

Overlord 391

Chapter 391: I'll Be Making the Decision to Betroth Little Wan to You

After talking with Gui Qi for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun found out that the stronger a ghostrune was, the faster the ghostrune would be able to breed. For example, a ghostrune queen could give birth to about a dozen ghostrunes per day, whereas a ghostrune empress could give birth to over 100 ghostrunes per day. After one month, a large number of new ghostrunes could be created.

But doing so would also exhaust some of the bloodline strength of the female ghostrunes and would slow their advancement. In short, the ghostrune was an extremely peculiar race that was incredibly odd compared to other races.

Since their current focus was strength, they would have to first reduce their numbers to increase their strength. Breeding was never something they were worried about. As for the nether soul energy within the Nether Soul Domain, it would grow along with Xiang Shaoyun.

In fact, the only reason Gui Qi had become an Emperor was because he had benefited from Xiang Shaoyun's breakthrough into the Skysoar Realm. His Nether Soul Domain had expanded, and the nether soul energy had become thicker, further increasing the speed at which the ghostrunes could grow.

Xiang Shaoyun even started wondering if the ghostrunes had a unique relationship with the Imperial Nether Clan. Otherwise, why would the ghostrunes be akin to fish back in water in the Nether Soul Domain, living such a good life? In fact, he no longer needed to worry about finding a place to keep them. He had enough space in his Nether Soul Domain for all of them now.

"With your current soul power, how strong is your attack?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. Ghostrune kings were able to launch direct attacks at anyone's soul. What about a ghostrune emperor?

Gui Qi laughed sinisterly and said, "I can instantly kill any life forms with a soul and consume their soul to grow myself. Of course, that is on the basis that my target is not too strong. On top of that, I can also take control of weaker souls and make them do whatever I want."

"I see." Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up. "With your current living environment, how many more Emperors will appear among you?"

"Soon, we will have at least 5 Emperors and 300 Kings. If the nether soul energy grows in both quantity and density, we can even breakthrough alongside you," said Gui Qi.

"Good. I don't care how you do it, but grow as quickly as you can. I will be needing your assistance in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

The changes of the ghostrunes had filled Xiang Shaoyun with hope that he could one day take back all he had lost. Soul attacks were extremely hard to guard against, and most regular people would have no means of defending against them.

Because of that, if the ghostrunes continued to grow, they would become a force to be reckoned with. In the past, he had always been aiming to retake what was once his through sheer stubbornness, using that as a source of motivation to keep himself working hard. In truth, he never had much confidence in succeeding.

Although he had constantly bragged that he was a super genius, he had no confidence he could reach the Sovereign Realm or beyond in 10 years. Taking everything back was definitely easier said than done.

But now, things were different. With an army of ghostrunes, his confidence had been boosted, and he now had the assistance of the likes of Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao. Everything was progressing smoothly, and taking back what was his no longer seemed so impossible.

After talking a bit more about the ghostrunes, Xiang Shaoyun sent Gui Qi back into the Nether Soul Domain.

"Looks like I need to think of a way to expand the Nether Soul Domain," Xiang Shaoyun decided.

From his conversation with Gui Qi, he was now clear that the growth of his Nether Soul Domain would be the equivalent of the growth of the ghostrunes. Thus, there was a need for him to take it seriously.

By the time Xiang Shaoyun ended his cultivation session, the Dong Clan people were returning in triumph. Dong Qinggu, Dong Zhongyuan, Dong Zhuoyue, and the other Dong Clan Emperors convened a meeting between the higher ups. Xiang Shaoyun, Devouring Ghost, and Du Xuanhao were also invited to the meeting.

In the meeting hall, Xiang Shaoyun was welcomed with the highest honors they could accord him. This welcoming ceremony was completely different from their previous welcoming ceremony. This time, the people from the Dong Clan were no longer gloomy. Rather, they were smiling with joy.

Dong Qinggu was the first to speak, "On behalf of the Dong Clan, I would like to thank Young Master Xiang and the two friends for your assistance. Our Dong Clan would not have survived this crisis otherwise."

He then bowed before Xiang Shaoyun. The other Dong Clan members also bowed without delay. The people gathered in this room were basically all Emperors, people of the most esteemed stature in the Five Denseforest Cities. Here they were, all bowing to a third-stage King like Xiang Shaoyun. If someone else saw this scene, they would mistake it for a declaration of allegiance. It was definitely shocking.

Xiang Shaoyun was overwhelmed, and he quickly said, "There is no need for this, everyone. How can I accept such honor?"

Dong Qinggu stood straight up and took out a storage ring before saying, "Young Master Xiang, this is a little gift from the Dong Clan to show our gratitude. Please accept it."

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before accepting the ring. He said, "This kid shall accept it, then."

"Haha, you deserve it, Young Master Xiang. I hereby declare that Young Master Xiang will forever be the honored guest of the Dong Clan. In the future, any Dong Clan member seeing you will have to accord you the greatest of honors," said Dong Qinggu.

The other Dong Clan people voiced their agreement, making it clear they would comply. After Xiang Shaoyun sat down, Devouring Ghost and Du Xuanhao remained standing behind him. The Dong Clan people noticed that detail and their opinion of Xiang Shaoyun grew even more.

At this time, Dong Zhongyuan signaled Dong Zhuoyue with his eyes. Dong Zhuoyue understood what he was getting at and immediately smiled at Xiang Shaoyun. "Young Master Xiang, we know that you have only helped us because of Little Wan. Now that our clan has survived this crisis safely, if you are willing, I'll be making the decision to betroth Little Wan to you. What do you think?"

The moment he said that, all the Dong Clan people focused on Xiang Shaoyun, their eyes filled with hope and expectation as they waited for his answer.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before frowning. "Dong Clan leader, I think you have misunderstood something. We are only friends. I helped her out of my free will and have never expected anything in return. I appreciate the offer, but I don't think it will be necessary."

"Little Wan does like you a lot. I am certain of that. Is our Little Wan not good enough for you, Young Master Xiang?" Dong Zhuoyue asked.

Dong Zhuoyue was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would think he was forcing the marriage, so he had to explain himself.

With a firm tone, Xiang Shaoyun answered, "It's not that she is not good enough for me, but I have always seen her as a good friend and have never thought about anything else. In any case, I have a mission to accomplish. If you betroth Little Wan to me, it might bring destruction to your clan in the future. Therefore, do not mention this again. Since the Dong Clan's crisis is over, I will also be taking my leave. Goodbye."

The Dong Clan people were instantly stunned.

Chapter 392: Dong Clan's Generous Reward

Xiang Shaoyun left immediately, not giving the Dong Clan a chance to persuade him to stay, not even Dong Ziwan. Dong Qinggu offered to send them off with their teleportation portal, but even that was rejected.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to waste any time. His plan was to travel to the Bloodsin City and train on the way there. Only then would he have the ability to establish a footing for himself when he was finally at the Bloodsin City. As for Tai Kang, the King under his control, Xiang Shaoyun had left him behind.

When Dong Ziwan heard about their departure, she cried bitterly.

"Why are you so cruel?" wept Dong Ziwan as she gazed at Xiang Shaoyun's departing back in the distant horizon. She considered leaving without saying goodbye as the cruelest thing he could do to her and reached a conclusion that he never saw her as anything more than just a good friend.

Dong Qinggu patted her shoulder and comforted her. "He is not being cruel. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered to help us solve our crisis. Perhaps he really has something he needs to do and does not wish for you to be his burden. He is in a sense a character with both ambition and ruthlessness."

"I am already a Skysoar Realm cultivator. How will I be his burden?" Dong Ziwan questioned indignantly.

