

Overlord 361

Chapter 361: Ignite, Fate Star

The sinister eroding wind rarely appeared, but there were exceptions for everything, such as when geniuses with unique physiques broke through.

Perhaps that was the workings of the natural law: to have a sort of trial for the geniuses to stop their advancement if they failed to overcome the calamity. Their failure might even result in death.

Unaware of the workings, Xiang Shaoyun was under attack by the sinister eroding wind, and he sensed that his soul power was on the verge of falling apart. If his soul power did fall apart, he would no longer be able to ignite his fate star, and he would no longer be able to enter the Skysoar Realm.

The sky darkened as the sinister eroding wind blew past.

"Damn it! What in the world is this?" Xiang Shaoyun cursed.

He could curse all he wanted, but it would not change the fact that the sinister eroding wind was assaulting him. He needed to think of a way to break free from it. The sinister eroding wind seemed to be everywhere, and no matter how hard he tried, the wind followed him, slowly eroding his soul power bit by bit.

"Young master! You have to survive! If you can, you will reap a great harvest!" said Devouring Ghost.

Only the cultivator attempting the breakthrough could solve a calamity such as this, and no outsider could help. Thus, both Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao could only watch on anxiously.

When Xiang Shaoyun was on the verge of complete collapse, he suddenly thought of Ye Chaomu, who had just parted with him not long ago. He recalled the promise they had made to meet after seven years, and he roared, "I, Xiang Shaoyun, am an absolute genius. How can something like this stop me? Piss off!"

With his roar, a resolute faith surged out of his mind, and his physical body that had remained on the ground seemed to react to it. His soul power erupted, once again reforming his soul high up in

the sky. His soul became solid, assuming a form that was the same as his physical body, and continued soaring up while ignoring the sinister eroding wind.

His soul had been cleansed by the soul spring, granting him a formidable soul power. And with his Nether Soul Domain and soul raising stone, he possessed a soul power that was far above his peers'.

The soul he had first sent flying to the sky had not been formed of the entirety of his soul power, but the desperation he felt under the sinister eroding wind's assault had helped him unleash all his soul power.

The sinister eroding wind continued corroding his willpower, but his soul was now incomparably solid, and not even the sinister eroding wind could stop his soul from forcing itself through the wind.

"Haha, what can a mere sinister eroding wind do to me?" Xiang Shaoyun howled with laughter. He did not waste any time and continued soaring into the sky.

"Good! Good! The young master has broken through the sinister eroding wind!" Devouring Ghost cried out in excitement. But immediately after, a completely different power appeared near Xiang Shaoyun again.

"What the hell is it this time?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered doubtfully. The newly appeared power was a clump of scarlet cloud looking like a fireball. It kept changing its shape while ceaselessly emitting a scorching temperature.

"Why is this happening? Why is a scarlet flame cloud appearing?" Even Devouring Ghost was overwhelmed with shock.

"That's a scarlet flame cloud!" Du Xuanhao cried out in alarm as well.

The scarlet flame cloud was even bigger of a threat than the sinister eroding wind—capable of torching any soul power it touched. This was a calamity that would usually only appear when one was breaking through into the Emperor Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun was only breaking through into the Skysoar Realm at the moment. It was quite unbelievable that he had attracted such a calamity at this stage. Both Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao sank into despair.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense that there was something weird about the red cloud. Without any hesitation, he increased his flying speed, but he was still too late as the scarlet flame cloud had already reached his side. It started torching him.

"AHHH!"

As he cried out in pain, his soul was instantly damaged severely. The flame's might was even scarier than the sinister eroding wind's corrosive power. After all, the power of flame was what soul power feared most. The scarlet flame cloud covered all of Xiang Shaoyun's soul, setting him on fire.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into complete despair as he couldn't think of a way to break free. At the moment of crisis, the power of his third star, which had soared to the sky with his soul, suddenly started pulsing. An absorption force erupted from the volcano as it forcefully drew in the scarlet flame cloud.

The volcano's devouring force was extremely terrifying and, in the blink of an eye, consumed half of the scarlet flame cloud, greatly reducing Xiang Shaoyun's pressure.

"It's Yun Flame! Well done!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out with pleasant surprise.

With Yun Flame's help, dealing with the scarlet flame cloud became much easier. After all, he once stayed for an extended period of time in a volcano, and his soul was still rather resistant to heat.

He wasted no time and ignored the scarlet flame cloud before continuing to soar to the sky. He held firm to his faith, squeezing more soul power out of his body, and finally, he went beyond the sky above.

Beyond the sky was a wide expanse of twinkling stars. The expanse was boundless and endless, and a human seemed so miniscule before it all. This was the shocking sight one saw after transcending the sky and leaving the Nine Gods Dominion. It could stun anyone.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely dazed. He could sense the river of stars' boundlessness, the mystery of space, and the vastness of the universe. At this moment, the powers from the nine stars accompanying his soul started emitting an intense excitement, reminding him that it was time to ignite his fate stars.

Nine stars from nine different directions amid the vast river of stars started shining brightly, telling Xiang Shaoyun where they were. The nine stars corresponded to the nine stars in his body. If one paid attention, one would notice that the nine stars formed the shape of a dragon when joined together, looking incomparably majestic.

Unfortunately, the dragon still looked rather weak at the moment. It was barely visible amid the river of stars, seemingly awaiting the day when it could finally display its overbearing might, soar above the Nine Gods Dominion, and look down upon the world below.

"Ignite, fate star," said Xiang Shaoyun as he fully unleashed his power, releasing the purple dragon, white tiger, volcano, and the powers of the remaining stars, sending them toward the nine stars.

Bang! Bang!

One after another, the nine stars were ignited, forming a silvery river of radiance that became the brightest existence amid the river of stars. The nine stars erupted and started shining upon Xiang Shaoyun's soul and inner body.

His soul returned to the space within his head, and nine majestic mysterious beams of different colors shone down on him from the sky above. Resplendent, they wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun, making him look like an august son of heavens who had descended upon the mortal world.

"The young master has ignited his fate star!" Devouring Ghost cried out in excitement, and Du Xuanhao waved his fists, feeling happy and excited for Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 362: Skysoar Realm, Finally

The Skysoar Realm was an important juncture in one's path of cultivation. There was a saying that all below the King Realm were mere mortals. That saying made it clear in simple words that entering the King Realm was an extremely important step, a dividing line where once crossed would bring a qualitative transformation akin to a carp transforming into a dragon.

With nine different powers converging on him, Xiang Shaoyun's aura rose endlessly, and a massive transformation occurred within his body. The so-called igniting the fate star was a process of fully activating the stars within a cultivator, forming a connection between one's stars and the stars beyond the skies, granting one an ability to truly borrow the power of the stars.

One would then be able to constantly temper one's body and expand one's astral energy, greatly increasing the strength of one's stars and obtaining great combat prowess. One also obtained the ability to surpass the limitations of one's body by borrowing the power of the stars, and gained the ability of flight.

Devouring Ghost's face was covered in shock when he saw the nine different powers converging on Xiang Shaoyun's body. He had never seen someone cultivating nine different powers at the same time. Even those nine-star physique geniuses he had seen in the past generally only cultivated one or two types of powers. None of them would attempt to cultivate in such a complicated manner.

Cultivating so many different powers would only result in one being incapable of reaching the peak of any of the powers.

"This can't do. After the breakthrough, I have to advise the young master to only cultivate the power of lightning like the previous master. That alone is enough," Devouring Ghost told himself.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know what Devouring Ghost was thinking. He was focusing fully on circulating his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual to quickly absorb the great convergence of energy that had arrived after igniting his fate star.

The nine different powers stimulated his stars, flooding them with pure astral power, causing his nine stars to continuously expand and grow. A bright river of stars formed within his body, looking incomparably vast and majestic.

