

Overlord 501

Chapter 501: Extorting the Old Nether Prison Devil

At the same time Xiang Shaoyun fully recovered from his injuries, Yun Flame had also completed the refining process of the devil flame seed in the astral cosmos sea. The fusion of the two powerful flames gave birth to a brand new high-level flame.

A tinge of black could be seen in the initially crimson Yun Flame, making it look even more bewitching and vivid than before. The power of flame had also increased to a brand new level. The power of flame caused the temperature in the astral cosmos sea to increase greatly, the heat attracting Xiang Shaoyun's attention.

When he shifted his focus to the astral cosmos sea, he found that under the nourishment of the power of flame, the blaze flower was growing even faster, undergoing clear changes. Before long, it would be ripe. The previous ripe blaze flower had been given to Du Xuanhao.

This stalk of blaze flower was a newly grown one. Although it had been growing nicely, it should have taken much longer to ripen. Now, after absorbing the devil flame seed, Yun Flame's power had grown to a brand new level. Even the blaze flower had benefited from the increased flame power.

"Boss, it's hot as hell here. Let me out," Money started protesting.

Xiang Shaoyun satisfied his request and let him out of the astral cosmos sea. At this time, he also sensed that the Yun Flame was demanding to return to the flame star to refine with his body.

But after a slight hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun decided to not immediately send Yun Flame back to the flame star. Currently, Yun Flame was filled with power. If it returned to the flame star, his cultivation level would definitely start growing once again.

That was supposed to be something good, but Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to increase his cultivation level so soon after his previous advancement. His current focus was to temper his newly gained strength from his recent advancements. After stabilizing and suppressing his foundations, he would then let Yun Flame return at a suitable time to make the best use of its new power.

After making up his mind, Xiang Shaoyun placated Yun Flame, telling it to remain in the lava and continue nourishing the blaze flower. He believed that before long, he would be able to put the blaze flower to use. A high-tier emperor medicine like this would be very useful during his breakthrough into the Emperor Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun shifted his focus back to his body and found that he had fully healed from his injuries. His body was currently filled with power. He could feel that his bloodline had once again strengthened his body. In fact, his physical body was now comparable to even the strongest of Kings. Although his cultivation level remained the same, his strength and vitality had changed massively.

He could also sense that a faintly discernible symbol had appeared on his forehead. The symbol looked ancient and noble, and it made his handsome face look rather bewitching. Any maiden would be smitten at the sight of the current Xiang Shaoyun.

He stroked the symbol and muttered, "Is this the proof of the Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline?"

Although he looked rather cool with the symbol on his forehead, he did not like to have it visible like this. Without any hesitation, he willed for the symbol to fade away. It was still not the time to let others know that he had the Imperial Nether Clan's bloodline. He was more willing to continue carrying himself as a pure human.

After his recovery, Xiang Shaoyun did not continue moving straight away. Rather, he continued his seclusion, trying to rebuild his Nether Soul Domain. The Nether Soul Domain had been destroyed by the nether prison devil puppet, causing his soul to drop greatly in power. But with the increase of his bloodline power, his soul power had not only recovered, but it had even grown stronger.

Even so, he still needed to personally rebuild his Nether Soul Domain. Although the Nether Soul Domain had been destroyed, he still had the soul raising stone and the soul spring. With the further awakening of his talent as an Imperial Nether Clan member, it wouldn't be hard for him to rebuild a brand new Nether Soul Domain. All he needed was time.

Xiang Shaoyun spent about one month at the site before leaving. When he stepped out of the castle once more, he was much taller than before. His bearing became even more elegant and graceful, and his long wavy jet-black hair fluttered about wildly, making him look carefree and heroic.

The repelling force of the castle could no longer block his exit. It was not that he had become so strong the castle couldn't do anything to him, but it was due to his newly obtained chakram. It contained a unique power within, allowing him to control the castle.

Outside the castle, the old nether prison devil appeared before him. With an ugly smile on his face, he deferentially said, "Congratulations, Lord Ming Xiao for your rebirth."

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly, then a crafty smile appeared on his face. "Hehe, yes, ahhhh, it feels good to be alive once again."

"Lord Ming Xiao, is your esteemed self returning to the clan immediately? This lowly one is willing to serve you with my life," asked the old nether prison devil with a bow.

"There is no rush. I need some time to get used to this new body," said Xiang Shaoyun. "This body is too weak. I need to restore my strength as quickly as possible. Bring me all the cultivation resources of your clan. Upon my return to the clan in the future, you will be amply rewarded for your contribution."

