

Overlord 451

Chapter 451: Return of the Flame Taming Technique

Yu Caidie and the others were able to sense the collision of two different flames from far away. After all, the raging power of the two flames and the heatwave were spreading wildly, covering a radius of three kilometers. This collision of two different colors looked incredibly dazzling and brilliant.

"Why is there another flame here?" Ling Lin exclaimed in alarm.

He had a beast flame in his body. Although this flame was incomparable to those naturally formed flames, it was decently powerful. He could clearly sense how terrifying both the flames currently clashing were. The other two flame cultivators also sensed the same, and their eyes were filled with greed.

Getting a flame of this level could very well bring them straight into the Emperor Realm. Earlier, they had to leave because of the devil flame rats. With the devil flame rats all having fled the area, they started thinking that they had a chance to make a move on the devil flame seed again.

"Don't bother," Yu Caidie's voice suddenly rang out.

"Oh? Why do you say that, Holy Maiden?" asked someone in confusion.

Ling Lin said, "Holy Maiden, if we can obtain even one of the two flames, we will grow stronger. At that time, helping you get the yin devil wind will be—"

Before he could finish his words, Yu Caidie said, "A collision of two flames will definitely end with one being devoured by the other. The victorious flame will become even stronger. It will be much harder to tame the victor. Furthermore, one of the two flames belongs to Mister Xiang. I suggest you don't try making a move on him..."

"What? The other flame belongs to Xiang Shaoyun? How is that possible?" Ling Lin cried out in alarm. He had personally seen Xiang Shaoyun use the power of gold and lightning. He had never expected him to also possess the power of flame.

"Just watch, you'll see," said Yu Caidie who couldn't be bothered to offer more explanation.

The others were also surprised that Xiang Shaoyun actually possessed a third power. A smile now hung on their faces. They were all remarkable geniuses in cultivation. They knew very well the more powers one cultivated, the harder one's growth would be.

Furthermore, one would not be able to unleash the maximum potential of each power when cultivating too many powers. That was why most of them basically cultivated only one type of power. At most, they would cultivate two types of power. Someone cultivating three powers like Xiang Shaoyun might seem strong right now, but in the long run, he would fall far behind them. Yu Caidie also reached the same conclusion, her eyes rippling with a complicated emotion.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was suffering an ordeal few could withstand amid the battlefield of the two flames. Because he was in the devil flame seed's territory, the devil flame seed was able to completely suppress Yun Flame's power. Although Yun Flame wasn't weak, the power it could unleash was limited due to Xiang Shaoyun.

Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun had a body of flesh and blood while the devil flame seed had formed a body of flame. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was disadvantaged when clashing against such a body. He felt like he was being cooked alive. At this time, Yun Flame suddenly told Xiang Shaoyun that things were getting dangerous and urged him to think of something.

After all, its power had all been compressed within Xiang Shaoyun's third star. Even though Xiang Shaoyun had released a large portion of its power, that was far from enough to face their current foe.

At that realization, Xiang Shaoyun started using the Seven Scorching Sun Claws to attack the devil flame seed. Although he could tear the incoming attacks apart, there was a boundless sea of flame around him. There was no way for him to extinguish it all, and even Yun Flame's power was starting to be slowly devoured by the devil flame seed.

I can't allow this to continue or I will die! I need to think of something, Xiang Shaoyun thought to himself anxiously.

He unleashed everything he had and started circulating his cultivation method to unleash as much of Yun Flame's power as he could, trying to devour the devil flame seed instead. At the same time, he also battled the devil flame seed with numerous battle techniques, trying to weaken it. Unfortunately, nothing seemed to work.

What should I do? Nothing seems to work! Do I really need to fully release Yun Flame from the star? Xiang Shaoyun thought gloomily.

It was at this moment that an inspiration hit him. He quickly sat down cross-legged and ignored the devil seed flame. He focused on completely withdrawing Yun Flame's power. He wasn't planning to sit down and accept his death. Rather, he had a solution in mind.

He was planning to repeat what he had done to subdue Yun Flame back then. A human skin appeared before him, and it emitted an incorporeal power, completely isolating him from the flame around him, protecting him from any harm.

This was the same human skin Xiang Shaoyun had obtained when he explored the zombie cave with Dong Ziwan. The flame taming technique he had used to subdue Yun Flame had also been obtained from this human skin. After completely withdrawing Yun Flame's power, the devil flame seed could no longer continue to devour Yun Flame.

Xiang Shaoyun started chanting the mantra of the flame taming technique, sending numerous crimson ancient runes flying forward. In the past, he was too weak and was only able to utilize the basics of the flame taming technique when taming Yun Flame. Now that he had grown stronger, he was able to unleash the real power of the flame taming technique.

As the abstruse runes drifted about, the devil flame seed's power started being suppressed, and the intensity of the flame around him started weakening. The devil flame seed was forced to start withdrawing its power as well, and it only maintained a devil flame rat form that continued eying Xiang Shaoyun like a prey. It did not have enough intelligence to determine what the runes all around it were.

"Refine!" Xiang Shaoyun started fusing Yun Flame's power with the flame taming runes after creating a certain number of them. The runes were sent forward as they started surrounding the devil flame seed.

At Xiang Shaoyun's command, the power of the runes surged, instantly forming a massive net around the devil flame seed. The devil flame seed struggled, once again erupting with its berserk power. This time, no matter what it did, it failed to spread its power far away. In other words, its power had been completely confined within the net of runes.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun was still maintaining his full focus. He knew that if the devil flame seed was given enough time, it could very well break free of the net. After all, the devil flame seed's power was no joke.

Once again, Xiang Shaoyun erupted with all of Yun Flame's power that he could release, and he started devouring the devil flame seed from outside the net. Its power leaked through as Yun Flame absorbed it. Since the devil flame seed had been confined, it was unable to release its full power and was naturally no longer Yun Flame's match.

If this continued, Xiang Shaoyun would be able to fully refine the devil flame seed. However, that would delay him from heading to the devil wind beast territory with Yu Caidie. She would most likely not wait for him, so he started having second thoughts.

Chapter 452: Subduing the Devil Flame Seed

The people from far away could see that of the two powers of flame, one was quickly weakening. The three flame cultivators' eyes were increasingly burning with desire. They were after all looking at two unique flames, something extremely attractive to them. But with so many people watching, they couldn't bring themselves to take advantage of Xiang Shaoyun and steal the flame from him.

They also knew that Huo Xudong and Can Wunian stood at Xiang Shaoyun's side. They might not watch on as Xiang Shaoyun fell into danger. Furthermore, they were still unclear if it was Xiang Shaoyun's flame or the devil flame seed that had obtained victory. If it was the devil flame seed, they would still have a chance to fight for it. Unfortunately for them, what happened next would disappoint them.

Underneath the devil flame rat territory, Xiang Shaoyun had gotten the devil flame seed under control. Trapped by the flame taming runes and being devoured by Yun Flame at the same time, the devil flame seed had no way of escaping.

The only issue Xiang Shaoyun had was if he should continue absorbing devil flame seed's power here or should he stop temporarily and go with Yu Caidie. It hadn't been easy to get the devil flame seed trapped. He naturally did not want to stop. This was a good chance for both him and Yun Flame to grow stronger. But he was already seeing Yu Caidie as his own woman. He would not let her be with any other man.

After hesitating for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun finally thought of something. He formed three layers of wrappings around the devil flame seed, using the human skin, flame taming net, and Yun Flame's power. He then roared, "Store!"

At that command, the devil flame seed vanished. This was a sight that would shock anyone. It was common knowledge that storage devices would not be able to store unique flames like this. The moment one tried, the flame would destroy the storage device.

