

Overlord 381

Chapter 381: Beating the Enemy Back

The woman's husband was a fifth-stage King. His name was Xing Sifeng, and he was a member of the Xing Clan's main family branch. He stabbed his silver sword repeatedly at Xiang Shaoyun, sending numerous wind energies out, and attacked like a storm. This was the true way of attacking with the power of wind—through astonishing speed.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to be careless against such an opponent, and he quickly formed his golden defensive barrier with his Six Goldplate Manual before taking the storm attack head on.

Cling! Clank!

The entirety of the attack was blocked. The power of wind was fast but relatively weaker in terms of strength, which was why Xiang Shaoyun had decided to take it head on instead of dodging. Naturally, apart from blocking, he was also attacking. Still with the same pair of gloves, he punched a way out of the storm, reaching Xing Sifeng with brute force.

When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the power of wind Xing Sifeng emanated from such a close distance, his new comprehension of the power of wind started combining with his previous comprehension, granting him a new understanding of wind.

Gold Helix Fist!

He was still using the same technique, but the punch's speed had become faster due to his increased comprehension. If it wasn't for the lack of wind elemental energy in his star, his speed would have at least doubled or tripled.

Xing Sifeng had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to have such a powerful defense capable of blocking the entirety of his attack, and he was thus forced to engage in melee combat.

Xiang Shaoyun fought with all his power, raining down overbearing punches while vicious gold energy swirled around him. The barrage of attacks forced Xing Sifeng to be on the defensive, yet he failed to block the vicious gold energy in the air. He had a hard time resisting Xiang Shaoyun's attacks, and eventually, even his weapon was flung from his hands. He quickly retreated in fear.

"I'll help you, husband!" The woman returned, trying to help her husband.

But it was at this moment that Dong Ziwan appeared before her and said, "I am your opponent."

Displaying a combat prowess no weaker than a third-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, Dong Ziwan sent out a series of green sword energies, and they completely surrounded the woman. No matter what, Dong Ziwan was still a descendant of an Emperor and used to enjoy great love from the ancestor. Thus, she had naturally been allocated enough resources to give her a decent combat prowess.

Dong Ziwan held up the woman, giving Xiang Shaoyun the freedom to push on against Xing Sifeng. Not daring to continue fighting, Xing Sifeng fled in the direction of other Xing Clan Kings in hope of asking for help.

"You can't escape me," Xiang Shaoyun sneered and used his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps.

One step to reach the hell down below!

His speed increased, and he appeared before Xing Sifeng in a flash. He then sent out a barrage of punches. Xing Sifeng tried his best to resist, but he still failed and was pushed dangerously close to death. Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess had most likely surpassed even the fifth-stage Skysoar Realm.

"This is refreshing!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as a massive king aura surged out of him.

After dispatching his opponent, he was about to look for a new opponent when the battle in the air ended. Some Emperors from the two clans started shouting in fear.

"All members of the Tai Clan, retreat!"

"All members of the Xing Clan, retreat!"

The Kings of the two clans quickly pulled away from the Dong Clan in fear. It was becoming apparent that their Emperors had suffered defeat.

"Who exactly are you? You dare offend the Illusionary Palm Society?" asked Xu Duo, the ninth-stage Emperor from the Illusionary Palm Society. He could not resist his curiosity as he was not Devouring Ghost's match in the slightest.

"Illusionary Palm Society? I have never heard of them. You have not mastered your Illusionary Palm yet. Piss off and train for another couple hundred years before you challenge me again," said Devouring Ghost.

He couldn't even be bothered to give chase since the enemies were already retreating in defeat. In any case, his opponent was wearing a sovereign armor and would be somewhat difficult to kill anyway. He might as well give up and let him go.

Xu Duo had an unsightly expression as he could sense that Devouring Ghost was only an eighth-stage Emperor yet capable of defeating him. He had a feeling that Devouring Ghost was most likely from an even higher-tiered organization. He did not dare to stay around, and carrying two of his injured companions, he fled.

The other Emperors also did not dare to stay, and all the survivors started fleeing. Naturally, they also took some of the more important Kings from their clans with them as they escaped. As for the Kings left behind, they turned into prey for the Dong Clan Emperors. One by one, they were slaughtered.

"Tai and Xing Clans, a day will come when we bathe in your blood," howled Dong Qinggu.

The fleeing Emperors all felt a chill creep up their spines. In this battle, the Dong Clan had suffered heavy casualties, greatly angering Dong Qinggu. It was understandable that he would want revenge.

"Thank you, sirs, for your help." Dong Zhongyuan dragged his injured body over and thanked Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao gratefully.

Without them killing a few opposing Emperors in a row, the Dong Clan would not have been able to turn defeat into victory. Currently, Devouring Ghost was busy absorbing the souls of the dead from the battlefield to grow his soul foundation and couldn't be bothered to give a reply.

Du Xuanhao was the one to reply, "You don't have to thank us. If you really want to thank someone, direct it to our young master. Without him, we wouldn't have been bothered to partake in this battle."

"Who is your young master, if I may ask?" Dong Zhongyuan asked in confusion.

"Down there." Du Xuanhao pointed at the Dong Clan estate below them.

Below, both Xiang Shaoyun and Dong Ziwan had stopped fighting as well, and the other Dong Clan members had also realized that they had won. They started turning off the defensive formations they had activated earlier before coming out of the estate.

"Slut, it is time for me to rip your mouth apart," said Yan Li as she charged Dong Ziwan impatiently, reaching forward with a palm.

Yan Li was a peak Skysoar Realm expert, and Dong Ziwan wouldn't be able to block her attack. At the last minute, Xiang Shaoyun stood before Dong Ziwan, protecting her from harm.

Right as Xiang Shaoyun was about to be hit, Jin Wo's massive body appeared before him. His golden scales rippled with radiance as a boundless demonic aura roiled out, blasting Yan Li's attack away. The sight of a Demon Emperor shocked Yan Li into retreat.

"You dare harm his highness? Die!" Jin Wo roared before preparing to bite Yan Li.

"Please spare me, I beg you," Yan Li begged in fear.

It was at this time that Dong Zhuoyue returned. He released his emperor aura; his fourth-stage cultivation level caused Jin Wo to stop his attack.

"A Demon Emperor from the Tai and Xing Clans? Die!" Dong Zhuoyue thought that Jin Wo was a Demon Emperor that the two clans had left behind. He raised his sovereign weapon and prepared to attack.

"No, father. He is my friend's mount," Dong Ziwan cried out in alarm.

Chapter 382: Harming My Young Master? Are You Tired of Living?

Dong Zhuoyue stopped his attack when he heard Dong Ziwan.

"Speak! What were you trying to do!" Dong Zhuoyue questioned in a displeased manner.

Before Dong Ziwan could answer, Yan Li started weeping beside Dong Zhuoyue, "Big Brother Yue, Little Wan is being too insensible. Our clan is in a crisis, yet she is busy spending her time being all affectionate with this unknown man. She even dares to scold me, calling me a vixen. You need to uphold justice for me! Otherwise, there is no point for me to keep living anymore!"

Dong Ziwan was so furious her entire body trembled, and she couldn't even find anything to say, as her mind had turned blank from anger.

"Dong Ziwan, did you really call your fifth mother that?" Dong Zhuoyue questioned with the same displeased look on his face.

"That's right. I said that. So what? All of us are putting our lives on the line battling the enemies. What did she do? She hid in the formation and still has the galls to criticize me and my friend, and now, she's even trying to kill me?" Dong Ziwan replied loudly.

"I stayed behind to protect Ming, to preserve the bloodline of the Dong Clan. What about you? Busy having an affair with a random man and even showing me disrespect! Are you going to kill me and Ming, my son, in the future as well? I...I can't live like this anymore!" Yan Li started weeping again.