Xiang Shaoyun understood that the old nether prison devil was aware of the remnant soul in the castle, and he also understood that the old nether prison devil had only allowed him in there so the remnant soul could steal his body.

Since that was the case, he did not mind extorting this old nether prison devil. Naturally, the old nether prison devil did not dare disobey. Immediately, a large number of devil materials were delivered before Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up when he saw the materials, but he quickly hid his excitement. Every single one of the materials were not lower than the emperor-grade. Among them were a few stalks of rare emperor medicines beneficial to one's soul.

However, in comparison to the other materials, the emperor medicines weren't even something special. The truly valuable materials of the bunch were the sovereign-grade devil cores, the large number of devilish energy stones, and so on. These materials would be worth a large amount of wealth wherever he went.

"Lord Ming Xiao, are these enough? These are more than half of what my clan has," said the old nether prison devil.

"Do you think I'm stupid? You're trying to fool me with just these?" Xiang Shaoyun howled furiously.

The old nether prison devil trembled and nearly knelt down as he quickly said, "No, this lowly one dares not! This lowly one dares not!"

"What are you waiting for then? Get the real treasures out," commanded Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, yes, this lowly one will do just that," the old nether prison devil quickly agreed and ran off again. Shortly after, he returned with some new items.

"Lord, here are four nether prison drought fruits, all of them sovereign medicines," offered the old nether prison devil respectfully.

The four fruits were shaped like drought devils, and they were emanating thick devilish energy. Looking at them, Xiang Shaoyun was filled with joy. But he maintained an indifferent expression and said, "Smart choice."

He then stowed the four fruits. These were sovereign medicines that had probably taken over 10,000 years to grow. It wouldn't even be an exaggeration to call each of them a panacea. Sovereign medicines were much more useful than emperor medicines, and they were fatally attractive to Soul Foundation Realm cultivators.

Chapter 502: Nether Shadow Evanescence

For ordinary cultivators, the nether prison drought fruit would not only be useless, but it would even bring them harm. But for cultivators with higher levels of cultivation, this fruit would be extremely beneficial.

This fruit was capable of revealing one's true nature, clearing the darkness, allowing a cultivator to straighten the wrong path they had taken in the past during cultivation. The cultivator would be able to understand their own deficiencies, and could even correlate the karma of their previous and current lives.

The essence of entering the Dragon Ascension Realm was to form the draconic aura, form a draconic spine, and step through the gate of fate and transform into a dragon among men. The essence of entering the Soul Foundation Realm was to brighten one's soul power, allowing one's soul to take form, before finally forming a soul foundation. The realm beyond the Soul Foundation Realm was the Heaven Battling Realm, also known as the Saint Realm. To reach this stage, one had to give clarity to one's true nature, reforge one's soul, and form a saintly body capable of defying the heavens.

The nether prison drought fruit was a top-tier sovereign medicine. Although it was incomparable to a saint medicine, it was capable of allowing a Soul Foundation Realm expert to give clarity to his

true nature in advance, which would be extremely helpful for when the cultivator in question attempted to break through into the Heaven Battling Realm.

Before entering the Soul Foundation Realm and improving one's nature, one would become imbecile if one consumed a nether prison drought fruit. It would be extremely difficult for someone like this to regain his true nature. Thus, a medicine of too high a grade might be a poison instead of a medicine.

After the memory awakening of his bloodline, Xiang Shaoyun had gained a lot of knowledge in regards to the numerous devil materials. Thus, he naturally knew the usage of the nether prison drought fruit. He stowed the fruits and was in no rush to consume them. It wouldn't be late to use one in the future when he needed it.

Now that he had gotten what he had set out for, it was time for him to continue hunting devils for contribution points. Even so, he was in no rush to leave. Rather, he started asking the old nether prison devil about the devils in the area so as to make things easier for him. He did not have much time left before the period of half a year was over. He had to make use of every second he had with the greatest efficiency. Naturally, the old nether prison devil hid nothing from him.

"This lord needs some time to get used to this body so I can restore my strength and return to the clan as quickly as possible. You may leave now," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, lord. May the lord remember us, the nether prison devils," said the old nether prison devil deferentially.

Xiang Shaoyun then left in a certain direction. He was heading back toward the area near the entrance to the second layer. After all, the devils there would have lower cultivation levels in comparison to the devils in the deeper area.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun wasted no time and started a slaughter of devils. Apart from tempering his battle techniques, he also released the ghostrunes out so they could have a taste of the environment in the Devil Domain.

