

## Overlord 351

### Chapter 351: It Is Not a Sin for a Man to Cry

In Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, these bandits were merely a disorganized mob. It had only been a short while, yet he had already killed a large bunch of them. The villagers had also killed some of the bandits, and the Intermediate Demons that served as the bandits' mounts were all hunted down like animals.

As for the two bandit leaders, they were both defeated by Xia Liuhui. Although the two leaders were Transformation Realm cultivators, their combat prowess was still no match for him. The only thing he lacked was combat experience. That was why he had taken a bit longer than he needed to defeat them. One of the leaders had his head chopped off while the other, the one who had reached out for Xia Yingying, had both his legs cut off.

"Ahhhh!"

He fainted from the agony, but Xia Liuhui stabbed him twice and woke him up through pain.

"You want to just die? It won't be that easy. You better pray my father is fine. Otherwise, you will suffer a fate worse than death," said Xia Liuhui, radiating a baleful bloodlust.

Xia Liuhui had been a rather timid person, but after his experiences at the Martial Hall Palace and Cloud Margin Pavilion, he had slowly shed off his childish innocence, becoming a staunch and resolute young man. He dragged the bandit leader toward Xia Datang with the villagers cheering around him.

"Well done, little boy Xia Liu. Just from this performance alone, I will forget about that incident where you peeped on your aunt when she was showering," shouted one of the friendly villagers.

Xia Liuhui staggered and nearly fell down.

"Eighth uncle, I did not do that!" Xia Liuhui grumbled sullenly.

"Man up! There is nothing embarrassing about owning up to what you have done! Alright, I'll be engaging my daughter Xia Huayun to you after this. She is as pretty as her mother. You will definitely like her!" eighth uncle replied.

"Old eighth, what are you talking about? My family's Xia Cui is what you would call a beauty. With her big bum, she is a perfect wife to make many babies with!" said someone else.

"My family's Little Mei is not bad either. Little boy Xia Liu, you should come take a look at her later!"

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The villagers seemed to have completely forgotten about what their hamlet had just experienced and started introducing their daughters to Xia Liuhui instead. These villagers might be simple people, but they also liked capable people. A promising young man like Xia Liuhui had naturally become a hot commodity.

"Alright everyone, step aside and let little boy Xia Liu drag that bandit leader here," said Old Father as he walked out with a crutch.

The villagers stepped aside and stopped obstructing Xia Liuhui's path. Only now did Xia Yingying get a clear look at Xia Liuhui. Tears welled in her eyes as she asked, "Big brother, is that you?"

"Little sister," said Xia Liuhui, his eyes brimming with tears as well. He tossed the bandit leader to the side and ran to her.

"Big brother, you're finally back! Quick, take a look at Father!" said Xia Yingying.

"Father!" Xia Liuhui cried out bitterly when he saw Xia Datang in his frail state.

It was not a sin for a man to cry. Xia Liuhui grew up without a mother, and Xia Datang was the one who had raised him and his sister all by himself. Thus, they had always been extremely close with each other.

Xia Datang had always been strict with Xia Liuhui and had even sent him to the Martial Hall Palace, but Xia Liuhui had no complaints about that. When he saw how badly injured Xia Datang was, he felt like someone was slicing his heart with a blade.

To the side, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Send uncle back home to rest. He will be fine."

"Yes, send Father back first," said Xia Liuhui while wiping his tears. He turned around, faced the villagers, and said, "Everyone, drag this scum out and feed him to the wolves. Do not soil the grounds of our hamlet with his blood."

"P-please spare me!" begged the bandit leader.

Unfortunately for him, even if Xia Liuhui was willing to spare him, the villagers would not. After all, the bandits had slaughtered a lot of the villagers. They would never spare these bandits after that. Xia Liuhui then lifted Xia Datang and rushed back home. Both Xiang Shaoyun and Xia Yingying followed closely behind.

As for the other villagers, they started cleaning up the mess under Old Father's lead, and that was when howls of grief started ringing in the air. The experience of having their close ones slaughtered while they were completely helpless caused them to have a deep hatred of the bandits. They rounded up the bandits' corpses and fed them all to beasts.

After returning to his home, Xia Liuhui placed Xia Datang down, and he only felt better when he saw that Xia Datang was in a stable condition. If something bad had happened to his father, he would have gone mad then and there.

"Alright there. Let your father rest for two or three days. He will be well again," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xia Liuhui nodded and left the room with Xiang Shaoyun. "Boss, sorry for bringing you this trouble immediately after coming here."

"Nobody wants something like this to happen. Don't think too much about it. Go calm your sister," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

Xia Liuhui finally looked at Xia Yingying and said, "Yingying, you have suffered."

"Big brother!" Xia Yingying could not stop crying as she jumped into Xia Liuhui's arms and started weeping.

Xiang Shaoyun gave the two a glance before silently excusing himself. He was clear that they probably had a lot of things they wanted to tell each other.

Good thing we arrived in time. Otherwise, Liuhui would have lost his family. Looks like I need to do something for him, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

He had heard from the bandits that they were members of the Mad Lion Hunting Group. He was once attacked by these people at the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. Seemed like it was time to settle the grudge.

"Jin Wo, come," said Xiang Shaoyun in the courtyard.

Jin Wo appeared from a corner and said, "Your highness, what command do you have for me?"

"Take me to the Hundred Beast Mountain Range," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes," Jin Wo answered without asking. He transformed back into his crocodile form and left with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun first went to Ye Chaomu's group and said, "I'm going to go eliminate a hunting group. Little Mu Mu, just wait here for me."

"I'm going with you. I can't let something bad happen to you. In any case, this place is boring as hell," complained Ye Chaomu.

"No, there are no experts among that hunting group. It is a waste of your talents to go there. Why don't you go to Xia Hamlet instead. You can spend some time with Xia Liuhui's little sister. I'll be back soon," said Xiang Shaoyun before leaving.

Ye Chaomu hesitated for a bit before deciding not to follow. She did as told and headed toward Xia Hamlet.

1. Reminder that Xia Liu also sounds the same as obscene, and this is a play on his name, Xia Liuhui.

## Chapter 352: Your Killer

Xiang Shaoyun had learned from Elder Zhen Peng during his time at Wu Town that the Mad Lion Hunting Group was based near the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. Their main activity involved demonic beast hunting, and they were at least several hundred squads among their ranks. On top of that, they had also been growing every year without stop.

The main reason for them to be able to grow so fearlessly was due to the assistance they had received from some people in the Cloud Margin City. One could say that the Mad Lion Hunting Group was extremely infamous in parts such as Wu Town, Gateflag Town, and a few other nearby towns.

In the past, Xiang Shaoyun was incapable of eliminating them. Now that he was much stronger than the past, he would naturally not spare them. Riding on Jin Wo the Demon Emperor, it did not take him long to arrive above the Mad Lion Hunting Group's place.

The stronghold of the Mad Lion Hunting Group was very similar to bandit strongholds. Most of their buildings were built with wood and were in close proximity to each other. All around their main stronghold, watchtowers could be seen. There were also a few enclosed passages which were most likely filled with traps.

Looking at them from high above the sky, Xiang Shaoyun was able to see everything clearly. One ought to admit that their defenses were really quite good, and a majority of their defensive measures were mainly set up to counter demonic beasts.

As they were located so near the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, their main enemies were the demonic beasts. After all, their main activity was beast hunting, and demonic beasts also held grudges like humans.

Xiang Shaoyun did not attack immediately. Rather, he stayed in the sky and muttered, "Time to give the ghostrunes something to do. They have been on vacation for a long time."

The ghostrunes residing within his Nether Soul Domain had changed greatly compared to the past. They were akin to fish back in water living in his domain, each of them growing rapidly, breaking through at record speed.

Even Xiang Shaoyun was surprised by it. After all, he had not been paying them much attention during the long period he was injured. By the time he had recovered and took a look at them, all the changes had already occurred.