"Didn't you see how only Emperors are by his side? In other words, one has to at least be an Emperor to be of help to him. If you want to be with him one day, listen to your father. Start working hard in cultivation from now on. Only by possessing enough strength will you be able to prevent him from leaving without saying goodbye like this," Dong Qinggu said.

At that, the tears vanished from Dong Ziwan's eyes, replaced by a bright look of realization. She said, "Ok. From now onward, I will work even harder to become an Empress one day. No, I will become a Sovereign. I will ensure he can't escape me anymore!" She then bowed to Dong Qinggu and said, "Great-grandfather, I beg you to open the clan's forbidden zone for me. I wish to enter."

"What? You want to enter the forbidden zone? Do you even know how bad it is in there?" Dong Qinggu asked in shock.

"I know, but that is the only place that can increase my cultivation speed. I wish to give it a try," Dong Ziwan said resolutely.

"A lot of geniuses from our clan have perished there in the past. Otherwise, our clan wouldn't have stagnated all these years. If it wasn't for the records of the ancestors stating that the forbidden zone is linked to our clan through fate, we would have destroyed that place long ago. I will give you three days to think it through. If you still want to enter after three days, I will allow it," said Dong Qinggu. Fear could be seen in his eyes at his thought of the forbidden zone.

Once again, Dong Ziwan replied resolutely, "No, I don't need that. I will go right now. I'm afraid I will lose the courage if I wait. Even if I end up dying, I won't regret it."

Dong Qinggu gave her one long look before sighing, "Fine. Since you have decided, I will allow you entry. I hope you will become the Dong Clan's miracle."

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Xiang Shaoyun was naturally unaware of the decision Dong Ziwan had made. Presently, he was seated on Jin Wo's back, constantly absorbing the spiritual energy around him. Even when flying high up in the sky, a certain degree of astral energy concentration could be found.

With the star congregation jade on him, he could increase his energy absorption rate by three times. He was trying to replenish the astral energies in his stars so as to create more nine-colored fog. He had a feeling the nine-colored fog would become his trump card. Thus, he had to take it seriously.

After one day, Xiang Shaoyun finally filled his six stars with energy. In fact, the stars had also grown somewhat. He then started transforming the different energies into the nine-colored fog. Once again, he formed some nine-colored fog, but he was only able to form a thin layer of it before he was drained of energy.

"Maybe I can try cultivating some spiritual plants and see if that will help," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he placed some soil in his astral cosmos sea before planting some spiritual herbs. He soon found that after the spiritual herbs absorbed the nine-colored fog, they became brimming with vitality, looking much more lively and lustrous.

"I'll check back again after some time. Hopefully there will be a nice surprise waiting for me," muttered Xiang Shaoyun expectantly.

Finally, he had some free time to look at the storage ring he had received from Dong Qinggu. He was stunned when he saw the contents of the ring. Within were three more storage rings. He understood that his actual reward would be in the additional rings.

He impatiently sent his senses into the first ring and found that this was a ring with a space of 100 square meters. It was completely filled with mid-grade spirit crystals. Each square meter could store 500 mid-grade spirit crystals. In other words, after taking into consideration the height as well, there were about five million mid-grade spirit crystals. This was a very generous reward.

In fact, there were more spirit crystals here than what Xiang Shaoyun had found at the Land of Soul Springs.

"Worthy of being a tier-5 organization. They are decently generous," said Xiang Shaoyun in satisfaction.

Along with his growth in strength and the increase of his followers, he needed more and more spirit crystals to support their expenditures. Without spirit crystals, it would be hard for him to do what he wanted. Thus, he was happy to receive such a large sum.

He then checked the second ring.

It only had a storage space of 50 square meters, but it was completely filled with herbs with grades no lower than spirit medicine. The value of these herbs far surpassed the value of the spirit crystals in the first ring.

"Low-grade king medicine, bloodhorn vine, capable of quickly restoring blood.

"Mid-grade king medicine, seven-leaf pointed grass, capable of increasing the gold energy a cultivator had and improving the cultivator's combat prowess.

"Mid-grade king medicine icesnow fruit, capable of greatly increasing one's power of frost, allowing one to grow quickly.

"Emperor medicine time return grass, capable of removing any astral energy in one's body, allowing one to cultivate a new element from scratch."

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Xiang Shaoyun's gaze was completely locked on the herbs. The more he looked at them, the more joyful he became. Apart from the over 1,000 stalks of different spirit medicines, there were also about 300 stalks of king medicines of differing grades and dozens of low-grade emperor medicines.

Every king medicine was incredibly precious and rare. As for emperor medicines, they were even harder to find. In fact, one could only find emperor medicines in spiritual lands. Since the Dong Clan was being so generous, it was clear they had also obtained quite a lot of wealth from sacking the Tai and Xing Clans. On top of that, they were probably sincere in wanting to form a relationship with him.

After all, a single stalk of emperor medicine was equivalent in value to at least 100,000 mid-grade spirit crystals. Just 10 stalks of the emperor medicines here was already almost equivalent to the value of everything in the first ring.

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed his excitement and checked the third ring. There were numerous items, including weapons, weapon refining materials, demonic beast materials, and so on.

Xiang Shaoyun's gaze was attracted to an object that looked like a chunk of flesh. He took it out of the ring, trying to figure out what it was. The moment he took it out, Devouring Ghost cried out in alarm, "Blood demon race's blood egg!"

Chapter 393: The Story of Blood Demon and Saber Devil

"Blood demon race's blood egg?" Xiang Shaoyun was shocked to hear that term.

He had read numerous ancient texts in the past, and he knew that the world was not inhabited by only humans and demonic beasts. There were numerous other races as well, such as the ghostrunes, the cannibals, and the blood demons Devouring Ghost had just mentioned.

The blood demons were extremely vicious and grew through blood consumption. Wherever they went, the place would be reduced to a desolate land of death. Because of that, the blood demons had eventually become a public enemy of numerous other races and had since been hunted to extinction. But a blood egg had actually appeared here. It was understandable why even Devouring Ghost was shocked.

"What a surprise. There is actually a blood egg here? Young master, please bestow it to me," begged Devouring Ghost with a longing look.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at him and asked, "What do you need it for? Why don't we destroy it right now. We can't let it have a chance to rise and bring calamity to the world."

Devouring Ghost quickly said, "No, no, the blood demons are not as scary as you think. If we use them properly, they will be of great help to us in the future."

"Oh? Tell me more," Xiang Shaoyun asked curiously.

"The blood demons are extremely bloodthirsty and cruel, and the numerous races have always thought that they had gone extinct. But that is wrong. They are still surviving in a certain land of absolute danger. It is extremely hard to fully eradicate them, but it isn't exactly hard to handle them. They can be easily killed with flame power of extreme yang. Therefore, this race is not really that scary. In fact, only the comparatively weaker organizations and races would fear the blood demons.

In truth, not one superpower fears them," explained Devouring Ghost. "This blood egg has yet to transform into a blood demon. I can slowly imbue its soul with my power, slowly eroding its will, before hatching it. I can quickly train it into a powerful blood demon puppet. We can't let this egg go to waste."

"But if we do that, what if we become the public enemy because of this blood demon?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Only the weak will be afraid of public opinion. The strong will not fear the opinion of anyone," declared Devouring Ghost proudly. "In any case, these blood demon puppets also exist in the many superpowers of the world. Who dares to provoke them? It is tantamount to suicide. In any case, I won't easily free the blood demon before I recover my strength. You don't have to worry, young master."

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought before saying, "Ok. You can have the egg. Do as you see fit."

Devouring Ghost accepted the blood egg and laughed in a sinister manner, "Good thing the tiny organizations here can't even recognize the blood egg for what it is. Otherwise, I wouldn't have gotten such a treasure."