About 2,000 of the ghostrunes had been killed by the puppet, but they bred extremely quickly, so that wasn't much of a loss. They only needed to somewhat stunt the growth of their bloodline, and soon, their numbers would go up again. Xiang Shaoyun commanded them to maintain their numbers at 8,000. At that command, a portion of them were immediately assigned to the task of breeding.

Xiang Shaoyun also gave them a large number of devilish energy stones and devil cores, allowing the ghostrunes to be able to continue growing stronger despite the breeding. It also allowed the newly born ghostrunes to quickly grow in strength. As for Gui Qi, as the patriarch, he was still the strongest ghostrune. His strength had grown once more, reaching the fourth-stage Emperor Realm. His growth speed was astonishing, but it was completely within reason.

After all, Xiang Shaoyun had given him a large number of devil cores. Like the demons, the devils would be able to grow however fast they wanted so long as they had enough resources to support their growth. That was how Gui Qi had come to grow so fast.

During this time, Xiang Shaoyun's understanding of the numerous battle techniques and combat tactics was also growing rapidly. Nowadays, each of his kills would be completed instantly by making use of a single instant of his opponent's carelessness. He would not give his opponent any chance, and with that, he was able to kill at great efficiency.

Recently, he had also started cultivating a different Imperial Nether Clan's innate ability, the Nether Shadow Evanescence. The Nether Shadow Evanescence was one of the most mysterious innate abilities the Imperial Nether Clan had. Like the Nether Soul Domain, the Nether Shadow Evanescence was one of the three greatest techniques of the Imperial Nether Clan.

This ability was ranked alongside the Nether Soul Domain not because of its prowess, but because of its ability to grant the user invisibility and let them become undetectable. This was most certainly a unique and unmatched secret technique that was akin to a cheat. How many people could actually achieve true invisibility to the point one could be completely undetected? As one of the Four Paramount Devil Clans, the Imperial Nether Clan was capable of that feat.

The Nether Shadow Evanescence was a secret technique that could only be used through the power of one's bloodline. Using this ability, one would be able to become one with the surroundings, becoming formless and shapeless. If one tried escaping while using the Nether Shadow Evanescence, the escape would basically be a success. And if used when attacking, the attack would rarely fail as well. That was how the Nether Shadow Evanescence had come to be known as one of the three greatest abilities of the Imperial Nether Clan.

Although Xiang Shaoyun was not a pure-blooded imperial nether, he had excavated the talents of the Nether Soul Domain since young. That only meant that his bloodline had originated from the purest imperial nether branch. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to access the talents of the Nether Soul Domain at such a young age.

Now that he had consumed the blood essence of a pure imperial nether prince, the purity of his bloodline had further increased, awakening more of the clan's innate abilities in him. That proved that his bloodline was now with a high purity, allowing him to cultivate yet another one of the three greatest abilities.

Xiang Shaoyun had also been frequently making use of his bloodline power in battles recently, allowing him to further increase comprehension of the profundities of his bloodline. All that was in preparation to cultivate the Nether Shadow Evanescence. After spending some time in cultivation, he finally grasped the essence of this ability.

The Imperial Nether Clan was able to use the Nether Shadow Evanescence due to a unique attribute in their bloodline, the attribute of invisibility. The bloodline was capable of allowing one's body to have the same frequency with one's surroundings, achieving the effect of invisibility. This was an ability exclusive to them. Of course, there was a limit to the amount of time one could stay invisible. After all, the ability required the support of one's bloodline power.

At present, Xiang Shaoyun was located in an area filled with stones. He stood straight like a spear and took a deep breath, preparing his body for invisibility. After a short while, he muttered, "Bloodline, activate!"

At that command, his blood roiled, and an odd transformation started occurring from a concentration of blood at a corner of his body. Abruptly, his body started blending into nature, becoming undetectable.

It was at this instant that Xiang Shaoyun started running toward a nearby Devil Emperor. It was a six-horned iron devil, a sixth-stage Devil Emperor residing in the area. It was resting in an open space, its body as large as a mountain. On its head were six iron horns that looked incomparably tough. A thick coat of iron furs covered its whole body.

A Devil Emperor this powerful was capable of sensing all changes in its surroundings, even when sleeping. Yet Xiang Shaoyun was able to arrive beside it completely undetected.

Chapter 503: Han Pojun

After circling the six-horned iron devil one time, Xiang Shaoyun found that the devil had no reaction whatsoever to his approach. Inwardly, he thought proudly, Looks like I have successfully cultivated the Nether Shadow Evanescence.