He even started suspecting if the ghostrunes were related to the Imperial Nether Clan, which would explain their massive growth. But he did not bother looking too much into it. In any case, their growth would only benefit him.

Today, he would test these ghostrunes out and see how good they were at killing. He directly leaped off Jin Wo's back when he was still a few kilometers high up in the sky. Any other Transformation Realm cultivator would fall to their death from this height.

Xiang Shaoyun had not leaped off Jin Wo's back due to overconfidence. Rather, it was because he had his pair of white tiger wings. Initially, he did not release his wings, and he let his body fall freely, enjoying a sort of excitement from it.

"Haha, this is refreshing!" Xiang Shaoyun howled with laughter like a madman while falling.

Finally, the Mad Lion Hunting Group people discovered him. With astonishment, they wondered if the thing falling from the sky was a human. Right as Xiang Shaoyun was about to fall to the ground, his wings sprouted out. With a flap, he started gliding through the air like a swallow.

One of them finally recovered from the shock and asked, "You! Who are you?"

The falling human was suddenly flying. It was quite an inconceivable sight for them.

"Your killer," said Xiang Shaoyun with a faint smile.

"What? You're an enemy!" the person cried out in alarm, but he was evidently still not thinking straight as that was all he did.

"That's right. I'm your enemy," Xiang Shaoyun replied. He flapped his wings and dove down while sending a finger beam toward him.

Bang!

Before the person could react, his head exploded.

"Enemy attack! Enemy attack!" The other bandits finally stopped blanking out and started sounding the alarm.

"Come on out, kill everyone here," said Xiang Shaoyun as he released a group of ghostrunes from his Nether Soul Domain.

He did not dare to release too many of them, but he had still released about 2,000 ghostrunes. Just that was already a terrifying amount. The ghostrunes all howled in excitement. There were so many of them they blanketed the sky, presenting a terrifying sight that shocked all the Mad Lion Hunting Group members.

"What...what are those things? Why are there so many?"

"They match the depictions of the legendary ghostrunes! Don't they reside only in the Land of Soul Springs? Why are they here?"

"Ghostrune? What demonic beast is that? I have never heard of it."

"Shit! It's really the ghostrunes! Quickly! Shoot them down, or we will die!"

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The Mad Lion Hunting Group members descended into chaos. Before they could attack, the ghostrunes attacked. Utilizing their air superiority, they scattered about in the sky and released their soul power, lifting numerous objects before unleashing them on the Mad Lion Hunting Group members.

"Ahhhh!"

The Mad Lion Hunting Group members were completely defenseless as the objects hailed down on them, injuring and killing many of them. It placed them in an even greater panic. They raised their weapons in an attempt to attack the ghostrunes. Unfortunately, they were limited by range and were unable to pose any threat to the ghostrunes, who stayed high up in the sky.

The Mad Lion Hunting Group was terribly ravaged by the assault from the sky. Some tried to attack using bows and arrows, but they were directly killed off by the ghostrunes under Xiang Shaoyun's command. Xiang Shaoyun would not allow them to harm his ghostrunes.

In the past, Xiang Shaoyun did not know the ghostrune language. After they stayed in his Nether Soul Domain for a while, he suddenly became capable of understanding their language. Because of that, he was now able to issue them commands in battle.

And since the ghostrunes had long acknowledged his role as their leader, they carried out his orders obediently. Before long, the Mad Lion Hunting Group members were either dead or fleeing in chaos. As for the hunting group's experts, they had been either resting or cultivating in their respective houses, but now, they had all come out. They were all stupefied, as the first thing they saw was a horde of ghostrunes.

One of them was their commander, Kuang Shi. He cried out in alarm, "What is going on? Why are there so many ghostrunes?"

He flew to the sky and attacked the ghostrunes without any hesitation.

Rumble! Rumble!

Kuang Shi was a Skysoar Realm cultivator and a valiant fighter. In the blink of an eye, more than 10 ghostrunes died in his hands.

"There is a King here? Good, I'll play around a bit with him," said Xiang Shaoyun before he rushed toward Kuang Shi, attracting his attention.

Kuang Shi immediately asked, "Who are you? Why are you making trouble for the Mad Lion Hunting Group?"

As Xiang Shaoyun had not been attacked by the ghostrunes, Kuang Shi guessed that he was definitely related to them.

"The Mad Lion Hunting Group has been too arrogant. It is time to exterminate all of you," said Xiang Shaoyun.



## Chapter 353: Destroying the Mad Lion Hunting Group

"You think too highly of yourself. Whoever you are, withdraw these ghostrunes immediately, or I will kill you first," shouted Kuang Shi as he glared at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Kill me? Are you even capable of that?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a look of disdain on his face.

"You really don't know what's good for you," said Kuang Shi with a nasty smile before flying toward Xiang Shaoyun. He attacked with his weapon.

The might of his attack was not to be underestimated. When he charged someone, it was like the king of lions had arrived, putting fear in the heart of his opponent with his presence. Unfortunately for him, his current opponent was Xiang Shaoyun, a person born to be king—a Super War King—and Kuang Shi's presence was nothing in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes.

Right before Kuang Shi's attack hit, Xiang Shaoyun dodged to the side and was completely unharmed. After dodging the attack, he sneered, "You want to kill me with just that? Maybe you should cultivate more in your next life."

He then moved like the wind, instantly appearing beside Kuang Shi before throwing a Gold Helix Fist forward. Powered by vicious gold energy, the punch revolved like a drill and hit Kuang Shi completely unprepared.

Bang!

The defense around Kuang Shi's body cracked, and Xiang Shaoyun's fist struck his stomach.

Sphhlt!

The next thing Kuang Shi felt was a sensation as if his inner organs were rolling. He then vomited blood and chunks of unknown things. Xiang Shaoyun showed no mercy and pressed on after the successful attack. Fists with tens of thousands of catties of weight behind them landed on Kuang Shi's body repeatedly.

Just like that, the first-stage Skysoar Realm expert, Kuang Shi, was killed by Xiang Shaoyun. As for the Mad Lion Hunting Group members, not many of them survived either. Almost all of them had

been slaughtered by the ghostrunes. The Mad Lion Hunting Group's entire stronghold was reduced to rubble.

Xiang Shaoyun landed and searched around. When he found the place they used to store their treasures, he broke in with brute force, trying to see if the Mad Lion Hunting Group had accumulated any wealth over the years.

One ought to admit that the Mad Lion Hunting Group was much richer than the Redwolf Bandits he had once destroyed. Just the massive collection of herbs had already surpassed everything the Redwolf Bandits had.

After all, apart from spending their time hunting, the Mad Lion Hunting Group also committed banditry. It was only natural for them to have accumulated many treasures. Unfortunately, not a single item in the stronghold could attract Xiang Shaoyun's attention. He was somewhat disappointed after looking through the treasures.

Anyone else would be filled with envy over what he sacked from the Mad Lion Hunting Group. There were a large amount of spirit medicines and spirit crystals, something any Transformation Realm cultivator would covet. And that was without considering the other materials harvested from demonic beasts they had here as well.

Even an organization like Martial Hall Palace would be greatly strengthened after obtaining the treasures here. But it was understandable why Xiang Shaoyun did not think too highly of these treasures. He was a person with a noble background and thus had higher standards.

Even so, he did not spare the treasures and took them all. The spirit medicines would be useful while the other items would be considered the Mad Hunting Lion Group's compensation to the Xia Hamlet after what they had done.

After doing all that, Xiang Shaoyun burned the entire place down. The fire raged on, thoroughly erasing the Mad Lion Hunting Group that once existed here.

Xiang Shaoyun then summoned the ghostrunes back before hopping onto Jin Wo's back, preparing to return to the Xia Hamlet.

Suddenly, Jin Wo asked, "Your highness, do you want to visit the prince?"

