't be able to remain in the Cloud Margin Pavilion any longer."

Xiang Shaoyun faced the sky and roared with laughter, "HAHAHAHAHA...."

His laugh was filled with contempt, causing the faces of the two to turn unsightly.

"You must be sick," Xiang Shaoyun said with disdain.

Trying to suppress him with just the identity of an elder was nothing but a joke. Not even the pavilion master could hope to make Xiang Shaoyun bend his knees. A man should never lightly bend his knees. In any case, with Xiang Shaoyun's status, just some King Realm cultivators would not be able to suppress him.

The two Kings were furious.

"Xiang Shaoyun, today, I shall clean the pavilion of the trash that is you!" said one of the elders who could no longer hold himself back.

Although the elder's cultivation base was suppressed, he was still confident he could easily defeat Xiang Shaoyun. Unfortunately for him, he had underestimated Xiang Shaoyun. Against this opponent, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to draw his saber. He simply met the King with a punch.

The two fists connected, followed by a crisp crack. The punch deformed the elder's hand, causing him to wail in pain as he gripped it. Xiang Shaoyun did not stop at that. He followed up with a kick, sending the elder flying away.

"With your talent, you should be grateful you even managed to enter the Skysoar Realm. Yet you dare to act all tough before this young master? You really don't know what's good for you," said

Xiang Shaoyun, intense derision in his voice. Although the elder was a Skysoar Realm cultivator, his cultivation had been suppressed, and he was currently at the same realm as Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was a person capable of defeating even Lightning Kid, the one known as the number one under Skysoar Realm in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, whereas this elder wasn't at all a remarkable cultivator during his time as a Transformation Realm cultivator. Thus, he was completely not Xiang Shaoyun's match when the two were in the same realm.

The two other elders were tempted to make a move when they saw Xiang Shaoyun beating their companion, but they forced themselves to stop upon witnessing Xiang Shaoyun's might.

One of them bellowed, "Xiang Shaoyun, what are you doing? You are offending your superiors! You will be punished by the pavilion for this!"

Xiang Shaoyun dug his ear lazily and said, "Since when am I a member of Cloud Margin Pavilion? You must be sick in the head."

Although Xiang Shaoyun was staying in the Cloud Margin Pavilion, he did not actually have an official relationship with the pavilion. At most, he could only be considered a guest. If it weren't for the fact that a few of his close friends were in the pavilion and Hua Cheng had given him an estate, he would have probably left by now.

"Well well, you are indeed a thankless wretch. Just you wait to suffer the pavilion's fury," said the elder furiously.

"Do you want to have a taste of my fury?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a frown.

That greatly frightened the elder who then quickly stepped away. He lifted Lightning Kid before telling his companions, "We'll leave for now. This madman will naturally be taught a lesson in the future."

They left as fast as they could, and not a single one of the other Lightning Alliance members dared to stay either. They all withdrew. Their departure did not signify the end of Xiang Shaoyun's troubles. Four other people were already surrounding him.

"What do you want?" Xiang Shaoyun asked coldly.

Each of them was equipped with a sword, and from their outfit, they were obviously members of the Myriad Sword Sect.

In reality, they were the four great overseers of the Myriad Sword Sect. Each of them was a peak Transformation Realm expert, and they were well-versed in a sword formation named Minor Four Divisions Sword Formation.

The Minor Four Divisions Sword Formation was an exquisite sword formation. When used by those with great mastery over the formation, it would be able to display an extraordinary might.

These four just so happened to be capable of unleashing the prowess of this formation, and they had killed Skysoar Realm experts before with it. Because of that, they were also known as the Four Divinity Swords, which was an acknowledgment of their strength.

"Hand over the soul spring you got," demanded the leader of the four indifferently.

"How are you so sure I have any on me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Hmph. I personally saw you obtaining a strand of soul spring on the Moon Gazing Platform. Hand it over and you will be spared," said the leader coldly.

"What if I refuse?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

The combat prowess he had shown during his battle with Lightning Kid earlier should be enough to ensure that many people would think twice before facing him. For these four to challenge him, they were obviously confident in their own strength. Or perhaps they had merely assumed that Xiang Shaoyun had been overly exhausted by the battle and would not be as strong anymore.

"You can refuse, but we will just take it ourselves," said the second in command.

Standing at the east, south, west, and north of Xiang Shaoyun, their aura surged out and locked Xiang Shaoyun in the middle of them. The people that were still around grew excited when they saw that a new fight was about to break out.



"It's the Four Divinity Swords from the Myriad Sword Sect! They are making a move on Xiang Shaoyun!"

"The Four Divinity Swords have killed even Skysoar Realm experts before with the terrifyingly powerful Minor Four Divisions Sword Formation."

"Xiang Shaoyun has just finished fighting Lightning Kid and his men. Can he even survive the onslaught of the Four Divinity Swords?"

#### Chapter 295: Might of the Four Divinity Swords

"Bring it on," said Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

His curiosity had been piqued when he heard what the crowd was saying about the supposedly powerful sword formation these four knew. Within the pool of soul spring, his cultivation level had reached peak eighth-stage Transformation Realm.