The rich astral energy coursed through his meridians, cleansing his body of impurities, washing over his internal organs, bones, and blood, and constantly increasing his vitality and pushing his life span beyond that of an ordinary person's.

His astral cosmos sea also transformed greatly. Like a sponge, it hungrily devoured the astral energy coming down from the nine stars. It grew unceasingly as strands of astral energy of nine different colors started appearing in it. The entire astral cosmos sea emanated a mysterious aura, nourishing the treasures stored within.

In the astral cosmos sea, the vicious tiger gold lotus was pulsing constantly, releasing a pleasant fragrance in the air while a golden radiance swirled around it. It was absorbing the power of gold among the nine powers.

As for the blaze flower, it was radiating a resplendent crimson radiance, absorbing the power of flame among the nine powers.

At a different corner of the astral cosmos sea was the ghostbloom. It was emanating strands of mysterious energy as it took in the nine powers, its fragrance intensifying as it transformed into a flower emanating endless temptation.

The nine powers seemed to have transformed into a sort of life force capable of supporting all living beings. It was an indescribable sight—most people wouldn't be able to form an astral cosmos sea containing unique energy. Others would be greatly shocked if they found out what was happening in Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea.

Xiang Shaoyun noticed none of it, as he was still fully immersed in the pleasure of growing stronger. His aura gently climbed over the peak of Transformation Realm into the Skysoar Realm, and his strength kept climbing.

Early first-stage Skysoar Realm, mid first-stage Skysoar Realm, late first-stage Skysoar Realm...

His strength continued growing even when he reached second-stage Skysoar Realm, and after an unknown amount of time, he reached the third stage. His strength still showed no signs of stopping.

"Young master, be careful not to seek instant benefits! Suppress your cultivation base!" Devouring Ghost's voice suddenly rang out, waking Xiang Shaoyun from his reverie.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly suppressed his cultivation base, pushing the raging energy in his body into his nine stars. He stopped circulating his cultivation method and started compressing his cultivation base to stabilize his foundations.

As he did so, the astral energy beaming down on him from the sky started dimming before completely withdrawing. The starlight all around Xiang Shaoyun also dimmed as he opened his eyes. At that instant, it was as if dragons and tigers were soaring out of him. An aura of an unrivalled King surged out of him, spreading everywhere, kicking clouds of dust and sending the pebbles around him flying.

Finally, he was at the Skysoar Realm. And he wasn't even a fresh Skysoar Realm cultivator, as he had reached the third stage in a single step. It was a massive leap that very few people could replicate.

One ought to realize that the Skysoar Realm was completely different from the Basic Realm, Astral Realm, and Transformation Realm. One needed a massive accumulation of strength to advance even a single stage in the Skysoar Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun had actually broken through three stages in a row, proving that the volume of astral energy he had received during his breakthrough was insanely immense and comparable to what a regular person would take years or decades to accumulate.

He stood up, his robust body emanating an explosive force. A layer of silvery white radiance covered his body, making his skin resemble flawless ivory. He looked incomparably enchanting and charming.

Xiang Shaoyun stamped his foot on the ground and shot up to the sky. He only started falling when he reached a height of several dozen meters. At that moment, he circulated the energy within his body, releasing a revolving energy from all of his 365 acupoints to keep him hovering in the air. He started soaring freely through the air, no longer needing his wings to fly.

"Haha, I am finally at the Skysoar Realm!" Xiang Shaoyun howled with laughter.

After two and a half years of bitter cultivation, he had finally reached the Skysoar Realm, a realm when one would start being truly worthy of the title of a cultivator. The stage where he built his foundations had ended on a perfect note, and the time had come for him to borrow the natural astral energy of the world and keep growing stronger.

As of this moment, he could sense he was filled to the brim with power, giving him the confidence that he could destroy anything with a wave of his hand. He threw out a random punch, instantly sending forth a lightning fist. Strands of innate purple lightning swirled around it as it flew forward about 100 meters before exploding midair.

"The Skysoar Realm is indeed something else. I have grown by more than tenfold in strength," Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in excitement.

He continued flying around in the air for a bit before landing back to the ground. The smile vanished from his face as he calmed his intense excitement from recently breaking through.

"Congratulations, young master (your highness) for breaking through into the King Realm," said Devouring Ghost and Jin Wo.

Chapter 363: Horned Lightning Snake

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Just the Skysoar Realm, it's nothing."

He was being completely honest. He was someone from a tier-7 organization and had seen too many experts. For him, the Skysoar Realm was really nothing.

His foes were powerful, and he needed to continue working hard to face them, which was why he had been able to calm down so quickly after breaking through. He had a heavy burden on his shoulders and a long journey ahead of him.

A look of admiration appeared on Du Xuanhao's and Devouring Ghost's faces. They had never expected Xiang Shaoyun to have such a mature mindset, and their opinion of him improved yet again.

He did not grow arrogant just because he was talented, and he did not forget himself just because of some improvement. Such a mindset practically guaranteed that he would reach great heights in the future.

After the breakthrough, Xiang Shaoyun was in no rush to leave. Rather, he rubbed the silver lightning stone behind him and said with a smile, "Little fellow, come out."

There was still a large amount of silver lightning energy left in the silver lightning stone, and an ordinary person would not be able to it. But since Xiang Shaoyun had already tempered himself by absorbing the silver lightning energy, he no longer feared it.

Both Devouring Ghost and Jin Wo did not understand what Xiang Shaoyun was doing. Inwardly, they asked themselves in confusion, Is there something inside the silver lightning stone?

No reaction came from the silver lightning stone, as if it was a completely ordinary.

Xiang Shaoyun repeated, "Come out, I've known of your existence ever since we both absorbed the silver lightning energy. If you still refuse to come out, don't blame me for completely crushing you."

It was at this moment that a slender silhouette came out of the stone.

It was a demonic beast that looked both like a dragon and a snake. It was the size of an arm and was about two or three meters long. It had the head of a dragon with a single silver horn, and its serpentine tongue was sticking out of its mouth. Its mouth was filled with sharp fangs, and its entire body was covered with shiny silvery scales. The silver lightning energy constantly swirling around its body made it clear it was no ordinary beast.

It was a mutated demonic beast known as the horned lightning snake.

Swish! Swish!

With its serpentine tongue sticking out of its mouth, the snake stared at Xiang Shaoyun cautiously.

"Is this a snake or a dragon? Looks like this is a mutated serpent! A little fellow like this was actually hiding in the silver lightning stone? It seems to have a lot of potential. Tame it, young master! You might be able to train it into an actual lightning dragon in the future!" said Devouring Ghost with an astonished look on his face.

To the side, both Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo were studying the snake in astonishment, as if they were trying to see what the beast was.

Looking at the horned lightning snake, Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Little fellow, do you hear me? Come with me. I might be able to help you evolve into a dragon in the future."

He was clear that this horned lightning snake who had spent most of its time bathing in silver lightning energy was definitely a demonic beast with a powerful bloodline. Once trained, it would be a great help to him in the future.

In any case, Little White was not by his side right now. As for Jin Wo, he was inherently different from a demonic beast he had personally tamed. If he could tame the horned lightning snake, the snake would be a great helper in the future. More importantly, the snake had great compatibility with his main element, the lightning element, which was the main reason he was tempted to tame it.

The horned lightning snake was an extremely intelligent beast. It could sense that Xiang Shaoyun was trying to take advantage of it, and it also understood that he was far stronger than it. Thus, it immediately fled, shooting away like a bolt of lightning.

The snake moved at an astonishing speed. With a silver flash, it was already far away from Xiang Shaoyun. This was a speed much faster than even some Demon Kings.

"Young Master Xiang, I'll help you capture it," Du Xuanhao volunteered.

"No, this is a good chance for me to test my new speed," said Xiang Shaoyun with a faint smile. He stamped his foot on the ground and shot toward the snake like an arrow.