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought before replying, "Forget it. He has just returned, so I don't want to disturb him. I'll go when I'm strong enough."

As a descendant of the white tigers, Little White definitely had high status among the demonic beasts. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was just a Transformation Realm cultivator. If he visited right now, he would only be viewed with disdain.

After all, both humans and demonic beasts respected strength. Those without strength would forever be looked down upon, and their voices would forever remain unheard.

They started returning to the Xia Hamlet. With Jin Wo's speed, they only needed less than a day to make a round trip between Xia Hamlet and the Hundred Beast Mountain Range.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the Xia Hamlet, he found Ye Chaomu and Xia Yingying chatting like the best of friends.

"What are you two talking about? You're so engrossed in conversation," asked Xiang Shaoyun as he hopped off Jin Wo's back.

"You're back so fast?" Ye Chaomu asked.

"How long would it take to get rid of some trash?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"True." Ye Chaomu smiled. A crafty look surfaced on her face as she said, "We were talking about you. Turns out you have caught her eye!"

The moment Ye Chaomu said that, Xia Yingying's face turned completely red, and she lowered her head bashfully, no longer daring to raise it.

"Stop talking nonsense. Look at what you are doing to her." Xiang Shaoyun glared at Ye Chaomu before asking, "Where's Liuhui?"

"He's busy cooking inside," said Ye Chaomu.

"Cooking? Why bother? Just get some food from the restaurant," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"There are no restaurants here," said Ye Chaomu.

"Oh...haha, I completely forgot about that," said Xiang Shaoyun awkwardly.

At this time, Xia Liuhui walked out the house and said, "Boss, you're back? Come, try my food. I guarantee both you and Sister Chaomu will like it!"

When Xia Liuhui's gaze landed on Ye Chaomu, his eyes filled with emotions, his feelings for her evident. Unfortunately, Ye Chaomu only gave him an indifferent smile and no other reply.

Instead, her gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun. However, the tender emotions she was sending his way through her eyes were completely ignored. Not far away, Xia Yingying was playing with the edge of her shirt nervously, occasionally stealing glances at Xiang Shaoyun, her heart thumping without stop.

They proceeded to eat, and Xia Liuhui was indeed quite a good cook. The dishes he made were all delicious, and both Xiang Shaoyun and Ye Chaomu praised them repeatedly as they ate. Xiang Shaoyun also took out some good liquors so they could eat while drinking. They greatly enjoyed themselves.

Even Xia Yingying drank three cups of liquor. After that, her eyes suddenly turned burning hot as she looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Thank you for saving my big brother! I'll drink three cups in your honor!"

She downed three more cups gallantly.

Xiang Shaoyun had no choice but to drink alongside her and downed three cups of liquor as well. He then said, "Your big brother is my brother. That means you are my little sister as well. You don't have to be so polite to me in the future." He took out some astral liquid and soul spring water before saying, "I don't have anything good, but these two liquids are probably good enough to help you break through. Consider them gifts from your new big brother."

"T-this...how can I accept something this valuable?" Xia Yingying answered nervously.

She then looked at Xia Liuhui, trying to ask his opinion on what to do.

"Don't bother looking at me, Yingying. In the future, don't be polite with my boss. Just accept whatever he is giving you," said Xia Liuhui with a smile. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Boss, you have to be fair. I want a gift as well!"

#### Chapter 354: You're Still Such a Spendthrift, Big Brother

"You really want a gift as well?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a toying look in his eyes.

"Of course. How can I miss out on a gift from boss?" replied Xia Liuhui.

"Sure. Let's go outside. I'll give you your gift there," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Boss, you know what, forget it." Xia Liuhui immediately shrank as he thought that Xiang Shaoyun wanted to have a spar with him.

"No. I must give you this gift," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"Spare me, boss. I'm not your match. I don't want it anymore," said Xia Liuhui sullenly.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored him and walked straight to the courtyard. After some hesitation, Xia Liuhui braced himself and walked out as well.

Xia Yingying watched on in confusion and asked Ye Chaomu, "Big Sister Mu, is Big Brother Xiang going to beat up my brother?"

"Hehe, don't worry. They are good brothers, so they won't do anything reckless. Ignore them. Continue eating," said Ye Chaomu.

Outside, Xiang Shaoyun looked at Xia Liuhui and said, "Accept your gift."

Xia Liuhui quickly hugged his own head in fear, as if he was bracing himself for a beating. The expected beating did not come, so he raised his head to see that a large pile of items had appeared before him.

A large portion of them were harvests from demonic beasts. There were also a lot of herbs and other treasures such as gold and silver. The entire courtyard was filled with treasure.

"All these are yours," said Xiang Shaoyun before entering the house again.

Xia Liuhui was completely dumbfounded. He had always known Xiang Shaoyun was a generous person, but this generosity had surpassed his imagination. He did not even know what to do with such wealth. He wanted these treasures greatly, but even he was embarrassed to accept them all.

He quickly ran into the house and shouted, "Boss, this is too big of a prank. You should take them back."

"I'm not playing a prank. All these are obtained from the Mad Lion Hunting Group. They had injured your father and killed so many of your villagers. It is only natural that they repay you for all they have done," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"But it's too big of a compensation," said Xia Liuhui.

"Too big? Show me, I'll take a look," said Ye Chaomu.

"Outside," said Xia Liuhui as he pointed at the courtyard.

Ye Chaomu and Xia Yingying stretched their heads out curiously.

Ye Chaomu immediately covered her mouth and said, "You are still such a spendthrift, big brother."

"What? What can I do with these things? They are useless for me. Might as well let the villagers have them. They will be much more useful for them than for me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

To the side, Xia Yingying was completely stunned. This was the first time in her life she had seen so many treasures before her. In her eyes, these treasures could be exchanged for countless gold coins, enough for the villagers to live a good life for a long, long time.

"Yes, the villagers should receive some compensation. Big Brother Xia Liu, just accept them," said Ye Chaomu.

This was what she liked about Xiang Shaoyun since their childhood. His generosity and his carefree character was so very fascinating and handsome in her eyes.

"But there are so many of them..." Xia Liuhui was too embarrassed to accept everything.

"I told you, they are for the villagers, not you alone," said Xiang Shaoyun with an impatient tone.

"Fine, since the boss doesn't mind, I will deal with these treasures for you," said Xia Liuhui when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's firmness.

Xia Liuhui was in no rush to gather the villagers. So many of them had died, and the villagers needed some time to deal with the funerals before they could do something else. Soon, night arrived. Xia Liuhui and Xia Yingying were beside Xia Datang, waiting for him to wake up. Xiang Shaoyun finally got some time alone with Ye Chaomu.

Under the mild moonlight and amid the gentle breeze, Ye Chaomu stood with both her arms behind her back. She puffed her lofty chest up and said, "Big brother, can you come with me to the Wuxie Valley next?"

When her eyes blinked, they were akin to a pair of twinkling stars, brilliant and enchanting.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and sighed, "No, that is your path, not mine."

"I don't care, and I don't know about all that. The only thing I know is nobody will dare harm you at Wuxie Valley," said Ye Chaomu with a pout.

"Yes. In the past, nobody dared to harm me at Ziling Sect as well. But what happened in the end?" Xiang Shaoyun said with a sigh.

"What? Are you saying I will one day harm you?" Ye Chaomu immediately shouted furiously.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Ye Chaomu tenderly and said, "Little Mu Mu, don't think too much. Both you and Father are the two people that won't harm me even if the alternative is death."

"Why did you say that, then?" asked Ye Chaomu.

"What I mean is, without an enemy, I won't have the sense of pressure that makes me grow. It will not be beneficial," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"In the past, I was able to command countless people relying on my status. But now, I have lost everything Father had, and I no longer enjoy the same status and prestige. Those traitors all want to kill me because I am now without a backer and will be easy pickings. But that is not the case at all.