After the massive battle with Lightning Kid, signs were showing that he was close to breakthrough. If he could have a few more big battles, he might be able to directly enter the next stage.

"Since you have a death wish, don't blame us for what we're about to do. Activate the sword formation!" said the leader of the four.

The Four Divinity Swords drew their swords at the same time. Each of them stood at a different position, and using four completely identical swords, they sent four sword energies flying toward Xiang Shaoyun.

It was an extremely fast attack. Coming from four directions and with such speed, it was an attack not many people could avoid. Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts only to find no openings around him except the one upward.

Without any hesitation, he leaped and avoided the four's joint attack. But he found that the four were actually smiling, as if he had fallen into their trick. Suddenly, all four sword energies changed direction and shot upward toward him. The four sword energies had seemingly combined, were extremely terrifying, and were slicing even the air apart.

"Shit!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out when he finally found out how serious the mistake he had made was.

Any Transformation Realm would temporarily lose their mobility when midair since a Transformation Realm couldn't fly. The mobility would only return when they landed. Evidently, the first joint attack of the Four Divinity Swords was for the purpose of forcing their opponent to jump in the air before finishing the opponent off.

Such an attack was very hard to defend against and death was very likely. The crowd was watching with bated breath, wondering if Xiang Shaoyun could survive the attack.

Xiang Shaoyun was forced to once again draw his saber. He did not fly away using his White Tiger Wings, as he still wanted to keep that trump card hidden. Thus, his only option was to meet force with force.

Lightning Slash From the Clear Sky!

Using all his power, including the innate purple lightning, he slashed his saber downward. The slash was akin to a bolt of lightning with a destructiveness no weaker than the attack launched by the four.

Rumble! Rumble!

The sword energies collided with the saber energy, resulting in a series of rumbling as a massive shockwave spread outward from the impact. Clouds of dust formed, and the sharp energies shredded the pebbles and rocks in the vicinity.

Even though Xiang Shaoyun had destroyed the combined attack on him, he was still sent flying away by the impact of the collision. On the other hand, the Four Divinity Swords did not seem affected, as they had scattered the moment Xiang Shaoyun attacked.

"Shift of Four Divisions!" shouted the leader of the four.

Instantly, the four lined up and sent four beams of sword energy shooting in one straight line toward Xiang Shaoyun. They moved like the wind and attacked like the lightning, their attacks extremely thorny to deal with.

Not even Xiang Shaoyun had expected the four to be such difficult opponents. He had barely landed and the four sword energies had already arrived right before his head. His heart thumped as he immediately collapsed on his back as the sword energies sliced past his face. A few strands of his hair were sliced off, and a sharp pain assailed his cheek. Evidently, his face had been cut, and blood started flowing from it.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could even rejoice that he had avoided the attack, the follow-up attack arrived. Four sword energies arrived for him again, forcing him to take them on with a new energy barrier around him.

The sword energies pierced through his energy barrier and headed straight toward his body. If he was struck, even with the armor he wore, he would still be gravely injured. It was at this moment of crisis that Xiang Shaoyun's rich combat experience came into play. He flicked his wrist and swept his saber at the four sword energies and shifted their trajectories.

Cling! Clank!

The sword energies thus sliced across his clothes but did not leave a scratch on his flesh. In fact, the sword energies had still struck. The force behind them had merely been weakened by the shift of trajectory, and protected by the armor, Xiang Shaoyun remained unharmed.

Xiang Shaoyun then slashed his saber madly, forcing the Four Divinity Swords to pull away from him. He took the chance to get back on his feet. They stood facing each other. It was rather obvious that Xiang Shaoyun was the one at a disadvantage in the last exchange.

Xiang Shaoyun was staring at the four, and the four were staring at him. None of them said anything, but their battle intent was growing even more intense. Their next clash would definitely be an intense one. The observers stood still. They all held their breath and nobody made any sound, waiting for the next round of battle to start.

"Big Dipper Relocation!" The leader of the Four Divinity Swords was the one to break the silence.

The four started moving around rapidly at a speed so fast that nobody could clearly see who was standing at which position anymore. Nearly 100 sword energies circled around Xiang Shaoyun, slowly forming a cyclone as they slowly closed in on Xiang Shaoyun.

During their previous clash, Xiang Shaoyun still had an option of escaping to the air above him. This time, all his paths were sealed. The sword energies surrounded him from all directions, not leaving a single opening.

The only way to escape the attack was to break out through brute force, and one needed to be far stronger than the four to accomplish that. Was Xiang Shaoyun capable of that? His Purple Lightning Saber shone brightly as his innate purple lightning and astral energy erupted, pushing him to his strongest state. His Nether Soul Domain and gift of instincts were also fully activated, assisting him in searching for a way out. Just as the sword energies were about to fully close in on him, he moved.

Saber intent!

