

Overlord 491

Chapter 491: Utterly Shameless

Although the mist devils did not exactly have powerful defenses, like all other devilish beasts, they did not fear death. The storm around Xiang Shaoyun was terrifying, but they were strong enough to survive it.

With their claws, they destroyed the golden walls around Xiang Shaoyun, leaving numerous scars on his tough flesh. His blood poured out ceaselessly, torturing him with an intense pain. These claws were all poisonous as well. If it wasn't for the silver lightning energy in his body, he would have been killed by now.

Under the extreme pain, Xiang Shaoyun's murderous intent surged. In his anger, he utilized the third stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, Skyslaying Slash.

The previous time Xiang Shaoyun had used this technique, he had suffered greatly. Even his foundations had been harmed. But he was no longer the same person. His flesh had been tempered by the devilish energy, and his strength had grown greatly. Thus, he was now able to use this technique without suffering the backlash.

With one slash, 81 silver lightning bolts rained down, working together with the murderous slash to exterminate all life in the area. One condition of using this technique successfully was to have true murderous intent.

The two times Xiang Shaoyun had used this technique had been when he was in crisis. For the sake of survival, his murderous intent was provoked, pushing him to kill all that would threaten his life.

The overbearing saber energy was not only powered by lightning energy, it was also powered by the human saber unity mode as it swept forward with the might of a second-stage Emperor.

After a series of thunderous explosions, the mist devils were all dead, leaving behind a rain of devil blood gently falling down to the world below. The Han Clan sisters were watching the battle under Meng Gansu's protection, their faces filled with infatuation.

This was a young man with an outstanding talent, a dragon among men. A young man this extraordinary most definitely had countless admirers. It was no wonder he showed them no interest.

"Big sister, I-I...I have fallen for him. He's so handsome!" Han Xuewei said, no longer able to hide her admiration.

This time, Han Qianwei did not discourage her. Instead, she reminded her, "If that is the case, you have to work harder in cultivation and become strong enough to stand beside him. Only then would you stand a chance of catching his eye."

"I will work hard!" said Han Xuewei, her eyes resolute.

After killing all the mist devils, Xiang Shaoyun landed heavily on the ground and refined a drop of lightning liquid to quickly recover his strength. He could still feel some pain from energy overdraft, but the pain was much milder compared to the previous time he had used the technique.

Not bad, looks like my body is finally capable of withstanding this technique's might, thought Xiang Shaoyun, relieved.

He feared that the same thing would repeat with his foundations harmed and energy exhausted, forcing him to another round of difficult recovery. Although he had also exhausted a large amount of energy this time, the exhaustion was within his limit. He only needed a day or two of rest and he would be as good as new.

Currently, his body was laden with claw wounds, and he looked to be in terrible shape. The Han Clan sisters rushed to his side. Han Xuewei said with heartache, "Let me put on some bandages for you."

She then started bandaging Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun initially wanted to reject her, but he was worried that he would hurt her feelings. Thus, he accepted her gesture. A faint fragrance drifted into his nostrils as Han Xuewei approached him. Her dainty fingers started running across his body, causing him to feel rather ticklish.

"Ohh, mhmhm..." Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help moaning lightly.

The two women blushed.

Han Qianwei inwardly cursed, Shameless!

Of course, one couldn't blame Xiang Shaoyun. He rarely had a chance to have such close contact with a woman, and with the combination of his excitement and the slight pain of having his wounds touched, it was understandable that he would react with a slight moan.

Further causing his blood to boil was Han Xuewei's act of bowing down while bandaging him. Her fair and deep canyon was revealed to his eyes. Blood nearly sprayed out of his nose then and there. Who could blame him for moaning in such a situation?

Facing such temptation, this young master is still able to maintain a clarity of mind. I am truly a saint, lamented Xiang Shaoyun as he shut his eyes reluctantly.

It wasn't that he had no interest in women, but his heart was once hurt deeply by one certain woman. Since then, he had been finding it hard to open up to another woman. Furthermore, he wanted to focus on cultivation and did not want to waste his time on romance. The sole exception was Yu Caidie.

When Han Xuewei saw Xiang Shaoyun shut his eyes, a cocky feeling rose in her heart at the discovery that this young man was not completely indifferent to the opposite sex.

I will definitely make you submit! declared Han Xuewei inwardly as she rubbed her plump chest against Xiang Shaoyun's arm. The tender assault caused Xiang Shaoyun's blood to boil.

"Alright, I'm all fine now. Thank you," said Xiang Shaoyun as he jumped away from Han Xuewei. He was afraid that if Han Xuewei continued pushing it, he would lose control over himself.

"Hehe, we should be the ones thanking you," said Han Xuewei with a smile.

Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath and tossed all distracting thoughts out of his mind before saying, "Time to get going."

"Don't you want to take a short break?" Han Xuewei asked.

Xiang Shaoyun slapped his chest and said, "It's just some Devil Emperors. There is no need for rest."

Xiang Shaoyun found that the more battles he fought, the faster his energy circulation became. He believed that if this continued, he might be able to reach the peak of the seventh stage by the time he was done refining the devil flame seed.

In the remaining few months, he had to increase his cultivation. That way, he stood a higher chance of entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy. The group continued their journey, but they were again attacked by Devil Emperors before they got far.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun was forced to release his Nether Soul Domain and make use of his Imperial Nether Prison to defeat the Devil Emperors. The biggest reason he had the confidence to enter the third layer was due to the existence of his Nether Soul Domain. With the Nether Soul Domain, so long as he did not encounter any top-tier Emperors, he would be able to stay alive. But since he now had the two baggages by his side, he was forced to let Meng Gansu protect them.

Near the third layer's entrance, Xiang Shaoyun found a certain herb growing at the cliff beside the entrance. The herb was emanating a thick devilish energy and shining brightly. It looked extremely conspicuous, and a large number of Devil Emperors were around it. There were also many Emperors of other races present as well, and all of them were focused on the same herb.

"Is th-this the legendary devil edge grass?" Meng Gansu cried out in alarm.

The devil edge grass was a mid-grade emperor medicine. Although it contained a large amount of devilish energy, it was extremely valuable. It was capable of strengthening the flesh and expanding the meridians when consumed. More importantly, it could also help one comprehend a secret offensive technique known as Devil Severing Edge.

Chapter 492: That Must Be Pure Luck

"Devil edge grass?" Xiang Shaoyun recalled that in the Miscellaneous Records of Devil Domain book he had obtained from the fort, some information regarding this herb could be found. It was recorded that this emperor medicine had indeed been found at the third layer's entrance before, but the last time it had appeared was 5,000 years ago. Surprisingly, it had reappeared after 5,000 years, and he was lucky enough to stumble upon it.

Only a devil or one cultivating the power of darkness could consume the devil edge grass. Yet the Emperors fighting over the devil edge grass were cultivators of all sorts of elements. That was understandable, as even if they couldn't devour it, they could still trade it for an emperor medicine of equivalent grade.

With so many Devil Emperors and Emperors of other races here, obtaining the devil edge grass wouldn't be an easy feat for Xiang Shaoyun. Fortunately, after some observation, he found that the strongest of them was only a seventh-stage Emperor. None of them was one of those super powerful Emperors.

After all, the devil edge grass was only a mid emperor medicine and was not really that valuable for those truly powerful Emperors. Abruptly, the devil edge grass shone brightly, sending numerous jet-black blades flying everywhere. It was as if a super expert was attacking, leaving numerous scars on the cliff around it. Who could have imagined that this was an attack unleashed by a herb?

"Roar! Roar!"