"In the past, I didn't cultivate, and I spent my time doing nothing. I can no longer do the same. I must take back what I lost with my own two hands. I will personally punish those traitors. I won't spare them. You can also see that I am almost in the Skysoar Realm. This is the result of only two years of cultivation. How have I grown so fast? Apart from my genius, it's all thanks to the pressure I was feeling from those traitors.

"That pressure was how I can train relentlessly and grow as best as possible so I can one day reclaim what is mine. If I go to Wuxie Valley with you, I will lose that pressure, and it wouldn't be beneficial at all."

Ye Chaomu listened silently, pain in her eyes. When Xiang Shaoyun finished, she said, "Big brother, the past two years must have been filled with hardship. You have never suffered any hardships in the sect before this."

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed Ye Chaomu's nose and replied, "Stupid girl, in the past, your big brother was too busy indulging in the pleasures of life. That was why all that had happened. It's not a big deal to suffer some hardships now. After we are done here, you can leave with the Thirteen Eagles and old drunkard. Return to Wuxie Valley. I will be needing your help in the future when the time comes to reclaim what is mine. That old bastard Di Batian is only slightly weaker than Father. I will need you to deal with him."

"Of course. I can deal with that old bastard. But I want to train with you, big brother. I don't want to go back to Wuxie Valley," said Ye Chaomu.

"No, you can't stay with me," Xiang Shaoyun rejected.

"Why? I am stronger than you, so I won't be a burden," said Ye Chaomu.



"That's why you can't stay with me. You need to become an Empress as soon as possible—become a Sovereign as soon as possible. You can't slow down because of me," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

## Chapter 355: Empty

"Following you might not necessarily slow down my cultivation," said Ye Chaomu stubbornly.

"Little Mu Mu, listen to me. I need to do all I can to grow as quickly as possible. If you stay, even if you won't be affected, it will definitely affect me as I won't be able to focus. And with a big beauty like you by my side, how am I going to get a wife and find you a sister-in-law?" Xiang Shaoyun said earnestly.

"Hmph! I knew you were up to no good! I will be sticking to you! I don't need a sister-in-law. You only need me," said Ye Chaomu.

"Ye Chaomu, listen to me! As your big brother, I command you to grow as quickly as possible. In the future, we still need to get Father out of Wumo Pass," said Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

A wronged expression appeared on Ye Chaomu's face as she said, "Why are you being so fierce? Fine, fine, I'll listen."

No matter how strong Ye Chaomu was, she was still Xiang Shaoyun's little sister. When he got angry, she still listened to him obediently.

"Sorry, I am not blaming you for anything, but it will be much better for us to cultivate separately. Perhaps the next time we meet I will already be stronger than you. You need to continue working hard," said Xiang Shaoyun with a gentle tone.

"I won't be surpassed by you. I'll be stronger than you forever! Otherwise, you'll bully me!" said Ye Chaomu.

"Hehe, we'll see," said Xiang Shaoyun with a confident smile. "But no matter how strong I become, I won't bully my Little Mu Mu."

"That's smart," said Ye Chaomu, satisfied with the answer. She then leaned into Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Big brother, do you think Father is still alive?"

The Wumo Pass was a forbidden zone, and few who entered survived. Back then, Xiang Yangzhan and Shangguan Wusheng had battled at the outer fringe, and both had vanished afterwards. It was obvious something bad had happened to them.

A look of worry flashed past Xiang Shaoyun's face, but he said, "Father is strong. He is definitely still alive."

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The next day, Xia Datang woke up. He had recovered nicely after consuming the spirit medicine and spring water from Xiang Shaoyun. He was overjoyed to see his son Xia Liuhui back, but when he found out about the deaths of the villagers, he was overcome with sorrow.

Despite his sadness, he still forced himself to speak, seeing as there was a guest at his home, "Thank you, young man. Without your help, things would have been bad for us."

"You are too polite, uncle. Even without me, Liuhui would have been able to deal with all those bandits himself," said Xiang Shaoyun humbly.

"Hehe, yes, he is quite capable now, but still not enough to deal with all the bandits," said Xia Datang as he looked at his son with a satisfied smile.

"Father, you underestimate me. Even without your injuries, you might not be my match anymore," said Xia Liuhui.

"I see you think you are all grown up and have forgotten how I used to beat your ass when you were a kid," said Xia Datang with a glare, instantly shutting up Xia Liuhui.

Evidently, Xia Liuhui still remembered some unpleasant memories from his childhood. Xia Datang's recovery placed Xia Liuhui and Xia Yingying in a much better mood.

They gathered the villagers and started distributing the gifts they had received from Xiang Shaoyun. After selling the items at the nearby cities, the villagers would be able to live a good life for a while. The gifts did somewhat alleviate their grief, and their gratefulness toward Xia Datang's family grew even more.

Xia Datang already enjoyed great prestige in the hamlet. With Xia Liuhui returning in glory coupled with the gifts he gave them, they now regarded Xia Datang's family as a family of living Buddhas.

In a flash, three days passed. Xia Datang could now walk around again, and he had also recovered some of his combat prowess. With his daughter taking care of him full time, the smile on his face grew wider day by day.

Today, Xia Liuhui and Xia Datang were having a serious discussion in a private room. This was the first serious meeting they had since their reunion.

"Tell me, what do you want to talk about?" asked Xia Datang.

"Father, I am planning to go with my boss. I will rarely have the chance to come back in the future," said Xia Liuhui forthrightly.

"You've decided?" Xia Datang asked with a complicated expression.

"Well, I'm trying to talk to you about it," said Xia Liuhui.

"Let me ask you, what do you think about your boss?" asked Xia Datang.

Xia Liuhui sank into a short silence before answering, "Boss has an extraordinary background, outstanding talent, is massively generous, and is a giant among men."

"Since someone like that is willing to accept you, this is your luck. Go with him, then. The world is incomparably vast, and young people like you should really take a look at the world. An old man like me will not be a burden for you. I believe you will make me proud in the future," said Xia Datang.

"So you agree, Father?" Xia Liuhui asked.

"Of course. I was strict with you since your childhood because I had wanted you to be successful in life. Now, you are already at the Transformation Realm and will overtake me soon. In the future, you might even be a King. If that is so, you will bring honor to our ancestors," said Xia Datang expectantly.

Xia Liuhui shook his head. "My goal is not to be a King."

"True, it is not easy to be a King. It is good enough to reach peak Transformation Realm," said Xia Datang.

"No, I mean I am going to become an Emperor!" Xia Liuhui declared resolutely.

"W-what? Y-you want to be an Emperor?" Xia Datang cried out in alarm.

He had never expected his son to be so ambitious.

"Yes. Boss is already almost a King, and in the future he will be a Sovereign. If I can only become a King, I will embarrass him. Furthermore, Chaomu is already a Queen. I will not allow myself to be looked down upon by her," said Xia Liuhui, his eyes brimming with confidence.

"What? You are saying that girl Ye Chaomu is at the Skysoar Realm?" asked Xia Datang in shock.

"Yes. Late-stage Skysoar Realm, to be precise. She is boss's little sister, but boss has only recently started cultivating. I believe he will catch up to her soon," Xia Liuhui said.

Xia Datang was completely speechless by now. In his eyes, Skysoar Realm was already an insanely high realm of existence. But that little girl who looked to be about 16 or 17 years old was already a late-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. What kind of a freak was she?

"Oh, right, Yingying and Chaomu seem to get along well. I am thinking of sending Yingying off with Chaomu. What do you think?" asked Xia Liuhui.

"Yes, it is time she goes out and takes a look at the world. If they are willing to accept her, that will be great. I can see they are decent people and are not really people to put up airs. I believe they will treat her well," agreed Xia Datang without hesitation.

## Chapter 356: Take Care

In a different room in the Xia family's house, Xiang Shaoyun asked Ye Chaomu, "Are you really going to bring Yingying along?"