One ought to admit that Yan Li was pretty good at spinning the truth. She had successfully fanned Dong Zhuoyue's anger. Dong Zhuoyue yelled furiously, "Apologize to your fifth mother immediately!"

Face paling, Dong Ziwan said, "You would rather believe her over me, your own daughter?"

"I'm telling you to apologize. Refuse, and you can leave the clan!" said Dong Zhuoyue.

He was already in a bad mood due to the bitter battle. This family drama occurring almost immediately after the battle had caused him to lose his temper.

Drip. Drip.

Tears started pouring out of Dong Ziwan's eyes. She felt terrible. She had been loyal to the clan and had even fought for the clan with her life on the line. And here was her father, trusting Yan Li's lies and being heartless. It thoroughly hurt her feelings.

Xiang Shaoyun was watching on as it all happened. He felt sorry for Dong Ziwan, and he took her into his arms. He yelled at Dong Zhuoyue, "Your daughter had fought alongside the Dong Clan and had almost died. As for the woman behind you, all she is good for is spinning lie after lie, yet you still trust her so. Are you blind?"

"Who do you think you are? You dare talk like that to our clan leader?" berated an Emperor standing beside Dong Zhuoyue. He even sent a slap toward Xiang Shaoyun's face.

"Stop!" an anxious voice rang out from above them.

However, the warning came a tad bit too late, as the attacking Emperor could no longer pull back his attack.

"Harming my young master? Are you tired of living?" Devouring Ghost's sinister voice rang out as he appeared before Xiang Shaoyun like a specter. He clawed at the incoming palm, ripping it apart before grabbing the attacker.

"AHHH!"

The attacker was only a third-stage Emperor. How could he resist Devouring Ghost? Instantly, his chest was ripped apart, a wound appearing deep enough to reveal his bones. Blood poured out of it. Before even knowing what had happened, the Emperor was killed.

Dong Zhuoyue broke out in cold sweat. If he was the one who had attacked earlier, he would currently be a dead man.

"Friend, why are you killing a member of our clan?" Dong Zhongyuan, who had just returned with the surviving Dong Clan Emperors, asked with a frown.

"You have to ask your people. We fought hard to help you win the battle, yet your man dared to attack my young master? He is courting death!" Devouring Ghost spat, radiating a thick bloodlust.

Du Xuanhao landed beside Xiang Shaoyun and stood guard beside him. Inwardly, he thought, Young Master Xiang is indeed worthy of being a key person of a large organization. Even someone like Devouring Ghost is showing him such devotion. I really need to conduct myself better and act in accordance with my station before him in the future.

Although he had agreed to follow Xiang Shaoyun for the sake of obtaining the Scorching Sun Manual and increasing his combat prowess, he still felt some resistance toward his identity as a follower.

But now, after spending all these days with Xiang Shaoyun, he had personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun's terrifying potential. That coupled with the absolute devotion of someone like Devouring Ghost had convinced him that Xiang Shaoyun would definitely grow into a person of remarkable accomplishment. He was starting to let go of his pride as the Saber Emperor, slowly attempting to adapt himself to his new status as a follower.

"What happened exactly?" Both Dong Zhongyuan and Dong Qinggu glared at Dong Zhuoyue in anger. Both of them wanted to know why Dong Zhuoyue was suddenly offending their saviors.

The Dong Clan had just experienced a massive battle and had lost more than half of their Emperors. If they angered the people who had helped them at this moment, it would be akin to adding salt to the wound.

With two of his elders glaring at him, Dong Zhuoyue shivered and finally realized that the young man who had scolded him was their clan's savior. He had actually listened to his woman and caused an Emperor of his clan to die. He was filled with regret, and in his anger, he turned and slapped Yan Li on her face.

Pa!

Yan Li was sent flying, wailing miserably. Her face was nearly deformed from the slap.

"Men, drag her away," commanded Dong Zhuoyue.

At that command, Yan Li was arrested and taken away. While she was being dragged away, she yelled miserably, "I am the clan leader's wife! Let go of me! Let go of me!"

After Yan Li was brought away, Dong Zhuoyue apologized to Xiang Shaoyun, "My apologies, young hero. I should not have trusted that woman's words."

His apology was a rather significant gesture, considering his status as the leader of a large clan. Both Dong Zhongyuan and Dong Qinggu were full of praise at his willingness to swallow his pride. With their clan in such a crisis, they really shouldn't be attracting more trouble.

"It really has nothing much to do with me. It's your clan's internal affair. I am only a good friend of Dong Ziwan," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"Since you are Little Wan's friend, you are also our clan's esteemed guest. We are lucky to be able to obtain your assistance today. I hope you can consider staying a bit to rest up," invited Dong Qinggu, acting like Devouring Ghost had not killed an Emperor of their clan at all.

"It's fine. We will be leaving now," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

The expressions of the people from the Dong Clan shifted. They knew very well that if Xiang Shaoyun's group left now, those traitors and the Illusionary Palm Society would definitely return, and that would be the end of their clan.

Dong Qinggu looked at Dong Ziwan and said, "Little Wan, we can't let your friend leave just like this after helping us, right?" He was a shrewd old man with a rich experience in life. He knew that only Dong Ziwan could make Xiang Shaoyun stay.

Chapter 383: I'll Stay

Dong Ziwan was extremely conflicted. Previously, she had not wanted Xiang Shaoyun to come because she did not wish to put him in danger. But he had come and had even saved her clan. Seeing that he was in no danger staying, she was now hopeful that he could stay longer.

However, she did not know what to do. She was worried that she would put him in a difficult position if she invited him to stay. After all, he had already made his intention to leave clear.

All the Dong Clan members were looking at Dong Ziwan expectantly.

After looking at her clan members, she hesitated for a bit more before she looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked seriously, "Can you stay?"

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "This is your place. If you want me to stay, I'll stay. And if you do not want me as your guest, I will naturally leave."

"Stay, then," said Dong Ziwan with her eyes wide.

"Sure, I'll stay," Xiang Shaoyun agreed without any hesitation.

Dong Zhuoyue heaved a sigh of relief. If he had offended Xiang Shaoyun enough to make him leave, he would have a hard time keeping his position as the clan leader.

Looks like this kid has some feelings for Little Wan, thought Dong Zhuoyue inwardly.

He was not alone as many in the Dong Clan had reached the same conclusion. They also thought that both Xiang Shaoyun and Dong Ziwan were akin to a match made in heaven.

"Great. Saviors, please come in and take a seat. Men, clean up the battlefield," said Dong Qinggu.

They were all relieved to receive the assistance of two powerful late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts. Xiang Shaoyun did not hesitate and went into the Dong Clan estate with Devouring Ghost, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo.

The clan estate was akin to a city within a city. It occupied an expansive area; a large number of ancient buildings stood tall everywhere. Only those from the clan's direct line of descent were allowed to reside here. As for the clan's branch families, they all lived at different locations within the city. In fact, more than half the residents of the city shared the surname Dong.

After entering the estate, Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan had Dong Zhuoyue arrange a feast to welcome Xiang Shaoyun's group. Although the clan was overall still enveloped in sorrow because of the casualties they had suffered, they still couldn't slight such important guests.

During the feast, most of the Dong Clan members appeared lost in thought, their faces still covered with worry. Because of the sombre mood, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't really bring himself to enjoy the food. He quickly found a random excuse to end the feast.

"Everyone, go handle your affairs first. I will be staying for a bit anyway," said Xiang Shaoyun forthrightly.

When Dong Qinggu, Dong Zhongyuan, and Dong Zhuoyue heard that, they were finally able to leave and go handle the clan affairs without worrying they would offend him. After they left, Dong Ziwan apologized, "Sorry, Xiang Shaoyun."