The devilish beasts of all forms started roaring as they swarmed the devil edge grass. Devilish beasts at this level could only be considered a low-intelligence life form. Apart from the offensive techniques they were born with, it would be very hard for them to learn new techniques.

Thus, the devil edge grass was extremely important to them. Capable of helping them comprehend a new technique, it was a treasure they longed to have. Numerous devilish attacks started flying everywhere as the devils tried to eliminate their competitors. The Emperors of the surface races also started fighting. A myriad of powerful attacks were thrown everywhere as they fought for the devil edge grass.

Rumble! Rumble!

A series of explosions erupted, creating countless shockwaves. Xiang Shaoyun's group wasn't too far from the entrance. Thus, many of the shockwaves were rippling toward them.

Evidently, those Emperors were trying to either kill or drive out Xiang Shaoyun's group with those shockwaves. The Han Clan sisters paled. They knew that a single touch would be enough for these shockwaves to exterminate them into nothingness.

"Hmph. Trying to get rid of us with this? How naive!" Xiang Shaoyun snorted coldly. He did not even need to issue a command, and Meng Gansu was already blocking all the incoming waves.

"Old Meng, take them to the third layer. I will be there shortly," said Xiang Shaoyun. Meng Gansu obeyed without any questions. He enveloped the two women with a clump of energy before charging toward the entrance with the two in tow.

"Xiang Shaoyun, be careful!" the two women reminded, a look of concern on both their faces.

Although Xiang Shaoyun had been rather cold toward them in recent days, they knew that was only a facade he was putting on. In truth, he was still decently concerned about them. Otherwise, he wouldn't have saved them from death so many times during the past few days.

Xiang Shaoyun only waved his hand at the two. A confident smile hung on his face, as if the many experts present were nothing to him. After Meng Gansu left with the Han Clan sisters, Xiang Shaoyun started approaching the Emperors.

"Where did this kid come from? Scram! This is not a place for you to be!" scolded an Emperor when he saw Xiang Shaoyun.

He was a fourth-stage Emperor staying at the outermost fringe of the battlefield. He did not charge forward, as he did not have enough strength to do so. He was waiting for the others to suffer mutual annihilation before he swept in to reap the rewards. Xiang Shaoyun only smiled at him in response, then continued strolling forward. The next instant, Xiang Shaoyun's body transformed into wind as he dashed into the battlefield.

The fourth-stage Emperor cursed, "Suicidal kid."

The shockwaves of the ongoing battle were extremely dreadful, and no King would be able to survive on the battlefield, not to mention some seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. But to his surprise, Xiang Shaoyun was actually able to avoid all the shockwaves and go straight to the center of the battlefield.

"Impossible! That must be pure luck!" the Emperor cried out in alarm.

But when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's figure weaving about the attacks while smoothly approaching the devil edge grass, his mouth went wide agape. He did not know what to say anymore.

What he just witnessed had completely toppled his worldview. He even started wondering if this was some old monster who had recovered his youth and was hiding his true cultivation level.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun was able to move nimbly amid the battlefield thanks to his footwork and his gift of instincts. Although it looked like he was easily dodging all the attacks, he was in fact in extreme danger. Any carelessness would cause him to be hit and seriously injured.

After all, his speed was only comparable to a third-stage Emperor's, and his combat prowess was below that of a genuine third-stage Emperor. The nearer he got to the devil edge grass, the harder it was for him to keep advancing.

"Where did this human kid come from? Piss off!" roared a peak fifth-stage Devil Emperor darkrock devil. He sent his massive black tail sweeping toward Xiang Shaoyun.

In his eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was a suicidal bug trying to steal from elephants. The darkrock devil's attack was dreadfully powerful and fast. Xiang Shaoyun pushed his gift of instincts to the limit, revealing the trajectory of the attack bare before him. In his eyes, the incoming tail started moving at slow motion, giving him the opportunity to immediately react to it. He dodged to the side and hopped onto the shoulder of a devil apeman emperor.

The devil apeman was even stronger than the darkrock devil. When he sensed the attack from the darkrock devil, he turned and grabbed the tail before slamming the darkrock devil onto the ground.

Of course, the devil apeman would not spare Xiang Shaoyun either. But Xiang Shaoyun was moving like a slippery fish, and quickly dashed to the side of a different Emperor.

"Puny human, die!" Infuriated, the devil apeman threw over a dreadful punch.

Explosive Devil Fist!

This was one of the devil apeman's killing techniques. The punch was powered by dreadful devilish energy and explosive force, and as it approached, it started exploding repeatedly. The devil apeman was trying to kill both Xiang Shaoyun and the Emperor beside him. The punch was comparable to the attack of a seventh-stage Emperor.

Chapter 493: What a Madman

In front of the devil apeman were two Emperors. One of them was of the shadowmark race, one of the many surface races. They shared a lot of similarities with the human race, yet there were also a lot of differences between the two. An example would be their slim and frail build akin to a bamboo pole. Their bodies were covered with odd markings akin to natural tattoos. These markings granted

them a natural resonance with the power of darkness. They were nigh undetectable at night, their bodies akin to elusive shadows.

The other Emperor was a human. He had a lustrous mane of red hair and a crimson armor protecting his body. His face did not look much older than 20 years old, and his young face emanated a resolute temperament. He was an Emperor, something hard to believe considering his young looks.

"F*cking savage, you are courting death!" the shadowmark screeched as an incorporeal power rippled out of his body, allowing him to flutter to the side and avoid the devil apeman's attack. A jet-black radiance shone from the markings on one of his arms, and a rune shot out of it toward the devil apeman.

Shadow Arms Wrath!

The attack instantly reached the devil apeman, blasting him to the side. As for the red-haired young man, he nimbly dodged to the side and avoided the attack before dashing straight toward the devil edge grass. He moved nimbly, weaving about the attacks three other seventh-stage Emperors threw his way before reaching out to grab at the devil edge grass.

"Kid, you are courting death! Scram!" an old Emperor yelled before stabbing the red-haired young man with a black spear.

The old Emperor was one of the strongest individuals present. When he attacked, it was as if the world around him froze as a majestic attack crashed forth toward the young man. The red-haired young man reacted deftly and dodged the attack with exquisite footwork, but as a result of that, he was forced to move away from the devil edge grass.

At this time, a different seventh-stage Devil Emperor opened his mouth wide, trying to swallow the devil edge grass yet was knocked away by a different Devil Emperor. An intense and chaotic battle was happening between all these Emperors.

Even so, they were all holding back, trying to avoid damaging the devil edge grass. It did not seem likely that Xiang Shaoyun would be able to get the devil edge grass from these late-stage Emperors. Furthermore, he had already caught the eye of the Emperor Realm shadowmark: "A puny King dares to steal from a group of tigers? Die!"

With a look of disdain in his eyes, the Emperor Realm shadowmark threw a casual attack at Xiang Shaoyun, trying to kill him.

Looks like I won't be able to get through peacefully unless I can enter the shrinking space stage, sighed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. Left with no choice, he released his Nether Soul Domain.

The only reason he had charged right into the midst of the battlefield was to temper his footwork and Nether Soul Domain on top of getting the devil edge grass. After all, one would generally achieve more results cultivating amid intense danger.

It would greatly benefit his future path of cultivation if he could further solidify his soul and strengthen his soul power to the point life and death no longer limited his soul.

If anyone else knew what he was thinking, they would probably say something like "What a madman!" After all, he was so casually putting his own life on the line. What would he be if not a madman?

The Nether Soul Domain spread and enveloped the area, putting many of the Emperors in panic, especially the Devil Emperors. They all trembled in fear, akin to a group of lowly slaves meeting their majestic king.