He swung his saber in a certain direction. It was toward the weakest link of the Four Divinity Swords, the person ranked fourth among them. Before he was able to move away, Xiang Shaoyun's saber energy arrived. Xiang Shaoyun then became one with his saber, and together with the saber energy, he charged straight at the weak link.

Cling! Clank!

Numerous sparks appeared midair, and crisp sounds rang in the air.

Sphhlt!

Xiang Shaoyun's judgment proved to be correct as his target was indeed the weak link of the Four Divinity Swords. His target failed to block Xiang Shaoyun's slash, and all his sword energies shattered. He himself was slashed into two, his blood splashing everywhere. Xiang Shaoyun killed his target, but now his back was completely exposed to his other three opponents.

Chapter 296: He is a Walking Calamity

With his back fully exposed, everyone believed that Xiang Shaoyun would not be able to escape the attack of his three other enemies. Little did they know that having his back exposed was part of Xiang Shaoyun's plan. Immediately after killing his target, he continued dashing forward.

Crossing worlds with a single step!

In the blink of an eye, Xiang Shaoyun vanished far ahead, causing the three incoming attacks behind him to all miss.

"Fourth brother!" the three shouted in alarm when they saw that their fourth brother was dead.

All four of them were sworn brothers, and the death of their fourth brother had provoked them greatly.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I am going to turn you into mincemeat!" shouted the third brother in fury as he chased after Xiang Shaoyun.

"Third brother, come back here!" shouted the leader.

They could only display the prowess of the Minor Four Divisions Sword Formation when there were four of them. Now that one of them was dead, the formation was as good as broken. Their individual strengths were completely no match for Xiang Shaoyun.

Sure enough, when the third brother gave chase, Xiang Shaoyun turned around and said coldly, "You guys are allowed to kill me, but I can't return the favor? What kind of bullshit is that?"

With a raging murderous intent, the third brother stabbed his sword straight at Xiang Shaoyun's throat. Unfortunately, before his sword could hit, Xiang Shaoyun's saber arrived and sliced through his sword. The saber continued on and sliced his arm off as well. Both the arm and the broken sword were sent flying.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to press on with more attacks, the first and second brothers arrived and attacked from his two flanks. Without their sword formation, their attacks were much less threatening.

Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts, baring the openings of their attacks before him. Then, he danced amid their swords with his wondrous footwork before finally swinging his saber at them.

"Ahhhh!"

Two wails rang out at the same time.

A mortal wound could be seen on each of them. Xiang Shaoyun had been placed in a difficult position almost immediately after his intense battle with Lightning Kid. Thus, he was currently in a sour mood, and the only way to vent was to kill.

He danced about elusively while his saber swept everywhere overbearingly. None of his opponents could stop him. Eventually, he cut the leader of the Four Divinity Swords into two at the waist.

"Y-you fiend! The Myriad Sword Sect will not spare you!" shouted the terrified second brother of the Four Divinity Swords before fleeing in a rush.

Alas, he was not as fast as Xiang Shaoyun and had his head sliced off soon after. The third brother with a severed arm also tried to flee. But he was still suffering from Xiang Shaoyun's lightning attack, and his body was too numb to run.

"Don't kill me! Please spare me!" he begged when he saw Xiang Shaoyun walking toward him with a saber in hand. As of this moment, he no longer had a shred of courage remaining.

"One who kills should always be prepared to be killed," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to deal him a killing blow as well, someone from the Myriad Sword Sect stepped forth and bellowed, "Enough! Xiang Shaoyun, it's time you st—"

Before that person could finish his words, a saber energy streaked through the air and separated his head from his body, shocking the surrounding people.

This guy is a walking calamity! they all concluded.

"Rest in peace," said Xiang Shaoyun before finishing off his final target.

Sphhlt!

Blood splattered and filled the area with the stench of blood. The people present had all witnessed death before, but they were still shocked by Xiang Shaoyun's decisiveness when killing the Four

Divinity Swords. Looking at Xiang Shaoyun who was dyed red with his enemies' blood, reverence filled their eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun scanned the crowd and asked, "Anyone else want my soul spring?"

Wherever his gaze reached, people avoided his eyes and lowered their heads. For them, Xiang Shaoyun's gaze felt like a sharp blade, and it was very hard for them to meet it.

"Xiang Shaoyun, don't think of leaving after killing four overseers of our Myriad Sword Sect. Members of Myriad Sword Sect, kill him!" commanded a voice as cold as a snake.

A feminine young man with a snake-shaped sword in hand stepped out. He was Chu Chunyu the Nimble Snake Sword from Myriad Sword Sect. Along with his appearance, the other Myriad Sword Sect members in the area stepped out as well.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that there would still be people trying to make a move on him. With a few words, this Chu Chunyu had actually managed to get over 40 Myriad Sword Sect disciples to step forth.

Apart from that, a young man from the Devil Blood Society also stepped forth and said, "He has the soul spring on him. Disciples of Devil Blood Society, kill him and take his soul spring."