As for the astral cosmos sea cultivated within one's body, it would be even harder to store these unique flames. In fact, it was supposed to be impossible unless one was at least a Sovereign. After all, these flames were extremely destructive. Although an astral cosmos sea could be used to store items, it was also a part of one's body and could be easily burned down.

However, Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea was an exception. It was something that had been tempered by lightning, vicious gold, and Yun Flame. Thus, it did not fear the devil flame seed. In any case, the devil flame seed had been wrapped in multiple layers of protection preventing it from harming him.

The only reason Xiang Shaoyun had done this was so he could save some time. He would then be able to continue traveling with Yu Caidie while he slowly refined the devil flame seed at the same time. One could say that he was hitting two birds with one stone.

In the astral cosmos sea, the devil flame seed was directly tossed into the pool of lava. This was the same pool of lava he had gotten from the volcano back then. A stalk of blaze flower was still growing there. The blaze flower had yet to bloom, yet it already looked incredibly wondrous. The original blaze flower had already been given to Du Xuanhao. This stalk here was one that had only grown due to the nine-colored fog. Apart from the blaze flower, an additional ghostbloom and a vicious tiger gold lotus had also grown, a surprise the nine-colored fog had brought him.

Done with storing the devil flame seed, Xiang Shaoyun heaved a long breath of relief. His mood instantly improved.

After refining this devil flame seed, Yun Flame will definitely grow to a brand new level. At that time, even Emperors will fear my flame, thought Xiang Shaoyun gleefully.

He was about to return to the group, but after some thought, he changed his mind. Instead, he headed toward the devil flame seed's place of birth. Usually, where a unique flame like this was birthed, there would also be some other unique objects. A good example would be the blaze flower he had obtained back then.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to see if there was anything he could find at the devil flame seed's place. Shortly after, he arrived. The devil flame seed was no longer present, but devil flame still raged on, and the temperature was still very high. It was not a place an ordinary person could survive at.

Usually, there would be a lot of devil flame rats here absorbing the devil flame seed's power. But the devil flame rats had recently been driven away by the devil flame seed. They wouldn't return anytime soon. That gave Xiang Shaoyun a chance to explore the place.

He was able to see clearly here with his Nether Soul Domain. Nothing was able to hide from him. Soon, he found chunks of burning rocks with similar properties to the devil flame. He took one of them and started studying it. He could sense a large amount of devil flame essence within the rock. In fact, ordinary cultivators could rely on just one of these rocks to cultivate a tiny bit of devil flame.

Although the flame they cultivated would be incomparable to Xiang Shaoyun's flame since he had the devil flame seed, it would still be very helpful for them. These rocks could be considered as a sort of emperor material. For a craftsman, these were valuable materials.

Since these rocks had been formed here at the devil flame seed's place, they could be called devil flame rocks. After scanning the area, Xiang Shaoyun found that there were a lot of devil flame rocks. He quickly stowed them all in his astral cosmos sea. Next, he double checked to confirm that there were no other unique objects before returning to Yu Caidie's group.

Everyone had a different expression when they saw Xiang Shaoyun return. There was envy, admiration, disregard, and so on. They already knew Xiang Shaoyun had a unique flame on him. He had definitely benefited greatly from refining a second flame.

But they were all stunned when Xiang Shaoyun approached them. They could sense that his aura was still completely the same. In short, he was still an early fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator and had not improved one bit.

They were only stunned for a split second. They immediately concluded that Xiang Shaoyun had failed in subduing the second flame. Otherwise, his strength wouldn't have remained the same.

One ought to know that each unique flame was extremely extraordinary. Even a King would benefit greatly from refining one. Xiang Shaoyun did not seem to have grown, and that could only mean one thing.

"Sorry for keeping you waiting, everyone," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Yu Caidie shook her head and said, "Let's go. We need to keep going. No matter what we encounter next, we won't stop anymore. If you insist, consider yourself disqualified."

This was a trip to achieve her own goal. She had no intention to let their personal affairs affect her goal. Otherwise, she was better off coming alone.

Ling Lin answered awkwardly, "There won't be a next time."

After all, he was the main reason they had delayed their journey. He had to say something. They thus resumed their journey toward the devil wind beast territory.

Chapter 453: Devil Eye Beast

A majority of the devils in the second layer of the Devil Domain were Devil Kings. Xiang Shaoyun and the group traveled cautiously, wary of encountering another group filled with Devil Kings like the devil flame rats.

After all, there were only a limited number of them, and they wouldn't be able to handle a large number of Devil Kings. If they continued exhausting themselves in such battles, it would be very hard for them to reach the devil wind beast territory.

The devil wind beasts were considered the imperial clan of the second layer. Thus, there would probably be one or two Devil Emperors among them. With their strength, the devil wind beasts resided deep in the second layer.

According to the map, they needed to spend at least two months traveling to reach their destination. And taking the obstacles they might encounter along the way into consideration, they would be lucky to be able to reach their destination in three months.

So far, they had been travelling for about half a month. They had basically traveled non stop on their mounts, working together to eliminate all Devil Kings that had gotten into their way without wasting much time.

They had also encountered a powerful clan of devils, and they had only broken through after an intense battle. None of them were killed in that battle, but two of them had been injured. After all, those devilish beasts were extremely scary when they turned mad. Furthermore, they had the numerical advantage over the group of humans.

Even though these humans were all geniuses, it was practically impossible for them to survive a battle with such a powerful clan of devils unharmed. The deeper they traveled, the stronger the devils they encountered.

At present, a large number of Devil King devil eye beasts had appeared before them. The strongest of these devil eye beasts was only a ninth-stage Devil King, but their innate attack abilities were extremely powerful.

It wouldn't be easy for them to charge through like before because these devil eye beasts specialized in eye attacks. Each of them had six eyes, and the bewitching power emitted from their eyes could daze the genius humans and cause one to hallucinate and lose one's mind, making one an easy picking.

"Everyone, don't meet their eyes. Charge through as quickly as possible," Yu Caidie shouted.

Despite her warning, two of them had still failed to react in time. They became completely dazed and stopped moving.

"Roar! Roar!"

The devil eye beasts grabbed the chance and roared as a few of them charged toward the two humans. The other humans were too busy saving themselves and couldn't spare any effort to help the two. And just like that, the two unlucky humans turned into beast fodder.

When the others saw what happened, their mood worsened. They did not want to become food for these devil eye beasts. Thus, they started unleashing their powerful attacks, trying to break free from the encirclement.

However, the eye attacks of the devil eye beasts were everywhere, making it hard for the group of humans to even see, as they had to keep avoiding eye contact. Because of that, their attack prowess were greatly restricted.

Right this moment, Yu Caidie opened her Brightfeather Umbrella, and it released a bright multicolored radiance. The radiance was as dazzling as the sun, making it hard for one to keep one's eyes open. The devil eye beasts were also forced to shut their eyes, and with that, they could no longer utilize their unique eye attacks.

"Go!" Yu Caidie shouted.

Everyone recovered their clarity of mind and quickly flew away without any delay. After leaving the territory of the devil eye beasts, they wanted to take a short break, but unfortunately, they had entered the territory of a different group of devils.

Once again, they fought their way out of this territory. If it wasn't for the fact that each of them was at least a King of Kings, they wouldn't have been able to fight continuously for such a long time. In fact, they might have already died by now.

These devils that lived together in groups were extremely troublesome to deal with. Fortunately, each of them was tough and unyielding. An ordinary King would have given up by now, not willing to die just for a woman.

As for these geniuses, they had an entirely different mindset. Each of them was a powerful combatant in his own right, and nobody wanted to fall behind the others. Thus, they viewed this trip as a good opportunity to temper themselves and increase their combat prowess. In fact, this might even be a chance for them to break through into the Dragon Ascension Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun had been silently observing everyone. He concluded that Yu Caidie was the strongest in the group and that her strength was also the hardest for him to see through. Second to her in strength was Tang Longfei. There was also a swordsman called Jian Chen, who was also as outstanding as Tang Longfei.