Ye Chaomu brushed back her bangs and said, "Yes, it's really boring at the Wuxie Valley. With Yingying by my side, I won't feel as bored anymore."

"Ok, but you still have to respect Uncle Xia and Yingying's decision. If they are not willing to agree, forget it," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Of course, but I have no doubt they will agree," said Ye Chaomu confidently.

"Ok. I won't interfere. Just treat her fairly," said Xiang Shaoyun before taking out an old-looking stone. "This is for you. Consider it a parting gift from your big brother."

"Am I really your little sister? You're giving me a shitty piece of rock as a gift?" grumbled Ye Chaomu.

"Look again. Is this really a shitty rock?" Xiang Shaoyun said.

Ye Chaomu studied the rock. Suddenly, her pupils shrank. She gently stroked the rock, her eyes lighting up as she said, "This...is this the legendary Heavenly Eye Stone?"

"Looks like you haven't turned stupid from staying at Wuxie Valley for too long. Yes, this is the Heavenly Eye Stone," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"That's a good big brother!" said Ye Chaomu with a wide smile. "I heard with the Heavenly Eye Stone, one can cultivate the Heavenly Eye. This is a treasure for anyone. Not even tier-7 and tier-8 cultivation methods and battle techniques can be traded for one!"

"That's right. Put it away already. With this, you can become the strongest goddess in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed Ye Chaomu's head dotingly.

"Haha, yes. And you can become the strongest attendant of the strongest goddess in the future," said Ye Chaomu with a confident smile. After a slight pause, her smile vanished, and she said, "Keep this Heavenly Eye Stone for yourself. You need it more than me. Even without it, I can still become the strongest goddess."

"This is my gift for you. How can I take back a gift? In any case, I don't need it," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"You really don't need it?" Ye Chaomu asked.

"Of course. Otherwise, I would have used it already," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously. He pointed at his head. "I am blessed here, and my senses are no weaker than the Heavenly Eye. Just trust me."

Ye Chaomu studied Xiang Shaoyun with her pearl-like eyes before finally nodding. "Ok, I'll take it."

"Good girl," said Xiang Shaoyun with a satisfied smile.

...

Xia Datang, Xia Liuhui, and Xia Yingying had reached an agreement. Both Xia Liuhui and Xia Yingying would leave Xia Hamlet. Xia Liuhui would go with Xiang Shaoyun while Xia Yingying would follow Ye Chaomu.

Xia Datang felt some reluctance to part with his children, but for the sake of their future, he suppressed his emotions. Before leaving, both Xiang Shaoyun and Ye Chaomu left Xia Datang some treasures.

Xia Datang was greatly pleased to suddenly receive such treasures, and they were also the same treasures that eventually helped him reach the Skysoar Realm in the future.

Separation was always sad, and this was even more so for Xia Yingying, who was leaving home for the first time ever. She wept bitterly. Fortunately, Ye Chaomu was there to console her. She even promised they would come back to visit Xia Datang whenever they had time in the future. Only then did Xia Yingying feel better.

Outside Xia Hamlet, they met up with Devouring Ghost, Duo Ji, Du Xuanhao, and the Thirteen Eagles.

"Little Mu Mu, go back to the Wuxie Valley with Yingying. Old drunkard, I will rely on you to nurture Liuhui. I hope he can grow as soon as possible, becoming an expert capable of holding his own," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Huh? Boss, I thought I'll be going with you?" asked Xia Liuhui in astonishment.

"What's the point? It's better if you follow old drunkard. He can help you reach the Emperor Realm at the very least. As for the Sovereign Realm, you will need to rely on yourself," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"How about you, young master?" Duo Ji asked.

"I'll go with Devouring Ghost. I don't need anyone else with me," Xiang Shaoyun said. He added, "We'll gather here again in seven years."

"Fine. Don't worry. I'll definitely train him as best I can," said Duo Ji.

For some reason, Xia Liuhui felt a chill creep up his spine when he heard those words.

"Little Mu Mu, take good care of Yingying. Treat her well," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't worry, big brother. I will treat her like my little sister," said Ye Chaomu with a nod.

"Remember to be careful, and don't let those traitors catch you."

"Don't worry. After their heavy losses this time, it won't be so easy for them to find me again. In any case, I am no longer the same person," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently. "Alright, this is where we part. I hope when we meet again in the future, everyone will no longer be the same and will have become dragons and phoenixes among men."

"We'll be leaving now. Take care, young master," said Duo Ji before he flew away with Xia Liuhui in tow.

He was no longer worried about Xiang Shaoyun. With an old monster like Devouring Ghost by Xiang Shaoyun's side, he would be able to remain safe for the foreseeable future. His only task right now was to train Xia Liuhui.

"Big brother, I'll be leaving as well, then. If you are still weaker than me when we meet again, I won't mind becoming your bodyguard," said Ye Chaomu; an intense reluctance to part could be seen on her face.

"Ok. Take care!" said Xiang Shaoyun.

Thus, Ye Chaomu left with Xia Yingying and the Thirteen Eagles.

Xiang Shaoyun watched on as they left, and his eyes filled with longing as he sighed, "You must all grow stronger. I will be needing your help in the future."

He then turned and looked at Devouring Ghost, who had been remaining silent. "Devouring Ghost, what should I do next?"

After taking over Linggu Haonan's body, the body's cultivation level had not dropped. Rather, it had grown and was now at the peak of seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. As for his combat prowess, it was completely beyond those at the same cultivation level.

A creepy look appeared in Devouring Ghost's eyes as he said, "Since you trust me, I will arrange a hellish training regimen that can help you grow as fast as possible."

"For the sake of strength, even if I have to enter hell, I am willing to do it," said Xiang Shaoyun resolutely.

"Hehe, where you are about to go is even scarier than hell," said Devouring Ghost with a creepy laugh. "The time has come for you to enter the Skysoar Realm. Your immediate goal should be to break through as quickly as possible. Since you have the Xiang Clan's lightning bone, breaking through into the Skysoar Realm should be extremely easy for you. You just need to accept the baptism of the natural lightning and force your cultivation level to the next realm through the power of lightning. The only thing you need is the courage to be struck by lightning."

"So simple?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Simple? When you experience your skin tearing apart as your flesh pops out while you are being cooked alive, you will understand that it is not so simple after all," said Devouring Ghost.



"Sure, let us find a suitable location to break through into the Skysoar Realm first," said Xiang Shaoyun. He hopped onto Jin Wo's back and said, "Go to the Hundred Beast Mountain Range again. The lightning condors's territory is a good location where lightning congregates."

#### Chapter 357: Silver-winged Lightning Wolf King

Xiang Shaoyun, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo arrived at the location where lightning congregated, the territory of the lightning condors located between the outer and inner fringes of the Hundred Beast Mountain Range.

When they arrived, they were welcomed by the sight of over 100 lightning condors gliding about in the sky, their cries reverberating throughout the air. The moment they saw Xiang Shaoyun's group, they attacked.

But when Jin Wo released his boundless demonic aura, the lightning condors were all suppressed and started falling from the air. Below them, a loud cry rang out from an ancient tree, and a lightning condor that was far larger than the other condors flew up.

It was none other than the lightning condor king. Unfortunately, this lightning condor king was still too weak before Jin Wo. Before he even got far, he started dropping from the sky due to Jin Wo's suppression as well.

"L-lord Demon Emperor!" the lightning condor king cried out in alarm when he saw Jin Wo's true form and sensed the terrifying pressure.

"Alright Jin Wo, you can withdraw your demonic aura now. I'm old friends with the lightning condor king," said Xiang Shaoyun. At his command, Jin Wo obediently withdrew his demonic aura, returning the lightning condors their freedom.

Xiang Shaoyun hopped off Jin Wo's body and asked, "Do you still remember me, lightning condor king?"