This was the same young man who had had a short conflict with Xiang Shaoyun on the Moon Gazing Platform. Back then, Xiang Shaoyun, Liang Zhuangmin, and Hua Honglou had killed the three overseers in charge of guarding him.

This young man was Mo Sha, a young genius who had been kept hidden by the Devil Blood Society. He was no less talented than Devil Fairy, and he was similar in strength to Devil Face, whom Xiang Shaoyun had killed not too long ago. At Mo Sha's command, about 40 Devil Blood Society disciples stepped forth as well.

Looking at the over 40 people surrounding him, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Splendid. Bring it on. Do you think I, Xiang Shaoyun, will be afraid?"

The people paused, shocked that Xiang Shaoyun still had such confidence. And it was at that moment that Xiang Shaoyun did something none of them expected. He raised his hand and showed

them his middle finger before turning around and running away. The people from Myriad Sword Sect and Devil Blood Society were completely dumbfounded.

Didn't he just declare that he was not afraid? Why was he suddenly fleeing? What?

Chu Chunyu was the first to recover, and he shouted, "Bastard! Give chase! Don't let him escape!"

"You won't be able to escape death," Mo Sha sneered.

And thus, the people of Myriad Sword Sect and Devil Blood Society started chasing after Xiang Shaoyun. But shortly after, they all retreated.

Why? Because Xiang Shaoyun had charged straight into the heartland of the ghostrune territory. If they followed him there, none of them could escape death, and they had no intention to die together with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun escaped, leaving his name etched deeply in the minds of these members of the younger generation through the two battles he fought. For them, Xiang Shaoyun was now comparable to the likes of top geniuses like Wu Jianfei, Devil Fairy, and Wu Chi. As for which of them was the actual number one below Skysoar Realm, that could only be answered through battle.

## Chapter 297: Entering the Ghostrune Heartland

There were tens of thousands of ghostrunes residing at their heartland. The sheer amount of them was enough to kill off all the humans here if they so wished. Fortunately for the humans, the ghostrunes rarely left their home and would only send small groups out to deal with the humans most of the time.

The reason for that was because they loved the aura drifting about in their home environment, and they enjoyed staying in their territory. Although Xiang Shaoyun was heading deep into their heartland, he wasn't exactly confident he could face the massive army of ghostrunes there.

The only reason he even dared penetrate so deeply was thanks to Devouring Ghost he now had in his head. The ghostrunes had weak physiques, but their souls were powerful enough to protect themselves.



The moment Xiang Shaoyun approached the heartland, a large number of ghostrunes flew toward him. They attacked directly, sending numerous rocks and trees flying toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"I still haven't fought enough, so a fight is always welcomed!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a surging battle intent.

If the Myriad Sword Sect and Devil Blood Society people heard this, they would probably curse him because if he hadn't fought enough, why had he fled from them? In truth, Xiang Shaoyun did not flee because he was scared. He simply did not want to waste any time on them.

He had been in here for about half a month, and the time to leave was approaching. He had to make use of the remaining time to look for a soul raising stone. That was why he had decided to run and charged straight into the heartland of the ghostrunes.

Xiang Shaoyun was not intending to fight these ghostrunes on land. A pair of wings sprouted from his back, and with a flap of those wings, he shot to the sky before attacking with his fists. Two purple dragons flew out and shot toward the ghostrunes.

Rumble! Rumble!

The dragons wreaked havoc, turning numerous rocks and trees into powder. The lightning attack of the dragons would either seriously injure or outright kill any ghostrunes they touched. Xiang Shaoyun no longer held anything back as he flew about and punched repeatedly, sending one purple dragon after another flying from his fists, filling the area with lightning attacks.

The ghostrunes that had welcomed him did not have high cultivation levels, and all of them ended up dead under Xiang Shaoyun's continuous attack. After killing the ghostrunes, Xiang Shaoyun dissolved some spirit crystals within his astral cosmos sea to replenish his energy. It was then that he noticed the increase in his cultivation. The ninth-stage was getting nearer and nearer.

Looks like continuous battles are really helpful. I need to reach the ninth-stage before leaving this place, Xiang Shaoyun decided.

Just as he was about to continue his journey, even more ghostrunes appeared. Their greatest advantages were their ability to attack from afar with soul power and their ability to fly. However, their weakness was very clear as well—their poor ability to defend.

As Xiang Shaoyun could both block the soul attacks of the ghostrunes and fly, the ghostrunes held no superiority over him. The only thing they could do was die. He fought ferociously, charging straight into the midst of the ghostrunes with a flap of his wings. He punched relentlessly, sending the power of lightning and vicious gold everywhere through his fists. The ghostrunes had no way of defending themselves against him, and just one punch was enough to kill a ghostrune when hit.

Their specialty of throwing attacks were completely nullified, as Xiang Shaoyun was flying in their midst. Whenever they attacked, it was very easy for them to harm their own companions instead. Just like that, another group of ghostrunes were defeated.

"Human, you are getting too cocky. You dare intrude on our territory?" shouted a newly arrived ghostrune king.