"There is no need to apologize. We are friends," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile. "Prepare a place for us to rest. I believe there is a lot you need to deal with as well. We can meet again when you are done with your clan affairs."

Dong Ziwan nodded gratefully before bringing them to the residence prepared for them. And just like that, Xiang Shaoyun's group started staying at the Dong Clan.

"Young master, are you interested in that girl?" asked Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "We are only friends who have survived a dangerous encounter together."

"Good. Young master, your future is full of promise. Your wife should be the best of the best, a remarkable beauty with outstanding talent. Although this girl looks decent, she is still not good enough for you," said Devouring Ghost. "Your future wife should be picked from the most eligible ladies of the various regions."

"Hehe, I never knew you placed such importance on status," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"The superpowers of the various regions have stood tall all these years relying not only on their terrifying accumulation but also on their selective method of picking their other halves. That is how these superpowers ensure that their offspring possess an extraordinary bloodline as well. This is something you need to be very careful about, young master," reminded Devouring Ghost. He then laughed and added, "Hehe, but if she is willing to be your concubine, I don't really care."

The reason Devouring Ghost had said all that was because he did not wish for Xiang Shaoyun to only see Dong Ziwan alone. It was obvious how much hope he placed on Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun understood Devouring Ghost's feelings, but he did not really care. He would simply follow his heart. Dong Ziwan was beautiful and kind, but he hadn't really fallen in love with her.

However, he did not deny that he did have a high opinion of her. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered helping her and her clan.

Suddenly, Du Xuanhao said, "Young master, I am going to break through,"

Pleasantly surprised, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Really?"

"Yes. After cultivating the Scorching Sun Manual, I have been growing rapidly. After this battle, I feel like a few days of seclusion will be enough for me to smoothly break through," said Du Xuanhao seriously.

"That's great! We need to quickly find a place for you to break through," said Xiang Shaoyun gleefully. A troubled look covered his face as he said, "Trouble might come here at any moment, so this is not a good place for that. What should we do?"

He had just promised to stay for a bit, so he would be too embarrassed to suddenly leave.

"Don't worry, young master. I can do it here. Even if another battle erupts, it won't affect me. I have broken through in the midst of battle many times before. Some minor disturbances won't be able to stop me. In fact, it will help me break through more quickly," said Du Xuanhao confidently.

"Fine, you will attempt your breakthrough here. Devouring Ghost and Jin Wo will stand guard for you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

If Du Xuanhao could break through as well, with his combat prowess, Du Xuanhao would no longer need to fear any Dragon Ascension Realm experts. At that time, with both Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao by his side, Xiang Shaoyun would be safe so long as they did not encounter Sovereigns. Xiang Shaoyun felt incredibly lucky to have accepted Du Xuanhao as his follower.

Just as Du Xuanhao was about to start his seclusion, Xiang Shaoyun recalled something and called out to him, "Big Brother Du, I have something for you."

He then took out a pile of spirit crystals. There were at least 100,000 of them, and all of them were mid-grade spirit crystals. This was a wealth enough to shock even Du Xuanhao. Although he was an Emperor, he was not as wealthy as Xiang Shaoyun.

"Take these spirit crystals as backup," said Xiang Shaoyun. A brightly colored object then appeared in his palm as he said, "Take this as well. I want you to grow as fast as possible."

When Du Xuanhao saw the item in Xiang Shaoyun's hand, he cried out in alarm, "T-this is a blaze flower!"

Chapter 384: Money Breaking Through

The blaze flower was something Xiang Shaoyun had obtained at the Flame Mountain. It was a flower that had grown under the millenium earthcore fire's nourishment, and it contained dreadful flame energy. One ought to know that this blaze flower was comparable in value to at least a top-tier king medicine, or even comparable to an emperor medicine.

If Xiang Shaoyun consumed this flower himself, he could increase his cultivation level by at least two stages. He had been letting it grow in his astral cosmos sea all this while, and today, he had actually taken it out for Du Xuanhao. This was truly generous of him. As an Emperor, Du Xuanhao had also obtained many treasures over his years of travels. But he had never gotten an emperor medicine with such a pure flame element.

"This is too precious. Keep it, young master. These spirit crystals are enough for me," said Du Xuanhao.

Xiang Shaoyun insisted, "Big Brother Du, take it. I don't hope to see any mishaps during your breakthrough. I need you to grow as quickly as possible. In any case, I have more of this flower."

"What? You have more blaze flowers?" Du Xuanhao cried out in alarm. But when he recalled Xiang Shaoyun's identity, he no longer hesitated. "Ok. I will accept this blaze flower."

He then turned and went into his room. He walked with a resolute pace, his eyes shining brightly as he thought, After I take my revenge, I will use the rest of my life to guard the young master.

One could say that Du Xuanhao the Saber Emperor had been completely conquered by Xiang Shaoyun's generosity. Devouring Ghost was full of praise at what Xiang Shaoyun had just done. This was how generous an overlord should be.

So did Xiang Shaoyun truly have another blaze flower? Yes, he had another blaze flower, one that had grown after he had stored the first blaze flower in his astral cosmos sea. However, even Xiang Shaoyun himself was confused as to how a new blaze flower had grown in his astral cosmos sea.

Currently, at a certain spot within his astral cosmos sea was an area filled with lava. There, a tiny blaze flower could be seen. It was still tiny and barely discernible, but there was no denying that it was there.

Its graceful petals pulsed unceasingly as it absorbed the flame elemental energy in its surroundings. At the same time, it also absorbed the energy from the nine-colored fog drifting about in the astral cosmos sea.

The nine-colored fog had formed during Xiang Shaoyun's breakthrough into the Skysoar Realm, and it was formed through the convergence of the energies from his nine different stars. As for what it actually did, he was completely clueless. The only thing he knew was that a new blaze flower had grown because of this nine-colored fog. Apart from that, a new vicious tiger gold lotus and a ghostbloom had also sprouted in his astral cosmos sea.

Xiang Shaoyun had only noticed this recently, but since he had been busy dealing with the Dong Clan, he hadn't gotten any chance to figure out what was going on. But now he finally had the chance to focus on studying the change in his astral cosmos sea. With his inner gaze, he observed everything in the astral cosmos sea, trying to understand why these spiritual herbs were growing there. Ultimately, he was able to conclude that the nine-colored fog played a great role in it.

"This is the energy that had formed during my breakthrough. Each different color represents a different astral energy. So is the product of their combination considered a sort of origin energy? There are records stating that the so-called origin energy is the most original energy of the universe—the source of life. In that case, does that mean that I can now store living beings in my astral cosmos sea?" Xiang Shaoyun guessed.

At this thought, he focused on the silver lightning core and said, "Money, come out from the core and try to see if this is an environment you can live in."

Money was the name Xiang Shaoyun had given the horned lightning snake. It was quite an...inelegant name. One would think he was hard-pressed for money to name his snake this.

The horned lightning snake noiselessly stuck his head out of the silver lightning core, and after sensing the surroundings, he started slowly coming out of the core.

After taking some time to adapt to the new environment, he looked around with his smart eyes, and when he saw the nine-colored fog, his eyes lit up, and he directly dove into it. He opened his mouth and started wantonly swallowing the nine-colored fog.

His speed of absorption was much faster than the herbs', and in just a short while, more than half of the fog was already gone. As the horned lightning snake swallowed the fog, his demonic aura grew unceasingly. His silvery scales started shining brightly, looking extremely vivid and lively.

"Looks like the nine-colored fog is really the key to all the changes," concluded Xiang Shaoyun.

"I'm breaking through, I'm breaking through, let me out!" the horned lightning snake shouted.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly, then in joy quickly pushed his astral cosmos sea out of his body, letting the horned lightning snake rush into the outside world. The moment the horned lightning snake charged out, he transformed into a slender body and soared straight into the sky, preparing to face the heavenly tribulation.