When Xiang Shaoyun was at the Transformation Realm, he was already as fast as a King. Now that he was actually a King, his speed was even scarier. The term "fast as lightning" would not be an exaggeration to describe his current speed, a speed absolutely faster than a fourth-stage, or even fifth-stage, King.

Even so, the horned lightning snake was able to take advantage of the forest's terrain with its small size to keep a large distance from Xiang Shaoyun. He might be fast, but he was not as nimble as the horned lightning snake. In this kind of terrain the snake held the advantage.

Xiang Shaoyun grew anxious when he saw the horned lightning snake getting farther and farther from him.

"It is rare for this young master to have his eyes set on something. How can I let you escape me?" Xiang Shaoyun roared as his aura soared. Using the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, he continued the pursuit.

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, crossing worlds with a single step.

All along, Xiang Shaoyun had only been able to unleash a tiny portion of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps' true prowess. It was one of the most powerful footworks in existence, and without a corresponding strength, one would not be able to display its true might.

But because Xiang Shaoyun was now finally a King, he could finally show the true power of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. He took one step forward and instantly covered a large distance, as if space itself had shrunk before him. Instantly, he was several meters ahead, the terrain and natural obstacles posing no problem to him.

Devouring Ghost was following behind Xiang Shaoyun, and when he saw the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, he praised inwardly, The young master is looking more and more like master when he was young. He is starting to grasp the true meaning of this Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. If he can comprehend this footwork's intent, it is possible to further increase his speed by two or three times.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun caught up to the snake and reached out to grab it. The dexterous snake immediately dodged to the side, successfully avoiding Xiang Shaoyun's grip.

"That's a decent reaction time, but you won't be able to escape me," Xiang Shaoyun said as he shifted the trajectory of his hand and clawed at the tree the snake had hidden behind.

Bang!

The thick tree immediately exploded as the claw continued forward to grab at the snake. The snake soared to the sky instead, not willing to keep tangling with Xiang Shaoyun.

With the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, Xiang Shaoyun reappeared in front of the horned lightning snake. "Both of us possess innate lightning power within us. Only by joining hands can we become stronger."

Xiang Shaoyun then activated his lightning bone, flooding his entire body with a boundless lightning energy. The purple radiance around his body converged and took the form of a purple dragon with a tinge of silver. With its head raised high, the dragon stared straight at the horned lightning snake.

The horned lightning snake sensed a power compatible with its own, and the sense of intimacy with the power caused the snake to stop running. It slightly relaxed its vigilance against Xiang Shaoyun.

"Stop hesitating. Just come with me. I will treat you well and will ensure you get the chance to evolve into a dragon in the future," persuaded Xiang Shaoyun. He then started approaching the horned lightning snake one step at a time, trying his best to look friendly.

But when Xiang Shaoyun was right in front of the horned lightning snake, the look in its eyes suddenly changed as it attempted to bite Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 364: Taming the Horned Lightning Snake

The horned lightning snake moved at an extremely fast speed to attack, and its fangs reached Xiang Shaoyun's neck almost instantly. Even though Xiang Shaoyun was already bracing himself for an attack, he still couldn't cleanly dodge and was forced to cover his neck with his arm.

His arm was bit, and he hissed in pain, the blood instantly seeping out. His first instinct was to throw the snake away before killing it. But he quickly suppressed that thought.

"You are holding nothing back, huh? That hurts," said Xiang Shaoyun as he resisted the pain.

He was one who had resisted the pain of being struck by lightning. This much pain was still within his tolerance level. The horned lightning snake continued biting into his arm with its sharp fangs. As it tried to chomp the entire arm off, it left a deep wound that reached his bone.

"Hey, little fellow, I don't intend to harm you. If you are not willing to come with me, just leave. I won't let you sever my arm," said Xiang Shaoyun, using his internal energy to stop the snake from biting off his arm. Even so, he still resisted the urge to harm it.

"Young master, have you gone insane? Beat it up and teach it some discipline!" Devouring Ghost cried out in alarm.

"Yes, Young Master Xiang. Don't joke around with your life," said Du Xuanhao.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "No, I believe in its intelligence. It can understand that I am sincere in not wishing it any harm."

"Your highness, it has an extraordinary bloodline. Please don't harm it," begged Jin Wo. Jin Wo was a gold serpentine crocodile and had great intimacy with all snake races. Thus, it was natural for him to not wish the horned lightning snake harm.

"Don't worry, I won't harm it," Xiang Shaoyun promised.

"What are you waiting for? Let go of his highness!" Jin Wo berated the horned lightning snake, releasing his Demon Emperor aura.

The horned lightning snake gave it some thought and finally released Xiang Shaoyun's arm before quickly fleeing.

"Beast, trying to flee after harming my young master?" Devouring Ghost shouted and started giving chase.

"Devouring Ghost, come back. Let it go," Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

Devouring Ghost stopped and turned around. He asked, "Young master, since it has survived under the nourishment of silver lightning energy, it has the potential to become a great helper in the future. Are you going to let it go just like this?"

"Yes. Let it be," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

He did want to tame the horned lightning snake, but he did not wish to harm it. Perhaps that was because they both possessed the power of silver lightning. The horned lightning snake continued fleeing, but not long after, it turned around to look at Xiang Shaoyun. There was a complicated emotion in its eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun was still standing there with electrical currents running all over his body, maintaining the incredibly regal and majestic purple dragon around him. The horned lightning snake hesitated for a long time before it turned around and returned to Xiang Shaoyun.

A look of pleasant surprise appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's face. He had a feeling the horned lightning snake had made up its mind. Sure enough, after the horned lightning snake arrived before him, it flew a circle around him before emanating a silvery radiance from its scales.

The innate purple lightning in Xiang Shaoyun's body joined with the silver lightning energy the snake emanated, and it seemed like an extremely intimate connection had formed between the two.

The horned lightning snake opened its mouth and swallowed a mouthful of the lightning energy Xiang Shaoyun was releasing, and after swallowing the mouthful, its mood improved.

"Little fellow, just stay by my side. My innate purple lightning and your very being complement each other. We can grow together, and if a day comes when you are tired of staying by my side, I won't stop you from leaving," Xiang Shaoyun quickly persuaded when he sensed that the horned lightning snake was starting to develop affection for him. The horned lightning snake no longer hesitated and nodded its head, signaling its agreement.

"Haha, good. In the future, you will come to realize how smart this decision is," said Xiang Shaoyun with a joyful laugh.

He sincerely wanted the snake to stay by his side; hence he was very excited when it finally agreed. The horned lightning snake proved itself with action by climbing to Xiang Shaoyun's injured arm and licking the wound, showing its willingness to follow him.

"Alright, I'm fine. Don't worry," Xiang Shaoyun said.

But the horned lightning snake did not retreat. It continued licking the wound, and some silvery liquid dripped out of its mouth. The liquid gave Xiang Shaoyun a chilly and refreshing sensation, and when he looked at his wound, he found that it was healing at a slow speed.

"What is this? You are actually capable of healing?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment, attracting Devouring Ghost's and Jin Wo's attentions. They could both see that Xiang Shaoyun's wound was really healing.

"Not bad at all. This horned lightning snake is worthy of being a mutated species. The energy it spits out has a restorative property," praised Devouring Ghost.

Jin Wo also couldn't help crying out, "It might be a pure lightning beast. Although the lightning power is destructive in nature, lightning liquid is restorative in nature."

"Lightning liquid, it's spitting lightning liquid?" Xiang Shaoyun was astonished.

Back then, during the first time he was struck by lightning, he had obtained a drop of lightning liquid as well, which was how he had survived death and come to learn how precious lightning liquid was.

If the saliva of the horned lightning snake was truly lightning liquid, it would have great implications. The horned lightning snake left the wounded arm and climbed to Xiang Shaoyun's other arm. It then slowly vanished into his arm.

Xiang Shaoyun was still confused when he saw that a snake tattoo had appeared. The tattoo looked extremely lively and mysterious. He could also sense that something had changed with his skin, as if something else had appeared there.