Xiang Shaoyun could see how much Devouring Ghost liked the gift. Inwardly, he thought, Hopefully he will use this egg properly.

He then took out a stalk of emperor medicine, the time return grass, and gave it to Devouring Ghost as well. The time return grass was capable of removing a cultivator's original astral energy without doing any lasting harm to the cultivator's body. The cultivator would then be able to cultivate an astral energy of a different element from scratch.

Since Devouring Ghost was currently trying to harmonize Linggu Haonan's astral energy with his own, the time return grass would be perfect for him.

Devouring Ghost accepted the time return grass without any hesitation and said in excitement, "With this thing, I will be able to recover my strength much faster. In less than 100 years, my soul foundation will reform. At that time, I can return to the peak, and I can even borrow the power of yin and yang to surpass my previous self. Hahaha!"

Xiang Shaoyun shifted his attention to Du Xuanhao and said, "Big Brother Du, you have just broken through into the ninth-stage. If you want to enter the Sovereign Realm, you will need to

learn more from Devouring Ghost. He was once an existence beyond the Soul Foundation Realm. Learning more about the Soul Foundation Realm will be very helpful for your future breakthrough."

At that, the respect Du Xuanhao had toward Devouring Ghost deepened. He nodded and said, "Thank you for the reminder, young master."

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand. "The stronger you are, the safer I will be, Big Brother Du. With your saber intent, not many people in the same cultivation level can be your match. But you will definitely encounter more strong opponents in the future, and they might be people who have also comprehended an intent. Therefore, you have to keep growing. Only then will you be able to help me when the time comes."

"Don't worry, young master. I will do my best to grow," promised Du Xuanhao.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "I believe in you. If you can hone your saber intent to the limits, very few people will be your match."

"If he really intends to step on the path of saber intent, I have a way to help him," interrupted Devouring Ghost.

"Oh? What do you have in mind?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

Du Xuanhao had a longing look on his face as he said, "Please offer me your guidance, Lord Devouring Ghost."

Although his current cultivation level was higher than Devouring Ghost's, he did not think that he would be able to defeat Devouring Ghost. In any case, he also believed that Devouring Ghost would soon catch up to him in cultivation level. Thus, he was ever careful to remain humble before him.

Devouring Ghost said, "The Nine Gods Dominion is incredibly vast, and countless geniuses have appeared over the years. Almost every 10,000 years, a new batch of super talented experts would appear. Among these geniuses that have once appeared, the strongest saber user ever is the Devil Saber from the ancient times. The Devil Saber was someone who had spent his entire life with the saber and had transformed into a devil through the saber, achieving the peak of strength. It was rumored that he had surpassed the three stages of weapon intent consisting of human weapon unity, steering weapon stage, and weaponless stage. He had reached a brand new height nobody had reached before, but it's a pity as it was rumored that he had sustained grave injuries during his battle with the ancient Sword God and had ultimately passed away in meditation."

Traces of admiration appeared in Devouring Ghost's eyes as he spoke of this Saber Devil. One could see how strong this Saber Devil was. He was absolutely one of the figureheads representing the peak of strength.

"Do you happen to know where the Saber Devil passed away?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Devouring Ghost said praisingly, "Yes, young master. Although that isn't exactly right, but you almost got it right." He looked at Du Xuanhao and continued, "I know of a secret land where the Saber Devil once trained the saber. Although it is not the place he had passed, it still contains part of his inheritance. If you can obtain it and reach perhaps half or even one third of the Saber Devil's strength, you will be at the peak of the world."

Du Xuanhao's pupils shrank, and his eyes were filled with a burning desire. He bowed down to Devouring Ghost and said, "Please point me to the location, Lord Devouring Ghost."

He was a person infatuated with the saber. He wouldn't have been able to comprehend the saber intent and come to be known as the Saber Emperor otherwise. It was therefore understandable how enticing the inheritance of the Saber Devil was to him. He was certain that so long as he could obtain the inheritance, revenge would no longer be so difficult to obtain.

"Don't worry. As long as you remain loyal to the young master, I will ensure that you get this inheritance," Devouring Ghost said, but he did not reveal everything at once. "We will talk again when we reach the Bloodsin City. That secret land is outside the Western Desert."

The Nine Gods Dominion was separated into nine regions, with the Western Desert being one of them. This signified that to obtain the Saber Devil inheritance, they would have to leave the region.

Chapter 394: Footwork Comprehension

Today, Xiang Shaoyun was no longer seated on Jin Wo's back. Rather, he was flying by himself because he had now shifted his focus to cultivate footwork intent during the journey.

Only through constant practice and study would he increase his comprehension speed. Footwork intent was an intent that could enhance his offensive or fleeing capabilities. He had to give it sufficient training.

Devouring Ghost's demonstration had already been imprinted in his mind. Each day, he replayed the scene two times in his mind before attempting to incorporate what he had learned with his footwork, trying to gain more comprehension that way.

With his gift of instincts and visualization, his comprehension of footwork intent deepened little by little each day. Slowly, he neared the first stage of footwork intent, moving like the wind.

In the blink of an eye, two months passed. Xiang Shaoyun had finally comprehended the first stage of footwork intent. At a certain place of wilderness, a faintly discernible figure was running. His speed was ever changing, from fast to slow and slow to fast. He moved left and right in an unpredictable manner, and a series of afterimages were left in all directions, making it hard to pinpoint where his actual body was.

This person was none other than Xiang Shaoyun cultivating his footwork. In fact, he hadn't even used the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps yet. Following him not far away in a leisurely manner was Devouring Ghost. He gasped in astonishment, "Two months, the young master has taken only two months to reach the moving like the wind stage. This comprehension ability is too heaven-defying!"

One ought to know that Devouring Ghost himself had taken a very long time before he finally comprehended footwork intent one day by fluke. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had only taken two months to understand the essence of footwork intent. It truly surprised Devouring Ghost.

Du Xuanhao was also cultivating with Xiang Shaoyun. He was still in the midst of comprehension and had touched on the edge of footwork intent. However, he had yet to obtain any success with it. It would probably be very hard for anyone to believe that a third-stage King actually had a better comprehension ability than a ninth-stage Emperor.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun, who had successfully comprehended footwork intent, Du Xuanhao sighed inwardly, The young master is indeed a talent blessed by the heavens. Back then when he had comprehended my saber intent, he hadn't taken long either. And now, he has comprehended footwork intent in such a short period of time. It is truly hard to not admire him.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun activated his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. He had already grasped part of the essence of Overlord's Nine Nether Steps to unleash a portion of the footwork's actual power. Now that he was using it together with footwork intent, he reached a truly astonishing speed that was easily comparable to that of a top King.

"Haha, this feels amazing!" Xiang Shaoyun charged into the clouds and ran in the air, his excited voice reverberating everywhere.

He moved faster and faster as his footwork comprehension deepened. At the same time, his comprehension of his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps was also growing.

What if I use the innate purple lightning to power my footwork? Xiang Shaoyun had a sudden idea as he immediately channeled lightning energy into his legs, instantly flooding them with power.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

A burst of lightning energy appeared in the sky before rippling apart like a blooming lotus, presenting a sight of boundless grace. With the support of lightning energy, Xiang Shaoyun's speed increased by about 30 percent, instantly bringing his speed up to a level comparable to a peak King's, stunning both Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo.

"H-has the young master comprehended the shrinking space stage as well?" Du Xuanhao cried out in disbelief.

The shrinking space stage was the second stage of footwork intent. It was massively different from the first stage, granting one an extreme growth of speed.

Devouring Ghost's voice rang out, "No, this is not the shrinking space stage. Rather, the young master has merely deepened his comprehension of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. He has finally learned to make use of his unique talent and combine it with his footwork intent, achieving such impressive speed."