He still remembered that this was the place where he first awakened his lightning bone. At that time, the lightning condor king was a brand new Demon King who had almost been captured by Young Lightning King.

"You...you're the human from two years ago?" said the lightning condor king in astonishment. He had evidently not expected to see Xiang Shaoyun here again with a Demon Emperor by his side.

"I'm glad to hear you still remember me. I need to borrow this place as I am in need of the power of natural lightning," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He still remembered back then when the lightning condor king wanted to become his follower but was rejected. After all, this lightning condor king did not really have a lot of potential and would not be of much help to him. The lightning condor king did not have any reason to refuse. He brought Xiang Shaoyun's group straight to the main peak where he resided.

It was a place frequently struck by lightning. Because of that, there was a thick concentration of lightning energy in the air. There were also some lightning-elemental plants growing in the area, but they weren't high-grade plants, so they were pretty much useless for Xiang Shaoyun.

"We had a storm just two days ago, so I guess the next storm will only come in about half a month from now," said lightning condor king, behaving very carefully around them.

"Don't worry. I can just lure the lightning bolts down if they are not coming," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Luring them?" The lightning condor king was astonished.

By the side, Devouring Ghost asked in surprise, "Young master, you have already reached the level where you can draw lightning into your body?"

"Yes, I think so," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, if you have reached this level, then my worries have been for nothing. You should have tasted lightning long ago. Breaking through into the Skysoar Realm won't be a problem for you then," said Devouring Ghost. "If you are able to lure some mutated lightning bolts down, it will be even better for your lightning bone."

"Mutated lightning bolt?" Xiang Shaoyun frowned.

Devouring Ghost was right. Luring some mutated lightning bolts would be even better. However, mutated lightning bolts were extremely rare and hard to come by. Furthermore, they were extremely powerful, and it would be extremely hard to survive one.

"You're looking for mutated lightning bolts?" asked the lightning condor king.

"You know where I can find them?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, but they might be somewhat troublesome to get," said lightning condor king.

"Troubles are meant to be solved. Just tell us," said Jin Wo impatiently.

"Yes, yes, it's at a place not far away, in the territory of a silver-winged lightning wolf king. Silver lightning bolts can be frequently seen there. I believe those are considered mutated lightning bolts as well," said lightning condor king.

"Silver lightning bolts? That is probably a type of silver lightning that is nothing special compared to the other mutated lightning bolts. But it is still much more powerful than regular lightning bolts. It suits you perfectly, young master. You can use it to upgrade your lightning bone," said Devouring Ghost joyfully.

"Good, I'll use this silver lightning for my breakthrough then," said Xiang Shaoyun with no hesitation. "Lightning condor king, please lead the way."

The lightning condor king hesitated for a bit and, after stealing a glance at Jin Wo, agreed. "I...ok..." With a Demon Emperor present, even the silver-winged lightning wolf king would have to step aside. And thus, under the lightning condor king's lead, they flew toward a certain location. Along the way, numerous other demonic beasts appeared. But in fear they all went back to their lairs the moment they sensed Jin Wo's terrifying demonic aura.

When a Demon Emperor traversed the lands, all Demon Kings had to step aside.

Soon, they arrived at a certain mountain ridge. Numerous silvergarb trees were growing, and from a distance, a vast expanse of silvery white could be seen. But if one studied these trees in detail, one would find that on top of each tree were numerous strands of silver energy. It was a rather mystical sight. The moment they approached, wolf howls rang in the air.

"Howl! Howl!"

These were the howls of the silver-winged lightning wolves residing here. The silver-winged lightning wolf was a species of demonic beast with extreme offensive power and had incredible unity as well. Regular demonic beasts would never dare to easily enter their territory, as the silver-winged lightning wolves would almost always fight in a group whenever an outsider attacked them.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun's group arrived, more than 10 silver-winged lightning wolves charged them. Each of them had sharp fangs, a sturdy body, a snowy and glossy coat of fur, and a pair of wings on their back. They quickly surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's group. Jin Wo spat his serpentine tongue out and released his majestic demonic aura, suppressing the wolves and forcing them to step down.

"You dare act impudently in the presence of this emperor?" Jin Wo roared.

Among the silver-winged lightning wolves was a wolf king who had reached the late-stage Demon King realm. With great difficulty, the king spoke timidly. "Lord Demon Emperor, we...we don't mean to offend you. We will retreat immediately."

"You can stay. As for the others, disperse. Or I will eat them all," said Jin Wo overbearingly.

The wolf king did not dare to resist and quickly ordered the other wolves to leave.

"How may I help you, Lord Demon Emperor?" asked the wolf king deferentially.

"His highness will tell you that," said Jin Wo.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun spoke. "I heard there are silver lightning bolts here?"

The wolf king looked at Xiang Shaoyun, and a slight trace of hostility appeared in his eyes when he sensed that Xiang Shaoyun was a human. However, he quickly withdrew the hostility when he looked at Jin Wo again and answered, "Yes."

Chapter 358: Silver Lightning Stone

"So, when do you usually get silver lightning bolts?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"It depends. Some months we get it twice, and sometimes we only get one every few months," answered the wolf king honestly.

"I see." Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought.

"Young master, I thought you had a way to lure lightning bolts? You can give it a try," said Devouring Ghost.

"Yes, I do, but it's only useful for ordinary lightning bolts," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Natural lightning bolts all have some sort of resonance with each other. Perhaps it will work," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought before his gaze landed on the lightning wolf. "You should have some unique object here in your territory capable of attracting them, right? Otherwise, the silver lightning wouldn't show up so frequently. Can I know what item it is?"

Xiang Shaoyun was a quick-witted person and, after a short thought, was able to figure out the reason for there to be frequent silver lightning bolts.

Devouring Ghost slapped his forehead and said, "Right, there must be some unique object here related to silver lightning. Young master, you're smart!"

The wolf king's pupils shrank as he answered, "N-no, there's no such thing."

"Hmph. You dare lie?" Jin Wo could sense that the wolf king was lying. He shouted with a ferocious expression on his face, and his boundless demonic aura roiled out again.

The pressure from the demonic aura tormented the wolf king greatly, causing him to quickly submit. "Y-yes, we actually have a silver lightning stone here, which is why we frequently get silver lightning."

"Silver lightning stone? That is an excellent lightning-elemental material," said Du Xuanhao, who had been staying silent.

Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed joyfully, "Looks like it won't be long before I become a King."

The silver lightning stone was a stone that had undergone a huge transformation after bathing in silver lightning, obtaining a unique property that made it resonate with silver lightning. Because of that, places with the stone would attract frequent silver lightning bolts.

Apart from attracting silver lightning bolts, the silver lightning stone also contained a large amount of silver lightning energy. For a cultivator focusing on the power of lightning, the stone was extremely helpful. At the same time, it was also an excellent material for forging lightning-elemental items.

Thanks to the purple lightning bone, Xiang Shaoyun had an innate lightning power within him. Because of that, lightning-elemental materials were extremely helpful to him as well. Under the suppression of Jin Wo's demonic aura, the wolf king was forced to obediently bring Xiang Shaoyun's group to the silver lightning stone.

Soon, they arrived at the lair of the silver-winged lightning wolves. Here, one could see a silver stone as glossy as jade. It was round with a silvery radiance swirling about its sleek surface, emanating an intense lightning power that caused there to be no life within a radius of 100 meters. Even some low-leveled silver-winged lightning wolves did not dare to approach the stone, and they only dared to absorb lightning energy from far away.

Lightning condor king's eyes became burning hot with desire when he saw the stone. He also cultivated the power of lightning, and the silver lightning stone would be very useful in helping him reach a higher level.

If the silver lightning stone was instead placed in his territory, it wouldn't be a trouble at all to create even more condor kings. Unfortunately, that would only remain a wish.