"The Camouflage Invisibility ability!" Jin Wo cried out in alarm.

"What's that?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion.

"It's a perfect camouflage ability that lets one embed oneself into something to achieve invisibility. It is an extremely rare demonic ability, but this little fellow actually has it! It's an amazing survival ability!" explained Jin Wo with envy.

"So this little fellow is actually this powerful?" Xiang Shaoyun smiled. Then, the horned lightning snake left his arm and flew in the direction they had come from. As it flew, it did not forget to look back and signal Xiang Shaoyun to go with it. He followed without hesitation.

Chapter 365: Silver Lightning Core

The horned lightning snake brought Xiang Shaoyun back to the silver lightning stone where they had been absorbing lightning energy earlier. When the silver-winged lightning wolves in the vicinity saw them returning, they quickly scattered again, including the Kings.

Before an Emperor, all Kings were worthless.

The horned lightning snake used its Camouflage Invisibility ability to directly enter the silver lightning stone. Xiang Shaoyun assumed that it had returned to pack up its belongings, so he waited patiently.

"There is something weird about this little fellow. It is already capable of flight and has a speed faster than a King's, but its cultivation realm does not seem too high. Gold serpentine crocodile, can you tell us its actual realm?" asked Devouring Ghost.

Jin Wo was a Demon Emperor, but Devouring Ghost was even stronger than him, so he could not ignore the question. He answered, "Peak of Great Demon, ready to enter the Demon King at any moment. Perhaps it is waiting for something before breaking through."

"I thought all demons directly entered the next realm as soon as they had enough accumulation to do so? This little fellow actually knows to suppress its strength and not break through?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Of course us demons are capable of suppressing our strength before breaking through at the most suitable timing. But the way we go about it is different from humans. For us, we will temper the physical body until it reaches the perfect level before forming a demonic core. That is why it looks like our breakthroughs have always occurred immediately after we have accumulated enough strength," said Jin Wo.

"I see. Looks like I have been too ignorant," said Xiang Shaoyun in realization.

Pa!

Suddenly, a crack appeared on the surface of the silver lightning stone. Next, strands of silver lightning energy no weaker than natural lightning bolts started leaking from it. If Xiang Shaoyun was not already a King, he would have a hard time standing amid this energy.

But since he was already a King and had also reforged his lightning bone by devouring the silver lightning energy, he now had a natural intimacy with its energy. Thus, he was no longer easily harmed by it.

As for Devouring Ghost and Jin Wo, both of them were strong enough to not fear the energy. The lightning bone activated and quickly absorbed all the energy leaking out of the stone. Xiang Shaoyun could sense that after the refinement, his lightning bone now possessed an even scarier devouring force.

The horned lightning snake came out of the stone. This time, there was a clump of silvery energy floating beside it. Anyone could see with a single glance that it was no normal clump of energy.

"What is that?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

The lightning bone within him was releasing a great sense of hunger again, as if it longed greatly to completely devour the clump of energy.

"This is a silver lightning core!" Devouring Ghost cried out in alarm.

Devouring Ghost was one who once stood at the peak of the Nine Gods Dominion. Very few things could alarm him this much. Just from his reaction alone, it was clear how extraordinary the clump of energy was.

"Silver lightning core? A pure energy core formed by natural lightning energy?" Du Xuanhao asked.

"Exactly. I had not expected that there would actually be such a clump of energy in this silver lightning stone. No wonder it was able to attract so many silver lightning bolts from the sky," said Devouring Ghost affirmatively.

"A so-called lightning core is in a sense a seed of natural lightning energy, and this silver lightning core is a mutated version of it and is extremely beneficial for any cultivator," Xiang Shaoyun said as he immediately recalled what he had once read about this lightning core.

All lightning cores formed only after a long period of time. The time required would take hundreds, or even thousands, of years. Any King would go mad for one, and even Emperors would want one as well.

It was no wonder that this horned lightning snake was able to mutate. It must have benefited from the silver lightning core. Even the silver-winged lightning wolves had benefited from it. Unfortunately for the wolves, the horned lightning snake had excavated the core from the stone. Once exposed, the core could no longer be allowed to stay, or it would slowly disperse before ceasing to exist.

"Help me bring it away," said the horned lightning snake, suddenly speaking human tongue.

Demons with powerful bloodlines could usually start speaking human language the moment they reach the late-stage Great Demon realm. This horned lightning snake had never come in contact with humans before, which was why it had remained silent until now. After staying with Xiang Shaoyun's group for a bit and listening to them, its unique talent of speech started working, granting it the ability of speech.

"Haha, that is not a problem. But I might need to keep it somewhere that will make it hard for you to have constant access to it," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

This was akin to a big gift. Even if he did not absorb the silver lightning core for himself, just having it on him was enough to benefit him greatly.

The horned lightning snake gave it a thought before replying, "I'll just go inside it. You can just take both of us in together."

Then, it directly went inside the silver lightning core, showing no fear whatsoever to the destructive property of the silver lightning energy.

"Not bad. Its entire body is now compatible with silver lightning energy. The moment it becomes a Demon King, it will be capable of battling those beyond its realm," Jin Wo praised.

"Looks like this little fellow is making one final accumulation before breaking through. I believe it won't be long before it becomes a Demon King," Devouring Ghost agreed.

Xiang Shaoyun did not hesitate and directly drew the silver lightning core into his astral cosmos sea. The astral cosmos sea was now much larger than in the past, and after the odd change that had occurred within it, he was able to easily absorb the silver lightning core into it.

Immediately after the silver lightning core entered the astral cosmos sea, the lightning bone started absorbing a part of its energy, further increasing the might of the innate purple lightning.

The silver lightning core was stored at a certain corner of the astral cosmos sea. The four different elements—that of the silver lightning core, the gold lunar liquid, the lava, and the soul spring—coexisted together in the astral cosmos sea and presented a rather wondrous sight. Anyone would be completely stunned.

After all, regular astral cosmos seas could only be used to store comparatively common objects, yet Xiang Shaoyun was storing all these destructive energies in his astral cosmos sea, which was something rarely seen.

Even Devouring Ghost was greatly surprised. "Young master, your astral cosmos sea has accepted the silver lightning core just like that?"

"Yeah. Why not?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"But the silver lightning core is extremely destructive. Are you not worried that it would destroy your astral cosmos sea?" Devouring Ghost asked.

"Ahh, don't worry. I have already tempered the astral cosmos sea with silver lightning energy. Why would my astral cosmos sea fear an object of the same element?" Xiang Shaoyun explained.

"That works?" Both Du Xuanhao and Devouring Ghost were dumbstruck.

Devouring Ghost was very clear on how astral cosmos seas worked. Only someone with an extremely high cultivation level could casually store something so destructive in one's astral cosmos sea like Xiang Shaoyun had just done. At the very least, one's strength must be far beyond the destructiveness of the energy one was taking in before doing something like that.

Xiang Shaoyun was able to accomplish that with a cultivation level as low as the Skysoar Realm, and he had pulled it off so easily. It was understandable that Devouring Ghost was so shocked. This firmed his belief that Xiang Shaoyun possessed an extraordinary physique no ordinary person could compare with.

"This silver lightning stone is not bad either. I can use it in the future to forge a weapon for the horned lightning snake, and I can also use it to further repair my Overlord Skyslaying Saber," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he stowed away the broken pieces of the silver lightning stone. He then said, "Alright, time for us to leave."

Chapter 366: Six Goldplate Manual

After leaving the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, Xiang Shaoyun's group headed toward Wu Town. Wu Town's Martial Hall Palace was a place he had once cultivated at, and because of that, it occupied a special place in his heart.

Unfortunately, the entire Martial Hall Palace had been destroyed because of him, filling his heart with guilt. Since Elder Zhen Peng had returned to rebuild the Martial Hall Palace, it was only proper that he return and take a look.