Xiang Shaoyun did not take the chance to kill the Emperors in his Nether Soul Domain. Rather, he picked the devil edge grass, withdrew the Nether Soul Domain, and started rushing toward the third layer. By the time the Emperors recovered from their panic, the devil edge grass was already nowhere to be seen.

"Damn it! What just happened?" roared a furious Emperor.

"It's that King Realm kid! He has stolen the devil edge grass and is rushing toward the third layer," someone else cried out.

Without anyone giving the command, several figures left in pursuit. Those in pursuit were the old Emperor, the red-haired young man, and the Emperor Realm shadowmark. They reacted the fastest among all the Emperors. As for the Devil Emperors, none of them gave chase, as they had not recovered from their fear.

Upon entering the third layer, Xiang Shaoyun found that the devilish energy in the air was much thicker and was surging violently. The surface races hated such an environment, but he felt as comfortable as when he was at the surface. He even took the chance to absorb some into his body.

"Wait, those fellows are really giving chase? How troublesome," Xiang Shaoyun grumbled when he sensed the pursuers. He might be fast, but he wasn't faster than three late-stage Emperors. He had no choice but to release his Nether Soul Domain once again, trapping his three pursuers.

"Stop following, or I will kill all of you," warned Xiang Shaoyun murderously.

The devil edge grass never had an owner, and anyone capable was free to fight for it. Now that he had gotten it, he would not return it to his pursuers. If they kept pushing him, he wouldn't mind teaching them a lesson.

"Little bastard, what trickery are you playing? Die!" the Emperor Realm shadowmark roared. The markings on his body shone brightly, and he slammed both his palms at Xiang Shaoyun.

Shadow Extermination Palm!

Mid-flight, the two palms split into more palms. It became a matter of which palms were the real palms, or perhaps all of them were real.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

But before the palms could reach Xiang Shaoyun, numerous chains shot out from thin air and constricted the Emperor Realm shadowmark. Only then did the Emperor Realm shadowmark realize that things were getting dangerous.

"Attacking me in here? Looks like you're really tired of living," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

He willed for it, and the chains started shrinking around the Emperor Realm shadowmark, causing him to wail miserably as blood sprayed out of his body. As for the old Emperor and the red-haired youth, both did not act rashly. Rather, they started scanning their surroundings and found the existence of a different connected space. They both sank into thought, and shortly after, shock covered their faces. Evidently, they had both thought of something.

"Bastard! Free me, or I won't spare you!" The Emperor Realm shadowmark was still speaking with a threatening tone.

In response, Xiang Shaoyun dashed over and chopped toward his head with the side of his palm.

Sphhlt!

Just like that, a head was severed from its body.

Even severed, the head was still roaring. "You dare to kill me? A lowly human like you actually dares to kill me?"

The markings on his body started wiggling, and a connection formed between the neck and the severed head, as if both were going to rejoin. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun stomped the head into a pile of mincemeat before it could rejoin the body.

Chapter 494: I Won't Keep You Around Then

Gulp!

Both the old Emperor and the red-haired youth made the same noise.

Inwardly, they cried out in alarm, An Emperor Realm shadowmark was killed so easily?

They both felt a chill creep up their spines, the previous calm expressions on their faces nowhere to be seen.

"Do you want that to happen to you as well?" Xiang Shaoyun asked indifferently.

At this moment, Xiang Shaoyun viewed himself as a saint. Otherwise, why would he be so kind toward these two? Why would he have saved the Han Clan sisters repeatedly? Of course, the two before him would definitely disagree. They were right to disagree, though. A person who sliced an Emperor's head off and smashed it with a stomp without hesitation was definitely no saint.

"Brother, th-there must have been some misunderstandings between us," said the old Emperor awkwardly. He added, "I have a stalk of devil leaf lotus here. Please accept my gift, my friend."

"I have a stalk of devilflame snake vine here. Consider it a compensation from me for wasting your time," said the red-haired youth.

They had no choice but to show some sincerity in their attempt to preserve their lives.

"Are your lives so cheap?" Xiang Shaoyun asked while rubbing his nose.

He would not be able to face himself if he did not take a large bite at this piece of meat practically right before his mouth. The old Emperor and the red-haired youth did not seem too happy, but they did not dare to show any temper here.

"Young brother, I am an elder from the Dark Devil Sect," the old Emperor reminded. The Dark Devil Sect was rather influential in the Bloodsin City. He believed that his identity would buy him some respect.

"So what? This is the Devil Domain," said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug. "Cut the nonsense. Take out any treasures you have to buy your own lives. Otherwise, you can stay here forever."

The old Emperor was so furious he felt like coughing blood. He had never expected that a puny King would dare to threaten an Emperor like him, yet he was completely helpless about it.

"Haha, you are right, young brother. This is the Devil Domain, and nobody will find out how you die. Apart from the devilflame snake vine, I also have a few devilish emperor medicines and some devil crystals and devilish energy stones with me. You can have all of them," said the red-haired youth as he took out the treasures he had harvested from the Devil Domain.

"Smart choice." Xiang Shaoyun did not press on as he had a feeling this youth was much scarier than the old Emperor.

Why was that? Because he could sense that this youth was only a fourth-stage Emperor, yet in the Nether Soul Domain, he could sense that this youth was not weaker than the old peak seventh-stage Emperor. If a person like that started fighting with his life on the line, the Nether Soul Domain might not last. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun knew when to stop.

"How about you, old man? Do you have something to say?" Xiang Shaoyun asked with a smile.

The old Emperor grew even more annoyed when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's smile. However, he had no choice but to really take out something of value. After all, he could always earn more wealth in the future. His life was more important. Thus, he did the same and took out a pile of treasures he had harvested from the Devil Domain.

"This should be enough, right?" said the old Emperor indignantly.

In the past, whenever he revealed his identity as an elder of the Dark Devil Sect, nobody would dare to touch him. This time, it didn't work. But when he recalled the domain's prowess, his courage dropped.

After stowing away all the treasures, Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "That will do, I guess. Alright, you may leave. I won't be keeping you around then."

As he said that, the Nether Soul Domain vanished. The moment the Nether Soul Domain vanished, the old Emperor and red-haired youth quickly distanced themselves from Xiang Shaoyun, worried that he would pull them into his domain once again. That sensation of being completely suppressed was not something they wanted to relive.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly cupped his hands and saluted them. He said, "Goodbye!"

He then dashed toward a different direction.

"What kind of luck do I have to encounter someone like this?" grumbled the old Emperor unhappily as he returned to the second layer.

As for the red-haired youth, after a short hesitation, he chased after Xiang Shaoyun. When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the pursuit, he stopped, turned, and asked coldly, "Are you regretting your previous choice?"

The red-haired youth waved his hands and smiled. "No, not at all. I only wish to be your friend. My name is Ouyang Chuanqi, from—"

Xiang Shaoyun did not give him the chance to finish his sentence and said, "I don't care who you are. Nor am I interested in being your friend. Please leave."

Ouyang Chuanqi blanked out for a bit before grinning. "I guess it has been too presumptuous of me."

He then left.

Inwardly, he wondered, That is the Nether Soul Domain, but this fellow clearly has the aura of a human without an ounce of the Imperial Nether Clan's aura. He is definitely of mixed blood. But the Imperial Nether Clan has always considered themselves a high-class race and has always looked down on humans. Why would there be someone like this, then?

Ouyang Chuanqi had only tried to befriend Xiang Shaoyun out of curiosity. Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun did not seem to care much for his friendship. That caused him to feel rather gloomy. His name was extremely well-known among the younger generation, yet Xiang Shaoyun had no idea who he was. He even started wondering if he was as well-known as he had thought.