The former had reached the very peak of King Realm, and his draconic aura was about 80 percent formed. The day his draconic aura reached completion would also be the day he entered the Emperor Realm. He was also extremely knowledgeable in terms of killing devilish beasts, as if he knew everything here very well.

As for the latter, he was an expert in the way of the sword. Each time he drew his sword, his sword was dyed with blood. Both Xiang Shaoyun and Huo Xudong suspected that he was the disciple of Li Juetian, the head of the Seven Villains. The strongest after them were the likes of Long Yunfei, Di Tong, Jin Shui, and Ruo Suifeng.

Xiang Shaoyun knew very well that apart from being able to deal with the weakest of that group of individuals, the most he could do when facing the others was to preserve his life. It was almost impossible for him to actually kill any of them. To be a threat to them, he would have to be at least a fifth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator.

Time passed, and as the group continued killing devilish beasts day in and day out, everyone now had a thick murderous intent about them. This was a result of all the slaughter they had gone through.

Amid the unending battles, Xiang Shaoyun had also gotten himself injured a few times, but he was always able to quickly recover. Everyone found it inconceivable. They no longer dared to look down on him as he was able to kill the devils as fast as they could.

The reason his offense was so effective was naturally all thanks to his gift of instincts. After all, he could clearly sense the devils' energy flow and easily kill them through their openings before they could even attack.

Through the continuous slaughter, Xiang Shaoyun's grasp on move prediction had also improved considerably. During this period, his cultivation level had also grown from early fourth-stage to mid fourth-stage. Apart from his freakish physique, him being able to absorb the devilish energy in the air had also contributed greatly to his rapid growth. Nobody else knew about that.

"Alright, we will be able to reach the devil wind beast territory in a few days. Everyone, hang in there," said Yu Caidie. As they neared their destination, her eyes were starting to fill with excitement.

Today, she was leading the way as usual, with everyone following behind her.

Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun cried out, "Caidie, we can't go that way. We need to take a detour."

Everyone looked at him in confusion. Yu Caidie asked, "Why?"

From the map, they were taking the correct route. Moreover, there wouldn't be powerful devils in their way.

"Listen to me, we need to leave now. Otherwise, it will be too late," Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly. With his Nether Soul Domain, he had much sharper senses than the others. He had sensed some devils beyond the Devil King realm not far ahead of them.

Chapter 454: Devil Ant Scorpion Emperor

Generally speaking, the majority of the devils in the second layer were Devil Kings. But that did not mean Devil Emperors did not exist here. In fact, there were some Devil Emperors in the second layer as well, but these were the Devil Emperors with low cultivation stages. Even so, they were more than enough to give this group of humans trouble. Every single devil was an extremely powerful combatant.

That was why everyone in Yu Caidie's group had sustained injuries during their journey. They had even suffered four casualties. Now that Xiang Shaoyun was claiming that he had sensed not one Devil Emperor, but more, the others started getting nervous.

"Stop trying to scare everyone with your bluffs. According to the map, there are obviously no Devil Emperors if we take this route. There is no mistaking that," said Di Tong.

Su Jun chimed in, "That's right. Holy Maiden, let's continue our journey. It will take us two more weeks to reach our destination if we take a detour."

A few others also voiced their opinions, and none of them believed Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered to argue with them. He went beside Yu Caidie and said, "Come with me!"

After saying that, he reached out to grab her hand, but she avoided his grasp.

"What is the meaning of that? Are you forgetting that all of us are here as well?" Long Yunfei was infuriated.

After spending some time with Yu Caidie, Long Yunfei had become even more smitten with her. His desire to become the Yu Clan's son-in-law was even stronger than before. Thus, seeing Xiang Shaoyun trying to grab Yu Caidie's hand right in front of him naturally filled him with anger.

"We will continue on the same route," said Yu Caidie. Not wanting to see a conflict breaking out within the group, she resumed the journey before Xiang Shaoyun had the chance to say anything else.

Xiang Shaoyun was left with no choice but to go along with them. If this was any other person, he would have left without hesitation. But since Yu Caidie was in the group, he really couldn't bring

himself to leave. He would take the risk, and if needed, he wouldn't mind releasing the ghostrune emperors.

Two additional ghostrune emperors had appeared in his Nether Soul Domain. The ghostrunes had also told him how much they longed for the devilish energy outside, but he had yet to allow them to leave his Nether Soul Domain thus far. By now, it was clear the ghostrunes were also devils.

Xiang Shaoyun continued traveling with the group, but both he and Money were actually maintaining a certain distance behind the others. Huo Xudong had gotten rather close with Xiang Shaoyun recently. He knew Xiang Shaoyun was not one to joke around so he stayed by Xiang Shaoyun's side. After some hesitation, Can Wunian also distanced himself from the main group.

Since Xiang Shaoyun could battle ninth-stage opponents as a fourth-stage King, it could only prove that there was something extraordinary about him. And there had to be a reason for him to issue them such a solemn warning earlier.

Sure enough, the group hadn't even traveled far before five figures appeared before them. The five figures had been hiding in a bush and basically looked like they were a part of the bush. Not even Xiang Shaoyun would have noticed them if he did not have his Nether Soul Domain.

The five devils weren't large in build. They each had a square head with eight feelers, the body of an ant, and the tail of a scorpion. These were the devil ant scorpions, and from the number of feelers they had, all of them were Devil Emperors.

"Shit! There are really Devil Emperors here!" The faces of Yu Caidie and the others sank. They had never expected that Xiang Shaoyun would actually be right. Devil Emperors had appeared, and there were more than one. Everyone in the group felt a chill creep up their spines upon noticing the Devil Emperors.

The five devil ant scorpions surrounded the group from five different directions. One of them who was a second-stage Devil Emperor said with a high-pitched voice, "I can smell a thick stench of my race's blood on you people. You must have killed a lot of devils. We will eat all of you to take revenge for the fallen ones."

Immediately after, the other four devil ant scorpions attacked.

"Try to charge through. Don't get into a prolonged battle with them," Yu Caidie commanded.

Although these geniuses were strong enough to face Emperors, there were five Devil Emperors here with the leader being a second-stage Devil Emperor. They might be able to put up a fight against these devils but at the cost of heavy injury or even death. That was not something Yu Caidie wished to see. If they really had to get into a bitter fight, she would rather that happen only after they arrived at the devil wind beast territory.

However, not everyone shared her sentiment. Along the way, the group had fought several hard battles, but they had all been group battles. And when they saw these Devil Emperors, some of them became excited. Long Yunfei, Di Tong, and a few others had been longing to show off their strength before Yu Caidie so that she would have a better impression of them.

"Don't worry, Holy Maiden. I, Long Yunfei, am not afraid of a mere first-stage Devil Emperor. I shall slay one of them for you!" said Long Yunfei before he charged one of the devil ant scorpions.

Di Tong also shouted, "I will also slay one and present it as a gift to you, Holy Maiden!"

With the two engaging the devil ant scorpions in battle, the others stopped trying to charge through. Rather, they dashed toward the other devil ant scorpions to meet them in battle as well. These geniuses were generally capable of becoming stronger when facing stronger opponents. After all, they had numerous trump cards that they wouldn't easily show unless required.

Now that they were facing actual powerful opponents, they could finally use their trump cards. But the devil ant scorpions weren't easy opponents. They weren't the most powerful in terms of offense, but their poison was insanely toxic. A single bite would be enough to kill any one of them.