But right as that thought surfaced in his mind, the six-horned iron devil suddenly opened its eyes. Xiang Shaoyun was greatly shocked, his heart thumping wildly. After all, this powerful Devil Emperor was still capable of easily killing him.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to release his Nether Soul Domain, the six-horned iron devil shut its eyes again and continued sleeping. Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief.

Alright, you may go to the afterlife now, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he walked toward the flank of the devil.

His gaze landed on a certain protrusion on the devil's neck. The skin there was three times thicker than the other parts of the devil's body. That was the vital spot of the devil. So long as that protrusion was destroyed, the devil would die. A chakram appeared in Xiang Shaoyun's hand as he struck the protrusion with it. The incomparably sharp chakram easily sliced the protrusion apart.

"Roar!"

The six-horned iron devil roared in pain and started rolling about on the ground. A massive amount of devilish energy started rippling out of its body. This was its final struggle before death, and the first thing Xiang Shaoyun did was pull a wide distance between him and the devil.

Even with the vigorous vitality this devil had, with the destruction of its vital spot, it did not even last long before it was fully dead. In theory, this vital spot was the same as the heart of a human. Without a heart, how could a human remain alive?

Just like that, Xiang Shaoyun earned 120,000 contribution points. If other Kings found out Xiang Shaoyun could so easily earn that many contribution points, they would probably be mad with envy. After harvesting the six horns and some other important parts of the devil's body, Xiang Shaoyun proceeded to slice a piece of meat off the devil and started cooking it.

As for the remaining part of the corpse, it became the food for the ghostrunes. However, Money was not partaking in the feast as he hated the aura of the Devil Domain. Thus, he had been staying in the astral cosmos sea most of the time. Xiang Shaoyun attributed that to laziness.

Yes, Money was a demon and was not suited to the environment here, but he should still come out to temper himself. But he instead stayed in the astral cosmos sea to enjoy the nourishment of the thin nine-colored fog. It almost seemed like he was addicted to the fog.

Xiang Shaoyun found that just relying on the tiny bit of nine-colored fog, Money had also reached the late fourth-stage Demon King realm. It wouldn't be long before he could enter the fifth-stage.

At that realization, Xiang Shaoyun was filled with even more expectation toward the nine-colored fog. Unfortunately, he was unable to form much of the nine-colored fog in his current environment. He would only be able to continue forming more after leaving the Devil Domain.

After the meal, Xiang Shaoyun did not leave immediately. Rather, he gathered a large number of devilish energy stones in the area. He also found some top-quality enigma stones. Only then did he leave satisfied.

He arrived at the territory of a different Devil Emperor and assassinated the Devil Emperor with the same method. He had also figured out that with his current bloodline power, he would only be able to maintain the Nether Shadow Evanescence for half an hour. That wasn't a long time, but it was long enough to do a lot of things.

Xiang Shaoyun believed that so long as he continued working hard, the time limit would only increase. And now, he finally started his return journey. He planned to keep killing on his way back. By the time he was done with the return journey, he should have enough contribution points in hand.

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Meanwhile, at a certain area in the third layer, a group of powerful individuals were attacking a peak Emperor. The group had more than 50 members, and each of them was a Dragon Ascension Realm expert. The leader was a peak Emperor, with two ninth-stage Emperors serving under him. The rest of the group members were Emperors of different stages.

Riding their powerful mounts, they surrounded their target and sealed all escape. Even the native Demon Emperors in the area were all killed mercilessly. The Emperor they were targeting had been fleeing all alone, but ultimately, he was forced to fight them as he had no way of escape.

The peak Emperor looked to be about 35 years old. He had a resolute face, akin to a firm sheath, while his pair of bright eyes were filled with viciousness. His messy hair whipped about, while his blood-stained body emanated an austere aura. He wielded a massive crimson stone that was the size of two adults, looking extremely conspicuous.

"Han Pojun, you won't be able to escape us. Hand over the blood cocoon stone, or you will die today," said the leader of the group.

From the outfits the people in the group were wearing, they were from the Noxious Blood Gang. The leader was the second monarch of the gang, Sand Blood. As for the man with the crimson stone, he was Han Pojun. If the Han Clan sisters were here, they would be able to recognize this person as their uncle. This person was one of the strongest second generation members of the Han Clan.

The Han Clan was only a peak tier-5 organization. That was because they only had a single Sovereign Realm expert in their clan. They would only become a tier-6 organization if they had two or more Sovereigns in their clan. The person with the most hope of entering the Sovereign Realm in the clan currently was this very Han Pojun.