Others might not know about the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, but that was not the case for Devouring Ghost. It was a footwork created by his previous master. When powered by lightning, this footwork could reach a speed comparable to lightning and would not be any slower than those cultivating the power of wind. That was why his previous master had managed to reach the third stage of footwork intent, so close yet worlds apart.

Xiang Shaoyun kept dashing everywhere in the sky, his understanding of the essence of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps increasing unceasingly. Massive amounts of innate purple lightning converged at the two acupoints in the soles of his feet, surrounding his feet with a large amount of electrical currents that filled them with power. When using the footwork intent in such a state, he had a sensation he had turned into a gust of wind.

Is this how it feels to move like wind and lightning? Wind and lightning working together, aiming for the peak together. A new comprehension suddenly appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's mind.

He was sure that if he continued training in this manner, he would be able to push his footwork intent and Overlord's Nine Nether Steps to the peak. Suddenly, he stopped all movement, the energy around him abruptly erupting.

"The Overlord's Nine Nether Steps can not only increase one's speed, but it can also be used offensively," Xiang Shaoyun roared before lifting his foot and taking one step forward.

Bang!

It was as if the force of the world was gathered at his feet. With one step, thunderclaps rumbled and numerous electrical currents spread outward. Around him, space itself started shaking and twisting, forming a visible depression in the air, showcasing the tyrannical might of the step he had taken.

He took the second step, and as if the God of Thunder was roaring, a massive thunderclap rumbled out. This step was even more powerful than the first. If someone was near Xiang Shaoyun at this moment, they would have probably exploded outright from the impact.

Xiang Shaoyun's aura had reached the peak at this moment. He prepared to take the third step, but he was unable to complete the step no matter what. It was as if a boundless force was trying to prevent him from doing so.

"LET—ME—GO!" Xiang Shaoyun roared. The purple and silver lightning energy around him turned into a roaring dragon, and a lightning tribulation formed in the sky.

Rumble! Rumble!

Six natural lightning bolts shot down from the sky and struck Xiang Shaoyun's body. Instead of causing him any damage, the energy of all six bolts converged at his raised foot, helping him complete the third step.

Bang!

Instantly, the space within tens of meters around Xiang Shaoyun started shaking as if the sky was falling apart, filling any onlookers' hearts with fear. A massive lightning wave spread out, destroying everything in the area.

Sphhlt!

The instant the step was completed, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have been completely drained of energy. He coughed up a mouthful of blood and started swaying, looking like he was about to fall from the sky. Devouring Ghost, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo quickly rushed over.

Devouring Ghost was the first to arrive. He caught Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Young master, are you fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun stabilized himself, a smile forming on his pale face. "Hehe, I'm fine. I'm doing splendidly!"

Chapter 395: Bloodsin City

Xiang Shaoyun had completely exhausted his lightning energy and had even suffered some energy backlash, yet he was still laughing. Both Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo were confused.

Only Devouring Ghost understood what Xiang Shaoyun meant. He laughed and bowed, "Congratulations, young master, for comprehending the true essence of the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps."

Xiang Shaoyun laughed, "Yes. After cultivating the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps for so long, I have finally understood its essence. This is also my first time using it in this way. The result is excellent."

"Of course the result will be excellent. This is the best footwork the previous master had used his entire life to create. But it is still too hard for you to use it, young master. Your current cultivation realm is not enough. The first two steps are sufficient for now. You need a few more breakthroughs before you can properly make use of the third step," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Don't worry. I will watch out the next time I use it."

He then climbed onto Jin Wo's back and sat down in meditation to recuperate. They continued heading toward the Bloodsin City.

Three months passed. During the three months, Xiang Shaoyun had consolidated his gains in footwork intent. He had also further familiarized himself with the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and was now much faster than he was before.

Apart from that, he had also accumulated a sizable amount of nine-colored fog in his astral cosmos sea. The spiritual herbs he had planted there had also undergone some transformation.

The herbs that were initially low-grade spirit medicines had suddenly turned into mid-grade spirit medicines. Furthermore, their medicinal power seemed to be much stronger than regular herbs of the same grade.

Their change caused Xiang Shaoyun to place even more importance on the nine-colored fog. It was a power of destruction and a power of life. It might also contain some other powers waiting for him to discover.

As for the horned lightning snake, he was living a good and comfortable life in the astral cosmos sea amid the nine-colored fog. Even when Xiang Shaoyun called him out to take a breather at the outside world, he refused.

Xiang Shaoyun could no longer be bothered about him anymore.

On his travels, Xiang Shaoyun experienced and witnessed numerous local traditions and customs of the various places he passed. He had also encountered numerous powerful demonic beasts and bandits trying to intercept his group.

They were able to smash their way through all obstacles with pure strength. That was how Jin Wo had gotten the demonic core of a fourth-stage Demon Emperor cultivating the gold element. He had swallowed the core and was now nearing the third-stage Demon Emperor realm.

As for Devouring Ghost, he had started cultivating again. By making use of the time return grass, he erased the light elemental energy from four of his stars and filled them with dark elemental energy instead. As for the other three stars, he kept the light elemental energy there.

He was planning to go beyond his original realm, cultivate two elements, and achieve the power of yin and yang. As a side effect of using the time return grass, his cultivation level had dropped to

fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, but with the large quantity of spirit crystals and dark elemental herbs, he soon recovered much of his cultivation base.

But he would still need about a year before he could return to eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. That would also be when he would finally achieve perfect fusion with his body.

However, he would be able to find some items capable of expediting the speed in which he regained his strength at the Bloodsin City. He had also been channeling his will into the blood egg every single day and had occasionally fed it his blood essence.

After three months of doing so, he was able to sense that some changes had occurred in the blood egg. The blood demon inside would be able to come out after being fed enough blood.

Devouring Ghost had been taking it slow for fear that the blood demon would be disobedient in the future. Otherwise, he would have been able to hatch the egg with the blood of all the Demon Emperors they had killed along the way.

He was planning to wait until he reached eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm before releasing the blood demon into the world. At that time, he would possess sufficient strength to both control and raise the blood demon.

Everything was progressing smoothly, and finally, they arrived near the outskirts of the Bloodsin City. There were five Bloodsin Cities in existence. They were respectively located at the Eastern Pass, Western Desert, Northern Border, Southern Wasteland, and the Central Region.

Each Bloodsin City was the same: essentially a place where numerous wanted criminals, killers, and banished individuals gathered. In a sense these people represented evil, bloodthirst, and chaos.

One could say that there was no kind soul to be found in any of the Bloodsin Cities. All of them were cold-blooded killers. They were either there to hide from the pursuit of their enemies, because they were addicted to killing, or simply because they had been banished by some powerful organization.

In short, the Bloodsin City was a city of strife. Within the city, one could kill and rape as one wished. There were no rules whatsoever, and the only way of survival was through killing. Apart from that, the five cities also served a different purpose: devil suppression.

All five of the cities were built at the entrance to the Devil Domain where numerous blood-thirsty devils resided. The devils resided beneath the dominion and had waged endless wars against the surface races since the ancient times.

The devils wanted to enter the surface through the five exits and conquer more land for themselves, but the surface races would naturally not allow that. Thus, the five cities were built for devil suppression. They were also known as the Five Devil Suppressing Cities.

It was rumored that during the ancient times, the surface's supreme experts had forcefully pushed the devils underground. In fact, during the ancient times, the devils had invaded and started a period known as the Dark Age. At that time, the devils had nearly turned the entire world into a world of devils.

Fortunately, numerous heroes had risen amid the chaos and pushed the devils back to the Devil Domain. Xiang Shaoyun had learned all that from Devouring Ghost, and he had also finally learned what he was supposed to do at the Bloodsin City.