Yu Caidie had not expected that these geniuses would disobey her during such a crucial moment like that. Helpless, she was forced to join the battle as well. She directly engaged the second-stage devil ant scorpion emperor in battle. One could see that not only was she strong, she was brave as well.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored all the battles, but he couldn't do the same for Yu Caidie's battle. For some reason, the longer he stayed with Yu Caidie, the more he felt that she should be his. It was an intense sensation he had never had toward any other women.

Random scenes kept emerging in his brain, as if they had known each other long ago. But he was very sure he had never met her. Ultimately, he concluded that this was most likely the workings of fate and that they were destined to be together.

Currently, Yu Caidie and her mount were unleashing fierce attacks toward the devil ant scorpion emperor. Her weapon was not the Brightfeather Umbrella. Rather, it was a halberd. Her offensive power with it was exceptional, and she created a large and destructive storm around her as she attacked.

However, the devil ant scorpion emperor was no pushover. It screeched repeatedly as it waved its legs and tail around, collapsing Yu Caidie's attacks as it sprayed out poisonous clouds. Even so, Yu Caidie revealed a strength worthy of her status as a candidate to be the Yu Clan's Holy Maiden. She had actually managed to keep the devil ant scorpion emperor suppressed.

Her exquisite attacks even caused Xiang Shaoyun to praise her endlessly, "She's actually this strong."

Just as Yu Caidie was about to obtain victory over her opponent, a figure suddenly appeared behind her.

"Caidie! Watch out!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun as he quickly charged over, his hairs standing erect in alarm.

Chapter 455: River of Corpses

Xiang Shaoyun had long known that there were several Devil Emperors here. The moment the battle started, he had been paying close attention to Yu Caidie. However, he had failed to notice that there was another devil ant scorpion emperor hiding in the bush. This devil ant scorpion was much stronger than the five that had appeared.

Its sudden attack had come by complete surprise. Since Xiang Shaoyun had been focusing on Yu Caidie, he was able to immediately notice the sneak attack. With his shout, Yu Caidie reacted. Unfortunately, she was too slow and was struck by the devil ant scorpion emperor's tail.

Sphhlt!

She spat a mouth of blood and crashed heavily into the bush. Xiang Shaoyun had started moving at the same time when he shouted, but he was still not fast enough. He could only watch on as Yu Caidie was struck.

"Ahh! Bastard!" Xiang Shaoyun's heart ached at the sight of Yu Caidie being hurt. He was instantly infuriated, his fury coming from the depths of his heart. Without a doubt, it was the truest of his current emotions.

In his fury, his speed further increased. He fully unleashed the power of his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, and coupled with his footwork intent, he was moving at a speed comparable to a regular Emperor's.

The Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand. His stars erupted with power, and he drew all his innate purple lightning out of his body. Instantly, a remarkable power converged on his saber as he swung it at the devil ant scorpion emperor.

Rumble! Rumble!

As Xiang Shaoyun attacked, he activated his presence of dragon and tiger. The sky darkened, and 36 silver lightning bolts appeared and rained down on the world below. There were so many because even Money was attacking with him. He knew very well Xiang Shaoyun needed his help.

Of the 36 lightning bolts, half were summoned by Xiang Shaoyun and the other half were summoned by Money. The rain of 36 silver lightning bolts was a spectacular sight to behold. When more than one lightning bolt attacked, the resulting destructiveness was not as simple as one plus one, especially when it came to these unique lightning bolts. Rather, the power of the lightning bolts would be multiplicative, becoming extremely terrifying.

Even the others who were battling not far away were given a fright. An attack like this had already exceeded the power of a King and had reached what an Emperor was capable of. The devil ant scorpion emperor did not try to dodge. Layers of devilish energy covered its body as it took on the 36 bolts of silver lightning.

With a cultivation level of third-stage Devil Emperor Realm, the devil ant scorpion was confident it could block this attack. And it had indeed succeeded in blocking a majority of the lightning bolts. Some had still managed to break through its defense, but they failed to fatally wound it.

After all, the cultivation levels of Xiang Shaoyun and Money were far too low in comparison to this devil ant scorpion. They might be able to seriously harm a regular Emperor with this combination attack, but they were dealing with a third-stage Devil Emperor with an extremely terrifying defense. How could they harm such a foe easily?

Just as the explosions from the lighting bolts were about to settle, Xiang Shaoyun pressed on. He started drawing power from the nine-colored fog in his astral cosmos sea.

Third stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, River of Corpses.

Instantly, a thick murderous intent surged out of Xiang Shaoyun. He utilized the murderous intent he had accumulated during his trip in the Devil Domain and unleashed the third stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique for the very first time, completely emptying himself of energy.

The latter stances of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique all required the support of a formidable strength before one could use them. With Xiang Shaoyun's current strength, the first and second stances should be his limit. He had to wait until he was stronger to use the latter stances. But for the sake of Yu Caidie, he was recklessly pushing himself to use the third stance. From this, one could see that his feelings for her were genuine.

The moment he used this attack, his surroundings turned gloomy and sinister, as if a battlefield filled with corpses had appeared around him, giving everyone an uncomfortable sensation. The nine-colored fog and innate purple lightning worked together to eliminate all life, leaving a trail of crimson river wherever the saber passed.

The might of this attack had even surpassed the might of the earlier combination attack. This was the absolute limit of what he could accomplish for now. Fear appeared in the eyes of the devil ant scorpion. It quickly erupted with all its strength as it spat a clump of poison out of its mouth. The clump of poison took the form of a sickle shooting forward, and it clashed with Xiang Shaoyun's attack.

A rumbling explosion erupted as the two attacks collided. The explosion was so massive everyone in the area was shocked, including the Devil Emperors. They could all feel that this was a strength beyond what they could endure.

Feeling threatened, the two parties separated and distanced themselves from the battlefield before looking at the explosion from far away. Before their eyes, the explosion slowly settled, revealing a man with a saber in hand, cutting a devil ant scorpion emperor into two.

This scene was deeply etched into everyone's minds. Earlier when the devil ant scorpion emperor had snuck an attack on Yu Caidie, the others had thought of fleeing upon sensing the ambusher's strength.

But now, someone had actually slaughtered the same devil ant scorpion emperor that had scared them enough to consider fleeing. And when they finally got a clear look at who the slayer was, they were completely stunned. It was Xiang Shaoyun, a fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator.

"How is this possible?" Di Tong and Su Jun cried out in alarm.

They had already been overestimating Xiang Shaoyun's strength before this, but it turned out their so-called overestimation was in fact still an underestimation. Everyone there thought the same.

Tang Longfei praised, "What a fine Super War Emperor."

The term of note here was "Super War Emperor", not something as simple as a Super King. Generally speaking, the title War Emperor was given to peak Kings capable of battling Emperors. The geniuses here who had formed their draconic aura were all qualified to be called War Emperors.

But a Super War Emperor signified that this person was a King that was already stronger than regular Emperors. In fact, Yu Caidie, who was capable of battling a second-stage Devil Emperor with her strength of peak King Realm, was qualified to be considered a Super War Emperor.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was only a fourth-stage King, yet he was already capable of killing a third-stage Devil Emperor. Not even the title Super War Emperor was enough for someone like him. He had punched way too high above his weight, surpassing several stages, creating a miracle that made him comparable to those ancient geniuses in the legends.

While everyone was blanking out, the remaining devil ant scorpion emperors suddenly cried out before charging madly at Xiang Shaoyun. Their leader had been killed. How could they not take their revenge?

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was falling powerlessly from the sky.

Chapter 456: Tang Longfei's Help

Money quickly flew over to catch the falling Xiang Shaoyun. At the same time, the second-stage devil ant scorpion emperor charged over and roared, "For killing our leader, you will pay with your life!"