But he subsequently recalled that Xiang Shaoyun was only a King and was related to the Imperial Nether Clan. It wouldn't be weird for someone like this to not know him. He stopped thinking too much about it and started returning to the second layer as well.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was in a good mood after obtaining a pile of treasures from the two. These treasures were rather valuable to him, as they would be useful for increasing the overall strength of the ghostrunes.

Before long, he reached Meng Gansu and the Han Clan sisters. The three had been waiting not far away from the entrance and had not been attacked by any devils.

"Master!" Meng Gansu stepped forth and greeted.

The Han Clan sisters asked at the same time, "Are you fine, Xiang Shaoyun?"

Xiang Shaoyun nodded at Meng Gansu, then looked at the Han Clan sisters and smiled. "Do I seem like I'm not fine?" He then asked Meng Gansu, "I thought the third layer was filled with Devil Emperors? You didn't encounter even one of them?"

"Master, there won't be too many of them near the entrance. But if you go in slightly deeper, you will encounter a lot of them," said Meng Gansu.

"I see. If that is the case, you should stay here. I will explore around," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Don't you want us with you?" Han Xuewei was getting anxious.

She had completely fallen for Xiang Shaoyun and did not wish to part with him.

"I'm going to hunt some Devil Emperors to earn some contribution points. If you come, you will only slow me down. If you want to stay alive, just stay here with Old Meng. I will bring you out after I return," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

Chapter 495: Devil Severing Edge

The third layer of Devil Domain was undoubtedly filled with danger. After all, this was a place with Devil Emperors and Devil Sovereigns. Although Xiang Shaoyun was capable of keeping himself alive here, it did not mean that he would be able to protect the Han Clan sisters as well. They understood that and could only agree to his request.

"Alright. This is your antidote. In case I get myself killed, you won't have to be afraid of the poison anymore," said Xiang Shaoyun as he handed them two pills.

Back at the Skeleton Gang, Xiang Shaoyun had once lied to them that he had poisoned them. Naturally, this antidote was a lie as well. The two women were unaware of that, but they were overjoyed to see that Xiang Shaoyun was willing to relinquish his grasp on them. Finally, they were free.

Just as Han Xuewei was about to swallow the pill, Han Qianwei stopped her and said, "Hold on, little sister."

"Why?" Han Xuewei asked in confusion. Instead of saying anything, Han Qianwei stared at Xiang Shaoyun suspiciously.

Xiang Shaoyun did not mind. He shrugged and said, "Eat it if you want. I'm going."

He then ignored the two and left alone. After he left, Han Xuewei swallowed the pill.

"Why are you in such a rush? What if this is yet another poison?" Han Qianwei asked anxiously.

"Big sister, I know you don't like Xiang Shaoyun, but if he really wishes us ill, why would he save us? Does he even need to use poison if he wants to harm us?" asked Han Xuewei. She had been able to view everything in a rational manner, which caused Han Qianwei to feel both shame for not being able to see what her little sister saw and guilt for suspecting him.

"Since he is our savior, I will say something nice on his behalf after meeting Uncle Pojun," said Han Qianwei.

"Uncle Pojun might be strong, but I don't think he will be of much help to Xiang Shaoyun," said Han Xuewei with a sigh.

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Xiang Shaoyun advanced alone, and before long, he was met with the attack of some devils. These devils were only Kings, and he had not much problem dealing with them. But the deeper he went, the more pressure he felt.

Powerful peak Devil Kings and Devil Emperors were starting to appear. He hadn't even gone far, yet the devils he encountered were already much stronger than the ones in the second layer. From this, it was evident that he would encounter even more Devil Emperors the deeper he went.

Instead of charging ahead blindly, Xiang Shaoyun started killing the devils in the area. He would first gather enough contribution points before thinking of anything else.

In that manner, five days passed.

His contribution points had increased greatly. His Nether Soul Domain and ghostrunes had played a great role in helping him accumulate that many contribution points.

Escape was nearly impossible for any devilish beasts trapped in his Nether Soul Domain. He would only release the Nether Soul Domain when he faced more than 10 devils at a time. Any devil killed in the Nether Soul Domain would be considered his kill, awarding him contribution points even if

the ghostrunes were the ones doing the killing. There was nothing surprising about that since the ghostrunes resided in his personal domain. One could even consider the ghostrunes his personal cheat.

Presently, Xiang Shaoyun was resting in a cave he had snatched from a Devil Emperor blackstone beast. His body was covered in injuries, and his aura seemed to be in disarray as well. It was obvious he had just ended an intense battle.

"I need to spend some time and refine the devil edge grass and increase my offensive prowess before doing anything else," said Xiang Shaoyun to himself as he started the refining process.

The reason Xiang Shaoyun had waited until now before refining the devil edge grass was because he was now laden with injuries, the perfect condition to use the devil edge grass. The devil edge grass could strengthen his meridians and body, and in his current condition, he would be able to better absorb the power of the devil edge grass.

When he dissolved the devil edge grass in his astral cosmos sea, strands of sharp energy started coursing through his meridians and acupoints, torturing him with an intense pain as if he was being sliced from within. He did not make a single sound as he resisted the pain and continued the refining process.

He was one who had survived numerous lightning strikes, and he had also undergone the pain of being burned by unique flames. He possessed a far higher endurance than an ordinary person.

He understood clearly that this pain was a sign of the devil edge grass working on his body. If he could endure it, his meridians would become more tough and durable. His acupoints would expand in size, while his flesh and bones would also become much tougher. This was a process of forceful strengthening that few Kings could endure. Any carelessness could result in one's meridians and acupoints being destroyed during the process.

After an unknown amount of time, the devil edge grass's power started weakening. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun suddenly sensed a devil blade power coursing in his blood, and a scene of a unique blade energy flying around at an odd trajectory appeared in his head. The blade seemed to be something formed by nature, possessing a boundless might.

He focused on observing the trajectory of the blade and etched it in his brain. The trajectory revealed to him the usage method of the Devil Severing Edge. One generally needed to use devilish energy to power this attack, but a human could also use it with dark energy.

Xiang Shaoyun met both requirements and could fully comprehend this technique. He woke up from his meditation and formed a blade with his palm before hacking sideways.

Bang!

A blade of devilish energy formed and sliced the nearby stone into two before leaving a deep cut on the ground.

"Is this the power of Devil Severing Edge? It is not weaker than any emperor technique. In fact, it is much stronger. This is a strength of a technique formed by nature!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in admiration.

Half a month passed. Xiang Shaoyun had spent the time battling the numerous devilish beasts while heading toward the location Meng Gansu had told him of. Xiang Shaoyun had also recently completed the fourth wall of his Six Goldplate Manual, fully mastering the second stage. Ordinary Emperors would no longer be able to break through his defenses.

If he continued growing and completed all six walls, transforming the walls into a platemail, he would be able to fully master the emperor technique. Presently, he was at the mid seventh-stage Skysoar Realm. His growth had been rapid.

Xiang Shaoyun knew the reason for his rapid growth. When refining the silver lightning core and yin devil wind, his nine stars had been fully activated.

He traveled while he cultivated, and without realizing it, he was nearing his destination. Suddenly, a humanoid devil appeared before him. The devil stared at him greedily with a pair of lustful eyes, as if the only thing the devil wanted was to strip him naked.

"Kekeke, what a sturdy human. I like it," said the devil.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw the devil, he shivered and cried out in alarm, "A yang devouring devil!"

Chapter 496: Yang Devouring Devil

The yang devouring devil was humanoid, much taller than humans, and had an ugly face and a pair of pointy ears that looked like dog ears. His skin resembled the skin of a frog, with protrusions all

over his body. Numerous veins ran all over his body, and he stood there completely naked with his disgusting appearance.