There, he would forge his own path to the Emperor and Sovereign Realms through battle. Only in such a chaotic land of slaughter would a person's potential be squeezed out, turning one into an overlord. That was also one of the fastest methods a cultivator could grow.

As they were nearing the Bloodsin City, Devouring Ghost was growing more excited. He said, "Young master, numerous evil criminals from the Western Desert are gathered at the Bloodsin City. There will also be numerous geniuses from the various organizations there to temper themselves. They are all people with talent and combat prowess surpassing their peers. Are you ready for it?"

Xiang Shaoyun answered confidently, "Even if this is hell, I will still go. I have no fear."

"Haha, that's right! I believe you will definitely become an overlord of slaughter and rise into the Emperor Realm," said Devouring Ghost as he laughed heartily. He looked at Du Xuanhao and said, "When we arrive, you will need to head into the Devil Domain. I guarantee you that your combat prowess will multiply several times over if you can survive for at least three years. At that time, I will take you to search for the Saber Devil's inheritance. But if you can't even survive for three years, it can only mean that you are not qualified to obtain his inheritance."

"I will do just that, Lord Devouring Ghost," said Du Xuanhao resolutely.

Suddenly, a group of decently powerful people blocked their path to the Bloodsin City.

Chapter 396: I Want the Leader Alive

The group blocking their way consisted of about 20 or 30 people. Each of them was mounted on a valiant demonic beast, with a few of them being Dragon Ascension Realm experts. In fact, one of them was even a late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert. This could be considered a group of decent strength.

Each of them had a dreadful human skeleton emblem embroidered on their clothes, signifying that they were members of this Bloodsin City's Skeleton Gang. They were known for being cruel and partaking in all sorts of crimes, including murder, arson, rape, banditry, and so on. They weren't exactly the strongest in the city, however. Their reputation was generally only used to scare the newcomers or the weaker cultivators.

This group's leader was mounted on an armored skeleton horse. His eyes radiated bloodlust, and he had a dagger in his hand. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun's group coldly and said, "Leave all your storage rings and this Demon Emperor behind, and you will be allowed to enter the Bloodsin City alive. Or else, die."

The person speaking was a peak seventh-stage Emperor. His name was Badar, and he did have the strength to speak so arrogantly. Unfortunately for him, he had not noticed that there was a ninth-stage Emperor among Xiang Shaoyun's group.

"You are actually trying to rob us? You sure are brave," said Devouring Ghost with a sinister glint in his eyes.

Over the three months, he had restored his cultivation level to the fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. Even when facing these Skeleton Gang members, he would still be able to put up a fight.

"Where are you from?" Badar probed cautiously.

He knew very well that among the visitors to the Bloodsin City, a lot of them were from the large organizations of the Western Desert, and they were the people the Skeleton Gang could not afford to offend.

"You are not qualified to know. piss off if you know what's good for you. Or else, die," said Devouring Ghost with a sinister smile.

"Lord Badar, since they have not arrived through the teleportation formation, it is obvious their background is nothing special. Just kill them and get this over with," said someone beside Badar.

"Ok. Let's not waste any time. Kill them," said Badar while licking his lips with a cruel glint in his eyes.

At that command, Badar's underlings attacked. They did not have the habit of fighting people one on one. Rather, they generally swarmed their enemies with their numerical superiority. A large number of energy attacks flew toward Xiang Shaoyun's group; no mercy was shown.

But before the attacks could arrive, a saber energy of several meters long shot out. Instantly, the sharp saber energy crossed a large distance. Next, about eight heads were cut off from their bodies like vegetables being cut by a kitchen knife.

Nearly half of the incoming attacks dispersed, and the remaining attacks could no longer pose much threat to Xiang Shaoyun's group. That was the work of Du Xuanhao the Saber Emperor.

"Big Brother Du, I want the leader alive," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sure," Du Xuanhao replied as he started slaughtering his opponents.

Badar was completely dumbstruck. He had just realized that he had provoked the wrong opponent this time. He took out an object and tried to call for help from his companions in the city, but before he could do that, Du Xuanhao stamped him into the ground. Du Xuanhao was now a ninth-stage Emperor, residing at the peak of the realm. It was far too easy for him to defeat these opponents.

"I beg you, please spare me," Badar quickly begged, not daring to resist at all.

"You want to live? Sure. But you have to be obedient. Or else, you will end up like them," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, yes, I will definitely be obedient. I will do whatever you tell me to," Badar completely conceded.

In truth, he was still scheming inwardly. He was hoping that they would spare him for now. The moment they entered the city, his gang leader would definitely come rescue him. Little did he know that he was now beyond saving.

"Good. Open up your soul to me and do not resist. Otherwise, just wait to be destroyed in both body and soul," said Xiang Shaoyun, smiling like a fiend.

Badar instantly grew anxious. "W-what are you trying to do?"

"You don't need to know. Just shut up and do as told. This is your only choice if you want to live," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He then activated his Nether Dragon Soul Curse, sending numerous abstruse symbols drifting through the air toward Badar. Instantly, Badar's soul reacted. He could sense that the symbols were definitely bad for him, and he started struggling by instinct.

As a seventh-stage Emperor, his soul power was considerably powerful. The current Xiang Shaoyun was completely incapable of binding his soul with force. And thus, his curse was defeated and failed to accomplish anything.

"He actually dares to resist? Big Brother Du, let him suffer for a bit," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Du Xuanhao immediately increased the strength in which he stepped on Badar, pushing him into the ground and causing him to yell in pain unceasingly. Xiang Shaoyun took this chance to use his curse again, trying to put Badar under his control.

Badar still struggled initially, but with Du Xuanhao stepping on him harder and harder, he could no longer put much focus on guarding his soul. Bit by bit, Xiang Shaoyun's curse latched on. Finally, a secondary Nether Dragon Soul Headband formed around Badar's soul, and the curse started eating away at his soul like maggots.

"Ahhhh!"

Badar started howling miserably, feeling like 10,000 maggots were chewing on his brain at the same time. His mental fortitude started collapsing from the intense suffering that made being alive feel worse than death.

Unfortunately for him, the pain would only torture him and not kill. He rolled about on the ground, and the pain even reached a point he started knocking his head against the rocks in the area to try to kill himself. Even Du Xuanhao shivered at the sight. More and more, he found Xiang Shaoyun to be completely shrouded in a veil of mystery.

What secret technique is this exactly to be capable of torturing even a seventh-stage Emperor to such an extent?

After a while, Xiang Shaoyun finally stopped chanting. He looked at the battered and exhausted Badar before saying, "From now onward, you will be loyal to this young master. Otherwise, you will relive the same experience where living is worse than death. Also, don't dream that you will be free after my death. You will also die if I die."

Badar was filled with utter regret, and he hated himself for somehow provoking such a little fiend out of nowhere.

"Badar pledges absolute and eternal loyalty to the young master," pledged Badar while kneeling before Xiang Shaoyun. He never wanted to experience the same suffering ever again.

"Good. Now tell me the current situation in the Bloodsin City," said Xiang Shaoyun with a satisfied look on his face.

Chapter 397: City of Chaos

Badar had thus become Xiang Shaoyun's follower. He no longer dared to hide anything, and he revealed everything he knew about the city. Listening to Badar, Xiang Shaoyun gained a brand new understanding of the Bloodsin City.

This particular Bloodsin City was located at the common borders of Soaring Dragon Province, Yu Province, and Darkstone Province. The three provinces shared the responsibility of suppressing the city.

Presently, there were five major organizations in the city. Of them, the strongest was the Yu Clan. They were an ancient clan and one of the most powerful organizations in the Yu Province. They enjoyed great prestige in the entirety of the Western Desert, and by extension, their branch at this Bloodsin City was also the city's strongest organization.