The devil ant scorpion emperor's tail started extending and shot toward Money and Xiang Shaoyun. Like a whip, the tail instantly crossed a distance of several hundred meters, its stinger piercing through the air with a might great enough to crush mountains.

Money was fast, but still not fast enough in comparison to a second-stage devil ant scorpion emperor. He had no way of escaping the stinger no matter how hard he tried. Suddenly, a figure charged over with an even faster speed. A bright radiance flashed past while a phoenix cry rang out in the air. A phoenix formed of flame crashed into the stinger.

Bang!

The flaming phoenix severed the scorpion tail, causing the devil ant scorpion to wail in pain as it quickly retreated.

"Die!"

The attacker was Yu Caidie. Instead of using the power of wind, she was attacking with the power of flame. A raging flame spread out of her halberd, radiating a unique power as it burned everything in its way.

In the blink of an eye, a sea of flame was formed, burning all the devilish energy in a radius of one kilometer into nothingness. This attack wasn't any weaker than the attack Xiang Shaoyun had unleashed with his nine-colored fog.

The second-stage devil ant scorpion emperor had no way of escaping. It was lit on fire and was soon burned into ash. Fear overtook the other devil ant scorpions. Poisonous beasts like them feared powers of extreme yang such as the power of flame the most. This was even more so for unique flames, one which Yu Caidie was using. In fact, her flame was much scarier than even the devil flame seed.

"Why are you still standing there? Slaughter them!" Yu Caidie commanded the young geniuses, her voice dignified and imposing, waking the geniuses from their shock.

"Kill!" They attacked the devil ant scorpions. They no longer held anything back. The combat strength displayed by Xiang Shaoyun and Yu Caidie had thoroughly shocked them.

They did not want to fall too far off behind Xiang Shaoyun in the race for Yu Caidie's heart, and the surviving devil ant scorpions were used to vent their anger. At this moment, someone suddenly charged in Xiang Shaoyun's direction with his mount.

"Su Jun, what are you doing?" Tang Longfei cried out.

Su Jun ignored the cry. Seated on his leopard king mount, he dashed toward Money at his top speed. Before he had even arrived, he swung his weapon, sending an attack toward the weakened Xiang Shaoyun.

Nobody had expected Su Jun to suddenly attack Xiang Shaoyun like this. Tang Longfei had been paying close attention to Xiang Shaoyun all along, and he quickly rushed over to stop Su Jun. However, since he was in the midst of battling a devil ant scorpion emperor when he noticed the attack, it was not possible for him to reach Su Jun in time.

"Let me kill you while you're down!" Su Jun roared as he erupted with all his strength. A gold radiance rippled out of him as a sharp aura wreaked havoc all around him.

Fortunately, Money was fast enough. He might not be as fast as Emperors, but dodging an attack of a ninth-stage King like Su Jun was still possible. By the time he dodged the attack, Tang Longfei was already standing before Su Jun with his mount.

"Since you want to kill him, I'll kill you first," said Tang Longfei with a thick murderous intent.

Nobody could understand why Tang Longfei, who did not seem to have any relationship with Xiang Shaoyun, was helping him. This was especially true for Su Jun. However, it was too late to change his mind.

He shouted at Di Tong, "Di Tong, what are you still waiting for?"

Di Tong blanked out slightly before saying coldly, "This has nothing to do with me."

He was the one who had instigated Su Jun to kill Xiang Shaoyun, but he would not admit it. After all, that would only disqualify him from remaining in Yu Caidie's group. One ought to admit that Di Tong was truly a treacherous person.

Su Jun's face was extremely unsightly. He had never expected that Di Tong would abandon him at a crucial moment like this. He finally realized that he had fallen for Di Tong's scheme.

"Very well. I won't forget this," said Su Jun gloomily. Since he did not dare to fight Tang Longfei, he instead fled with his Demon King mount.

Tang Longfei, not planning to spare him, quickly gave chase and attacked. Su Jun defended himself and escaped. He had managed to block a few of the incoming attacks but was still injured to the point he was coughing up blood. However, he had ultimately managed to escape.

The only reason he had managed to escape was only because Tang Longfei gave up on chasing when he got too far. Instead, he quickly returned and stood guard beside Xiang Shaoyun.

After all, Xiang Shaoyun was in a terrible shape, and Tang Longfei wasn't sure if Di Tong would try something. As for why he was guarding Xiang Shaoyun, he was the only one who knew why. Nobody else knew.

By this time, the other geniuses had killed all the devil ant scorpion emperors, but in the process, the devil ant scorpions' poison had killed two of the geniuses. Now, there were only 14 of them left in the group.

Yu Caidie arrived beside Money and asked, "How is he?"

Money landed on the ground and looked at Yu Caidie cautiously before answering, "My boss is fine. He will recover soon."

"Put him down. I'll feed him some spirit spring water," said Yu Caidie.

Money started hesitating as he wondered if he should listen. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun spoke with great difficulty, "P-put me down."

He looked extremely terrible. His entire body had been emptied of energy, and his meridians were on the verge of destruction. In fact, he was already doing very well staying awake in his condition.

After all, he had forcefully used the third stance of his Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique. He had also pushed himself to his limit two times in a row, completely drawing all the energy out of his body.

But the result was something he could be proud of as he had successfully slain a third-stage devil ant scorpion emperor. He had known that the nine-colored fog was powerful. It was capable of granting life, but it was also capable of destruction.

However, he had never expected that using the nine-colored fog he had taken some time to accumulate would actually be able to kill the devil ant scorpion emperor with one hit. That most definitely qualified as an ultimate trump card. It was much scarier than the Havoc Dance he had created himself.

Money placed Xiang Shaoyun on the ground, and Yu Caidie walked over. A bottle of healing millennium spring water appeared in her hand as she handed it over. "Drink it up. It will be useful for your recovery."

"I-I c-can't even lift my hand right now," said Xiang Shaoyun weakly. Yu Caidie frowned. After hesitating for a bit, she walked to his side, helped him up, and personally fed it to him.

The sight filled all the geniuses with envy.

Chapter 457: Side Effect

Yu Caidie still had her veil on, and only the outline of her face could be seen. However, just her eyes that looked like a pair of luminous moons were enough to bewitch anyone. An enchanting fragrance was about her, and her temperament made her seem like a fairy, one with remarkable beauty and allure. Her beauty alone could humble any genius.

Such a woman was personally feeding Xiang Shaoyun spirit spring water with one arm around him. The sight was enough to drive anyone mad with envy. Even Xiang Shaoyun himself was completely bewitched.

How I wish I can lie in her embrace forever, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

"Open your mouth," Yu Caidie's warm and gentle voice rang out.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun's pale face, Yu Caidie felt like something was gripping at her heart. She had no idea why she was feeling this way, but she did not let any of her emotions show.

Xiang Shaoyun did not open his mouth. Rather, he leaned into her embrace and enjoyed her gentleness. But his enjoyment did not last long as his mouth was soon forced open. A drop of millennium spirit spring water then entered his throat.

"Rest. We will depart when you are well again," Yu Caidie's voice rang out. He then noticed that she was no longer by his side.

Ahhh, I still haven't enjoyed myself enough, grumbled Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He might look weak right now, but in truth, he had already refined two drops of lightning liquid. He had actually recovered considerably, and he was merely pretending to be weak.

In the past, a single drop of lightning liquid would be enough to heal him. But now, two drops of lightning liquid had only helped him recover by about 30 or 40 percent. Even when coupled with Yu Caidie's millenium spirit spring, he had only recovered by about 50 percent. It was evident his exhaustion had been very harsh this time.

He was forced to sit cross-legged and to use a large amount of spirit crystals to recover more of his combat prowess. After all, in his current state, things could get very dangerous. He would never rely on others for his own safety.