"It's really a silver lightning stone. Not bad at all," praised both Du Xuanhao and Devouring Ghost.

Not saying anything, Xiang Shaoyun started striding step by step toward the silver lightning stone.

"Be careful, your highness. The silver lightning energy is quite strong," reminded Jin Wo.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored him and continued stepping forth until he finally entered the range of the silver lightning stone.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

Instantly, countless electrical currents surrounded his body. Thankfully, he was already prepared. He directly activated his lightning bone, letting it absorb the boundless lightning energy creeping all over his body.

Even with the lightning bone absorbing the silver lightning energy, his body still twitched numbly. The lightning energy was no weaker than natural lightning bolts. Fortunately, he was only absorbing the lightning energy from the fringe of the stone's active range. Otherwise, his body would have turned crisp black.

The lightning bone seemed to have transformed into a purple dragon that opened its jaws wide and started devouring the silver lightning energy. Behaving like a starving dragon, it consumed silver lightning energy rapidly, instantly clearing a large portion from Xiang Shaoyun's body, reducing his pain.

With a powerful absorption force, the purple dragon started absorbing the silver lightning energy in the vicinity as well. Instantly, numerous silvery electrical currents wrapped Xiang Shaoyun's body completely.

The silver lightning energy was extremely overbearing, causing Xiang Shaoyun's body to twitch as he howled in pain. One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun had an extremely tough body that had survived being struck by natural lightning bolts. But just this bit of silver lightning energy was enough to cause him such pain. The energy's power was evident.

But since the purple dragon dared to pull over so many strands of silver lightning energy, it only meant that it had the capability to devour them all. Sure enough, with a roar, the purple dragon opened its mouth wide and swallowed all the silver lightning energy strands.

After absorbing so much silver lightning energy, the lightning bone started transforming again. Lightning energy rippled repeatedly on its surface as the patch of purple on Xiang Shaoyun's spine started growing again. This time, a slight trace of silvery patches could be seen permeating the purple bone as well, and the inclusion of the silver lightning energy further enhanced the innate purple lightning.

At the same time, Xiang Shaoyun's flesh also went through a cleansing, and even as intense pain assailed him, his flesh grew stronger. He stood there motionless, but Devouring Ghost did not appear worried. With a faint smile, he thought, The Xiang Clan's lightning bone is extremely rare. In the past, master had relied on this bone to become the world's supreme overlord. The young master is not strong enough yet, but he still has a bright future ahead of him.

As for Jin Wo, the silver-winged lightning wolf king, and the lightning condor king, when they saw Xiang Shaoyun standing amid the silver lightning perfectly safe, they were overwhelmed with shock. There was enough lightning power to give any King a hard time. Thus, it was quite unthinkable that Xiang Shaoyun could actually stand there safely.

Even after absorbing such a large amount of silver lightning energy, Xiang Shaoyun still sensed a massive thirst from the lightning bone. He thus continued stepping toward the silver lightning stone.

As he neared, the lightning power in his surroundings intensified, and his lightning bone ceaselessly absorbed the energy, placing him in both joy and pain.

"This feels amazing!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in excitement.

He started sprinting due to his excitement, and before long, he was standing right before the silver lightning stone. A large amount of energy was converging around his body. The lightning bone was still absorbing the lightning energy at a rapid speed, but it wouldn't be able to devour all the energy anytime soon, forcing Xiang Shaoyun to quickly circulate the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. He directed the lightning energy into his first star to start enhancing it as well.

#### Chapter 359: Come, Silver Lightning

Xiang Shaoyun was already at the peak of the Transformation Realm. With so much energy pouring into his body, his instinctive reaction was to break through right then and there, and it took him a great amount of effort to suppress his desire.

"Still not enough," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as his gaze landed on the silver lightning stone.

The energy emanating from it was extremely overbearing and was comparable to the prowess of natural lightning. Whoever dared to approach it would be burned crisp immediately, yet Xiang Shaoyun had actually sat down cross-legged beside the stone, looking like he was going to start cultivating.



The silver-winged lightning wolf king was extremely anxious seeing this, but he did not dare to say anything. On the other hand, the lightning condor king was filled with envy. However, the only thing he could do was watch on.

"Alright. You may leave. Don't stay here and disturb his highness's cultivation." Jin Wo eventually chased away the two.

They were unwilling to leave but were left with no other option. After all, Jin Wo was the Demon Emperor. He was much stronger than them, and if they provoked him, he could easily turn them into food.

After the two Demon Kings left, both Jin Wo and Devouring Ghost stood guard at different positions, not allowing any beasts to disturb Xiang Shaoyun. Becoming a King was akin to stepping through a natural barrier. No mistakes could be allowed, or there would be terrible consequences. A mistake could cause something as minor as a drop in strength or something as bad as dying instantly from bodily implosion. Therefore, this cultivation session was extremely important, and they could not afford to be sloppy.

"With the silver lightning stone's assistance, it won't be a problem for the young master to break through. After the breakthrough, I can finally bring him to experience a place that is truly hellish. There, I can also completely switch this body's astral energy and make a push toward the Soul Foundation Realm," muttered Devouring Ghost as he looked at Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun had all his focus on cultivating with the help of the silver lightning stone. The energy converging on his body grew without stop as the speed at which he absorbed the energy increased unceasingly, helping him grow furiously.

As his strength grew, he suppressed and compressed it, stabilizing and thickening his foundations. Building a sufficiently solid foundation would only bring him more benefits when it was time to reap the result of his hard work.

Dots of silvery light were all over his lightning bone, each dot as majestic as a star. As they spread, his innate purple lightning grew in power. The current innate purple lightning was already strong enough to pose a threat to tier-4—or even tier-5—Skysoar Realm experts.

At the same time, Xiang Shaoyun's flesh was also being tempered by the silver lightning energy, causing his body to improve and grow without stop. However, he was clear this growth was nothing as his body was still nowhere strong enough to withstand being struck by silver lightning bolts.

This cultivation session lasted seven days and nights. Xiang Shaoyun had absorbed more than half of the energy within the silver lightning stone, and by this point, the speed at which his lightning bone absorbed the lightning energy was starting to slow. The astral energy within his body had also reached a point of saturation, and his body was barely absorbing any energy anymore.

All that only proved that the lightning energy here was no longer enough for him. He needed a stronger source of lightning energy to help his lightning bone grow more.

Should I break through now? Xiang Shaoyun asked inwardly.

With his accumulation thus far, he would be able to easily enter the Skysoar Realm. However, Devouring Ghost had suggested that he draw silver lightning bolts into him and cleanse his bones beforehand. In the long run, doing so would benefit him more.

But he did not know if his body could even withstand being struck by a silver lightning bolt. What if the lightning bolt was too much for him? But that thought had only remained for a split second before he regained his confidence.

If he had to hesitate for a trial this minor, how could he be an Emperor or Sovereign in the future? Finally, he opened his eyes, which were glowing with a silver radiance, looking sharp enough to pierce the heavens above them.

He stood up, turned around, and wrapped his arms around the silver lightning stone. He then fully activated his lightning bone and the lightning energy within his first star. The terrifying lightning energy within the silver lightning stone was forcefully drawn out before it collided with the lightning bone.

"Come, silver lightning," roared Xiang Shaoyun as he faced the sky.

Along with the roar, a purple dragon rushed out of his body, charging straight to the nine skies above, displaying an overbearing might. Abruptly, the sky above them changed.

Rumble!

A loud thunderclap sounded, followed by a silver lightning bolt shooting down from the sky toward Xiang Shaoyun's purple dragon.

"Come, devour it!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun with a fanatical look in his eyes as he circulated the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, fully unleashing the power of his lightning bone and first star.

He was going to forcefully devour the silver lightning bolt. The purple dragon opened its mouth wide and swallowed it entirely then returned to Xiang Shaoyun, bringing with it the silver lightning bolt.

"AHHH!"