Xiang Shaoyun suddenly recalled that Du Xuanhao was also attempting a breakthrough and quickly cried out, "No! Wait a bit. I'll find you a suitable location."

The horned lightning snake replied, "Make it quick. I won't be able to suppress my cultivation for long."

Xiang Shaoyun quickly called out to the person standing guard nearby, "Man, please find an empty space for me. A demonic brother of mine is breaking through!"

The person standing guard was a Dong Clan King, and when he heard Xiang Shaoyun's words, he quickly offered, "Savior, you may go to our clan's training field."

"Ok, lead the way!" Xiang Shaoyun said in a rush. He then looked at Devouring Ghost and said, "Devouring Ghost, isolate this place from the outside world. Don't let Money's breakthrough affect Big Brother Du."

"Don't worry, young master," answered Devouring Ghost, whose body was completely concealed.

Then, Xiang Shaoyun followed the Dong Clan King to the training field. The horned lightning snake followed closely behind, as if he was Xiang Shaoyun's shadow. Soon, they arrived at a spacious and empty training field. It was large with quite a number of battle rings. This training field was usually crowded, but lately, it had been deserted due to the disaster the clan had suffered.

"We're here," said the Dong Clan King.

"Money, break through here. Nobody will harm you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The horned lightning snake did not wait and directly shot into the sky. He released a boundless demonic aura and started his attempt to break through into the Demon King realm. Instantly, dark clouds gathered, darkening the sky as lightning bolts began to dance.

Rumble! Rumble!

The sudden change gave the Dong Clan people, who had just experienced a large battle, a fright, and numerous Emperors rushed over to the training field in an instant.

"Everyone, please don't do anything. This is a demonic brother of mine. He is borrowing your place to attempt a breakthrough," Xiang Shaoyun quickly explained loudly.

Chapter 385: I Will Face the Tribulation With You

The people from the Dong Clan stayed their hands when they heard Xiang Shaoyun's words. Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan stood together, staring at the horned lightning snake in the sky with astonishment.

"What snake is this? It looks so weird, almost like it has undergone a mutation," Dong Qinggu muttered in confusion.

"There are a lot of mutations among demonic beasts, and this demonic snake seems to have evolved to have an affinity with lightning. Just look at the type of tribulation it's facing," said Dong Zhongyuan. "That Xiang Shaoyun already has a Demon Emperor as his mount, yet he still has a demonic snake as well? Is he from the Myriad Beast Sect?"

"The tier-6 Myriad Beast Sect?" Dong Qinggu gasped, intense fear in his eyes.

The Myriad Beast Sect was an ancient tier-6 organization, and if it wasn't for their low number of Sovereigns, they would have become a tier-7 organization long ago. An organization of this level was an existence that the Dong Clan could only look up at.

The horned lightning snake had created quite a scene, instantly attracting three silver lightning bolts. The sight of the unique lightning bolts greatly shocked the Dong Clan people. Regular breakthroughs into the Demon King realm would only attract regular natural lightning bolts, but this snake had actually attracted mutated lightning bolts. Just this alone was proof of how powerful of a bloodline the snake had.

Xiang Shaoyun had all his attention on the horned lightning snake. He could see that the snake was completely fine after taking on the lightning bombardment and that Money's demonic core was still well protected.

Money had been living in the silver lightning core, soaking in silver lightning energy all this time. Just these lightning bolts won't be able to do much to him, Xiang Shaoyun muttered inwardly. His lightning bone started shining, absorbing the dispersed silver lightning energy in the air.

Xiang Shaoyun had assumed that it would be fine for him to absorb the lightning energy in the air, but surprisingly, during the next round of lightning bolt bombardment, one of the bolts split from the others and shot at him.

"Holy shit, you are going to strike me just for this?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out before quickly activating his Six Goldplate Manual, pushing his defense to the peak to face the lightning bolt.

Bang!

The silver lightning struck his barrier, and the destructive impact shattered it, causing him to stagger backward. At this moment, the purple dragon charged out of his lightning bone and directly swallowed the silver lightning bolt. It flooded his body with lightning energy.

Rumble! Rumble!

Silver lightning bolts continued raining down like a thunderstorm, causing the people from the Dong Clan to shiver in fear. Only those at the King Realm and above dared to stay and watch. Initially, they were only watching the horned lightning snake undergo its tribulation, but they soon noticed Xiang Shaoyun. They saw that Xiang Shaoyun had actually charged to the middle of the training field and was facing the tribulation together with the horned lightning snake.

"Money, I will face the tribulation with you," said Xiang Shaoyun. He could sense that he was now one of the lightning tribulation's targets. If that was the case, he might as well jump right in the middle of everything and face the tribulation as well.

He mustered all the energy he had in his second star, creating a thick barrier around himself, and he formed a pair of fists which he sent blasting toward the falling lightning bolts.

Rumble! Rumble!

The silver lightning bolts continued striking the human and snake mercilessly. The Dong Clan was overwhelmed with shock, all of them crying out in alarm.

"Is he a human or a demon? He's actually facing the tribulation with the snake?"

"He is a human. Don't you see him defending with a barrier? What a freak."

"Those are mutated lightning bolts, a few times more powerful than regular lightning bolts! Not even late-stage Kings would easily dare to take on one. He is only a third-stage King, yet he is already doing something like this? What a freak!"

"He is probably a young master from some super clan. Only someone like that can display such terrifying strength."

"But can he survive this tribulation? He better not die here."

...

Dong Zhuoyue and Dong Ziwan had also appeared beside Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan, watching everything that was unfolding clearly. Dong Zhuoyue immediately spoke in excitement, "Little Wan, I think you made the right call in rejecting the marriage proposal with the Illusionary Palm Society. Your father is very satisfied with this son-in-law you have found."

In the beginning, he only saw Xiang Shaoyun as a rich young master, but he now found that he couldn't have been more wrong. He was now certain that Xiang Shaoyun was definitely a core

member of some super organization. After all, the talent he was displaying was one no regular young man would have.

Dong Ziwan had not expected her father to say such things. Her face turned red as she said, "We're only friends!"

Dong Zhuoyue was about to reply when Dong Qinggu interjected, "Little Wan, since he is willing to risk himself to help our clan, it is obvious he thinks very highly of you. A young hero like this is very rare even in large organizations. If you fail to grab on to him, it will be very hard for you to find someone similar in the future."

Dong Zhongyuan also chimed in, "That's right. Little Wan, a missed opportunity will be very hard to regain. Be very careful and treasure what you have."

Dong Ziwan sank into thought before saying, "I'll try."

In truth, she did have Xiang Shaoyun in her heart. With her elders being so supportive, there was no point for her to hesitate.

"Haha, good. I believe in you!" Dong Zhuoyue smiled in a gratified manner. If their clan could form a relationship with a stronger organization, it would only benefit them.

Time passed, and suddenly, everyone's face sank. They found that during the final moments of the tribulation, Xiang Shaoyun had been struck by nine silver lightning bolts at the same time. The defense around him had completely crumbled apart, and he seemed to have been badly hit.

Eventually, the dust settled. Xiang Shaoyun could be seen lying flat in a deep crater, a burnt smell coming from his body. Everyone was stunned. They were wondering if the lightning had struck him to death.

"Xiang Shaoyun!" Dong Ziwan cried out in alarm. Without any hesitation, she rushed forward. However, Dong Qinggu stopped her before she could go far.

"Calm down. He's still alive," said Dong Qinggu.

Right this moment, a badly damaged purple dragon rose from Xiang Shaoyun's body, spiraling above him as it tried to reform itself. Xiang Shaoyun could also sense the bad shape he was in. Even so, he still maintained a clear mind. With his inner gaze, he studied his lightning bone and found that an astonishing change had occurred.