Han Pojun was indeed someone with great talent. He was not even 100 years old, yet he was already a peak Emperor. Someone with this sort of talent was extremely rare among tier-5 organizations. But now, the Noxious Blood Gang was encircling him. He was in bad shape, and it did not seem like he would be able to escape.

"You bastards from the Noxious Blood Gang, cut the crap! The blood cocoon stone will be useless for you even if you manage to obtain it. My brother is already inside. Give up already," howled Han Pojun as he placed the stone on the ground.

"Very well, I will send both you and your brother to the afterlife, then," said Sand Blood viciously.

After saying that, he charged Han Pojun. The two ninth-stage Emperors also attacked. They knew that Han Pojun was a difficult opponent. If they did not use all their power to kill him, he might be able to escape them yet again.

Han Pojun might be valiant, but with three experts attacking him, he sustained even more injuries. Even so, he was ruthless enough to risk injury in order to kill one of the three. Unfortunately, after killing a ninth-stage Emperor, Sand Blood inflicted yet another heavy injury on him, causing him to collapse beside the blood cocoon stone. He could barely move.

"Han Pojun, time to die," said Sand Blood as he prepared to deal the final blow.

Right this instant, a dreadful saber energy shot out of the blood cocoon stone and blasted Sand Blood away.

"Saber intent? So you are the one in the blood cocoon stone, Du Xuanhao? You bastard! If I can't get the blood cocoon stone, I will destroy you with the stone! Everyone, attack!" commanded Sand Blood. Instantly, a barrage of attacks were sent toward Han Pojun and the blood cocoon stone.

"I have failed you, brother," said Han Pojun with despair. It was at this moment that a figure suddenly appeared and dragged away both Han Pojun and the blood cocoon stone.

Chapter 504: All of You May Die

Han Pojun was a proud and aloof individual with few friends. Thus, he had not expected to be saved during this critical moment. Yet the unexpected had happened. At the final moments, someone arrived and dragged both of them away from the barrage of attacks.

After the explosions settled, Sand Blood told everyone to stop attacking. When his gaze landed on where Han Pojun and the blood cocoon stone were before, he found nothing. He frowned and looked in a different direction. His eyes shrank. "Nether prison devil!"

If it was a regular nether prison devil, he would not be afraid. His group had both strength and numbers, and so long as they did not encounter a large group of devils, they would be able to do as they wished here. But this nether prison devil was different as it was able to rescue their targets right under their noses. That proved how powerful this nether prison devil was.

When he focused, he found that there was a different aura by the nether prison devil. The second person was an elegant young man. His long black hair fluttered about, and he possessed a pair of luminous eyes, his aura valiant, and his bearing cold. Any maiden would be smitten by the sight of this young man. The young man was none other than Xiang Shaoyun.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun hated trouble, and he never viewed himself as some sort of hero. But each time he stumbled upon someone in trouble, he had to help. Examples of those he had helped were Jin Shui, Ling Lin, Shou Xie, the Han Clan sisters, and now Han Pojun. He did not view himself as a hero, but others might disagree.

When he found the Noxious Blood Gang attacking Han Pojun, he did not intend to help even though he knew Han Pojun was related to the Han Clan sisters. After all, he did not have much time to waste playing a hero. But when Sand Blood shouted that Du Xuanhao was the person in the blood cocoon stone, he had no choice but to help.

Du Xuanhao had entered the Devil Domain a step ahead of Xiang Shaoyun to temper himself. Xiang Shaoyun believed that Du Xuanhao would be strong enough to protect himself in the third layer.

Because of that, Xiang Shaoyun had never planned to look for him at the third layer. But now that they had stumbled upon each other, he had no choice but to help. Du Xuanhao was his follower, but he respected Du Xuanhao like a big brother. That was not only because of Hua Cheng, but he truly admired Du Xuanhao's character.

"W-who are you?" Han Pojun asked weakly.

Han Pojun was not naive enough to believe that the nether prison devil would help them. He was sure this young man was the reason for their rescue. Otherwise, in the eyes of the nether prison devil, they were food.

Xiang Shaoyun answered with a question, "Is Du Xuanhao the one in the stone?"

Han Pojun did not know who Xiang Shaoyun was, but he had to rely on this young man, so he nodded. "Yes. H-he is my brother. I hope you can help us!"

Although this young man did not look too strong, he was sure this young man was the only one who could help them right now. Before Xiang Shaoyun could reply, Sand Blood's group surrounded them.

Sand Blood looked at Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Mister, why are you getting involved in an affair of the Noxious Blood Gang?"