The ghostrune king immediately unleashed a soul attack by forming a soul formation with his soul power. Soul attacks had never failed this ghostrune king before, but this time, he failed.

"Your soul power is useless against me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. He flapped his wings and charged at the ghostrune king before jabbing with his finger.

Triple Star Destroying Finger!

Instantly, he jabbed three consecutive times, sending three beams of finger energy forward. Strands of flame energy were suffused in the beams shooting toward the ghostrune king.

Flapping his ghostrune wings, the ghostrune king avoided Xiang Shaoyun's attack. At the same time, strands of unique power spread out of his wings as he tried to daze Xiang Shaoyun's mind.

Unfortunately for the ghostrune king, Xiang Shaoyun was completely immune to the bedazzlement attack as well. Xiang Shaoyun closed in on the ghostrune king and sent out a few punches. However, the ghostrune king was not the same as a regular ghostrune. He had much faster reaction time and was able to keep avoiding Xiang Shaoyun's attacks. Even as he moved about to dodge the attacks, he still had the time to lift more objects before slamming them at Xiang Shaoyun.

"You are not as stupid as the others, but you won't be able to escape death," Xiang Shaoyun sneered. He unleashed all his strength and drew his Purple Lightning Saber before sending a saber energy that turned into a bolt of lightning shooting at the ghostrune king.

Again, the ghostrune king avoided the attack. But would he be able to keep it up? Xiang Shaoyun started slashing his saber madly, innate purple lightning suffused in each of the saber energies he sent out, making each of the attacks incomparably dreadful. After dodging a few attacks in a row, the ghostrune king was finally hit.

The power of lightning was merciless, instantly scorching the ghostrune king's body black. He started dropping from the sky. Xiang Shaoyun pressed on with another slash, cutting the ghostrune king into two.

But before Xiang Shaoyun could even celebrate the victory, about a dozen ghostrune kings appeared and surrounded him. They attacked him with both soul attacks and telekinetic attacks, with the rocks and trees sent by the telekinetic attacks posing the biggest threat to him.

The similar sensation as to when he was in the limit rooms returned to him. He was forced into a defensive position where failure would result in death. In a way, this intense situation squeezed more potential out of him.

"Come! This will be a good training session!" Xiang Shaoyun bellowed madly before fully focusing on defending himself. A golden energy barrier formed around him, the dragon and tiger around him roared repeatedly, and his saber was swung again and again to parry the incoming attacks.

Lightning energy splashed everywhere, and rumbling thunderclaps reverberated throughout the area. But being on the defensive for too long would always lead to an eventual defeat. Xiang Shaoyun was able to block most of the incoming attacks, but he still missed some as they crashed mercilessly into him.

Bang! Bang!

## Chapter 298: Ninth-Stage Transformation Realm

Xiang Shaoyun was struck by the rocks and trees flying at him from all sides, causing him to be disoriented. Without the high-grade armor he was wearing, he would have been reduced to mincemeat. After all, his opponents were all ghostrune kings. Their attacks wouldn't be weak.

Xiang Shaoyun was hit repeatedly, and blood could be seen dripping from the corner of his lips. Evidently, he had sustained injuries. He did not let himself be buried by the stones raining upon him. Relying on his Nether Soul Domain, he continued tracing all the objects flying toward him and swung his saber at them.

Unfortunately, even though the Nether Soul Domain helped him trace all the flying objects, his body was unable to react in time. Objects were hailing down on him from all directions, and many parts of his body were hit. He was in a terrible condition.

"Kid, do you need my help?" Devouring Ghost's voice rang out again.

"No," Xiang Shaoyun said resolutely.

It was not like he hadn't been in such a bad condition before. This was a good opportunity for him to temper himself. He squeezed even more power from his body, causing the White Tiger Wings that had dimmed to solidify once again. The wings immediately got to work and started slapping the flying objects away from him.

Bang! Bang!

Like a pair of exceptional weapons, the pair of wings swept everywhere, carrying with them a thick vicious gold energy that reduced everything they hit into dust, greatly reducing the pressure Xiang Shaoyun was in.

Xiang Shaoyun did not remain on the defensive. Once again, he displayed the advantage granted to him by the Nether Soul Domain as he started moving nimbly amid the flying objects while accurately dodging the attacks. Slowly, he approached the ghostrune kings.

These ghostrune kings had learned their lesson and gave Xiang Shaoyun no chance to approach them. They uprooted a large number of trees to form a blockade while continuing their relentless barrage on Xiang Shaoyun.

With the help of the White Tiger Wings, Xiang Shaoyun was doing much better. But his current energy expenditure was extremely high, and he wouldn't be able to last long. For some reason, he did not seem to care. In fact, it even seemed like he welcomed the expenditure.

After an unknown amount of time spent trying to catch the ghostrune kings, Xiang Shaoyun's energy was finally near complete exhaustion. The injuries he had sustained were also reaching a point where he couldn't hold on any longer.