When they arrived at Wu Town, they found that there were very few people around, the entire town looking desolate and bleak because a large number of its residents had moved away. Very few people had been willing to stay.

Only a small number of people consisting of those incapable of leaving or couldn't bear parting with their hometown had stayed. Why had so many people abandoned their homes? It was because of Xiang Shaoyun.

When Linggu Haonan's group was hunting for Xiang Shaoyun, they had held nothing back and had decimated both the Wu Clan and Martial Hall Palace in the process. The people of the town were

greatly frightened. Thus, they started leaving en masse. They didn't even need anyone to tell them to leave.

Xiang Shaoyun could guess all that without needing anyone to tell him.

He gripped his fists tightly and said, "Just you wait, traitors. The day this young master returns will be the day all of you regret everything you have done."

He calmed his emotions and went to Martial Hall Palace's previous site. There, he found that the signs of destruction were still clearly visible, with only a few dilapidated buildings standing around in a lonesome manner. Among them was a newly built wooden building with a stone tablet in front of it. On the tablet, the words "Martial Hall Palace" were carved. Xiang Shaoyun was able to see that they were newly carved, and seeing the sight before him caused him to feel even more guilt.

"Sorry, young master," Devouring Ghost apologized gloomily.

This random apology was not something Devouring Ghost himself had intended. Rather, he had only done so after seeing Xiang Shaoyun so sad. After devouring Linggu Haonan's soul, he had also inherited the memory of all that had happened here. Otherwise, with his vicious character, he would not care about the destruction of a tiny organization at a place like this.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand. "This has nothing to do with you. Let's go."

He could sense that Elder Zhen Peng was in the wooden building, but he did not intend to disturb his peace. Elder Zhen Peng did not feel like seeing him, and there was really nothing he could do to make things better anyway. He could only etch the hatred into his heart and focus on avenging the dead in the future.

Xiang Shaoyun, Devouring Ghost, and Du Xuanhao all hopped onto Jin Wo's back. They then flew toward a certain direction.

Cruising through the air with the wind blasting against his face, Xiang Shaoyun stared at all the passing clouds as he thought, Now that I am already a third-stage Skysoar Realm, it will take some time for me to reach the fourth stage. My only avenue of immediate improvement is through my combat prowess. That will be my focus for now.

The strongest battle technique he had right now was the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, followed by the Seven Scorching Sun Claws, Lightning Bolt Fist, Gold Helix Fist, Star Destroying Finger, and so on. Of these techniques, the Gold Helix Fist and Star Destroying Finger were mere tier-3 techniques. They were no longer good enough for him, and it was time he learned new techniques.

For a cultivator, apart from cultivation level, battle techniques and weapons were the most important factors to improve one's combat prowess. Xiang Shaoyun searched his brain for the tier-4 and tier-5 battle techniques he had and finally stopped at a technique called the Six Goldplates Manual.

The Six Goldplates Manual was a tier-5 defensive battle technique, a true emperor-grade technique. In any form of combat, offense and defense were crucial. With offense, one could eliminate one's opponent, and with defense, one could reduce the harm one might suffer. In other words, one's overall strength relied not only on offense but also defense.

Xiang Shaoyun already had formidable offensive techniques and was rather lacking in defensive techniques. Thus, he planned to practice the Six Goldplates Manual to increase his defensive prowess.

There were six levels in the Six Goldplate Manual. One could form a layer of golden barrier during the first level, two layers during the second level, and so on. The six levels could also be grouped into three stages, with the first stage being known as the Iron Wall, the second stage known as the Copper Wall, and the third stage known as the Goldplate.

The Iron Wall stage was where one formed a defensive barrier the shape of a wall that was as solid as a mountain, and it was nearly impenetrable to regular king weapons. The Copper Wall stage was where one transformed iron into copper, forming a copper wall that could defend against top-tier king weapons, or even regular emperor weapons.

The Goldplate stage was a transformation of shape where the defensive barrier turned into a layer of scales that protected a cultivator internally and externally, providing a defense even high-tier emperor weapons could barely penetrate.

The Six Goldplate Manual was a powerful tier-5 battle technique, and with Xiang Shaoyun's current strength, he could finally cultivate it. Of course, to cultivate it to perfection, he would have to first enter the Emperor Realm, and he could currently only complete the first stage at most.

The mantra of the Six Goldplate Manual surfaced in his mind as he went through it again and again, familiarizing himself with it.

One ought to admit that the Nether Soul Domain had granted Xiang Shaoyun a freakish memory, allowing him to remember clearly all the cultivation methods and battle techniques he had read before.

The moment he reached the decision to cultivate the technique, he started his cultivation without delay. He circulated his energy in accordance to the mantra, drawing the vicious gold energy from his second star. The energy coursed through his meridians while his acupoints pulsed and pushed the energy to the surface of his skin, covering his body with a faint layer of gold radiance.

Jin Wo felt extremely comfortable when he sensed the familiar vicious gold aura, and his sense of intimacy toward Xiang Shaoyun grew as a result. Both Xiang Shaoyun's vicious gold energy and Jin Wo's power had originated from the Golden River Valley. It was only natural that the two resonated with each other.

Devouring Ghost also sensed Xiang Shaoyun's aura, and he praised inwardly, The young master wastes no time in cultivating. This is a praiseworthy mindset to have.

In the blink of an eye, two days passed.

Jin Wo was still flying as he carried the others in the direction Devouring Ghost pointed. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he seemed to have turned into a piece of rock. He ignored everything around him, completely focused on cultivating the Six Goldplate Manual. Today, the gold radiance covering his body was much brighter than before, as if his skin itself had changed color. He was currently quite a wondrous sight to behold.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes and said, "Jin Wo, stop somewhere."

"Yes, your highness," Jin Wo answered obediently.

Soon, Jin Wo stopped at a desolate forest. Xiang Shaoyun hopped off his body and looked at Devouring Ghost. "Devouring Ghost, I am cultivating a defensive technique. Do you have any suggestions on how to expedite the process?"

"What is the technique's element?" asked Devouring Ghost as he knew Xiang Shaoyun cultivated many different powers.

"Gold," Xiang Shaoyun replied.

Devouring Ghost replied, "Young master, please listen to me. Just focus on the power of lightning and give up on the other powers. You can still do it as a fresh King. It is very hard to reach the peak of the powers you cultivate if you are cultivating so many of them."

"I understand, but it is already too late for that," said Xiang Shaoyun with a helpless smile. He then released the three different powers he had in him.

Chapter 367: Drawing the Lightning, Cultivate

The energies of innate purple lightning, white tiger vicious gold, and Yun Flame rippled out of Xiang Shaoyun, presenting a dazzling sight. Each was extremely unique and capable of unleashing a dreadful might. It was understandable why Xiang Shaoyun wasn't willing to give up on any of them.

More importantly, the three energies respectively occupied a star, taking up three of his stars in total, and they were now one with him. It would be very hard to get rid of any of them without destroying the star itself.

Devouring Ghost could sense Xiang Shaoyun's current situation, and the look in his eyes dimmed.

"Young master, if you knew it was wrong to cultivate so many different powers, why had you still decided to do it? You must know that although each of these unique powers are very good, in the long term, they will turn into your burden," Devouring Ghost sighed.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Don't worry. I have my own considerations. Yes, cultivating three powers is a wrong path of cultivation. Therefore, I am going to cultivate nine powers, building a cultivation path unique to myself."

"But..." Devouring Ghost was at a loss for words.

"You want to say that nobody has ever succeeded, right?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. "Just because everyone has failed does not mean I will fail. No matter what, since I've already made my choice, I will do my best. Regardless of how difficult it will be, I won't fail."

Xiang Shaoyun was radiating complete confidence, showing no worry whatsoever about the path he had chosen. During his breakthrough into the Skysoar Realm, he had actually managed to attract nine different powers to him, which had further reaffirmed his belief that this was his destined path.