Sand Blood did not dare to move recklessly. The nether prison devil with zero vitality was creating intense fear in his heart. This was the third layer of Devil Domain, and a vast majority of devils here were Devil Emperors.

A young man that was not even an Emperor was here, and that defied common sense. As for a high-level puppet like this nether prison devil puppet, it was not something an ordinary organization could possess. Thus, he suspected that this young man was a genius from some large organization, or even an exalted devil of the Devil Domain.

"Hehe, Noxious Blood Gang again? Looks like I, Xiang Shaoyun, am really connected by fate with you Noxious Blood Gang people. You may all die," said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold sneer. At his command, the nether prison devil puppet attacked.

Bang!

Nobody could see how the puppet had moved, and by the time they noticed the puppet, Sand Blood's head had already been smashed into pulp. Sand Blood had been on guard all along, prepared to flee at the first sign of danger.

However, he had underestimated the speed and strength of the nether prison devil puppet. Thus, he was killed before he could do anything. The others were also in a state of shock. By the time they recovered, the nether prison devil puppet had already killed more than 10 of them.

Each kill was completed with only a single hit, including those equipped with emperor armors. None could withstand the nether prison devil puppet's attack. The survivors felt their bodies turn cold, and they all started fleeing madly.

Unfortunately, they were much slower than the nether prison devil puppet. After all, the nether prison devil puppet was equivalent to a Devil Sovereign. In a few seconds, the group of over 50 members was completely annihilated. Not even their mounts were spared.

Han Pojun was so shocked he couldn't even feel his pain anymore. His eyes were wide open, his mouth agape, his face filled with disbelief. He knew this nether prison devil puppet was strong, but its performance had still exceeded his expectation. Even an ordinary Sovereign would probably have a hard time dealing with it. Of course, he also rejoiced at the fact that his life had successfully been preserved.

"This is a drop of lightning liquid. Use it," said Xiang Shaoyun as he handed Han Pojun a drop of lightning liquid. Han Pojun did not hesitate, and he opened his mouth, allowing the drop of lightning liquid to drip inside. He then entered a meditative state to heal his injuries.

Xiang Shaoyun then shifted his focus to the blood cocoon stone. With his gift of instincts, he tried to see the situation within the stone. Unfortunately, the only thing he saw was a vague outline of a saber. He was unable to see if Du Xuanhao was really in there.

Even so, he was sure Du Xuanhao was in the stone. He did not understand why Du Xuanhao would be in the stone, but he did not rashly destroy it. He would wait until Han Pojun was done healing before doing anything else.

As for the nether prison devil puppet, it was stowed away. It had only been battling under the control of Xiang Shaoyun's soul. After the first time he sent his soul into the puppet, he discovered that he only needed to send a strand of his consciousness into the puppet to control it. That probably had something to do with the Nether Soul Domain he had as well.

Xiang Shaoyun proceeded to summon a few gostrunes, and he sent them to clean up the battlefield. The dead Noxious Blood Gang members probably had quite a lot of treasures on them. He did not wish to see those treasures go to waste.

Not one of them was a Soul Foundation Realm expert. It's clear their great monarch is not here. Has he returned to the city? If that is the case, I need to return as soon as possible. Otherwise, there will be nothing left of the Skeleton Gang, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 505: Blood Cocoon Stone

Half a day later, Han Pojun had recovered considerably. Of course, his injuries had been too heavy, so it would still take him some time to fully recover.

"Thank you for your help, young brother. I, Han Pojun, will never forget this favor," said Han Pojun gratefully.

He was curious as to where this young genius had come from. This young man actually had such a high-tier puppet in his possession. One ought to know that such powerful puppets were almost nonexistent even among tier-7 organizations. Only those top tier-7 organizations would have some, and even for them, puppets like this would be their treasure.

"Since you're Big Brother Du's friend, just call me Xiang Shaoyun. I consider him my big brother," said Xiang Shaoyun politely.

"You're Old Du's little brother?" Han Pojun asked in astonishment.

"Yes, you can say that," Xiang Shaoyun replied with a faint smile.

"No wonder you helped us," said Han Pojun in realization.

"What is going on with Big Brother Du?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"He's fine," said Han Pojun.

"Why is he in the stone if he's fine?" Xiang Shaoyun questioned.

Han Pojun took a deep breath and said, "This is a blood cocoon stone, a treasured stone produced by the blood devils, capable of allowing one to quickly recover one's vitality and strengthen one's bloodline. In order to save me, Old Du had injured himself heavily. In fact, he had nearly died. The only thing I could do to return his favor was to get him into the blood cocoon stone to recover. I believe he will be fine after he comes out."