His wings dimmed again, and that was followed by more than 10 heavy hits landing on his body. Blood started flowing from the parts of his body unprotected by the armor. Slowly, the pain eroded Xiang Shaoyun's willpower, forcing him to give up.

I can still hold on! I can still hold on! Xiang Shaoyun told himself repeatedly. He was unreconciled. He wanted to smash apart even more of his shackles and squeeze more of his potential out.

He started circulating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. His nine stars shone brightly, squeezing out every ounce of strength left in him, and finally, more of his hidden potential was forced out. Strands of hidden power started coming out from within him, replenishing his astral energy and nourishing his injuries, helping him slowly recover his combat strength.

"This is not enough. I need more power! AHHHH!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and circulated his cultivation method even faster. His innate purple lightning, his white tiger energy, and Yun Flame's energy erupted at the same time, shrouding him with three different energies of purple, gold, and red.

Xiang Shaoyun's energy barrier became firmer, and once again, his White Tiger Wings turned solid, and they seemed to have grown longer.

Bang! Bang!

Objects were still hailing down at him, but this time, his energy barrier stood tall. He was surging with power.

"Break!" He faced the sky and roared; his wings unfurled wide as a boundless energy spread from him, pushing all the flying objects away back at the ghostrune kings.

The ghostrune kings were forced to quickly scatter and avoid the flying objects.

"This human seems to have become stronger!" one ghostrune king shouted in alarm.

"Damn it! Why is this human different from other humans? Does he have an undying body?" said a different ghostrune king.

The ghostrune kings cursed and increased the intensity of their attacks, trying to kill Xiang Shaoyun at all cost. Now, Xiang Shaoyun was on the verge of breakthrough. He dissolved a large amount of spirit crystals in his astral cosmos sea, creating an unending flow of energy to supply his breakthrough.

"Roar!"

He reached a certain limit, and he suddenly opened his mouth, letting loose a dreadful Tiger's Roar. The deafening roar reverberated through the area, and ghostrune kings dropped from the sky.

That one roar defeated all the attacks the ghostrune kings sent. Xiang Shaoyun felt his body becoming light as rich astral energy coursed through his meridians like an unending river. His acupoints shone brightly while his nine stars started resonating with each other. His entire inner body seemed to have turned into a breathtaking river of stars.

The eruption of numerous sources of power instantly broke through his limit, sending him into the ninth-stage of the Transformation Realm. The moment he stepped into the next stage, numerous changes occurred. His stars enlarged, and his astral cosmos sea expanded. Apart from that, every part of his body was also growing and improving.

To cultivate was essentially to dig out the potential of the human body, to slowly reach perfection, to obtain a longer life span. That was why with each breakthrough the quality of one's body would improve. Xiang Shaoyun had reached the final stage of the Transformation Realm, and the Skysoar Realm was now within reach.

For some reason, Xiang Shaoyun entering the ninth-stage Transformation Realm had created a scene far flashier than the scene of someone breaking through into the Skysoar Realm.

Everything in his surroundings were blown away by the energy storm that had formed around him as his entire body shone with a blinding radiance. Warm currents of energy circulated within his body repeatedly, and his injuries healed. Having recovered to his optimal state, he stretched lazily and remarked, "Battles are indeed the best way to grow."

He then looked at the ghostrune kings around him. They had been stunned by the roar and still remained stunned even now. Evidently, they were completely defenseless against sound attacks.

"Consider yourself lucky. Since this young master is in a great mood, I shall spare you," said Xiang Shaoyun, who didn't feel like killing more of them for no reason. He continued heading deeper into

the ghostrune heartland. He had to get a soul raising stone, and he intended to leave the moment he got one.

## Chapter 299: Soul Raising Stone Obtained

For any other human, the ghostrune territory was a deadly place. Even King Realm experts could hardly survive a trip to this place. However, Xiang Shaoyun dared to enter the ghostrune heartland even though he was not a Skysoar Realm cultivator yet.

If anyone found out about this feat, they would be stunned. In truth, the reason Xiang Shaoyun dared to do it was because of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband and the White Tiger Wings he had. He also had Devouring Ghost's protection.

No matter how strong Xiang Shaoyun was, he alone would not be able to face tens of thousands of ghostrunes. Death would be his only fate if he attempted that. But with Devouring Ghost around, he was guaranteed to be able to penetrate the ghostrune territory unmolested.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the homeland of the ghostrunes, he was surrounded. However, none of the ghostrunes attacked. They merely glared at him and scolded him endlessly. He could not understand their language, but it was obvious enough that none of them welcomed him. Since the ghostrunes were not attacking, he did not attack either. He waited curiously to see what they were going to do.

"Human, you intrude upon our territory and kill our people. You think none of us can do anything to you?" an aged voice rang out in his head, arriving through soul transmission.

The ghostrunes then stepped aside, making way for an old and massive ghostrune king. Numerous ghostrunes cried out in surprise when they saw the newly arrived ghostrune king; their eyes immediately filled with reverence. This ghostrune king was none other than the patriarch of the ghostrunes.