In fact, he was already capable of cultivating battle techniques of other elements, but he felt that without the support of a different element's unique power and a stable foundation for it, there was no point.

He refused to believe that after gathering six more unique powers in his six other stars, he wouldn't be able to break the shackle that had stopped the path of so many before him. This was in a sense one of Xiang Shaoyun's ambitions, and it was quite clear that to be able to come up with such a goal he was a person who thought uniquely.

One ought to know that each unique power in existence was extraordinary and rare. Getting even one of them was extremely hard and might result in death. Since Xiang Shaoyun dared to dream such an ambition, he was already prepared to die trying.

It was curious what Devouring Ghost would think if he knew what was in Xiang Shaoyun's mind. At present, he had nothing else to say when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's resoluteness. He went back to the original topic. "To cultivate a defensive battle technique, the fastest method is by getting attacked."

"Getting attacked?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion.

"Yes, when under attack, you can only use your defensive battle technique to defend yourself. This will expedite your comprehension of the battle technique and increase your mastery of it. Of course, this is a rather risky solution, and there is a risk of leaving yourself a long-lasting injury," said Devouring Ghost.

"Ok, let's do it. I have already been tempered by natural lightning, so my physical flesh is much tougher than others'. I won't easily receive long-lasting injuries," said Xiang Shaoyun with a firm look in his eyes. "You will be attacking me. Restrain the strength of your attacks to the King Realm. That will work best."

"Me? That won't be optimal. You should summon lightning bolts instead. You can temper your defensive technique at the same time as growing your lightning bone, killing two birds with one stone," suggested Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up as he slapped his forehead and said, "Yes, why have I not thought of that? Let me give it a try."

He was already a Skysoar Realm cultivator and already had basic mastery over the energy in his stars. Drawing lightning to him was nothing difficult for him now. He erupted the power of his first star and his lightning bone. Instantly, his body was flooded with lightning energy as a roaring purple dragon soared out of him into the sky above.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun soared to the sky as well. With his own star, he established a connection with a star beyond the sky and roared, "Heed my call, natural lightning. Descend!"

He mustered all his mental power, his mind becoming one with his body as he formed a connection with the natural world. Wind blew madly around him. During the Transformation Realm, he had once drawn natural lightning from the sky with his saber. Now that he was a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, he could easily repeat the feat. Sure enough, at his shout, the sky darkened as a bolt of lightning came shooting toward him.

Rumble!

Before Xiang Shaoyun could even circulate the Six Goldplate Manual's cultivation mantra, he was struck. He dropped from the sky and crashed into the ground, looking rather sorry.

Fortunately, he was someone who could survive even silver lightning bolts. A regular lightning bolt was not as powerful and could only cause minor injuries and damage his clothes. As a whole, he was still in good condition. The lightning bone within him absorbed all the lightning energy on his body, reducing the harm the lightning could do to him.

"Shit, that was fast," Xiang Shaoyun spat.

Once again, he did the same and connected his star with the star beyond the sky, summoning another bolt of lightning. Yet another bolt of lightning shot down from the sky. In a flash, it reached him.

This time, he was already prepared, yelling, "Six Goldplate Manual!"

He circulated the Six Goldplate Manual, drawing from the gold energy in his body. Instantly, the gold energy covered his body, forming a protective barrier around him. The defensive barrier was formed through a combination of his gold energy and king aura. Although he could only display a tiny bit of the Six Goldplate Manual's true power at the moment, the barrier still greatly boosted his defense, especially when compared to his defenses from when he was a Transformation Realm cultivator.

Bang!

The lightning struck Xiang Shaoyun's body, sending him slamming to the ground again. He stood up shortly after and grumbled, "This defensive technique does not seem to work? Let's give it another try."

Once again, he activated the Six Goldplate Manual and waited until he reached an optimal state before summoning another bolt of lightning. With a flash, he was struck mercilessly yet again.

Other ordinary Kings would find it hard to resist natural lightning bolts like this, yet here was Xiang Shaoyun, being struck head on again and again. In some way, this sight of his bitter cultivation was quite sorrowful to look at.

Not far away, Devouring Ghost stood silently. Inwardly, however, he was alarmed, The young master is summoning natural lightning way too easily! When he grows more and reaches the point when he can summon a large number of lightning bolts, who will be able to face him? That was how the previous master had obtained his freakish combat prowess that rendered him undefeated! Unfortunately, the young master has opted to cultivate nine different powers.

Xiang Shaoyun was not aware of Devouring Ghost's thoughts. Again and again, he summoned lightning bolts to strike him. And again and again, he activated his Six Goldplate Manual only to be destroyed by a strike of lightning. He was injured repeatedly, but his life was protected by the lightning bone, which was constantly absorbing all the lightning energy. His first star also benefited from the rain of lightning, and a certain mysterious power within his astral cosmos sea was hungrily absorbing the lightning energy.

Chapter 368: Footwork Intent

A natural lightning strike was as powerful as a King's attack. After being struck more than 10 times and coughing up quite an amount of blood, Xiang Shaoyun finally sat down cross-legged weakly.

After facing over 10 lightning strikes, he had finally gained some comprehension of the Six Goldplate Manual, learning more about how to properly utilize it to protect himself. Additionally, his lightning bone, first star, and astral cosmos sea had also benefited from the lightning strikes, and his innate purple lightning had grown even stronger.

If Xiang Shaoyun only cultivated the power of lightning alone, just cultivating in this manner would let him break through at record speed. However, he had a big ambition, and as a result, he had to either satisfy the requirements of all the powers he cultivated or simply gather a massive amount of astral energy before he could attempt a breakthrough.

Xiang Shaoyun sat down with wounds all over his body and circulated his cultivation method to recover his exhausted strength. His wounds, however, did look quite bad and did not seem like they could be healed immediately. After resting for about four hours, he stopped meditating and took out a large number of herbs and spirit medicines. He crushed them all before bandaging himself up.

"Alright, let's move," said Xiang Shaoyun as if nothing had happened.

"Young master, you are not going to continue?" Devouring Ghost asked curiously.

"How can I continue in this condition? I'm better off contemplating the defensive technique as I wait for my wounds to heal before facing the natural lightning bolts again. I will only get optimal results by striking a good balance between work and rest," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"The young master is wise," praised Devouring Ghost with a bright glint in his eyes.

It was quite a surprise to him that Xiang Shaoyun was able to understand this concept so clearly at such a young age: knowing to strike a balance instead of charging ahead blindly. That kind of mindset was invaluable. The longer he stayed with Xiang Shaoyun, the more merits he could see in him.

Xiang Shaoyun stepped back onto Jin Wo's back again and said, "How long do we need to reach the Bloodsin City traveling at this speed?"

"At least half a year. If we can use teleportation formations, we will be able to reach it much quicker," Devouring Ghost replied.

"But only tier-5 and above organizations will have teleportation formations," Du Xuanhao chimed in.

"Half a year is not really that long anyway. We'll keep flying at the same pace," said Xiang Shaoyun after thinking about it for a bit.

"As your command, young master," answered Devouring Ghost deferentially.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun, Devouring Ghost, and Du Xuanhao continued heading toward the Bloodsin City on Jin Wo's back. Why were they heading to the Bloodsin City? It was on Devouring Ghost's suggestion. Apparently, Bloodsin City was a place Xiang Shaoyun would be able to grow his strength quickly.

As for why Xiang Shaoyun planned to not use the teleportation formations, it was because he wished to cultivate the Six Goldplate Manual to at least a basic mastery while on his way there. During their journey, he only did two things. He either tempered himself with natural lightning bolts or rested on Jin Wo's back.

Just like that, a month passed. Now, Xiang Shaoyun was already able to summon three natural lightning bolts at the same time and take the strikes head on with his body. He had also successfully formed the first layer of gold defense, allowing him to face a certain amount of lightning bolt bombardment without much trouble.