The yang devouring devils enjoyed absorbing yang energy to grow their strength, with their prey being males of any life form. In this yang devouring devil's eyes, Xiang Shaoyun looked fair and tender, emitting a youthful masculinity, and was his favorite type of food.

"Pretty boy, be good and don't resist. I like your type, so I will treat you nicely," said the yang devouring devil as he strode toward Xiang Shaoyun while salivating.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. "Disgusting thing, die!"

He dashed forward and sent a Hurricane Kick toward the yang devouring devil. A powerful hurricane crashed forward. He might be fast, but his speed was nothing special in the eyes of the yang devouring devil, who was a fourth-stage Devil Emperor.

The yang devouring devil dodged the attack and pounced on Xiang Shaoyun. When he neared Xiang Shaoyun, a long tongue shot out to lick Xiang Shaoyun's face. Xiang Shaoyun quickly dodged to the side and threw a series of Lightning Bolt Fists. The yang devouring devil merely swatted the fist energies away with his palm before grabbing at Xiang Shaoyun's chest with one of his hands.

Xiang Shaoyun reacted almost immediately, but the yang devouring devil still managed to caress his chest. The disgust of having been caressed by this yang devouring devil gave him goosebumps.

"Tsk, ts, what a muscular body. I like it," teased the yang devouring devil.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't take it anymore and roared, "Disgusting bastard! You dare to take advantage of me? I will rip you apart!"

He released the Nether Soul Domain and enveloped the yang devouring devil with it.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Eight chains shot out from different directions and wrapped around the yang devouring devil. The Imperial Nether Prison had never failed Xiang Shaoyun before. For the very first time, it failed him.

"Nether Soul Domain!" the yang devouring devil cried out in alarm before transforming into a clump of fire that burned the chains into nothingness.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow. "What thick yang energy. Something like this is the perfect nemesis of my nether soul power."

The Nether Soul Domain was powered by soul power, which was a power of yin weak to the powers of the yang attribute. Of course, the amount of yang energy this yang devouring devil had was still not enough for him to break out of the Nether Soul Domain. He could only do so if he possessed a unique flame or if his level of strength was much higher than Xiang Shaoyun's soul power. After all, this was Xiang Shaoyun's personal space where he was the ultimate overlord.

"Y-you're a noble Imperial Nether Clan prince? Y-your servant knows his mistake. Please spare this lowly servant. I won't ever dare offend you anymore," begged the terrified yang devouring devil.

"You know the Imperial Nether Clan?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Yes, of course I do! The Imperial Nether Clan is an imperial devil clan. Who wouldn't know them? This servant did not mean to offend you, esteemed prince. Please spare this lowly one's life," the yang devouring devil continued begging.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Tell me more about the Imperial Nether Clan."

The yang devouring devil blanked out as he thought, You're an Imperial Nether Clan prince. Why do you need me to tell you more? Unless...

"You're not an Imperial Nether Clan prince! You're a human! You dare to lie? I'll absorb all your yang energy!" shouted the yang devouring devil as he transformed into a fireball and shot toward Xiang Shaoyun.

As a response, Xiang Shaoyun sent his soul over. His soul was as powerful as a top Emperor, and with a kick, he sent the yang devouring devil flying away. The kick broke the teeth of the yang devouring devil and sent him crashing heavily onto the ground.

"W-wait, y-you're really an Imperial Nether Clan prince! Mercy...please, mercy..." When the yang devouring devil was attacked, he could sense a suppression on both his bloodline and cultivation base. This space was completely the same as the legendary Nether Soul Domain. Thus, he quickly begged for forgiveness.

"Answer my question, or you die now," said Xiang Shaoyun. He knew that a majority of the devils did not fear death, but surprisingly, this yang devouring devil was not one of them. Just one kick was enough to make him submit.

"Yes, yes. The Imperial Nether Clan is one of the Four Paramount Devil Clans. They possess the most noble of bloodlines, the most supreme of devilish powers, and rule a vast territory, having the loyalty of countless devils...", the yang devouring devil started singing the Imperial Nether Clan praises.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped him, "I don't need you to tell me all that. I'll ask, and you'll answer. In which layer of the Devil Domain is the Imperial Nether Clan residing?"

There was already no doubt that the Imperial Nether Clan was part of the devils. What he wanted to know more now was which layer they stayed in.

"I don't really know. I think they reside across the seventh to the ninth layers?" answered the yang devouring devil.

"You don't even know that? How useless are you?" Xiang Shaoyun berated him.

Even you, a member of the Imperial Nether Clan, don't know that. How am I supposed to know? cursed the yang devouring devil inwardly. However, he still smiled and said, "This lowly one is too weak to know information like that."

Xiang Shaoyun said in disappointment, "I heard there is an Imperial Nether Clan site not far from here. Is that right?"

The yang devouring devil did not dare to lie, "Yes, but the nether prison devils are guarding that place. Nobody can approach."

"Splendid. Bring me there!" said Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

The yang devouring devil wanted to say no, but he shut his mouth when he saw Xiang Shaoyun's murderous eyes. The yang devouring devil was worthy of being a devil that had resided in the third layer for many years. He safely led Xiang Shaoyun around numerous territories of powerful devils as they approached the site.

A few days later, the two arrived at a mountainous area. This place was filled with devil trees and vines, and there was thick devilish energy in the air. Occasionally, the eerie whistling of wind rang out, sending a chill up one's spine.

This was one of the few rare areas in the Devil Domain with fertile soil. A group of nether prison devils resided here. As per the legends, the nether prison devils physically resembled humans, but they were extremely skinny, and their faces were ferocious. Furs and scales ran along their bodies, and they were equipped with devil tridents. They resembled yakshas yet were also different from yakshas.

It was rumored that the Nether Prison Devil Clan was a subsidiary clan of the Imperial Nether Clan, and they even had a tiny amount of the Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline in their blood.

An Imperial Nether Clan abandoned site was here, and the nether prison devils were responsible for guarding this place, preventing anyone from disturbing or destroying the place.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived with the yang devouring devil, he immediately felt his blood roil. Something not far ahead was summoning him, calling him over.

Chapter 497: Nether Prison Devil

"This place might really be related to the Imperial Nether Clan," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he stared at the mountain ahead of him.

The yang devouring devil said, "Prince, c-can I leave now?"

The yang devouring devil was a fourth-stage Devil Emperor. He was absolutely not weak. However, in the third layer, his strength was really nothing special. Furthermore, they had entered the nether prison devil's territory. This was a place filled with experts, and he did not dare to stay here for long.

"What's the rush? The nether prison devils are already coming to us," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

"What? I'll have to leave then!" The yang devouring devil was overwhelmed with fear and started fleeing.

But right this instant, devilish energy surged around them as dozens of devils appeared and surrounded them. A powerful attack streaked through the air toward the yang devouring devil and impaled him on a massive boulder. Devil blood bloomed on the stone and flowed down the boulder. With one attack, the yang devouring devil was killed. It was obvious how powerful the newcomers were.

Xiang Shaoyun was already on full alert, but not even that had allowed him to clearly see the approach of these nether prison devils. Each of them was dressed in odd armor and armed with a trident. They looked at Xiang Shaoyun with the three eyes each of them had. Some of them directly attacked.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun activated the devil blood in his body. A thick devilish aura then spread out of him, enveloping him with a sinister aura that completely changed his bearing. At that, the attacking nether prison devils stopped. Their aura started dropping, and fear plastered their faces.

Finally, the leader stepped forth and asked in confusion, "W-which clan are you from?"