"T-this...what in the world is this?" He was completely dumbstruck.

Chapter 386: Silver Lightning Liquid

Nine drops of silver liquid were currently hovering around the lightning bone. Each drop was the size of a finger. They were glossy and lustrous, each of them surging with vitality. Xiang Shaoyun could see that they were no regular drops of liquid, and he grew excited. "Are these drops of lightning liquid I'm seeing here? Or silver lightning liquid to be precise, an even higher existence than the regular lightning liquid?"

At that thought, his excitement surged even more. He quickly absorbed and refined one of them, trying to clarify if these were really droplets of silver lightning liquid. In truth, the so-called lightning liquid was actually a rare spring water existing within natural lightning bolts, representing the vitality of the power of lightning.

Most people only knew that the power of lightning represented destruction, but as with anything in existence, when something reached the extremes in one specific direction, it would start moving in the opposite direction. When lightning power reached a certain degree of prowess, the extremely rare lightning liquid would start appearing, bringing with it vitality instead of destruction.

Lightning liquid was so rare that out of millions of lightning bolts, perhaps only one or two bolts would contain lightning liquid. Xiang Shaoyun did not understand how these silver lightning liquids had appeared within him, but he was sure they had not come from the silver lightning bolts. Otherwise, they wouldn't have lingered right outside his lightning bone.

After refining the first drop of lightning liquid, a massive force of vitality coursed through his body and healed his injuries. Soon, the numbing pain vanished. His messy and damaged meridians had also been repaired, and his condition was recovering at a rapid speed.

Meanwhile, the horned lightning snake was also undergoing a transformation. The scales on his body started dropping off, and a new layer was forming around him. He grew in length, his body became more slender, and his single horn started looking more terrifying.

His long serpentine tongue was stuck out of his mouth. It danced about in the air, electrical currents crackling around it. He had now reached a level he could directly spit silver lightning energy out of his mouth. His body had also become sturdier, and his strength as a whole had reached a brand new level.

He had not just undergone a regular tribulation. Instead, he had advanced three stages in a row, repeating Xiang Shaoyun's previous feat of becoming a third-stage King soon after breakthrough. That was why he had attracted so many bolts of lightning during the tribulation.

With the end of the tribulation, the field sank into silence. Money studied his surroundings for a bit before he directly streaked into Xiang Shaoyun's body and vanished. He could not directly enter Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea and was forced to embed himself into Xiang Shaoyun's arm, creating a lifelike snake tattoo using the Camouflage Invisibility ability.

Most of the Dong Clan people could not even see how he had vanished. Only a few Emperors were able to see the snake disappear after it reached Xiang Shaoyun. Most of them were focused on Xiang Shaoyun, praying that nothing bad had happened to him. Otherwise, they would lose the great helper they had just gotten.

Fortunately, a thick vitality started surging from Xiang Shaoyun's body, so thick even the Dong Clan Emperors could sense it. Soon, they found that his aura was recovering at a rapid speed, and his strength was also soaring.

"What a powerful vitality. Is this some wondrous ancient self-healing technique?" Dong Qinggu muttered in shock.

Generally speaking, ancient self-healing techniques were extremely rare and would only exist among ancient super organizations. It was understandable why he was so shocked when he reached that conclusion.

"This kid has an extremely terrifying background. Make sure our clan takes good care of him," said Dong Zhongyuan to Dong Qinggu through voice transmission.

Dong Qinggu nodded in agreement. After about an hour, Xiang Shaoyun was completely healed. He opened his eyes, sat up, and started studying his own body. He found that he was in a great condition, both externally and internally.

Just a single drop of silver lightning liquid is already enough to fully heal me. This is amazing, Xiang Shaoyun thought in excitement.

On the surface of his lightning bone were eight more drops of lightning liquid. Each of them was equivalent to one additional life. Just one drop of them could be sold for an astonishing price. Without any hesitation, he stowed all eight drops into his astral cosmos sea. He was also storing them in jade bottles, not taking any risk that they would waste away.

When he was done, he finally stood up. His clothes had been reduced to strips, and he looked incredibly sorry. Nevertheless, he was in high spirits. Through the tribulation, his lightning bone had absorbed a massive quantity of silver lightning energy. His first star was once again filled to the brim with energy, and his strength had also soared as a result.

Additionally, after using the Six Goldplate Manual to defend himself against the tribulation, his control and grasp over it had improved considerably. He was now able to barely form the second level of the Iron Wall stage, signifying that he was near full mastery of the technique's first stage. With his current defensive strength, he could protect himself from even high-tier king weapons.

At this time, Dong Ziwan walked over and asked anxiously, "Xiang Shaoyun, are you fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun flashed her a wide smile and patted the dead skin off his body. He said, "I have an undying body. How can I die so easily?"

"What a narcissist!" Dong Ziwan was relieved to see that Xiang Shaoyun was fine.

Dong Zhongyuan, Dong Zhuoyue, and Dong Qinggu walked over as well.

"Young friend, you gave us quite a surprise there. Compared to you, the children of our clan are really too weak," praised Dong Qinggu with a flattering tone.

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "You are too polite, senior. But I am really sorry for disturbing your peace and causing so much damage to your place. I will definitely compensate you for the damages done."

"What are you talking about, young friend? I won't have any of that! You have just rescued our entire clan. This little damage is nothing. We won't accept any compensation. We should be the ones giving you compensation for helping us," said Dong Qinggu. He then said to Dong Ziwan, "Little

Wan, you should stay by Shaoyun's side and host him on our behalf. When we are done with the clan affairs, we will return to show him our thanks."

"That's right, Little Wan. Shaoyun is an honored guest. You must treat him well," said Dong Zhongyuan.

They were only trying to create opportunities for Dong Ziwan to capture Xiang Shaoyun's heart.

"Yes, I know," Dong Ziwan agreed bashfully. The people from the Dong Clan then left, leaving behind Dong Ziwan and Xiang Shaoyun.

"Let's go. We need to get you changed," said Dong Ziwan when she looked at the rags on Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun covered his chest and cried out in alarm, "What? Y-you...changing me?"

Chapter 387: I Don't Want to Leave You

Dong Ziwan burst out in laughter, but she was also somewhat infuriated by his response. She said, "What is this? You think I'm going to molest you or something? I'm only going to lead the way!"

When she smiled, she was like an incredibly beautiful, alluring, blooming flower. Even Xiang Shaoyun blanked out upon seeing her smiling face. Dong Ziwan was not as stunning as Ye Chaomu, but she wasn't too far off. Like a blooming orchid, she was capable of slowly intoxicating someone with her beauty.

"What are you looking at, idiot?" Dong Ziwan rebuked when she saw Xiang Shaoyun staring at her unblinkingly.

Xiang Shaoyun recovered and rubbed his nose before replying, "I thought you were going to take advantage of me when you offered to go change me. I will have you know that this young master is still a virgin."

"Shameless! Come if you want. I don't care!" Dong Ziwan said furiously before turning and walking away with a red face.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and followed behind her. He was merely teasing her, as he was in a good mood after obtaining the silver lightning liquid. But from how she was behaving, it was becoming clear that she seemed to have developed feelings for him.

The hardest debt to repay is the debt of love, Xiang Shaoyun lamented inwardly.

...

Tai City, Five Denseforest Cities. The defeated Emperors were currently gathered here.

"I thought you said there wouldn't be any reinforcements for the Dong Clan? Who are the two people who had suddenly helped them, then?" roared the ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert from the Illusionary Palm Society.

His name was Xu Duo, a previous generation elder of the Illusionary Palm Society, a person with a high status. The Tai and Xing Clans had colluded with the Illusionary Palm Society to take down the Dong Clan. They were planning to redistribute the resource allocations of the Five Denseforest Cities, their main target being the teleportation formation currently held in the Dong Clan's hands.