Presently, on a certain desolate mountain peak, Xiang Shaoyun was facing three lightning bolts with his upper body bared. A thick layer of golden energy was surrounding him, forming a thick iron wall surrounding several meters around him. The wall actually stood tall against the lightning bolts, and cracks only appeared during the third bolt.

Xiang Shaoyun had accomplished an extremely shocking feat, surviving three lightning strikes without harm. He raised his head and roared with laughter, "Haha, the Six Goldplate Manual is worthy of being a tier-5 battle technique. Just a tiny bit of mastery is already enough to protect me against natural lightning bolts."

Devouring Ghost appeared before Xiang Shaoyun like a specter and said, "Congratulations, young master, for your gains in cultivating the battle technique."

"After a bit more cultivation, I will be able to face six lightning bolts at the same time, reaching the second level and completing the defensive technique's first stage. At that time, I believe I will be

able to gain some fame for myself even at the Bloodsin City you speak of," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"Definitely. You are destined to stand at the peak of existence one day, young master," said Devouring Ghost respectfully. He added, "Young master, now that you have some accomplishment in your defensive technique, are you considering improving your other aspects?"

"Such as?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Such as footwork intent, increasing the speed of your Overlord's Nine Nether Steps," said Devouring Ghost.

"Footwork intent!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm. He had comprehended the saber intent and was well aware of the benefits of comprehending an intent. But he had never thought of cultivating footwork intent.

It was not that he did not want to, but he had simply never thought of it. With Devouring Ghost's reminder, he suddenly had an urge to cultivate it.

"Yes. Footwork intent will be able to greatly increase your speed, giving you a massive advantage in combat. Absolute speed will never be defeated," said Devouring Ghost seriously. He pointed at a rock about one kilometer away from them and said, "Young master, look at that rock."

He had barely spoken those words when he suddenly vanished into thin air. With a flicker, he reappeared before Xiang Shaoyun with a rock in his hand. This was the same rock he was pointing to a moment ago. That was an astonishing movement speed.

"I had not used much of my strength, only utilizing my footwork intent," explained Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled helplessly. "But you are too fast. I couldn't see anything."

"Oh, I'll demonstrate it one more time so you can get a better look, young master," said Devouring Ghost awkwardly. He then tossed the rock away and suppressed more of his strength before he started moving one step at a time.

Xiang Shaoyun concentrated fully on observing Devouring Ghost's movements, not willing to miss even a slight detail. Devouring Ghost seemed to have transformed into a gust of wind. He drifted about, appearing here and there like a drifting leaf with an indeterminate trajectory.

Each step he took seemed so casual and simple yet easily brought him 100 meters away. He could also switch his direction at ease, leaving afterimages everywhere, confusing his possible enemies. This was his footwork intent, granting him the ability to traverse in all directions as he wished.

This was an ability Devouring Ghost had finally regained after taking some time perfecting his fusion with Linggu Haonan's body. Xiang Shaoyun stared at Devouring Ghost unblinkingly, imprinting everything he saw in his brain. To the side, Du Xuanhao did not miss out on this rare opportunity and stared at Devouring Ghost's each move with a sharp glint in his eyes.

After a while, Devouring Ghost stopped and asked, "Did you see that, young master?"

Xiang Shaoyun recovered from the reverie and said, "Yes."

"Good. There are three stages to this footwork intent. The first stage is 'moving like the wind', the second stage is 'shrinking space', and the third stage is 'so close yet worlds apart'. I am currently in the second stage, the shrinking space stage," explained Devouring Ghost, not minding that Du Xuanhao was listening in at all.

Chapter 369: Lending a Helping Hand

Moving like the wind, shrinking space, and so close yet worlds apart were the three stages of footwork intent. From what Devouring Ghost had said, the first two stages were comparatively easier to comprehend than the final stage, which could only be reached by those cultivating the power of wind.

For the first two stages, one could reach them through constantly improving one's comprehension of footwork intent, unlike the final stage which required the additional support of the power of wind. It was understandable as speed was the essence of footwork, as was the case for the power of wind.

"Back then when the previous master created the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, it was as if he could reach the heavens beyond the skies with one step and reach the hell down below with another step. That was a speed where he had broken his shackles and reached the so close yet worlds apart stage. It was a speed the mind couldn't even begin to comprehend," said Devouring Ghost.

"One step to reach the heavens beyond the sky; one step to reach the hell down below," Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm.

The more familiar he became with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, the more he could sense its extraordinariness. Thus, he agreed with Devouring Ghost's appraisal.

"Since you have reached a basic mastery in your defensive technique, you can now start cultivating footwork intent without slowing your other aspects of cultivation. If you cultivate footwork intent together with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, your comprehension will definitely be faster. I will also be teaching you all I know," said Devouring Ghost.

He thus started sharing his experience on footwork intent with Xiang Shaoyun and did not hold anything back. He had already acknowledged Xiang Shaoyun as his former master's only successor, and Xiang Shaoyun also looked exactly the same as his previous master when he was young, earning his full devotion.

Xiang Shaoyun listened attentively, committing everything to memory. After Devouring Ghost finished his explanation, Xiang Shaoyun started using his Nether Soul Domain to visualize Devouring Ghost's earlier demonstration of footwork intent. While visualizing, he started contemplating on the experience Devouring Ghost had shared with him, trying to understand the footwork intent one step at a time as if he was spinning silk from cocoons.

Xiang Shaoyun focusing on comprehension did not slow the pace of their journey as they continued heading toward their destination. As for Du Xuanhao, he was one who had comprehended saber intent. Just from listening in, he had benefited greatly. What he had learned here would be a great help to him in the future.

In the blink of an eye, a few days passed. One day, Devouring Ghost suddenly cried out, "Slow down, I sense some emperor auras ahead of us."

Jin Wo knew that Devouring Ghost was stronger than him and would naturally have far sharper senses as a result. He immediately slowed down and started descending to the ground.

Xiang Shaoyun opened his eyes and asked, "What's going on?"

"I don't know. A few emperor auras are heading this way, and it does not seem they are only passing through. There is a possibility of conflict," judged Devouring Ghost. "But they are only some low-leveled Emperors. We don't have to be worried about them."

"Ok." Xiang Shaoyun nodded, not worried at all.

Suddenly, sounds of explosions erupted from ahead of them. The sound waves rumbled on, as if the entire world was shaking. Several different energies shot into the sky, scattering the clouds above.

When everything settled, someone could be seen flying rapidly in the direction of Xiang Shaoyun's group with a youngster in tow. Evidently, these two were the ones being pursued. The elder of the two was an old man with a cultivation level of third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. His aura was extremely unstable, and it was clear he was in very bad shape.

"Friends, please save us!" the old man cried for help.

Although Xiang Shaoyun's group had moved out of the way, they had not intentionally hidden themselves. Surprisingly, that person was actually begging for their help.

"Piss off. Don't create trouble for us," berated Devouring Ghost unhappily.

However, the third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm old man acted as if he had heard nothing and continued flying toward them. He shouted, "Friends, please help us! We will repay you generously in the future!"

Before Devouring Ghost could say anything, someone else shouted, "This is the business of the Tai Clan. All unrelated individuals, piss off!"

Following closely behind that voice were three powerful auras. The newcomers were three powerful Dragon Ascension Realm experts. They surrounded the pair and started attacking without saying anything.

The three were rather strong, and none of them were weaker than the old man. They attacked mercilessly, aiming only for vitals. A barrage of attacks surrounded the pair, not leaving them any chance to escape.

"Young master, let's leave," Devouring Ghost said.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Um. Let's go."

Xiang Shaoyun never saw himself as a hero. There was no point for him to meddle in the affairs of others. After all, he still had his own grudge to avenge. But right as they were about to leave, the Emperor suddenly broke through the siege and flew toward them. He cried out in desperation, "Save us! W-we will repay you generously!"