Second to them was the Thousand Buddha Society, which was also an ancient organization. They were based here not to suppress the devils but to purify this place of sin. The other organizations were the Dragon Society from the Soaring Dragon Province, Dark Devil Sect from the Darkstone Province, and a local faction led by the city's governor.

Apart from these five organizations, there were more than 10 other organizations in the city. All of them had Emperors among their ranks, and some of them even had Sovereign Realm experts. As for the Skeleton Gang, they were merely a tiny organization.

The Skeleton Gang's leader was a peak Dragon Ascension Realm expert with two ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts and numerous other Emperors and Kings under his command. His force was comparable to a tier-5 organization.

And yet such an organization was among the weakest in the city, making it obvious how powerful this chaotic city was. Xiang Shaoyun's blood started boiling with excitement. This was the kind of place he needed to rise in power.

Of the ten years he had given himself, three years had passed. In the remaining seven years, he had to grow as fast as he could. On top of that, he needed to gather an army of followers. Only then would he stand a chance in regaining all that was once his.

Places like Wu Town and Cloud Margin City were far from enough to truly pressure him. However, that was not the case here at the Bloodsin City. The organizations gathered here were powerful enough to pressure him into rapidly growing.

Without any delay, Xiang Shaoyun continued heading toward the city, and it eventually became visible in the distance. Surveying it from afar, he could sense an intense bloodlust emanating from the city. A faintly discernible devilish aura was also drifting about in the air, and there was a concentration of incredibly powerful astral energy covering the entirety of the city, giving off an extremely suppressive feeling as if gods had descended.

"What a heavy atmosphere," Xiang Shaoyun gasped in surprise.

"I feel like even breathing has become difficult," Du Xuanhao exclaimed in astonishment.

"Numerous experts and powerful devils have perished here in this city. The accumulation of it all had ultimately created such an atmosphere here," explained Devouring Ghost. "Both of you will get

used to this sensation soon. But be very careful to always guard your heart and do not lose yourself here. Otherwise, it will harm your cultivation."

After a while, they finally arrived before the Bloodsin City. Xiang Shaoyun had also realized that the city was much larger than he had imagined. In comparison, Cloud Margin City was merely the size of a tiny corner.

Xiang Shaoyun originated from a tier-7 organization, yet the Ziling City he came from was not even one fifth of Bloodsin City's size. One ought to know that Ziling City was a city under direct rule of a tier-7 organization. It could be considered a well-developed city, yet it was still incomparable to this Bloodsin City.

They landed on the ground, as they could no longer continue flying. They could sense intense energy eruptions nearby. A battle was probably happening.

"Fight constantly breaks out in the Bloodsin City. You will get used to it soon. But of course, you have to always be careful. Otherwise, we could very well all perish here," Devouring Ghost reminded them.

They took a detour around the area where they sensed a battle was happening and approached the city gate. Standing before the city gate, they could see a towering wall riddled with scars of battle. The wall had bathed in so much blood it now emanated a primordial stench of blood, one that could easily provoke the bloodlust in a person.

Standing on the city wall were mighty guards armed with tough armors and shiny weapons. They were filled with vitality, their presence imposing. They were part of the local faction from the city hall, and the ongoing personal battles did not bother them. They were only standing guard to ensure the actual rules of the city were not violated and to ensure not a single devil could escape to the outside world.

Above the city gate was a dreadful, bloody, and striking word: Bloodsin.

For some reason, the moment Xiang Shaoyun arrived, he could feel his blood boiling and his Nether Soul Domain pulsing unceasingly, as if something was resonating with him, making it increasingly hard for him to stay calm. He forced himself to calm down before following Devouring Ghost into the city.

Before entering, each of them had to pay a fee of 1,000 mid-grade spirit crystals. With such an expensive price tag, it would be extremely hard for a regular cultivator to even gain entry into the city.

After entering, the first thing Xiang Shaoyun saw was numerous people charging everywhere they wished on their mounts, not at all caring for the well-being of the pedestrians. Every now and then, weak cultivators could be seen being either stomped, knocked, or bitten to death. Nobody batted an eye.

Instead, the belongings of the dead were immediately plundered by the others in the area. A fight would even break out over the belongings, causing more blood to flow. Something like this happened almost on a daily basis, so the people were already used to it.

Several figures suddenly rushed at Xiang Shaoyun's group. From how they were dressed, they were probably Skeleton Gang members as well.

"Lord Badar, you're back. So what kind of fat lamb have you slaughtered this time?" respectfully asked the fourth-stage Emperor leading the group of newcomers.

"Screw you. I met a few old friends of mine. We are going to catch up for a bit. Move on," said Badar unhesitatingly.

"Lord Badar, we did not wish to disturb you either, but the leader has convened everyone to an emergency meeting. I am here to notify you about it," said the fourth-stage Emperor named Jin Ji.

"Why is the leader convening a meeting?" Badar asked.

"No idea, but I think it has something to do with the two beauties of the Han Clan," said Jin Ji.

"Alright. Leave first. I'll be there shortly," said Badar. Jin Ji and the others did not dare to dally, and they quickly left.

"Master, I await your decision," said Badar respectfully.

"Just go back for now," said Xiang Shaoyun. Inwardly, he thought, Perhaps taking over this Skeleton Gang will be advantageous for me to establish a foothold in this city.

Chapter 398: Yu Clan Spiritual Medicine Store

After Badar left, Xiang Shaoyun's group strolled around in the city. Devouring Ghost wanted to purchase some king medicines, or even emperor medicines, he could use to recover more of his strength. There were a lot of spiritual medicine stores in the Bloodsin City, and each store was backed by a powerful organization, deterring the various criminals in the city from setting their sights on the store.

Xiang Shaoyun had enough spirit crystals to fund the purchase. In any case, he himself was also looking around to see if he could find something that could be of use to him. What he wanted most was to obtain spirit medicines capable of strengthening one's soul power.

Although the ghostbloom in his astral cosmos sea was the most suited for this, its grade was too high, and it would be a waste for him to consume it. He was therefore trying to look for king medicines of soul attribute instead. Apart from that, he was also trying to find something that would be useful for the ghostrunes to further enhance their growth.

Devouring Ghost knew the city very well, so he was in charge of showing the group around.

"In this Bloodsin City, the biggest medicine store would be the one owned by the Yu Clan. They have treasures you won't be able to find at other stores," said Devouring Ghost. For some reason, when he spoke about the Yu Clan, an odd glint was in his eyes, as if there was something personally special about this clan.

"I have heard of this Yu Clan. It is an ancient clan comparable to the Xiang Clan I come from, and our clans seem to have some grudge or something?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he recalled something.

"Yes, but those are all in the past," said Devouring Ghost with a sigh. He did not seem like he wanted to talk more about it as he sank into silence and continued leading the way.

Even at their speed, they still took about two hours to reach the city's central area. This was where Yu Clan Medicine Store was located. The store occupied a large area, looking more like a massive courtyard. Numerous herbs were displayed in the store, and behind it was a herb farm where numerous spiritual herbs were planted. A formation was in place to enhance the growth of the planted herbs. Seeing a medicine store with herbs ready for harvest was an eye-opener for Xiang Shaoyun and the others.

"Customers, what are you looking for today? You can find anything you want here at our Yu Clan Medicine Store," said a graceful hostess welcoming them to the store.

Under the young woman's lead, they started browsing the numerous herbs, their eyes shining brightly at what they saw. The herbs available were too many to count, and spirit medicines could be seen almost everywhere. Even the rare emperor medicines were available, and the sight of what they had in the store was quite an eye-opener.