"What do you think?" Xiang Shaoyun asked indifferently as he released the Nether Soul Domain.

The Nether Soul Domain enveloped all the nether prison devils. Instantly, they started trembling as they knelt down and greeted, "Greetings, esteemed imperial nether."

For these subsidiary clans, any Imperial Nether Clan member they met was akin to a true emperor. Cultivation level did not matter here as this was a suppression originating from their very bloodline.

This was quite similar to the demons, where a demon with a higher-tiered bloodline would suppress a demon with a lower-tiered bloodline. Before this, Xiang Shaoyun had no idea if this would work. He was betting on it working, and it seemed like he had made the right bet.

"This prince wishes to take a look at the site of my clan," said Xiang Shaoyun loftily with both hands clasped behind his back.

He was filled with elation at the discovery that he could cause all the nether prison devils to kneel just by showing himself. This was a splendid sensation, causing him to feel like he had truly become a prince.

"We are only here to guard the site for the Imperial Nether Clan. The prince is naturally welcomed if he wishes to take a look," said a nether prison devil deferentially.

"Good. Lead the way, then," said Xiang Shaoyun.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun followed the nether prison devils to the site. Along the way, many other nether prison devils joined the group. All of them first looked at Xiang Shaoyun with hostility, but after listening to what their leader had to say, they then greeted him deferentially.

By now, a slight trace of nervousness had already appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's heart. There were too many nether prison devils present. Furthermore, all of them were extremely strong. He was afraid that not even his Nether Soul Domain would be enough to deal with the Devil Emperors, whose numbers had surpassed 100. Fortunately, not one of them had thought of making a move against him yet.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun arrived before a towering mountain. When he lifted his head, he saw that halfway up the mountain was an odd massive building. It looked like a castle, yet it also looked much more unique than an ordinary castle.

He continued onward, and just as he was about to step into the castle, a scream rang out in the air. A nether prison devil that was about five or six meters tall holding a bone staff in hand blocked his path. This nether prison devil looked incredibly old, his skin filled with wrinkles. Numerous bones hung from his neck, and his person emanated a sinister aura at all times. His sharp gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun, making Xiang Shaoyun feel like he had been stripped completely naked.

A massive pressure pressed down on Xiang Shaoyun, causing him to start suffocating. The nether prison devils in the surroundings all started speaking some devil language respectfully while greeting the old nether prison devil with an odd ceremony. Without a doubt, this nether prison devil had an extremely high status here.

Xiang Shaoyun could understand what they were saying, as the devil language was similar to the language used by the ghostrunes. This old nether prison devil was actually a high priest, a position equivalent to that of a patriarch. He was also the Sovereign Realm expert in charge of guarding the site.

"Everyone, leave," said the old nether prison devil with a wave of his hand.

The other nether prison devils did as told and retreated respectfully. Xiang Shaoyun was still shrouded by a layer of devilish energy, emanating a sinister bearing that made him seem completely different from a human. Instead, he now looked like a true devil.

And yet, with a hoarse voice, the old nether prison devil said, "You have the body of a human. You are not an imperial nether prince!"

"Is that so?" Xiang Shaoyun answered and prepared to release his Nether Soul Domain. But before he could complete that action, a dreadful power enveloped his body, completely freezing his body and his mind.

"I know you are capable of releasing the Nether Soul Domain, but you are still a human," said the old nether prison devil, his voice confident.

Damn it! Is this old fellow going to make a move against me? Xiang Shaoyun started getting anxious.

However, he still maintained a calm expression as he said, "That's right, but you can't deny that I still have the blood of the noble Imperial Nether Clan in my body. Are you intending to offend your superiors?"

He noiselessly stirred his bloodline power and circulated his devilish energy in his attempt to break free from the suppression of the old nether prison devil.

The old nether prison devil did not seem surprised. He merely sighed, "Looks like the Imperial Nether Clan has really settled down in the human world. Otherwise, how would a mixed-blood kid like you appear?"

"You know about the Imperial Nether Clan? Can you tell me more?" asked Xiang Shaoyun. For some reason, he had a feeling this old nether prison devil would not kill him.

"Talk as we walk," said the old nether prison devil as he turned and started walking. Xiang Shaoyun quickly followed, as he really wanted to know more about the Imperial Nether Clan.

"Among us, the devils, are Four Paramount Devil Clans—the Undying Devil Clan, the Imperial Nether Clan, the Dark Devourer Clan, and the Diabolic Dragon Clan. They all reside across the seventh to the ninth layer and are the devils' imperial clans. All devils are under their rule. Millions of years ago, a connection formed between the Devil Domain and the Nine Gods Dominion. The different races were unable to coexist, and thus, numerous wars erupted. Both sides had suffered disastrous losses during those wars. After seeing you, I am finally sure that the Imperial Nether Clan has silently settled in the Nine Gods Dominion. Haha, they are indeed worthy of being our imperial clan!" said the old nether prison devil with a fanatical look of admiration.

Chapter 498: This Will Be Quite Embarrassing for Me

The Imperial Nether Clan was one of the Four Paramount Devil Clans. All the devils in the Devil Domain had once waged war against the various surface races. As one of the strongest devil clans, the Imperial Nether Clan had naturally led a charge into the surface world during those wars as well.

That was how part of the Imperial Nether Clan came to settle on the surface world during the ancient times. At the same time, they still maintained their power and authority at the deepest layers of the Devil Domain.

Generally, the imperial clans were loath to even leave the deepest layers. The only exception would be if a war was to erupt with the surface world again. Over the years, few wars had erupted between the Devil Domain and the surface world, but each war was extremely bitter, and each warring era was a dark era.

Some of this information was what the old nether prison devil already knew, and some of it was what he had guessed. As for this Imperial Nether Clan site, this place was built by the Imperial Nether Clan many years ago. However, this was an ordinary castle, and for the Imperial Nether Clan, it wasn't anything important.

Even so, as the subsidiary clan of the Imperial Nether Clan, the Nether Prison Clan had no choice but to guard and worship this site. There was also a statue of an imperial nether here. Although this imperial nether had been dead for many years, nobody dared show any disrespect to his statue.

As for the humans and other races that once tried to explore this site, none of them had been able to cause destruction or enter the castle. Only a true imperial nether would be able to step into the castle.

Following the old nether prison devil, Xiang Shaoyun arrived before the castle. Here, the blood within his body was flowing at a much faster speed, and a sense of urgency was rising from his heart due to the calling he felt from within the castle.

"I don't really care if you see yourself as a human or an imperial nether. Since you are able to arrive here, it proves that you are connected by fate to the imperial clan. Go in," said the old nether prison devil.

Xiang Shaoyun offered no reply. He stood before the castle, silently taking in the ancient castle. He found that the entire castle was built from top-tier materials. Any random brick from the castle could be forged into an emperor weapon or even a sovereign weapon.

On the walls, odd runes and scenes were carved, as if they were ancient art pieces that could cause one to sigh endlessly in admiration. After a long time, Xiang Shaoyun finally strode toward the castle, one step at a time. When he approached the entrance, a massive repelling force appeared and sealed the entrance.

But when Xiang Shaoyun leaked some of his bloodline power, the repelling force vanished, allowing him entry. He stepped into the castle and found that although the castle was expansive, it was completely empty apart from a massive statue.

The statue was of an extremely handsome man. He had a wild mane of hair, and his head was raised, his pair of eyes revealing a shocking overbearingness. His valiant body was filled with a wild explosiveness, and in his hand was a massive chakram pointing straight at the sky, as if he was going to slice the sky apart.

Who would have guessed that this person who looked completely human was actually a full blooded imperial nether? For many people, devils were ugly, repulsive, and stupid, a perfect example of a lowly and inferior race.