While Xiang Shaoyun was recovering, the others were doing the same. Two of them had been killed in the battle, while the others had sustained injuries of differing degrees. Even so, just the fact that not all of them had been slaughtered by the Devil Emperors proved how extraordinary they were.

Suddenly, Tang Longfei sent Di Tong a voice transmission, "Di Tong, I know you want to kill Xiang Shaoyun. Remember this. Before you kill him, you have to get through me."

Di Tong looked at Tang Longfei nearby and replied, "Tang Longfei, since when have the people from city hall become such busybodies?"

"That is not something you need to know about. Don't think we are clueless about what your Di Clan did at the Ziling Sect. You will regret what you did one day," replied Tang Longfei with a displeased tone. He then sank into silence.

Di Tong thought to himself in agitation, I will definitely kill Xiang Shaoyun. Not even you can stop me, Tang Longfei!!

But when he thought of how Xiang Shaoyun had been able to kill a third-stage Devil Emperor with one hit, he felt a chill creep up his spine. He had initially planned to throw caution to the wind and kill Xiang Shaoyun with everything he had while Xiang Shaoyun was injured.

That eventually led to him instigating Su Jun to kill Xiang Shaoyun. He was supposed to stay behind as a backup and would only act if Xiang Shaoyun managed to escape. But he had not expected that Tang Longfei would stop Su Jun, causing him to lose the chance to kill Xiang Shaoyun. On top of that, he had made Su Jun his enemy as well. His plan had failed terribly and had backfired on himself. If he attacked now, he had zero chances of succeeding. He could only focus on snatching the position of Yu Clan's son-in-law before trying anything else.

A day passed quickly, and everyone had mostly recovered. Xiang Shaoyun was the only one still meditating. Everyone wanted to urge him to stop and start moving, but since Yu Caidie wasn't saying anything, it wasn't proper for them to say anything either.

After all, the strength Xiang Shaoyun had displayed was too stunning. Moreover, he had been injured for the sake of Yu Caidie. No matter what, it was only proper for them to wait for him to recover.

Shortly after, Xiang Shaoyun woke up as well. His face was still pale, and his aura still seemed unstable. Evidently, he was suffering the side effect of forcefully utilizing a powerful technique.

The Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique is really too scary. I won't force myself to use it ever again unless necessary, thought Xiang Shaoyun, still feeling some lingering fear.

He initially thought that he had merely been too exhausted and would recover after some energy replenishment. But after sitting in meditation for an entire day, he found that both his lightning bone and stars still felt like they were empty. His meridians and acupoints were also aching, and his energy circulation was extremely slow.

That was when he realized that forcefully utilizing a battle technique that his body couldn't support was something he had to pay a price for. The side effect he was suffering wasn't something some spirit spring water and spirit medicines could cure. Rather, he needed time to slowly recover.

In other words, he had harmed his very foundation. A cultivator's foundation was extremely important for them, as that was something that could affect their future in cultivation. One could say that the more stable one's foundation was, the more beneficial it would be for one's growth. Someone with a weak foundation would find breaking through extremely hard.

Over the past three years, Xiang Shaoyun had been growing rapidly because of his outstanding talent, hard work, and talent. And the foundation he had gotten from soaking in medicinal water since young had also played a great role.

He had always had a firm foundation, but this time, he had harmed it. If he couldn't repair the damage, his cultivation speed would be affected. And time was extremely important for any cultivator. Just a tiny reduction of speed would greatly affect a cultivator's future.

Xiang Shaoyun understood all that and was left with no choice but to face it with a bitter smile on his face. After all, he had harmed his foundation for the sake of saving Yu Caidie, and he did not regret his choice.

"Brother Xiang, you look really bad. Did you use a forbidden technique or something?" Huo Xudong came over and asked. Everyone also looked over when they heard the question.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "I guess you can put it that way. I might remain somewhat weak temporarily. I'm afraid I will have to trouble you for a bit, Brother Huo."

With his current condition, he could only unleash the combat prowess of a regular fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. He could only continue punching above his weight after taking some time to heal.

Huo Xudong answered, "Don't worry. With me here, nobody can harm you."

Tang Longfei also came over. "Are you fine?"

Xiang Shaoyun gazed at Tang Longfei with a complicated look in his eyes. "I'm fine. Brother Tang, have we met somewhere before?"

"It's good that you are fine. We can talk about that after we leave the Devil Domain," said Tang Longfei.

"Alright. Let's head off," said Yu Caidie.

Once again, the group started heading toward the devil wind beast territory. Everyone was in a good mood. Initially, Xiang Shaoyun was giving them great pressure. But when they saw his weakened state, they could see that he no longer posed them any threat. They all concluded that in his current condition, he could no longer fight with them for the position of Yu Clan's son-in-law.

Chapter 458: This Is A Devil Wind Beast

Seven days later, the group finally arrived near the devil wind beast territory. This was a place where the wind raged and whistled past the trees and grasses dancing in its wake. Random pebbles were flying about, painting a scene of total chaos.

The wind here was powerful enough that if an ordinary person stood here, that person would be immediately blown away. Only sufficiently powerful cultivators would be able to stay here. Yu Caidie, Xiang Shaoyun, and the others were all Kings. Thus, they were naturally able to maintain a stable footing even as they faced the fierce wind.

As they advanced, however, they felt the wind growing stronger, and their expressions turned solemn at that realization. If they had to fight in such an environment, they would be severely disadvantaged. Among them, Ruo Suifeng was the only person with a look of excitement on his face. As someone who cultivated the power of wind, he was like a fish back in water.

"Alright. Everyone, stop advancing. The devil wind beasts have a large territory, and we are already here. If we go any deeper, we can easily get ourselves surrounded and killed. What we need to do now is to split up and look for the yin devil wind. The one to first present the yin devil wind to me will be the winner of the competition. Gather at the outer fringe of the devil wind beast territory after one month regardless of whether you have gotten the yin devil wind. Those failing to show up then will be considered to have failed the mission," said Yu Caidie.

"Sure. We should have separated long ago," Ruo Suifeng was the first to agree. Inwardly, he thought, The yin devil wind will definitely be mine. After getting my hand on it, I will be able to quickly become an Emperor.

Everyone else was here to get the yin devil wind for Yu Caidie, but nobody knew Ruo Suifeng was here to get it for himself. The other geniuses agreed. They scattered and started their search for the yin devil wind.

Tang Longfei extended Xiang Shaoyun an invitation, "Xiang Shaoyun, let's travel together."

After seven days of rest, Xiang Shaoyun still looked to be in bad shape. Tang Longfei was obviously looking out for him by extending this invitation. However, Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "Thank you for the offer, Brother Tang, but I won't be going in there for now. Good luck and try your best."

Whatever the reason Tang Longfei had to help him, he still felt grateful. He couldn't allow himself to be a baggage at a time like this. Tang Longfei could see that Xiang Shaoyun had made up his mind, and he did not insist. He flew away alone.

Yu Caidie looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Take care."

She then flew away with her phoenix mount. Soon, only Huo Xudong was left by Xiang Shaoyun's side.

He asked, "Brother Xiang, you really don't need my help?"

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "No. I wish you luck in your search, Brother Huo."

During this trip, Huo Xudong was the one who had been the closest to him, and Xiang Shaoyun already considered him his friend.

Huo Xudong patted his shoulder and said, "Ok. I'll be going ahead, then. Be careful alone."

And with Huo Xudong leaving, Xiang Shaoyun was left alone.

Should I start moving, or should I start repairing my foundation? Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought.

He was confident the yin devil wind wouldn't be found anytime soon. He still had some time to recover. However, he was also worried that he would only end up failing to repair his foundation and had instead wasted the valuable time he could have used to search for the yin devil wind.