"This is how a medicine store should look," Xiang Shaoyun praised.

Even at the Ziling Sect he came from, it would be very hard to encounter so many rare herbs at once. Devouring Ghost, who had been calm all this while, was also growing excited. He quickly started searching for the herbs he needed.

"Big Brother Du, Jin Wo, look around and see if there is anything you need here," said Xiang Shaoyun. They nodded and started looking around as well.

"I need some herbs beneficial to the soul. Do you have something like that here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked the hostess.

"Yes we do, but they are in short supply, so the price point will be comparatively higher than the other herbs," said the hostess.

"Show me," said Xiang Shaoyun, directly ignoring what she said about the price. For him currently, price was the last thing he would worry about.

Soon, he arrived before a sales counter where several king medicines helpful for the soul were displayed.

"Soul elevation grass, a low-grade king medicine. It can strengthen one's soul power and stabilize one's soul, priced at 5,000 mid-grade spirit crystals.

"Soul return grass, a mid-grade king medicine, able to gather one's scattered soul and restore soul power, priced at 30,000 mid-grade spirit crystals.

"Nine-part soul vine, a high-grade king medicine, able to greatly enhance one's soul power and restore soul power, priced at 80,000 mid-grade spirit crystals."

...

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned. Generally speaking, a stalk of low-grade king medicine was worth around 500 mid-grade spirit crystals. Although soul medicines were more expensive due to their rarity, it still wouldn't reach a price of 5,000 low-grade spirit crystals. This was much higher than the regular market price for these herbs.

The hostess was able to guess what was on Xiang Shaoyun's mind. She offered an explanation, "A lot of people adventuring in the Devil Domain will be polluted by devilish aura. Only by using soul medicines will they be able to maintain their sanity. Therefore, soul medicines are much more expensive here. I would like to make it known that you have arrived at a fortunate timing, sir. These herbs were freshly delivered and will sell out soon."

Xiang Shaoyun was hit by a realization after hearing the explanation. Something's demand would determine its value. This was a battlefield with the devils. Thus, these soul medicines would naturally have a higher value here.

"Understood. I'll take them all," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Y-you want all of them?" It was the hostess who was shocked this time.

There were five soul medicines here, totaling several hundred thousand spirit crystals in value. Not even an Emperor could take out such wealth easily. Yet a young man was going to buy them all at once. She found that difficult to believe.

"Is there a problem?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"No, of course not. This way to make your payment, please." The hostess quickly recovered from her shock. She had seen all sorts of people in the Bloodsin City, and she concluded that he was probably a young master from some organization.

At this time, a voice rang out behind Xiang Shaoyun, "We are taking these soul medicines!"

Both Xiang Shaoyun and the hostess blanked out before turning around. A few people wearing dreadful-looking masks were standing there. The group was led by a woman who was wearing an armor that put half her bountiful chest on display. She made no attempt whatsoever to hide her perfect figure. A dense baleful aura emanated from them, and combined with the dreadful masks they were wearing, they gave off a sinister sensation.

"I'm sorry. This young master is already making the purchase, so I won't be able to sell you the herbs," explained the hostess in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing.

The woman leading the group did not dare to create trouble for the store. Instead, she looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Give up on these herbs and piss off."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "What if I say no?"

"Hehe, he actually dares disrespect our Ghostface Sect. Very well. The moment you step out of this store, you will die right on the streets," said the woman with a sneer before departing the store.

"Ghostface Sect?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered, a somewhat worried look appeared on his face.

He had learned from Badar that the Ghostface Sect was one of the strongest organizations in the city after the five strongest organizations. They even had Sovereigns among their ranks.

"Young master, this way to pay, please," the hostess said.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and followed her.

Chapter 399: Restricted Space

Apart from the five soul medicines, Xiang Shaoyun also purchased some other king medicines from the Yu Clan Medicine Store. Devouring Ghost, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo had purchased some rather expensive emperor medicines as well.

In total, Xiang Shaoyun had spent about five million mid-grade spirit crystals, spending a large portion of what he had received from the Dong Clan. Even so, he had not hesitated. For him, there would always be more spirit crystals to be made. For now, he needed these herbs more.

"Young master, I sensed something happening at your side earlier. What happened?" Devouring Ghost asked.

"Some Ghostface Sect members were looking for trouble. They are probably waiting outside the store right now," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ghostface Sect?" Devouring Ghost asked, an odd expression on his face.

"Yes. According to Badar, this Ghostface Sect has been in the city for over 10,000 years and is the most powerful organization after the five strongest organizations. They even have Sovereigns among their ranks. I guess things will get troublesome now that they have their sights set on us," said Xiang Shaoyun gloomily. They had offended an organization like this right after arriving at the city. This would definitely not be good for them.

"Young master, don't worry too much about it. Although the Ghostface Sect is quite powerful here, they still won't be able to easily take us down. Focus on leaving first. I have a way to make sure they won't be able to find us afterward," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Devouring Ghost in astonishment. He nodded and strode out of the store with his head raised high. Sure enough, a group of masked people was waiting for them outside.

"So you actually are not alone. No wonder you dare to slight us. But how good are your helpers exactly?" said the woman leading the group. A powerful aura then surged out of her toward Xiang Shaoyun's group.

She was actually a peak Skysoar Realm cultivator who cultivated the power of darkness. She formed a dark halberd emanating a dense baleful and bloody aura, and she sent the halberd gliding forward, creating ripples in the air.

"Hmph!" Du Xuanhao snorted and stood before Xiang Shaoyun. A saber energy appeared in the air and instantly cut the bloody halberd into two. The masked woman was pushed away, and she crashed into her companions. She coughed blood.

"Young master, do I...," Du Xuanhao asked, a murderous intent surfacing on his eyes.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could answer, Devouring Ghost said, "Ignore them. Let's leave."

He then brought Xiang Shaoyun fleeing in a different direction. Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo were left with no choice but to follow as well. After the masked woman regained her footing, she stared in the direction they had fled and said, "So long as you remain in the Bloodsin City, you will be hunted by our Ghostface Sect."

Not long after, Devouring Ghost brought the group to a place filled with chaos. All around them, people were fighting. Blood seemed to be spilling everywhere, presenting a shocking scene. The moment they arrived, they attracted the attention of many people, and some of them were tempted to make a move on them.

"Du Xuanhao, release your aura and get them out of our face," said Devouring Ghost.

Du Xuanhao released his aura without any hesitation. The aura of a top-tier Emperor managed to keep them from making any rash moves. They were all murderous individuals, but none of them wanted to court death by throwing themselves at someone stronger than them.

Devouring Ghost continued leading the group, and after traveling a complicated route through many alleys, they stopped before a dilapidated estate. It was at this moment that a look of recollection covered his eyes as he said, "Good, everything is still here."

"This place is...?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion.

"I once stayed here for a period of time," said Devouring Ghost. He took a deep breath and entered the estate.

Xiang Shaoyun, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo followed behind him. Soon, they found that some low-leveled cultivators were staying there. It was obvious this place now served as some sort of shelter for them.

"Who are you people? Piss off!" shouted one of the people. He had a scar on his face and was wielding a crimson saber. A vicious expression hung on his face. Along with that shout, some other cultivators in the building also raised their weapons. They were all ready for a fight.

"Leave. I do not wish to kill here," said Devouring Ghost coldly.

An emperor aura roiled out, and their faces fell when they sensed it. They lost all their courage and immediately withdrew gloomily. After they left, Devouring Ghost headed toward a worn-out building at the middle of the estate.

The building was badly damaged and did not seem like anyone could live in it anymore. Even those low-leveled cultivators residing here had only stayed in the side buildings instead of this broken main building.

Devouring Ghost stopped before an opening in the wall and crawled inside while saying, "Give me a moment."