A teleportation formation could only be erected through the joint effort of many Emperors utilizing a large number of spatial crystals. Anyone wanting to use the teleportation formation would have to pay a large number of spirit crystals, and this had always been Dong Clan's major source of income.

The two clans had longed to get a share of the profits, and they had ultimately decided to work with the Illusionary Palm Society to achieve their goal. The Illusionary Palm Society originally wanted no part in it, but after the Dong Clan rejected the marriage proposal with them, they had decided to work with the two clans to go against the Dong Clan. Unfortunately for them, Xiang Shaoyun had arrived and ruined their plan.

Tai Dou, an eighth-stage Emperor from the Tai Clan, said apologetically, "We really have no idea who they are. Perhaps they are the friends of the dead old man Dong."

Xing Yihui from the Xing Clan said, "I think so too. The Dong Clan would be a tier-5 organization for nothing if they didn't have a trump card or two."

"I'm not here to listen to your bullshit. We of the Illusionary Palm Society lost two Dragon Ascension Realm experts during the battle. You will have to take responsibility," demanded Xu Duo resentfully.

Tai Dou promised, "We will definitely compensate the Illusionary Palm Society for your losses. But we hope you can invite more experts from your society to help us take the Dong Clan down. We are willing to share half the Dong Clan's wealth with your society once the war is over. I also heard that your young master has taken a liking to a girl from the Dong Clan? We will present that girl to the young master as well."

"Tai Dou you scheming bastard. The Dong Clan's two helpers are capable of punching above their weight. It is obvious they come from a powerful background. If we provide too much help, we might end up drawing out their backer.. At that time, things will be even more troublesome for the Illusionary Palm Society," said Xu Duo. "Forget it. We will no longer take part in this. Just pay us two million mid-grade spirit crystals and five stalks of emperor medicines as compensation, and I will leave."

"What? Lord Xu, how can you act this way?" Xing Yihui cried out in alarm.

"Lord Xu, if you leave just like this, the Dong Clan will most certainly go after your society for revenge in the future once they recover," said Tai Dou with an ashen expression.

If Xu Duo and his men left, they would become even weaker. How were they supposed to continue fighting the Dong Clan? After all, the Dong Clan had two ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts and outside assistance.

"Hehe, well, if you are willing to submit to the Illusionary Palm Society, I can beg the society master to send help over and crush the Dong Clan," said Xu Duo, finally revealing his true intention. "Don't worry about whether we would restrict you like the Dong Clan. The Five Denseforest Cities will be under your control, and you only need to pay us 30 percent of what you make each year as tribute."

"This..." Both Tai Dou and Xing Yihui hesitated, not knowing what to do.

"Think it over. We will have to spend some time recuperating anyway. But I advise that you don't drag it on too long. The Dong Clan might come for revenge. At that time, not even I can save you," said Xu Duo.

"Ok. Three days. We will give you an answer in three days," said Tai Dou.

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Dong City.

Xiang Shaoyun and Dong Ziwan were taking a stroll. Like old friends who had known each other for many years, they reminisced about their experience back at the Blackhill Town.

"I did not expect to see you again, and you have even saved me and my clan! I don't even know how I can repay you for that," lamented Dong Ziwan.

"If you want to repay me, you can be my bed warming maid," said Xiang Shaoyun teasingly.

"Dream on!" Dong Ziwan glared at Xiang Shaoyun. After a bit, she spoke again, "Although the Tai and Xing Clans have been defeated, they might return. Are you really not leaving for now?"

"You are my friend, and I want you to be safe. So yes, I will be staying for now," promised Xiang Shaoyun.

Dong Ziwan was moved, and she replied, "Thank you, Shaoyun."

"Quit being so polite. I guess we can say that fate has arranged for us to know each other. After our eventual separation, I don't know when we will see each other again. I hope we will at least have a beautiful memory of the time we spent together," said Xiang Shaoyun, a tinge of melancholy in his voice.

His tone also caused Dong Ziwan to suddenly feel melancholic. Whenever she thought of how Xiang Shaoyun would leave eventually, she was filled with sorrow.

She couldn't resist asking, "Where are you from, exactly? Won't we meet again after you leave?"

"I am not from this province. I come from a place very far away, and I have a mission I need to complete. Although I am confident I will succeed, I don't know how long it will take. But you are a friend I will forever remember," said Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

Dong Ziwan was unable to restrain her emotions and jumped into his embrace. Sobbing, she said, "I don't want to part with you!"

Xiang Shaoyun was completely at a loss as to what to do. He had only said all that so Dong Ziwan would give up on him, but it seemed he had instead achieved the opposite result.

Instantly, a powerful aura suddenly soared from the Dong Clan estate. A massive amount of spiritual energy and astral energy started converging within, pouring into one particular residence.

Even Xiang Shaoyun, who was currently outside the estate, could sense the surging energy. He exclaimed in excitement, "Big Brother Du is breaking through!"

Chapter 388: Congratulations, Big Brother Du for Breaking Through

An imposing aura suddenly surged out of the Dong Clan estate. The aura converged and turned into a massive saber that shot through the ceiling into the sky above. The saber aura was incredibly terrifying, and seven bright flaming stars started shining upon the Dong City below, flooding the city with flame energy.

Once again, the Dong Clan people were alarmed. They were currently in a state of crisis and thus were constantly nervous.

"Who's breaking through?" Dong Qinggu flew out from a certain direction and exclaimed in shock.

Dong Zhongyuan flew out from a different direction and said, "It's coming from the guest area. Is it Du Xuanhao the Saber Emperor?"

Just when the Dong Clan people started approaching the place of breakthrough, Devouring Ghost's voice rang out in the air, "Nobody approaches. Any violator will be killed."

The voice wasn't loud, yet it was firm enough. Some of the Dong Clan people did not feel too good hearing it. After all, it was their own place.

"Everyone, retreat immediately," Dong Qinggu quickly commanded.

He knew very well it was a taboo to disturb someone's breakthrough. Thus, he understood where Devouring Ghost was coming from. His current emotions were extremely complicated. He still remembered that just three days ago, a demonic beast had just broken through into the Demon King realm. Now an Emperor was going to break through as well. The back to back breakthroughs had thoroughly shocked him.

Since when was breaking through so easy? They did not even need special guardians or preparations for their breakthroughs. This had gone beyond his common sense. One ought to know that when an Emperor broke through, a large amount of energy would be required. Apart from that, a large number of guardians would be required as well. All that was to ensure the breakthrough proceeded smoothly without disturbances. People would generally only take the risk to attempt breakthroughs so suddenly for special reasons.

I need to figure out their origin, said Dong Qinggu inwardly.

Seven pulsing stars hovered in the sky, proving that Du Xuanhao had a seven-star physique. This would be considered an excellent physique even among large organizations. It was no wonder that Du Xuanhao could rely on himself to reach late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

Du Xuanhao was absorbing a massive amount of energy, nearly emptying the spiritual energy in the Dong Clan's area. As for the seven flaming stars, their flame energy lingered in the city for over four hours before finally dispersing.

"What a terrifying aura. I think he has broken through more than once," Dong Zhongyuan cried out in alarm beside Dong Qinggu.

Dong Qinggu nodded solemnly. "He has actually jumped stages. The young are truly getting more and more talented."

Both of them were old men who had lived over 800 years before reaching ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. In comparison, Du Xuanhao was much younger yet had already reached a similar height. It was hard for them to not be filled with admiration.

The more admiration they felt, the more confident they were that Xiang Shaoyun's group had definitely come from a large organization. Their thought of forming a relationship with Xiang Shaoyun was further reaffirmed.

By the time Du Xuanhao was done breaking through, the building he was in had been reduced to rubble. A saber energy of about a kilometer long stabbed into the sky, radiating a thick flame energy and displaying its might to all.