"Of course not. Your people were the ones to attack first. I was merely forced to defend myself," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"Hmph. There are no good people among the humans. I don't care why you're here, but leave right now. Otherwise, we will do everything we can to kill you," demanded the ghostrune patriarch coldly.

"Sure, I can leave. Give me a soul raising stone, and I will leave immediately," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"We don't have it. Leave," said the patriarch.

"Yes, I can leave, after you give me a soul raising stone," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Since you want to die, I will grant your wish. Kids, slaughter him!" commanded the patriarch.

At his command, thousands of gostrunes swarmed Xiang Shaoyun. They no longer feared death and seemed intent to kill Xiang Shaoyun regardless of the cost. Not even a King Realm expert could remain fearless in face of so many gostrunes. At this moment, Devouring Ghost finally acted.

"Hmph. Just some puny gostrunes dare to act recklessly before me? Die!" Devouring Ghost snorted coldly and sent a wave of incorporeal soul power gushing out of Xiang Shaoyun's head.

The soul power formed an incorporeal palm that crashed down at the swarm of gostrunes like a massive mountain. It was a soul attack, and although the gostrunes had decent soul power, they were nothing compared to Devouring Ghost. Gostrunes dropped one after another, dying in large numbers. As Devouring Ghost unleashed his soul power, a dreadful soul pressure appeared, causing intense fear in the hearts of the gostrunes.

"What a terrifying soul power!" the gostrune patriarch cried out timidly.

He no longer had the same cold and indifferent expression on his face. His heart was gripped by anxiousness, and he was fearful that the newly appeared soul power would attack him as well. Gostrunes were innately sensitive to soul power. Thus, they were completely helpless against those with stronger soul power than them.

"Hand over the soul raising stone if you don't want your race to go extinct," demanded Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

"Young master, there is no need to be courteous toward these bugs. Just let me kill all of them," said Devouring Ghost.

For any other humans in the area, these gostrunes were extremely difficult opponents. Yet here was someone calling them bugs. If news of this spread, it would stun countless people.



"Forget it. It is bad karma to exterminate an entire race. Just focus on getting a soul raising stone," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shake of his head.

Devouring Ghost did not say anything to that. He continued putting pressure on the ghostrunes, forcing them to lie down with their face on the ground. Faced with the prospect of race extinction, the patriarch was forced to concede.

Soon, a soul raising stone was taken out. Xiang Shaoyun looked at the soul raising stone with a burning gaze. It looked like an ordinary stone with a darker shade of black. Numerous complicated markings could be seen on it, and it emanated an odd aura that gave Xiang Shaoyun's soul an intense sense of comfort. It was as if this stone had the most intimate relationship with his soul. Slowly, nourished by the aura the stone was emanating, his soul power started to grow.

The growth was substantial, giving him a feeling that if he could keep this stone for a period of time, his soul power would easily grow stronger. He impatiently took the soul raising stone into his hand. Meanwhile, a pained expression covered the ghostrune patriarch's face, as if something most precious to his race had been taken.

Xiang Shaoyun felt somewhat guilty seeing the expression, so he said, "I won't take this for free. Here, consider this soul spring water as my payment for the stone."

He then filled up a bottle with soul spring water and handed it to the ghostrune patriarch.

The patriarch cried out in alarm and said, "So much soul spring water...y-you're really giving it to us?"

"Of course. Take it," said Xiang Shaoyun with a solemn nod.

The ghostrune patriarch accepted the bottle, his expression much better now.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave, Devouring Ghost said, "Young master, you are still too weak. Why don't you take a few ghostrune kings with you? You can have them as your guard. Although their combat prowess is weak, their soul attacks are unique. With them, nobody below the Emperor Realm can hope to touch you. And if you can help them become ghostrune emperors, they will be even more helpful to you in the future."

Xiang Shaoyun was moved by the proposition. If he could really bring a few ghostrune kings out, he would no longer need to fear the threat of King Realm cultivators.

"But I doubt others will spare them after I bring them out," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, you worry too much. Ghostrunes are the same as demonic beasts. Anyone capable of taming one will naturally be eligible to receive a tame ghostrune's help. Anyone with a problem with that is merely jealous of you," said Devouring Ghost. "If you are afraid that the ghostrunes will be a target of other humans when you take them out, you can find a place for them to stay and only summon them when you need them to do battle."

### Chapter 300: Wondrous Nether Soul Domain

Xiang Shaoyun was greatly tempted by Devouring Ghost's suggestion.

"But that doesn't seem like a good solution either? Sure, I can find a place for them to stay. But I will have to go look for them whenever I need their help. If one day I face a formidable enemy, I will probably die before I can even get to them," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, that is a valid concern. But that is only applicable to others. You are different. Wouldn't it be a waste to not utilize the Nether Soul Domain you have?" said Devouring Ghost.

"Huh? What does the Nether Soul Domain have anything to do with this?" asked Xiang Shaoyun in confusion.