"Blood cocoon stone of the blood devils? No wonder," said Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment. "Are the Noxious Blood Gang people the ones trying to kill Big Brother Du?"

The blood cocoon stone was a treasure of the blood devils, who had produced it by exhausting a large amount of blood essence. The stone was capable of allowing one to improve one's bloodline several times over. Xiang Shaoyun did not know how they had gotten the blood cocoon stone, but it would only be beneficial for Du Xuanhao. Right now, he was more curious as to who was the one who had harmed Du Xuanhao.

"I was being hunted by the blood devils after stealing their blood cocoon stone. Old Du was the one who had saved me. Subsequently, we encountered the Noxious Blood Gang, who then tried to rob us, and you saw what happened next," said Han Pojun awkwardly.

"I see," Xiang Shaoyun said in realization. "I am bringing Big Brother Du back to the Bloodsin City. Are you coming?"

Han Pojun hesitated, "Why don't we wait for Old Du to come out of the cocoon before we decide?"

Although he was grateful that Xiang Shaoyun had saved them, he still did not fully trust him. What if this was a ploy to steal the blood cocoon stone?

Xiang Shaoyun could see why Han Pojun was worried. He said, "Do you know Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei?"

"You know my nieces?" Han Pojun frowned.

"They are currently waiting at the third layer's entrance," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Han Pojun stared at Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes fluctuating with emotions while numerous thoughts surfaced in his mind. Have Qianwei and Xuewei been captured by him?

"Alright, I'll go with you," Han Pojun decided after thinking about it for a bit.

After all, if Xiang Shaoyun really wanted to steal the blood cocoon stone, there was no need to give him the time to recover. Instead, Xiang Shaoyun could have killed him directly. Perhaps he had been too suspicious.

After spending another half a day healing up, Han Pojun's condition had improved even further. He then joined Xiang Shaoyun on the trip back to the entrance. Xiang Shaoyun summoned Money and had him carry both the blood cocoon stone and Han Pojun as they traveled. As for himself, he was going to kill some more devils and gather enough contribution points before doing anything else.

When Han Pojun saw what Xiang Shaoyun was doing, he heaved a breath of relief. In their travels, Han Pojun personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun killing first-stage and second-stage Devil Emperors, and his face was filled with shock at what he saw. He could see that Xiang Shaoyun was only a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator.

With such a cultivation level, Xiang Shaoyun was able to punch way above his height, killing first-stage and second-stage Devil Emperors with one hit, filling Han Pojun's heart with shock. Han Pojun thought, What kind of a freak is this kid? Why is he so terrifying? He is definitely a War Emperor. No, he's a Super War Emperor! This is a genius rarely seen in even tier-7 organizations and could generally only be seen in tier-8 or tier-9 organizations.

Xiang Shaoyun was too busy to pay attention to what Han Pojun was thinking. Through continuous battles, his strength was growing, and slowly, he reached the late seventh-stage Skysoar Realm. One ought to admit that battling was the fastest way of growing.

By the time they reached the entrance, Xiang Shaoyun had successfully gathered all the contribution points he needed. In recent days, apart from relying on himself to kill devils, he had also been occasionally releasing his Nether Soul Domain to increase his killing speed when stronger Devil Emperors were involved. However, not even Han Pojun noticed him using the Nether Soul Domain.

When Xiang Shaoyun checked his jade plate, he saw that he now had 12,370,000 contribution points. He had considerably exceeded the 10 million contribution points he needed. When they arrived at the entrance, Meng Gansu and the Han Clan sisters were nowhere to be seen.

"Where are they? Have you lied to me?" Han Pojun asked, his face sinking when he noticed that no one was present.

Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei were his nieces, and the two were decently talented in terms of cultivation. Among the third generation members of the Han Clan, the two were considered remarkable talents, and he did not wish to see anything bad happen to them.

"Calm down. Let me search for them," said Xiang Shaoyun calmly. He could sense that Meng Gansu was still alive, so they should be fine. Shortly after, he said, "They are over there. Let's go."

He then flew away. Han Pojun also flew toward the same direction. He had recovered from his injuries and could now move quickly. Not far away, the Han Clan sisters were battling an eighth-stage Devil King. Their opponent was an ice turtle devil that spat clumps of frosty mist without stop, causing the surrounding temperature to drop rapidly to a coldness few could withstand.