Flame energy twirled around Du Xuanhao's body, and his ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm aura filled the Dong Clan while his terrifying saber intent formed numerous sabers that sliced the clouds in the sky into shreds.

"Ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm! I finally did it!" Du Xuanhao muttered to himself. His fists were balled tightly, and tears were dripping down his cheeks.

Back then, he had gone through countless difficulties just to reach the seventh-stage. Now, he had only followed Xiang Shaoyun for less than three months but had already advanced two stages in a row, saving decades he would otherwise take just to reach this level. He finally saw hope in avenging his wife, and his gratefulness toward Xiang Shaoyun grew as a result.

Devouring Ghost was observing him from a corner as he thought to himself, This kid might be a great help to the young master one day in the future. I need to find a chance to get him a fortuitous encounter.

Both Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan congratulated Du Xuanhao, who was hovering high in the sky. "Congratulations, Brother Du for breaking through into the ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm."

After them, the other Dong Clan Emperors also started offering their congratulations as well. A person with this cultivation level was already at the utmost peak of tier-5 organizations and was definitely worthy of their respect.

Du Xuanhao landed from the sky and replied, "Many thanks, everyone. But I owe my breakthrough to the young master."

"Young master?" The Dong Clan people wore odd expressions. They found it hard to believe Xiang Shaoyun would be of help to Du Xuanhao with his cultivation level.

Perhaps it's the organization behind him, they concluded.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at the Dong Clan with Dong Ziwan.

"Congratulations, Big Brother Du for the breakthrough," he said, feeling happy for Du Xuanhao.

Du Xuanhao quickly rushed over and knelt down on one knee. "Many thanks, young master, for allowing me to reach this level."

His action greatly shocked the Dong Clan people. Emperors had their pride and would never lightly kneel to someone, even if that person was the clan leader and possessed the same cultivation level.

A simple example would be that Du Xuanhao would never kneel before Dong Zhuoyue, the clan leader, even if he himself was a Dong Clan member. Only Sovereigns would be able to make him kneel. But now, Du Xuanhao was ignoring his pride as an Emperor and was kneeling down before Xiang Shaoyun. It was inconceivable to them.

They felt like there were only two reasons Du Xuanhao would kneel to Xiang Shaoyun. The first reason was because Xiang Shaoyun was most probably a person of an exalted status, likely a young master of at least a tier-6 organization. The second reason was because he had once shown Du Xuanhao a great favor. The Dong Clan people were of the opinion that the former was more likely to be the case.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly helped Du Xuanhao up and said, "Don't do that, Big Brother Du. In my heart, you are akin to a brother. I can't accept your kneel."

Although he had taken in Du Xuanhao as a follower, he still showed him a great deal of respect. After all, he considered Hua Cheng his big sister, and the person she liked was Du Xuanhao. In any case, Du Xuanhao was a decent person worthy of his respect.

This was one of Xiang Shaoyun's personal charms, a quality any good leader should have—to have respect for the capable.

Du Xuanhao stood up and said solemnly, "Without your blaze flower, it would have been very hard for me to advance two stages in a row."

"Haha, helping you is the same as helping myself," Xiang Shaoyun laughed. He then looked at Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan before asking, "Seniors, have you never thought of going on the offensive and crushing the traitors?"

Dong Zhongyuan and Dong Qinggu exchanged glances, and finally, Dong Qinggu said, "Young Master Xiang, you are willing to help us?"

"Big Brother Du has just broken through. I think he needs some target practice to stabilize his cultivation base. Am I right, Big Brother Du?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

A raging battle intent surged out as Du Xuanhao said, "Yes, I need to feed my saber."

Chapter 389: Tai and Xing Clans Erased

After three days of consideration, Tai Dou, Xing Yihui, and the others finally decided to work with the Illusionary Palm Society.

"Lord Xu, from now onward, the Illusionary Palm Society will be the leader of our clans. I only hope that you can keep your word and let our clans control the Five Denseforest Cities," said Tai Dou to Xu Duo.

"That's right. If you break your promise, things will revert back to how they were when we followed the Dong Clan. If that is the case, we might as well pull out of this place entirely and rebuild somewhere else," said Xing Yihui.

"Hehe, don't worry. The Illusionary Palm Society is quite far away, so it will be quite troublesome for us to personally manage this place anyway. It will be the best for us if your clans are the ones running it. We only need you to pay 30 percent of what you make yearly as tribute," said Xu Duo with a satisfied look. "I will send someone back to the society and get some experts to come over to help you defeat the Dong Clan."

"We will be troubling you then, lord," said Tai Dou and Xing Yihui with grateful expressions.

"Lord, I suggest we move fast as I'm afraid the Dong Clan people will...," Xing Yihui said with a worried look.

The Tai and Xing Cities were located near Dong City. An Emperor would only need about four hours to reach them. They were afraid that the Dong Clan would come for revenge.

"Don't worry. I have already sent a message with a thousand miles bird. With its speed, it has probably reached the Illusionary Palm Society by now. I believe that in a few more days my fellow apprentices will be here. At that time, we can take the Dong Clan easily," said Xu Duo confidently.

"Good, good." Tai Dou and Xing Yihui were finally relieved.

Suddenly, a loud sound rang out from outside the city, and a Tai Clan Emperor came shouting in alarm, "This is bad! The Dong Clan is attacking!"

"Damn it! Why are they here so fast? Are they planning to die together with us?" Tai Dou cursed before rushing out of the city.

Xing Yihui also moved without delay. Since the Xing Clan Emperors were here as well, they had to work together in order to survive the Dong Clan's assault. On the other hand, Xu Duo decided to remain inside after a slight hesitation.

"Traitors from the Tai and Xing Clans, today is the day you all die!" Dong Qinggu's merciless voice rang out in the air. Both he and Dong Zhongyuan attacked with their sovereign weapons, sending numerous terrifying attacks forward, and crushed the Tai City's defensive barrier.

"Everyone, go! They are not necessarily not our match!" Tai Dou yelled, trying to improve the morale of the people on their side.

Over 20 Emperors from the two clans moved out together, including the ones who were still recuperating from their injuries. The Dong Clan had only attacked with about 15 Emperors. However, these 15 Emperors appeared incredibly imposing, with three ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts among them. Apart from the three, there was also Devouring Ghost who possessed combat prowess comparable to that of a peak Dragon Ascension Realm expert. This was already enough of a force to crush the two clans.

In fact, the two clans would not be able to put up a fight unless Xu Duo and his two surviving companions helped them. After all, they only had one ninth-stage Emperor among their ranks. They had more Emperors on their side, but the difference in cultivation levels would decide the result of the battle.

"Come! I shall hone my saber with you!" Du Xuanhao alone charged ahead of everyone. He drew his saber, became one with it, and instantly sent a deluge of saber energy toward the Emperors from

the two opposing clans. His slash looked like it was going to cut the sky itself into two. With an imposing might, it instantly reaped the lives of two Emperors.

Two lives with one slash!

The two clans started panicking. One of them recognized Du Xuanhao and cried out in alarm, "H-he is one of the Dong Clan's helpers! He has grown even stronger!"

"It doesn't matter who he is. We have no other option. Fight!" roared Tai Dou. He then charged Dong Qinggu.

Meanwhile, Xing Yihui stayed where he was and observed the battlefield. When he couldn't find Xu Duo anywhere, he panicked, "Why is Lord Xu not here? Has he..."

He did not even dare to imagine their fate if Xu Duo decided to not help. Xing Yihui was about to flee when Devouring Ghost appeared beside him like a specter and clawed him. Meanwhile, Dong Qinggu and Dong Zhongyuan were busy fighting the other members of the two clans.