He was currently very distressed. In his current condition, he had no idea how long it would take to fully recover. But if he forced himself to enter the devil wind beast territory, he wouldn't be a match to the devil wind beasts and the trip might be tantamount to suicide.

While he was hesitating, a figure flashed past not far ahead of him. The figure moved at a rapid speed, as if it had become one with wind, barely noticeable to the naked eye. Money reacted quickly and with a cry, he shot toward the figure like a lightning bolt.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A piercing sound of wind rang out, and when Xiang Shaoyun focused, he found that this was not the sound of wind. Rather, this was the cry of a certain devilish beast. His pupils shrank as he focused his eyes on the figure. He cried out in alarm, "This is a devil wind beast!"

The devil wind beasts were a type of devilish beast that survived through consuming the power of wind. Each of them had a large head and an enormous mouth that seemed capable of swallowing everything and unleashing massive wind attacks. Its body was akin to that of a worm, its skin glossy and sleek. And a tiny pair of fleshy wings was on its back, similarly capable of unleashing powerful wind attacks.

This particular devil wind beast did not seem too strong, as it was currently being ripped apart by Money. Even so, Xiang Shaoyun could clearly sense how terrifyingly fast this devil wind beast was. If it wasn't for the fact that Money himself was also extremely fast, catching this devil wind beast would be extremely hard.

Before long, Money tossed the corpse of the devil wind beast in front of Xiang Shaoyun. Xiang Shaoyun retrieved the devil core from the devil wind beast. Holding the core in his hand, he could sense the power of wind within it.

"The so-called yin devil wind is actually an eye of a storm of sorts. With the yin devil wind, one's speed will be enhanced by several times. For a cultivator of wind, getting the yin devil wind is akin to getting a pair of wings. Caidie seems to cultivate the power of flame. Why is she looking for the yin devil wind then? Is she purely looking to enhance her speed? Or does she cultivate the power of wind as well?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered.

He was somewhat bewildered, but he couldn't be bothered to think too much about it. For now, he should focus on himself. Suddenly, he seemed to have sensed something as he shouted in a certain direction, "Who is hiding there? Show yourself!"

As he said that, he stabbed forth with his finger and sent a beam shooting toward the direction he was shouting at. He did not put much power behind the attack. He only wanted to get that person to show himself.

"Haha, even in such a shape, your senses are still so sharp. What a surprise," a crisp laugh rang out as one person and one mount appeared before Xiang Shaoyun.

The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun's nemesis, Su Jun. He was dressed in a brilliant gold outfit and was emitting an imposing aura, looking incredibly dazzling. Even his mount was currently radiating a golden radiance. It was obvious he had come prepared.

"Su Jun, you still have the guts to show your face?" Xiang Shaoyun said with a frown.

"If you are in your optimal condition, I will definitely avoid you. But look at how you are now. You are much weaker than your previous self. If I don't kill you, I won't be able to sleep well in the future. Just die already," said Su Jun. He drew his Golden Dragon Sword and sent a golden sword energy shooting toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could do anything, Money appeared in front of him to defend him, and he spat a bolt of silver lightning toward the sword attack.

Rumble!

The powerful sword attack slashed the silver lightning bolt into two before continuing on toward Money. With a roar, Money moved to the side with the speed of lightning and dodged the attack.

"Leopard, rip him apart," commanded Su Jun as he patted his mount's head.

Chapter 459: Imprison and Kill

The golden-eyed leopard was an eighth-stage Demon King. It had a higher cultivation level than Money and possessed a decent speed as well. With Su Jun's command, it pounced on Money.

Money showed no fear. He swayed his body lightly and opened his mouth wide before shooting forward like a bolt of lightning. The golden-eyed leopard was emitting a thick demonic aura, and coupled with the gold energy swirling around it, it was capable of insanely destructive attacks.

It clawed at Money and created numerous sparks on his scales. Although Money's scales did not fall off, he was nevertheless sent crashing into the ground. It was obvious Money was disadvantaged in terms of strength.

However, that did not mean that Money would lose. He was one who had spent a long time under the nourishment of silver lightning energy. His flesh was comparable to the durability of ninth-stage Demon Kings.

The continuous silver lighting bolts he spat out of his mouth also caused the golden-eyed leopard a lot of pain. While the two Demon Kings were fighting, Su Jun focused on attacking Xiang Shaoyun. These days, he had been tailing Xiang Shaoyun's group through a secret technique he knew. He had long noticed that Xiang Shaoyun was in a bad condition.

Thus, he vowed to take this chance to kill Xiang Shaoyun. Only then would he be able to sleep at night. Otherwise, Xiang Shaoyun would become a demon planted in his heart, one that would adversely affect his path of cultivation in the future. Su Jun was also known as the Golden Dragon Sword. His attacks reflected that as he sent numerous golden dragons flying forward to surround Xiang Shaoyun.

Roaming Dragon!

Each dragon was as powerful as the attack of a peak King. Among the geniuses in the group, Su Jun's strength was in the middle range. But with his cultivation level of ninth-stage King Realm, he was strong enough to suppress the current Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun knew very well he wouldn't be able to block Su Jun's attacks. He could only dodge using his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps. But the moment he used his footwork, a sharp pain assaulted his meridians and acupoints, causing him to slow down considerably. In the blink of an eye, several wounds appeared on his body and sprayed out blood.

"Haha, Xiang Shaoyun, today is the day you die!" Su Jun grew excited when he saw his attack hitting. He used even more strength and pushed on for the kill.

Damn it! Do I really need to release the ghostrune emperors? Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

Bearing with the pain, he continued moving around with his footwork. At the same time, he took out his Overlord Skyslaying Saber and looked for a chance to counterattack. Unfortunately, he could only release the combat prowess of a regular fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator and couldn't pose any threat to Su Jun.

"Stop your worthless struggle," said Su Jun with a sneer.

Soaring Dragon!

To prevent any mishaps from happening, Su Jun decided to use his strongest attack, aiming to finish off Xiang Shaoyun as quickly as possible. As he attacked, his sword seemed to have transformed into a mighty soaring and roaring dragon.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense how dangerous this attack was and no longer hesitated. He pushed his strength to his current limit and started using both his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and footwork intent to flee.

Fortunately, this was the territory of the devil wind beasts. The wind was constantly blowing around madly, and it let Xiang Shaoyun borrow the might of the wind as he moved, forcefully reducing the disadvantage his injuries brought him.

However, Su Jun's attack was too powerful. Even when Xiang Shaoyun was moving at his top speed, his back was still struck, and a bloody wound appeared. He crashed heavily onto the ground. Su Jun pressed on and slashed his sword at Xiang Shaoyun's head.

"Die!" shouted Su Jun in excitement.

He could already see Xiang Shaoyun's dismembered corpse in his head. Suddenly, an indescribable power surged out, covering a radius of one kilometer around them, seemingly carving this space from reality and turning it into an independent space.

Su Jun was stunned to find that he had lost sight of Xiang Shaoyun. And before he had even recovered from his shock, eight chains shot out toward him from the empty air. The eight chains moved like eight dragons, and they were so fast that they chained Su Jun before he could react.

"What is this? Piss off!" Su Jun roared and erupted with a sharp golden aura, trying to break the chains into pieces.

However, the eight chains seemed to be incomparably tough. Not only had he failed to break them, they had even tightened around him.

"Damn it! What is this?" Su Jun exclaimed in alarm. The space and these chains had suddenly appeared out of nowhere. He had no idea what just happened, but he was certain all of this had something to do with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun appeared out of thin air and said murderously, "Su Jun, you have been creating trouble for me again and again, constantly trying to kill me. Today, you won't be spared."

This was the Imperial Nether Prison Xiang Shaoyun had constructed with his Nether Soul Domain. This was the first time he used the technique, and the only reason he was even using it was because he was left with no choice.