"No way, are you completely clueless about the Nether Soul Domain?" asked Devouring Ghost in astonishment.

"If I knew, why would I be asking you?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a helpless tone.

He only knew a tiny bit about the Nether Soul Domain and had not been able to find out more of its secrets.

"Haha, no wonder.... Fine, I'll tell you what I know. Like the astral cosmos sea, the Nether Soul Domain can be used to store things, but it can only store things that resonate with it. An example would be your Nether Dragon Soul Headband. The ghostrunes are living beings, and they have a natural preference for environments with thick soul power. Soul power is for them what astral

energy is for us humans. Your Nether Soul Domain is a space formed of soul power, and entering your Nether Soul Domain will only be beneficial to them," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun was pleasantly surprised. "Is that true?"

He had not expected that the Nether Soul Domain would have such a wondrous function. If that was the case, it wouldn't be a problem for him to take a few ghostrune kings with him.

"Of course. But they will be cultivating by absorbing soul power. So if you want them to grow, you have to grow yourself as well. They can then grow through you," said Devouring Ghost.

"I see. So what do I need to do to get them in my Nether Soul Domain, then?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Well, I don't know. It's not like I have a Nether Soul Domain of my own," replied Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into a short silence before he tried summoning the Nether Soul Domain out. The Nether Soul Domain was a piece of black space that innately existed within his head. With his soul at the center, the Nether Soul Domain filled the space within his head, causing his senses to be far more sensitive than others. That was how he had come to possess the gift of instincts and visualization.

Xiang Shaoyun had never known about the Nether Soul Domain's function before Devouring Ghost told him, and that also explained why it had "Domain" as part of its name.

He willed for the Nether Soul Domain to come out with his mind. An indescribable force started spreading all around him, and the Nether Soul Domain seemed to come alive. All the ghostrunes in the area suddenly froze. Their eyes lit up brightly as they started scanning the area, searching for the source of the sudden sense of comfort they were experiencing.

"W-what comfortable sensation! This is soul power! What wondrously pure soul power!" the ghostrune patriarch cried out in alarm.

Finally, their gazes landed on Xiang Shaoyun. They could see a piece of dark space around him, and that was the same space emanating an aura that resonated with them. Without even thinking about it, they started flying toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun flinched at the sight of the massive number of gostrunes flying toward him.

"Hmph. Stay where you are!" Devouring Ghost snorted coldly and sent a wave of terrifying soul power out, suppressing all the gostrunes and forcing them to stop.

Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to quickly pull back his Nether Soul Domain. He was now sure that Devouring Ghost was right. His Nether Soul Domain could really store the gostrunes.

He stepped forward and said to the gostrune patriarch, "Did you feel the aura earlier?"

"Yes, that is the feeling we love most. Why is it gone?" asked the gostrune patriarch in agitation.

"Haha, glad to hear you actually like it. That is my personal domain. Any kings among you willing to become my follower may stay inside that domain. In fact, there is a good chance those joining me can become emperors in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh.

"Is that true?" asked the gostrune patriarch. For him, it was a very tempting offer.

"Of course. But by becoming my follower, you will need to leave this place and follow my commands from now on. If you can agree, I will allow you to enter my domain," Xiang Shaoyun laid out his terms.

"Yes, if you can bring our entire race into your domain and take all of us out of here, we can agree to anything," said the gostrune patriarch in excitement.

"Hold on, I did not say I'm taking everyone out. I only need a few of your kings," Xiang Shaoyun quickly clarified. He could not begin to imagine having his head filled with gostrunes. What was he to do if they decided to empty all his soul power?

That caused the gostrune patriarch to hesitate. "Can't you take all of us away?"

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to reject, Devouring Ghost's voice rang out, "It is even better to take all of them. You can resettle them when you leave this place. In the future, you will have a

powerful ghostrune army for yourself, an army capable of striking fear in the hearts of all your enemies."

His words tempted Xiang Shaoyun, who had never thought that far ahead before.

"But I'm afraid that they will eat up the entirety of my Nether Soul Domain," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"You are underestimating the Nether Soul Domain. It is not that weak. Just take all of them with you. You still have the pool of soul spring you can use to nourish them as well, so you have nothing to worry for now," said Devouring Ghost. "Of course, it will be even better for them if you can grow rapidly."

Xiang Shaoyun finally made up his mind and said, "Fine, I'll accept all of them!"

He then said to the ghostrune patriarch, "I can take all of you with me, but after leaving, I will resettle all of you somewhere else. My domain will only be reserved for the strongest among you."

"Ok. We can agree with anything so long as we can leave this place," said the ghostrune patriarch, brimming with excitement.

"Good. Gather everyone. I will bring everyone out of this place," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The ghostrune patriarch started commanding all the ghostrunes to gather.

Odd screams of the ghostrunes started reverberating everywhere as they communicated among themselves, greatly frightening the humans who had no idea what the ghostrunes were up to. In their fear, the humans hid anywhere they could and decided not to do anything before they knew what was going on.