The silver lightning energy was extremely overbearing. The instant it entered Xiang Shaoyun's body, a pain assailed him that made him feel like his body was going to explode.

Natural lightning bolts had always been terrifyingly destructive, and the silver lightning was a unique mutated lightning that was far stronger than regular lightning. The strength of the silver lightning bolt was about tenfold that of the lightning energy within the silver lightning stone, or even more.

Even though Xiang Shaoyun's body had already been tempered by silver lightning energy, he still felt like his body was about to be ripped apart. He nearly lost his consciousness then and there. The main target of the silver lightning's assault was his lightning bone, which was currently on the brink of destruction.

Crack!

Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling his spine was about to disintegrate into nothingness. A mouthful of blood spurted out of his mouth, and he collapsed in a puddle of his own blood.

On the verge of rushing to his side, both Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo cried out in alarm, "Young Master Xiang (your highness)!"

"Don't worry. He will be fine. Just watch on silently," said Devouring Ghost.

"Will he really be fine?" asked Du Xuanhao anxiously.

"I won't do anything to harm the young master," said Devouring Ghost.

Several silver lightning bolts then shot down from the sky. Each bolt was terrifyingly powerful, filled with a dreadful destructive force that seemed capable of reducing the entire area into ruins.

"Shit! There are too many of them!" Devouring Ghost cried out in alarm.

Rumble! Rumble!

Fortunately, not all the bolts were targeting Xiang Shaoyun. Some of them were also targeting the silver lightning stone by Xiang Shaoyun's side. Even late-stage Skysoar Realm experts would find it hard to survive the bombardment of such silver lightning bolts. With Xiang Shaoyun's current condition, it did not seem likely that he would survive.

Even so, as the silver lightning bolts rained down, the purple dragon roared resolutely and continued swallowing the lightning energy tenaciously, displaying an intense unwillingness to fall.

#### Chapter 360: When Should I Break Through If Not Now

The purple dragon was a form the innate purple lightning within Xiang Shaoyun's lightning bone had taken. All along, the purple dragon had been staying within the lightning bone, constantly devouring lightning energy to grow the innate purple lightning.

Presently, the entirety of Xiang Shaoyun's spine had cracked. It was an injury serious enough to cripple anyone. If someone could see inside his body, one would be able to see the innate purple lightning surging violently within his broken spine, constantly rejoining the cracks, working like a healing force instead of a destructive lightning energy.

It was extremely astonishing—something nobody would expect. Xiang Shaoyun was not the only person who was undergoing a transformation. The silver lightning stone beside him seemed to be changing as well; it looked like some cracks had appeared on its glossy surface.

Silver lightning bolts rained down without stop. To the side, Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo were getting increasingly worried, but Devouring Ghost still insisted that Xiang Shaoyun would be fine.

If Jin Wo was as loyal to Xiang Shaoyun as he was toward Little White, he would have already charged into the midst of lightning bolts. Finally, after six consecutive bolts, the sky calmed.

The purple dragon had been completely destroyed by the bombardment. No new silver lightning bolts were appearing, but the area 100 meters around Xiang Shaoyun was filled with silver lightning energy, becoming a restricted zone no regular person could approach.

As for Xiang Shaoyun himself, he seemed to be barely alive. A layer of silver lightning energy covered his body, and not a shred of his clothes remained as he lay there naked, his aura feeble, yet it was undeniable that he was still alive.

Devouring Ghost, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo were relieved to sense that Xiang Shaoyun was still alive. However, none of them went over to help him. They were all waiting to witness a miracle.

And indeed, a miracle happened before their eyes.

Suddenly, purple energy leaked out of Xiang Shaoyun's body, converging before taking the form of a tiny purple dragon. The purple dragon then started devouring the silver lightning energy around it, slowly growing itself.

At the same time, a different figure seemed to have appeared as well. This figure competed with the purple dragon and also consumed the silver lightning energy in the area. Compared to the purple dragon, this figure seemed extremely lively. But its appearance was unclear as it looked both like a dragon and a serpent at the same time. As it swallowed the silver lightning energy, it even tried to swallow the purple dragon as well.

What a greedy little fellow!

The purple dragon was able to sense an aura similar to its own coming from the unknown figure, provoking it into attacking. Thus, a battle erupted between the two. The battle did not last long as the purple dragon did not stop growing stronger. Slowly, the little fellow was placed in a disadvantageous position. It no longer dared to fight, and it hid into the silver lightning stone to the side.

Now, the purple dragon was the overlord of the area. It opened its mouth wide and continued to devour the silver lightning energy. The silver lightning energy within Xiang Shaoyun grew, and

under the continuous nourishment of lightning energy, his broken bones started rejoining. Finally, his entire spine healed, turning into a purple and silver spine.

It was apparent that after destruction and reconstruction, Xiang Shaoyun now possessed a complete lightning bone, and his innate purple lightning was now even more terrifying than it was in the past.

With the restoration of the lightning bone, Xiang Shaoyun's vitality started surging as he slowly regained his consciousness. And when he sensed the boundless silver lightning energy around him, he circulated his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual again, drawing all the energy into his star.

But the amount of energy around him was too large for his star to digest alone, so he acted like he did in the past and shared some of the energy with the astral cosmos sea and the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

Once again, the astral cosmos sea expanded. As for the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, it underwent another tempering process, getting ever closer to full restoration. Xiang Shaoyun could sense himself growing in all aspects, feeling like he could no longer absorb any additional energy if he continued compressing and suppressing his foundations.

In this situation, he had two options. The first was to start drawing the remaining energy into his other stars. The second was to break through, expanding his star in the process so he could absorb more energy.

The first option would be useful for any other cultivator but not Xiang Shaoyun. He was going to cultivate nine different powers, and he could not afford having too much lightning energy in his other stars, which would make it impossible for him to store other types of energy in those stars in the future. Even if he could, the energy would be diluted and would no longer be pure.

"When should I break through?" roared Xiang Shaoyun as he stood up and faced the sky. He erupted with all his power, unleashing both his astral energy and soul power, charging toward the stars in the sky above.

The purple dragon formed of his first star and lightning bone took the lead, followed by a white tiger soaring out of his second star and a volcano erupting from his third star. His other six stars shone brightly as well. Although the six stars were not as impressive as the first three stars, they still did their best to assist the first three stars as they charged into the sky above.

At the same time, Xiang Shaoyun adjusted his soul power, which had long surpassed the level of ordinary Kings. The Nether Soul Domain further boosted his soul power surging out of his body as it charged into the sky above alongside the powers of the stars. He could sense his soul soaring in the sky. It was an incomparably wonderful sensation.

"Is this how it feels to be in the Skysoar Realm? Although I have been able to fly long before this, flying as a Skysoar Realm cultivator feels completely different than flying with the white tiger wings," muttered Xiang Shaoyun to himself.

Just as he was about to reach the stars in the sky, a change suddenly occurred. A gust of gray wind rushed him from a certain direction. The wind seemed completely normal, yet it carried with it an astonishing corrosive power.

Xiang Shaoyun instantly felt an intense sense of threat as his soul power started withering, giving him an extremely uncomfortable feeling. This was only the start. If he waited until the entire gust of wind blew past, wouldn't his soul power be completely obliterated by then?

At this thought, he increased his flying speed, trying to pull away from the corrosive wind. However, the wind was like a locust that kept chasing after his soul power, seemingly not going to stop before completely devouring his soul.

"Shit! That's a sinister eroding wind! Young Master Xiang has actually attracted this calamity? Things will get troublesome!" Du Xuanhao cried out in alarm.

Devouring Ghost had an unsightly expression as well. Inwardly, he comforted himself, The young master should be able to survive this!

The sinister eroding wind was an extremely rare variation of wind energy that was extremely harmful to souls. Its attacks could not be taken lightly. One's soul might wither from an attack, and one might even directly die through the complete exhaustion of one's soul.