The battle between Emperors raged on, terrifying energy explosions filling the air above the Tai Clan. Toward the end of the battle, not much of the Tai City was left intact. The people of the city started fleeing everywhere. Unsurprisingly, the Tai Clan estate had been completely destroyed.

Far away from the city was Xu Duo, who had fled ahead of time. Inwardly, he rejoiced, They have indeed come prepared. The two clans are idiots. Without sufficient foundations, they are actually trying to uproot the Dong Clan? They have overestimated themselves.

He then quickly left with his two companions. About half a day later, not a single Tai Clan Emperor was left. The Dong Clan did not spare the surviving Tai Clan members either. They descended from the sky and slaughtered everyone from the Tai Clan, not giving them any chance to rebuild.

After destroying the Tai Clan, they rushed toward the Xing City and attacked the Xing Clan before they could do anything. The same thing happened to the Xing Clan. With the destruction of the two traitor clans, the Dong Clan's crisis ended.

Xiang Shaoyun had not participated in either battle. He had remained in the Dong Clan estate and was focused on studying the nine-colored fog in his astral cosmos sea. The horned lightning snake

had broken through after absorbing the nine-colored fog. Not much of it was left. Therefore, he had to figure out what it actually did and how it could be of help to him.

After repeated observations, he was able to conclude that the nine-colored fog was very similar to the most original energy of the universe and that it was probably capable of sustaining life. He had obtained that conclusion after observing the herbs and horned lightning snake currently residing within his astral cosmos sea.

The nine-colored fog is a sort of origin energy. Apart from sustaining life, it definitely has some other unique functions as well. Let me draw some of them out, Xiang Shaoyun thought inwardly before drawing out all the remaining nine-colored fog.

When the nine-colored fog converged on his palms, he immediately felt an intense vitality and dreadful destructiveness emanating from it. He also sensed two different attributes, but he couldn't make sense of them for now.

"What an odd energy. Let me see how scary your destructiveness is," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he formed a finger beam with the nine-colored fog. He jabbed at the wall in his cultivation room.

Bang!

A muffled sound rang out, and a hole appeared in the wall.

Chapter 390: Forming Nine-Colored Fog

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun was currently in a cultivation room normally allocated to the Dong Clan Emperors. Constructed from emperor-grade materials and protected by formations, the room was absolutely sturdy. Using the nine-colored fog, he was able to easily create a hole in the wall. It was an astonishing display of destructiveness, and even he himself was stunned for a bit.

"Was the quality of this room so bad?" Xiang Shaoyun mused as he mustered all his strength and punched a different part of the wall.

Bang!

It was a punch surpassing the strength of a fifth-stage King, yet it did nothing to the wall. It was now obvious there was no issue with the wall.

"Huu. Looks like it was really due to the nine-colored fog," muttered Xiang Shaoyun with a burning gaze in his eyes. If this new power was used in a battle, he would be able to catch his opponents by complete surprise, including those with higher cultivation levels.

Xiang Shaoyun was about to try something else with the nine-colored fog when he found that he had completely exhausted it. His astral cosmos sea was not producing it anymore either. It seemed to be a limited resource.

"I never did have much of this energy. After Money devoured a large portion of it and my test attack, it is understandable that I have none left. Looks like I need to think of a way to form more of it. Only then will I be able to start using it in battle," Xiang Shaoyun concluded.

He sank into deep thought, trying to think of a way to form more of the nine-colored fog. The fog had originated from the nine astral energies that had converged on him during his breakthrough when he had ignited his fate stars. Since it was still not the time for him to break through into the next stage, gathering more of the fog with the same method was out of the question.

Xiang Shaoyun came up with a different idea: "Since I don't have any means of gathering external astral energies, I should try it with my internal astral energies instead."

He then circulated his cultivation method and fully activated his nine stars, drawing strands of astral energy from the stars into his astral cosmos sea. Unfortunately, no new nine-colored fog formed. He felt somewhat discouraged at the possibility that he would only be able to form more of the fog through convergence of external astral energies during his next breakthrough.

"I'll try three more times. If I still fail, I'll forget about it," Xiang Shaoyun muttered.

He tried two more times and failed both attempts. During the final third attempt, he did not draw all the energies he had into the astral cosmos sea. Rather, he filtered out the unique energies he had received from the lightning bone, Yun Flame, and white tiger and only used the ordinary lightning, flame and gold astral energies contained within his first three stars, which were similar in level to his other six stars.

During Xiang Shaoyun's breakthrough into the King Realm, he had absorbed nine different energies into his nine stars. Since then, the wood, water, earth, light, dark, and wind energies had respectively gathered in his six other stars. However, they were much weaker in comparison to his first three stars' unique energies.

Xiang Shaoyun now possessed astral energy of nine different elements within him. Not using any of the special elemental astral energies in his first three stars, he channeled nine ordinary elemental astral energies into the astral cosmos sea, and this time, something changed.

The different energies started gathering together, forming a thin layer of nine-colored fog. There was only a tiny bit of it, even less than the amount Xiang Shaoyun had used for his finger beam attack, but it was undeniably there.

"Success!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in excitement.

After repeated failure, he had finally found a way to form more of the nine-colored fog. He repeated what he did and drew more energy from the nine stars into the astral cosmos sea. Sure enough, more nine-colored fog appeared and combined with the fog he had generated earlier.

Xiang Shaoyun grew even more excited and started channeling more energy into the astral cosmos sea. After only a few more times, he found that six of his stars had been completely drained of energy.

He had only formed enough nine-colored fog to replenish what he had used earlier. That much fog was only enough for one finger beam attack. Hanging around to the side was the horned lightning snake, greatly longing to devour more of the nine-colored fog. In fact, he would have done so already if Xiang Shaoyun hadn't prevented him from doing so.

"This is far from enough. Looks like I need to increase the speed I absorb the energies of the other elements if I want to form more nine-colored fog," Xiang Shaoyun decided.

Although six of his stars had been emptied, he wasn't exactly exhausted because the special elemental energies in his first three stars were still supporting him. Since he had already learned a lot about the nine-colored fog, he shifted his focus to the Nether Soul Domain.

He found that the ghostrune patriarch had transformed into a ghostrune emperor. Apart from that, a bunch of new ghostrune kings had appeared as well. He also found that more than half of the ghostrunes had gone missing, which confused him greatly.

After all, each ghostrune in his Nether Soul Domain had been living comfortably. How would they die? Even if they had died, where were the corpses? After some observation, Xiang Shaoyun finally noticed something.

He found that the strong ghostrunes were actually consuming the weaker ghostrunes to strengthen themselves. Even weirder was the fact that the weaker ghostrunes did not even resist and allowed the stronger ghostrunes to gobble them up. Xiang Shaoyun could not understand what was going on.

"Gui Qi, come out," Xiang Shaoyun summoned the ghostrune patriarch.

Gui Qi flew out and greeted respectfully, "Gui Qi greets the master."

He was speaking the ghostrune language. Even if someone was eavesdropping, they would not understand what was being said.

"Is consuming your own the way your race grows?" Xiang Shaoyun asked directly.

Gui Qi replied, "No. Most of us have only advanced because of you, master. Consuming our companions has only been for the sake of strengthening the power of our bloodline. We need to grow as quickly as possible to repay the favor you have shown us, master."

"My favor? Tell me more," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"Master, the place you are letting us live is filled with pure nether soul energy, which is the energy our race thirsts for. It is capable of helping us grow, yet our bloodline is not strong enough to support our growth. That is why we have to consume our companions to strengthen our own bloodline. It is the fastest way our race can upgrade our bloodline. In any case, all sacrifices have been on a voluntary basis," said Gui Qi.

"That...works?" Xiang Shaoyun was dumbstruck. He had never expected that the ghostrunes would actually strengthen their bloodline with such a method. The combination of their strengthened bloodline and the nether soul energy was letting them grow even faster.