"Piss off if you don't want to die." Devouring Ghost was getting irritated.

He had never been someone with a good temper. If he wasn't still adapting to his new body and trying to hide his identity, he would have killed all of them long ago.

"Hehe, Dong Wu, nobody can save you today! They're just some useless bugs passing by. You really think they are capable of helping you?" said one of the pursuers with a nasty laugh.

A few more attacks flew toward the pair.

"AHHH!"

The old man blocked all the attacks before pushing away the youth.

"Grandpa Wu!" came a sorrowful shout as the youth flew away.

"Little pup, let me get my hands on you first before slaughtering Dong Wu, that old dog," said one of the pursuers with a sneer before dashing toward the youth.

Just as that person was about to reach the youth, Xiang Shaoyun suddenly said, "Devouring Ghost, Big Brother Du, help them."

"Young master?" Devouring Ghost asked in confusion.

"Not now. Save them first," said Xiang Shaoyun with an unsightly expression.

When Devouring Ghost saw Xiang Shaoyun's seriousness, he no longer delayed, and he flew out like a specter. Jin Wo also moved without hesitation and shot toward the pursuers.

Devouring Ghost was the first to arrive. Instantly, he appeared before the Emperor going after the youth. A ghostly hand swirling with black mist clawed forward as he sneered and said, "Open your eyes wide and see who's the bug."

Whoosh!

The ghostly claws looked incomparably sharp. Instantly, the ghostly hand arrived before the Emperor's chest. The Emperor did not even realize what happened before a sharp pain assaulted his chest and his blood spurted out like a fountain.

"AHHH!"

The Emperor was instantly defeated and could no longer chase after the youth. Devouring Ghost then shifted the trajectory of his ghostly hand and gently sent the falling youth toward Xiang Shaoyun. He then charged toward the other two Emperors.

"It has been so long since I last killed anyone. Let me taste some fresh blood. Du Xuanhao, leave them to me," said Devouring Ghost, radiating an intense bloodlust.

A thick black aura was swirling around him, and a stench of blood roiled out, making him seem like a sinister spirit as he charged the two remaining Emperors.

Chapter 370: Dong Ziwan's Brother

Devouring Ghost had occupied Linggu Haonan's body, and Linggu Haonan was a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert, standing at the peak of the realm. The cultivation level had subsequently dropped due to the conflict in the two's astral energies; after all this time of adapting to the new body, Devouring Ghost had remained at the seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

The two Emperors before him were mere second-stage and third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts. It was way too easy for Devouring Ghost to kill them by himself, not to mention there was Du Xuanhao standing to the side as backup.

Xiang Shaoyun did not bother paying any attention to Devouring Ghost and the others. Instead, he went and caught the youth flying toward him. The youth looked to be about two years younger than him. He had a handsome face, and from his temperament, he looked like the young master of some influential family. Unfortunately, he seemed to have fallen from grace.

"Save my Grandpa Wu, go save him!" the youth shouted with a commanding tone the moment Xiang Shaoyun caught him.

Xiang Shaoyun replied indifferently, "Think about yourself first."

"I am giving you an order. Are you deaf?" the young man berated, seemingly not knowing the circumstances he was in.

Pa!

Xiang Shaoyun slapped the young man on the face without hesitation, sending the young man rolling away for a bit.

"You are ordering me?" Xiang Shaoyun stepped forward and asked coldly.

He had the intention to rescue the youth, but the youth's attitude was rather revolting.

The young man rubbed his face, glaring at Xiang Shaoyun. "Y-you dare hit me? Do you believe—"

"Would you believe me if I told you I'd kill you right this instant?" Xiang Shaoyun interrupted with a thick murderous intent.

The youth shivered and sobbed, "P-please don't kill me. I am the young master of the Dong Clan. If you kill me, you will only invite trouble to yourself."

"Who is Dong Ziwan to you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Y-you know my big sister?" the youth asked.

"If it wasn't for your sister, you would have been dead by now," said Xiang Shaoyun as he raised his brow.

He then ignored the youth and flew toward the heavily injured Emperor. The only reason he had decided to save the pair and have Devouring Ghost and the others act was because he found that the youth bore some resemblance to Dong Ziwan.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be bothered to meddle in the affairs of others. He arrived before the injured Emperor and found that the Emperor's armor had been completely destroyed. The Emperor, on the verge of death, had a deep and terrible wound.

A drop of spring water and a few stalks of healing spirit medicines appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's hand. He reached out and said, "Open your mouth, swallow them, and you will live."

The old man did not hesitate, and he mustered the final bit of strength he had to swallow everything in Xiang Shaoyun's hand. He also concurrently took out a king medicine from his storage ring and swallowed it. Finally, as his vitality started recovering, the energy circulating within him quickened.

The old man opened his eyes and begged weakly, "P-please save Dong Ziming!"

"Don't worry. He is fine. Your pursuers have all been killed," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The old Emperor grew excited, but he quickly shut his eyes, calmed down, and focused on recovering. He was already incapable of combat and wouldn't be able to do anything anyway. Since the young man before him was showing him kindness, he could be at ease and focus on healing for now.

Meanwhile, Devouring Ghost had already ended combat, and the three pursuers had been killed. Both Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao returned to Xiang Shaoyun and stood by his side without asking anything.

Xiang Shaoyun took the initiative and told them, "These two might be related to a friend of mine, so I couldn't watch on without helping."

A look of realization hit Devouring Ghost's face, and he nodded. As a follower, one ought to know one's position. There were things one did not need to know, and Devouring Ghost had always been very clear about that.

He took out the three storage rings he had gotten from the three Emperors and handed them to Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun did not accept them. Rather, he said, "See if there is anything that you need in there. If there is, just take it for yourself."

Since Devouring Ghost had occupied a body cultivating a different power from his original body, he did require some items to help him fully fuse and regain his strength.

Devouring Ghost thanked, "Thank you, young master."

Day by day, his admiration for how Xiang Shaoyun handled things grew. He also found that Xiang Shaoyun really resembled his previous master a lot, and the only thing lacking comparatively was that sense of overbearingness.

But that was something that could be developed, and it would arrive if he was given time to grow. Devouring Ghost searched all three rings, and after taking what he needed, he handed the rest to Xiang Shaoyun.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun walked to Dong Ziming, who was at a loss as to what to do.

"Tell me what happened," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

A timid look appeared on Dong Ziming's face as he asked, "W-what do you want to know?"

He had always been an arrogant person and would never easily bow before others. But that slap to his face had planted a seed of fear in his heart.

"Why were you being pursued?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I-it's those Tai Clan bastards! They colluded with the Xing Clan, trying to completely destroy our Dong Clan!" Dong Ziming complained indignantly.

"How strong are those two clans? And how strong is your clan?" asked Xiang Shaoyun. Back then, he had guessed that Dong Ziwan had an extraordinary background. What he saw here had only reaffirmed his guess.

"I thought you knew my big sister? You don't know about the great Dong Clan?" Dong Ziming asked, his arrogance seeping out again.

Xiang Shaoyun knocked Dong Ziming's head in a displeased manner and said, "Cut the crap. Just answer what I ask."

"They are both tier-4 organizations that we have always suppressed. The Dong Clan is a tier-5 organization, the sole overlord of the Five Denseforest Cities. Even the Tai Clan and the Xing Clan have to bow before us. But three years ago, our ancestor got himself seriously injured on a trip outside the city and has ultimately passed away, stroking the ambitions of the Tai and Xing Clans. And now they are finally making a move against us. Those bastards! They will all die miserably! They think our Dong Clan can be bullied so easily?" Dong Ziming said, gnashing his teeth furiously.

"Looks like your Dong Clan will still be fine in the meantime. Why are you being pursued, then?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"It's my big sister Dong Ziwan's fault. She rejected the proposed marriage with the Illusionary Palm Society and even fled home. I was out looking for her when those people found me and started chasing after me," complained Dong Ziming.