In truth, the imperial nethers looked similar to humans, yet they were much taller in stature. Each of them had natural wavy hair and a unique symbol on the forehead. Of course, there were still many other differences as well, but one would not be able to see all that from this statue alone.

Just by looking at this statue, Xiang Shaoyun lost control over his blood, and it started roiling and emitting even more devilish aura from his body. Suddenly, two rays of light shot out of the statue and landed on his body. At that moment, he felt like something was summoning his very soul.

"Child of the Imperial Nether Clan, release your soul and sacrifice it to me. Become one with me, and become a supreme imperial nether. Control the vast territory..."

An ancient voice rang out beside Xiang Shaoyun's ears, causing him to bare his naked soul without putting up any defensive measures. A black figure suddenly shot out of the statue and flew straight into his head.

"Child of the Imperial Nether Clan, offer your soul for my recovery," said the black figure. It was most likely a remnant soul that was trying to take over Xiang Shaoyun's soul and body to undergo rebirth.

"You want my soul?" asked Xiang Shaoyun's soul softly in the head.

The remnant soul that had intruded into his head greatly resembled the statue. This was probably the soul of the owner of that statue. The soul had thought that Xiang Shaoyun had been completely bedazzled. To its surprise, Xiang Shaoyun still had his clarity of mind.

However, that was not surprising since Xiang Shaoyun's soul had the Nether Dragon Soul Headband on. The Nether Dragon Soul Headband was able to block all soul attacks and could also calm and stabilize one's soul.

This was something unknown to the remnant soul. The remnant soul thought that just by intruding into Xiang Shaoyun's head, it would be able to steal his soul. But when it saw the headband, it exclaimed in fear, "O-our clan's divine headba—"

This was a remnant soul of a pure-blooded imperial nether, and was even a true prince of the clan. During one of the warring eras, the prince had been seriously injured to the point of no recovery. The prince had thus built this site here, waiting for someone from the Imperial Nether Clan to come for him to steal a body and undergo rebirth.

Yes, this trick was quite common, yet it was also an extremely effective trick. After waiting for so many years, a chance had finally appeared, yet to the soul's dismay, the prey was someone with their clan's divine headband. The soul was filled with despair at this realization.

One ought to know that the divine headband was one of the most valuable treasures of their clan, and generally, only their patriarch would be qualified to wear it. For some reason, this headband had appeared here. The soul's fear was understandable. It did not wait for Xiang Shaoyun to react and quickly left the head and returned to the statue.

"Why are you leaving so fast? Am I that scary?" Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and asked.

"I don't know which branch you come from, but since you have been acknowledged by the divine treasure of our clan, let's pretend nothing has happened," said the statue with indignation.

"I'm going to pretend nothing has happened just because you say it? That will be quite embarrassing for me if I agree, don't you think?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a shrug.

"What do you want then? Do you really think you can harm me with this tiny bit of strength you have?" said the statue unhappily.

"What? Of course I won't harm you. But since we are family and you are already dead, shouldn't you have some precious treasures left behind for your junior?" asked Xiang Shaoyun calmly.

This fellow had clearly tried to take over his body. If he let it go just like that, wouldn't he be a complete coward? He did not view himself as a coward. Thus, he needed some compensation. After all, with the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, there was nothing this fellow could do to him.

Chapter 499: Nether Prison Devil Puppet

Xiang Shaoyun had no idea just how powerful this remnant soul was.

"You really think I can't do anything to you?" asked the soul.

"Of course not. Since you can survive until now, it is obvious you are powerful. However...you are still a dead man. Why do you care about the treasures of the living?" said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, so you really don't fear me," the soul roared with laughter. "I was planning to spare you because we are family, but looks like I have no choice but to destroy you."

After saying that, a sturdy figure walked out from behind the statue. The figure was actually an extremely powerful nether prison devil. This was clearly a nether prison devil puppet, as there was no vitality whatsoever to be detected from its body. That was why it had been able to stay undetected.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun could sense that this puppet was definitely an extremely powerful nether prison devil when alive. This was a puppet made from an actual nether prison devil. Finally, the calm expression vanished from Xiang Shaoyun's face.

"Erm, b-brother, I was playing a joke! A joke! You don't have to take it seriously! I'm leaving right now. Enjoy your slumber!" said Xiang Shaoyun while stepping back. He was really behaving in a cowardly fashion now, but it wasn't like he had any other choices. Before absolute strength, he was completely helpless.

"Not so fast. I have a great idea. I can still steal your body. I only need to seriously injure you before using a soul sealing technique to seal your soul. Not even the divine treasure can save you from that. Don't worry. Your soul will still be able to continue existing like how I have been existing. You can then wait until the next junior of our clan comes so you can steal his body and undergo rebirth. Too bad you're too weak. I'm afraid even if a junior does come in the future, you won't be able to do much," said the remnant soul in excitement. It then commanded the puppet, "Cripple him."

Xiang Shaoyun started dashing toward the entrance. He moved rapidly, instantly arriving before the entrance. He thought he would be able to escape, but the repelling force had reappeared and blocked his path of escape. The nether prison devil puppet arrived before him and threw a heavy punch at him.

Sphhlt!

Xiang Shaoyun felt like his waist had snapped from the punch as his body flew away before crashing heavily on the ground. He coughed blood without stop, dyeing the ground around him red. That punch was akin to a collapsing mountain that had crushed him under its weight. This was a strength surpassing the Emperor Realm, a power of a Sovereign.

Xiang Shaoyun could no longer get back on his feet, but he still maintained his consciousness and knew that his opponent had no intention of really destroying his body. The nether prison devil puppet rushed over and gave him a kick.

Xiang Shaoyun felt like his internal organs were going to burst apart from the impact of the kick. Without any hesitation, he released his Nether Soul Domain. If not even his Nether Soul Domain could stop this puppet, there was nothing else he could do. He had thought that he would be able to obtain some inheritance from this trip to further increase his strength and trump cards, but everything had progressed differently from his expectations. He had instead thrown himself into danger.

After the Nether Soul Domain spread and enveloped the entire area, Xiang Shaoyun's soul started attacking the nether prison devil puppet. A total of 49 chains shot out and wrapped around the nether prison devil puppet's body before tightening up around it, trying to crush it. Unfortunately, the chains as powerful as the attack of an eighth-stage Emperor was not enough to deal with this puppet.

"Roar!"

The nether prison devil puppet roared and shook its body, instantly breaking all the chains. Even the space around it started warping.

"Nether Soul Domain? This is a divine ability of our clan. Surprisingly, a mere King like you is actually capable of displaying the strength of an Emperor. Unfortunately, you have yet to fully comprehend the essence of this ability. Break it!" said the remnant soul with astonishment.

Bang!

With one punch, the nether prison devil puppet smashed the Nether Soul Domain into pieces. It was at this time that the 8,000 ghostrunes flew out from the broken pieces as they no longer had any place to hide.

"What is happening, master?" Gui Qi asked nervously.

The ghostrunes had been residing comfortably in the Nether Soul Domain. Suddenly, after some intense shaking, the domain had disappeared. That caused them to be worried about Xiang Shaoyun. After all, he was their master.

"A-attack the statue...", Xiang Shaoyun commanded weakly. He had already suffered a serious injury. If the nether prison devil puppet attacked him one more time, he would be dead for sure.

When the remnant soul saw the ghostrunes, it cried out in alarm, "Quickly kill these ghostrunes!"

The Imperial Nether Clan had absolute command over the Ghostrune Clan, but it was a pity that this remnant soul was no longer a complete person. Thus, it had no way of exerting any control over these ghostrunes. Instead, it greatly feared the soul attacks of the ghostrunes.