The moment he used the Imperial Nether Prison, Xiang Shaoyun had a sensation that he had become one with the space around him, allowing him to control everything within its domain. As for the eight chains, they were constructed using his soul power.

Xiang Shaoyun's soul power had long reached a level equivalent to an Emperor's. As he reached fourth-stage Skysoar Realm, his soul power had grown even stronger, comparable to the soul power of third-stage or even fourth-stage Emperors. Because of that, these chains corresponded to Emperor-level strength and were able to completely tie Su Jun up.

When Su Jun saw Xiang Shaoyun, fear covered his face, and he said, "Let go of me! I am a member of the Dragon Society! If you kill me, things won't end well for you either!"

Dragon Society, a top power in the Soaring Dragon Province, an organization few would dare to offend. Su Jun hoped that this would be enough to scare Xiang Shaoyun off and allow him to live.

Unfortunately for him, his words only caused Xiang Shaoyun's killing intent to grow. Xiang Shaoyun said, "Before you die, let me tell you a secret. I am the young master of the Ziling Sect. Your Dragon Society had snatched quite a number of mines and territories from us in the past. This is a grudge I will settle sooner or later."

"T-this...h-how can this..." Su Jun paled.

Xiang Shaoyun did not bother to wait for him to finish his words. He controlled the eight chains and ripped Su Jun into eight chunks of flesh. Just like that, Su Jun the Golden Dragon Sword, a genius of the Dragon Society, was killed.

At the same time, Money had also obtained victory over Su Jun's mount. The golden-eyed leopard had been killed by a terrifying silver lightning bolt Money had released from his horn. After using that attack, Money's aura had dropped greatly. It was evident he had exhausted himself greatly during the battle.

"Money, come back here." Xiang Shaoyun sensed what had happened and summoned Money back. At the command, Money shrank and returned to Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea.

Meanwhile, someone concealing his aura was flying in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

Chapter 460: Yet Another Damnable Traitor

Xiang Shaoyun kept his released Nether Soul Domain active, maintaining the independent space around him. Those with strength weaker than his soul power would find it extremely hard to detect his actual location.

In any case, the strength of his physical body had been greatly weakened at the moment. On top of that, he had been further injured by Su Jun. Although he had healed somewhat using a drop of lightning liquid, he no longer dared to easily reveal himself in his current condition.

He suspected that Di Tong would also turn around to kill him. But when he saw clearly who the person sneaking around was, he blanked out.

It's him! Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

The newcomer was none other than Huo Xudong. He should have left like the others long ago. Why had he returned? Xiang Shaoyun believed that he had a decent relationship with Huo Xudong. However, he found it hard to believe Huo Xudong would return for no reason. It was also unlikely that Huo Xudong had returned to take care of him. After all, he could have just stayed behind instead.

Whatever the reason, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to reveal himself. Inwardly, he thought, I hope you don't disappoint me.

When Huo Xudong arrived at the area, he started looking everywhere. When he found the corpse of Su Jun's mount, shock covered his face as he cried out in alarm, "Brother Xiang, Brother Xiang, where are you? I am here to help you!"

Xiang Shaoyun was going to withdraw his Nether Soul Domain upon hearing that. However, after a slight hesitation, he still decided to remain patient and kept waiting. In his current condition, he shouldn't be meeting Huo Xudong as he did not wish to be a burden. Thus, he decided to wait for Huo Xudong to leave by himself.

By this point, he already believed that Huo Xudong had returned to help him. He even decided that Huo Xudong was really a good friend. That thought had barely formed in his mind when he heard Huo Xudong's next words. His entire body went cold, as if he had dropped from a hot spring into an ice pool.

That was because after crying out a few times without getting any reply, Huo Xudong muttered to himself, "Su Jun's dead mount is here. I reckon Xiang Shaoyun and Su Jun must have fought each other. Regardless of whether Su Jun is dead or alive, I'm afraid Xiang Shaoyun must have left far away. What a pity. I had hoped to snatch the forbidden technique from him."

He was practically whispering in a very soft voice. Even if someone was standing right beside him, that person might not hear anything. But with the Nether Soul Domain, each of Xiang Shaoyun's senses was extremely sharp. He heard every single word clearly and was completely stunned.

Huo Xudong then went back into the devil wind beast territory. Xiang Shaoyun's eyes were raging with fury, and he was finding it hard to hold his anger. He gripped his fists tightly as he roared inwardly, Yet another damnable traitor! He deserves death!

A fierce murderous intent surged out of him. He was once betrayed by those closest to him back at the Ziling Sect, which was why he hadn't been able to easily trust others since then. That was also why he considered very few people his friend nowadays.

Recently, he had been getting along well with Huo Xudong. He had thought that Huo Xudong had befriended him because both of them were similarly a victim of the Seven Villains. That assumption caused Xiang Shaoyun to feel somewhat at ease around Huo Xudong, and was how he came to see Huo Xudong as a friend.

However, Huo Xudong was actually a treacherous person who wanted to snatch his battle technique. That realization placed Xiang Shaoyun in deep sorrow. What he hated most were traitors, and Huo Xudong was now someone he had to kill.

After a long while, Xiang Shaoyun finally calmed down as he thought to himself, To have a heart as clear as untarnished ice, to face the world with indifference. There is no need to get angry for somebody irrelevant.

He then withdrew his Nether Soul Domain and started moving toward a certain direction.

Instead of penetrating deeper into the devil wind beast territory, he found a spot at the outer fringe of the territory to rest up and heal. After about half a day, his external injuries were mostly healed. But his acupoints and meridians were still aching.

The moment he tried using his astral energy, an intense pain extremely hard to endure would assault him. This was the side effect of having harmed his foundation. If it wasn't for the fact that he had a body that was much tougher than an average person's, he currently wouldn't be able to unleash the combat prowess of a fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator.

Xiang Shaoyun reached a decision. "Since I can't use my astral energy, I might as well focus on deepening my understanding on footwork intent."

He was currently located at a place filled with the power of wind. This was an ideal place for wind cultivators and was an excellent place for one to cultivate footwork intent. He had already grasped the first stage of footwork intent, moving like the wind. If he could progress further, he might be able to survive in the devil wind beast territory after all.

Only then would he stand a chance at getting the yin devil wind. That was his only option right now. After all, it was impossible for him to repair his foundation in a short time frame unless he could get his hands on an entire pool of millennium spirit spring water to cleanse his acupoints and meridians. Some specific emperor medicines of top quality would also be helpful for him. Otherwise, the only thing he could do was to slowly heal with time.

Xiang Shaoyun sat silently in meditation as he started absorbing the power of wind bit by bit. Any footwork would increase in speed when used together with the power of wind. That was how Ruo Suifeng had earned his moniker of Little Wind God, through footwork intent and the power of wind.

Xiang Shaoyun cultivated nine different powers, but in his wind star, there was only a tiny bit of wind power, and the star was completely incomparable to his first three stars. He endured the pain he was suffering and slowly absorbed the wind energy into his body to fill his wind star. The best way of getting acclimatized to this new environment was by absorbing the power here.

A regular person would not be able to absorb any energy from the Devil Domain. Xiang Shaoyun was an exception as the devilish energy would not harm him. When the wind energy laced with devilish energy entered his body, his blood would cleanse the devilish energy and send only pure wind energy to his star.

Before this, Xiang Shaoyun had never dared to openly absorb the energy here. Now that he was all alone, he no longer had any reservations. His blood seemed to have come alive as the amount of energy converging on him started growing. A large amount of devilish energy entered his body unendingly, giving him a sensation that his blood was boiling.

He also felt the pain of his acupoints and meridians receding. The pain had only decreased slightly, but he could clearly feel it.

"Can it be that my bloodline is capable of repairing my foundation?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered in excitement.