No wonder Devouring Ghost had insisted that we come to the Bloodsin City. Apart from helping me grow stronger, he also has a personal reason to be here, Xiang Shaoyun mused inwardly.

After a while, an incorporeal power rippled out of the building. Suddenly, numerous patterns akin to a spider web appeared on the ground. These patterns were all emanating an indescribable power. The entire estate started sinking into the ground, stunning Xiang Shaoyun, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo. After a while, the estate stopped moving, but they were now completely enveloped in darkness.

Swish! Swish!

Suddenly, light started shining from numerous directions and lit up their surroundings.

Once again, Devouring Ghost appeared before Xiang Shaoyun. He said, "Young master, this is a restricted space I had left behind in the past. I am the only one that can enter this place. Here we are completely isolated from the outside world. Nobody will be able to bother us."

"Restricted space! That is something only those above the Sovereign Realm can create!" Du Xuanhao cried out in shock. For the first time, he realized just what kind of an existence Devouring Ghost used to be.

"Yes, this place is safe enough. But how are we going to move in and out?" asked Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

"Don't worry about that. I can teach all of you the method of leaving and entering," Devouring Ghost replied. "I am planning to stay here for some time and focus on restoring this body to its

previous cultivation level. I might need half a year, or even an entire year. Therefore, we need to draw a plan and decide on what all of you will do next."

"Since you already have a plan in mind, tell us about it," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 400: Growing Soul Power

"I personally think you should adapt yourself to the way of life here, to understand the cruel reality of this city and learn to not show any mercy to your enemies. Through slaughter, you can prove your strength. There are numerous Bloodsin Arenas for different cultivation levels in the city. At a King Realm arena, you can challenge the various experts of the city and battle the numerous captured devils as well. Through battle, you can increase your combat prowess. After reaching late-stage King Realm, you can enter the Devil Domain," said Devouring Ghost.

"Bloodsin Arena? There is something like that here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Any battle on a Bloodsin Arena is one where your life will be placed on the line. You will have to rely on yourself in the arena, young master," said Devouring Ghost. He looked at Du Xuanhao and continued, "You are already a top Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator so you can directly enter the Devil Domain and do battle there. You will encounter many fearsome devils and know just how much more you need to grow. When you have finally mastered the saber steering phase of your saber intent, you will then be qualified to try for Saber Devil's inheritance."

Du Xuanhao did not say anything and instead looked at Xiang Shaoyun for a decision. After all, he now considered himself a follower.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at him and said, "Big Brother Du, just go to the Devil Domain. Don't worry about me. I still have Jin Wo and Badar by my side. You can only help me in the future if you can grow strong enough."

Du Xuanhao replied, "Stay safe, young master."

"Young master, since you are no longer guarded by a powerful Emperor, you have to be very careful in the city. If you are really pushed to desperation, you can always seek shelter here," said Devouring Ghost. "But I hope to see you slaughter a bloody path to the pinnacle yourself, young master. Back then, this was where the previous master had made his name. I believe you will be able to achieve the same."

"Don't worry. I know what to do," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

"Take this medal. If the Ghostface Sect creates trouble for you again, just show it to them," said Devouring Ghost as he handed Xiang Shaoyun a medal.

Xiang Shaoyun took the medal and found that a ghost face was carved into it. It emanated a sinister and dreadful aura.

Devouring Ghost offered an explanation, "The Ghostface Sect might have some sort of relationship with me. Before I regain my strength, try to avoid having conflicts with them."

"Sure. I know what to do," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After telling them a bit more about the Devil Domain and Devil Blood City, Devouring Ghost began his seclusion. Xiang Shaoyun, Du Xuanhao, and Jin Wo moved outside to have another discussion.

"Big Brother Du, before leaving for the Devil Domain, I need you to help me take over the Skeleton Gang," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"They have three ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts. It will be hard with just us," said Du Xuanhao.

"Don't worry. I will find you a reliable helper," said Xiang Shaoyun with a confident smile.

Instead of leaving, Xiang Shaoyun took the time to seclude himself in a random room. Inside, he took out the soul elevation grass he had just purchased. He needed to further increase his soul power, so the ghostrune emperor could grow more.

Only when his soul power grew would the nether soul energy in his Nether Soul Domain undergo an upgrade, which would allow the ghostrune emperor to grow stronger. At that time, with the ghostrune emperor helping Du Xuanhao, it wouldn't be hard for them to kill any ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert they encountered.

Xiang Shaoyun was aware that to establish a footing in the Bloodsin City, he alone was not enough. An organization that wasn't the strongest yet not the weakest would be perfect to help him gain a footing.

This was a plan he had devised ever since he had subdued Badar. Now, it was time to put his plan into action. He knew very well it would be very hard to take over the Skeleton Gang with just Du Xuanhao and Jin Wo. Therefore, he had to borrow the ghostrune emperor's strength as well.

Xiang Shaoyun swallowed the soul elevation grass and, as soul power started pouring into his soul, immediately activated the soul restoration mantra of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband.

His soul power was already strong enough to be comparable to a top-tier King's, so with the assistance of the soul elevation grass, his soul power immediately grew to a level equivalent to that of a peak King.

With the growth of his soul power, the Nether Soul Domain started expanding, and the nether soul energy within became thicker. Unfortunately, just the soul elevation grass alone was not enough to push his soul power to a level comparable to an Emperor's. He took out a mid-grade king soul medicine and tossed it into his mouth.

This mid-stage king medicine had an even stronger medicinal power. Xiang Shaoyun possessed a soul that had once been cleansed by a soul spring, and he was being constantly nurtured by the soul raising stone he kept in his Nether Soul Domain. With the help of the massive amount of soul power he was getting from the herbs, he immediately broke through the barrier of the King Realm, pushing his soul power to the level of an Emperor's.

After reaching this level, his soul started solidifying, looking more and more lifelike. It was at this moment that a great change occurred in his Nether Soul Domain. It started expanding rapidly while thick clumps of nether soul energy flooded it.

At the same time, the devilish aura drifting about in the sky above the Bloodsin City suddenly started seeping into the ground noiselessly. The devilish aura arrived above Xiang Shaoyun and gradually entered his Nether Soul Domain, providing a great boost to his nether soul energy.

As for the ghostrunes, they went mad with joy. They started devouring the nether soul energy like hungry wolves that had stumbled upon the most delicious food. And as they devoured the nether soul energy, they started growing in strength.

However, they couldn't directly utilize all the newly absorbed energy. They had to further enhance their bloodline. And thus, they started consuming the weaker ones among them again. This was an incredibly odd phenomenon, one that other races would find hard to understand.

As the ghostrunes consumed their own, their numbers underwent a steep decline. Of the initial over 40,000 ghostrunes, only about 20,000 remained. Even so, this number was still plummeting rapidly as their strength was growing swiftly.

Xiang Shaoyun was too busy to pay attention to what was happening to them. Currently, his blood had suddenly stirred as he seemed to have formed a sort of intimate connection with his Nether Soul Domain. Numerous ancient and abstruse symbols started appearing in his soul.

These symbols represented an ancient inheritance, a memory inheritance for all who had the blood of the Imperial Nether Clan. In fact, these symbols were the characters of a language used exclusively by the Imperial Nether Clan.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know where these symbols had come from. However, he did feel as if these symbols were something that came naturally to him. He did not even need to do anything as all the knowledge contained within the symbols started pouring into his mind. As time passed, more and more of the ancient symbols appeared in his soul. None of them harmed him. Instead, he benefited greatly from their appearance.

Imperial Nether Prison.

This was an innate ability unique to the Imperial Nether Clan, and it had now awakened in Xiang Shaoyun's mind.