If its soul was destroyed as well, it would cease to exist. At the command, the nether prison devil puppet attacked, blasting the ghostrunes with a dreadful punch that turned more than 10 ghostrunes into mincemeat.

However, there were too many ghostrunes, and it would take some time to kill them all. Gui Qi and the other ghostrunes started blasting the remnant soul in the statue with a barrage of soul attacks. The ghostrunes had much higher sensitivity toward anything soul related than any other races.

"AHHHH! AHHHH! Kill them! Kill them now!" The remnant soul wailed miserably.

The nether prison devil puppet was extremely powerful. In only a few seconds, nearly 1,000 ghostrunes had been killed. Even so, the ghostrunes were able to kill a remnant soul much faster.

This particular remnant soul had been existing here for many, many years, and it had barely any strength remaining. Like a tiny wisp of flame, a gentle breeze was enough to erase it.

Under the attack of so many ghostrunes, the remnant soul was completely helpless. With a final wail, it was finally destroyed. And with the destruction of the remnant soul, the symbol on the puppet's forehead faded. The puppet stopped moving and stood there motionless. This was proof that the remnant soul had been completely destroyed and that its control over the puppet had been relinquished.

Xiang Shaoyun fainted. He had suffered grave injuries, and his Nether Soul Domain had been destroyed on top of that. One could say that these injuries were all fatal. Fortunately, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband had protected his soul from destruction. That was what had given him the chance to recover.

Several drops of lightning liquid in his body dissolved and started nourishing his injured body. It was also at this moment that Yun Flame finally started refining the final bit of the devil flame seed's power in his astral cosmos sea.

Chapter 500: Blood Essence Fusion

Xiang Shaoyun had sustained heavy injuries. The nether prison devil puppet had broken his lower spine and crushed his inner organs. Any other person would be dead by now.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was able to barely hang on to life, thanks to his tough body and his soul power. Because of that, after using several drops of lightning liquid, he started recovering from his fatal injuries.

Electrical currents swirled around his lightning bone, slowly rejoining the spine. At the same time, his inner organs were also being restored. Despite the recovery process, he did not regain consciousness. Rather, his soul floated out of his body.

If anyone saw this, that person would have thought that Xiang Shaoyun was dead for sure. That was understandable, as generally, when one died, one's soul would leave the body and slowly disperse, finalizing the death.

But for Xiang Shaoyun, his soul had not left his body only because of his injuries. Another contributing reason was that his Nether Soul Domain had shattered, but the main reason was that he still felt something calling to him from the statue.

He believed that this calling no longer came from that remnant soul. Rather, there was something else in the statue. His soul went inside the statue and was able to see what was contained in it. Apart from a simple and crude chakram and a jade dish, there was nothing else in the statue.

The chakram had lost its luster and had naturally failed to attract Xiang Shaoyun's attention. However, the sparkling red liquid in the jade dish had attracted him. With one look, he knew what these two were. The chakram was definitely the remnant soul's weapon, while this liquid was the remnant soul's blood essence extracted when alive.

After taking over Xiang Shaoyun's body, the blood essence here would be used to cleanse his body to increase the resonance between the body and the new soul, allowing the new soul to adapt to the body within the shortest time frame.

Unfortunately for the remnant soul, it could no longer make use of the blood essence. However, the blood essence would still be useful for Xiang Shaoyun. The lightning liquid was unable to immediately heal all his injuries, but the blood essence was definitely capable of that. After all, both of them had the bloodline of the Imperial Nether Clan.

Initially, Xiang Shaoyun was distressed about the existence of the Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline in his body, but he no longer felt the same. After all, during the fight over the devil edge grass, the Dark Devil Sect's old Emperor and the red-haired youth had definitely found out about the existence of the Nether Soul Domain. However, apart from fear, the two had not displayed any actual hatred toward him.

From that, Xiang Shaoyun could conclude that the Imperial Nether Clan was most likely rather powerful on the surface world and that they had not suffered the rejection of all other surface races. Having figured that out, he no longer minded his Imperial Nether Clan blood that much.

What he needed to do now was feed his body the blood essence in the dish. Only then could he thoroughly activate his bloodline and make use of the power in the bloodline to restore his body. However, this statue was forged of an extremely rare material that was no lower than the sovereign grade. It was almost impossible for him to create an opening on the statue.

His soul flew out of the statue and stared at the immobile puppet as he muttered, "Looks like I can only rely on you."

Without any hesitation, his soul charged into the puppet's brain. Although his soul looked incomparably solid, it was still a soul and would have no problem phasing through obstacles. After entering the puppet, he found that there was no vitality left in the puppet. However, the inner organs and bones of the puppet were still well-preserved. In fact, the puppet was exactly the same as a living nether prison devil, with the only difference being the lack of a soul.

With his soul in the puppet's brain, he instantly received a clear picture of the puppet's structure. He spread his consciousness around the puppet, trying to control it. Sure enough, the puppet started moving in accordance to his will.

Bang!

Under Xiang Shaoyun's control, the puppet punched the air, releasing a massive impact that caused the entire castle to shake.

"Haha, what an amazing body. This body is comparable to a Sovereign's!" Xiang Shaoyun howled with laughter. This nether prison devil puppet was equivalent to an additional insurance for him. In the future, he would not be completely helpless when encountering a Sovereign.

He had a feeling this puppet had a combat prowess comparable to a top-tier Devil Sovereign. Of course, with the complete lack of vitality and blood in this body, it would be hard for it to attack with devilish energy. Even so, it still had the strength of a late-stage Sovereign and would be able to easily kill regular Sovereigns.

Xiang Shaoyun familiarized himself with the puppet in excitement before finally unleashing a punch at the statue. However, the statue remained standing. Evidently, this was a statue built with sovereign materials. He was not discouraged. He rained punches on the statue, and finally, cracks started appearing on it.

"Break!" Xiang Shaoyun yelled and punched once again.

Bang!

The statue crumbled. Xiang Shaoyun quickly grabbed the chakram and the jade dish. His soul then left the puppet and returned to his body with the jade dish before feeding his body the blood essence. After doing that, his soul returned to his body. Only with a soul would one's body be complete and be able to properly digest anything one consumed.

With the return of his consciousness to his body, he started fusing the blood essence with his own blood. Since his blood and the foreign blood had the same origin, they quickly blended together. His blood started boiling, and an abundant vitality started coursing through his body. The lightning liquid had already rejoined his broken spine. As for his damaged meridians, veins, and organs, they started restoring under the nourishment of the abundant vitality.

Xiang Shaoyun's bloodline fully came alive. Different from the situation when he absorbed devilish energy in the past, after blending with the blood essence, some information regarding the Imperial Nether Clan started awakening in his mind.

Scenes of the Imperial Nether Clan at the deepest layers of the Devil Domain appeared in his mind. The men of the clan were tall, bold, powerful, and heroic. Each of them had a wild mane of hair and a pair of gray pupils and a high intimacy with nether energy. The women were extremely beautiful, their figure perfect, and their outfits seductive.

Men or women, all were incredibly noble and majestic. They had access to numerous inconceivable abilities, as if they had won the lottery of creation, loved by the heavens. With their remarkable talent, the imperial nethers created the ghostrunes, a new species created with their soul power. As for the nether prison devils, nether yin devils, and so on...these were all branch clans sharing the same bloodline with the imperial nethers. All of them were under the control of the Imperial Nether Clan.

The history of the Imperial Nether Clan started awakening in Xiang Shaoyun's mind with the power of his bloodline. At the same time, some Imperial Nether Clan's innate abilities started awakening in his mind as well.