With their cooperative technique, the Han Clan sisters attacked repeatedly, sending out numerous ice blades to clash with the clumps of mist, creating a series of sparkling explosions of frost. Both of them were sixth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivators, but when working together, they were able to achieve a difficult feat of evenly matching the eighth-stage Devil King.

As for Meng Gansu, he was standing to the side without any intention to help. By his side was an ice turtle devil corpse. Evidently, the corpse was a Devil Emperor he had killed, and the Devil King was currently serving as a sparring partner for the Han Clan sisters.

Alas, although the sisters were decently powerful, the ice turtle devil's defenses were too powerful. They had not seen any success despite their repeated attacks. After they had exhausted themselves attacking, the ice turtle devil finally attacked, forcing the sisters to retreat repeatedly. Just as the sisters were about to be seriously injured, Meng Gansu moved to help. But someone else made a move before him.

"Evil creature, don't you get too cocky!" a shout thundered as a figure dropped from the sky, landing a kick on the ice turtle devil.

Bang!

Chapter 506: Even Your Uncle's Life Had Been Saved by Him

The ice turtle devil had incredibly powerful defenses, but the newcomer was able to crush its shell and kill it with a single kick. When the sisters saw who the newcomer was, they called out cheerfully, "Uncle Pojun!"

They then rushed over, flanked him on both sides, and hugged his arms. They seemed to be extremely close.

"Although you are quite strong, you are not strong enough to challenge a devil whose specialty is defense," said Han Pojun dotingly. He was still single, and he treated the sisters as his own daughters.

"Uncle Pojun, we were only trying to increase our combat prowess," Han Xuewei quickly explained.

Han Qianwei also smiled, something she rarely did, and said, "Our cooperative Icefrost Sword Technique has already reached the third stage, Chilling the Air, Freezing the Sky. If we can reach the fourth stage, World of Ice and Snow, not even this ice turtle devil can be our match!"

Han Pojun had a gratified look on his face. "Both of you have the Yin Frost Physique. Although there are some flaws to this physique, you are still among the best in your age group. This time, your uncle has some gifts for you. I believe with these gifts, it won't be hard for both of you to advance a stage or two."

"Thank you, uncle!" thanked the sisters.

"By the way, Uncle Pojun, a friend of ours is a War King. If possible, can you show him some guidance?" Han Qianwei asked.

"Yes, yes, our friend is amazing. He has a similar cultivation level to us, but is already capable of battling Devil Emperors. I think he is more than a War King. He is probably a War Emperor! I hope Uncle Pojun can offer him some guidance!" said Han Xuewei in excitement.

Han Pojun raised his brow. "Oh? There's such a promising youngster around? What is his name?"

Before the two could reply, Xiang Shaoyun arrived on Money's back.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you're back!" the sisters called out with the same joy they had displayed when they had seen Han Pojun.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Yes, I'm back."

Han Qianwei quickly said, "Uncle Pojun, this is the friend we were talking about. He is the one who had saved our lives!"

"Yes, yes! Uncle Pojun, you need to repay him on our behalf!" said Han Pojun as she swung Han Pojun's arm about like a spoiled child.

An odd look appeared on Han Pojun's face. "About this—"

Han Qianwei did not let him finish, "Uncle, you can't reject us! Or else, we won't call you uncle ever again!"

"Yes, yes! Xiang Shaoyun has incredible comprehension ability with remarkable combat prowess. If you are willing to give him some pointers, he will become even stronger! That way, his favor toward us will be considered paid. Uncle, please don't reject us," begged Han Xuewei.

In their opinion, Han Pojun was the most outstanding individual of their Han Clan. The reason for that was because their ancestor once said that Han Pojun was the Han Clan member with the most potential to one day enter the Soul Foundation Realm. Everyone in the Han Clan had high hopes for Han Pojun, hoping that he would one day take over the responsibility of their ancestor and become a new pillar of the clan.

Because of that, the sisters believed that Han Pojun's pointers would be of great help to Xiang Shaoyun. That was their way of repaying Xiang Shaoyun for his favor. Little did they know, they had been too overconfident.

It wouldn't be a problem for Han Pojun to give any other youth some pointers. After all, he was a peak Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator and was more than qualified to teach a King Realm cultivator. However, he was not good enough to give some pointers to a Super War Emperor who also possessed a Devil Sovereign puppet.

A youngster like this most definitely came from a powerful organization with a powerful teacher. Someone like Han Pojun was still not qualified to offer such a youngster some guidance.

"It's not that I am not willing to guide Brother Xiang, but I am not qualified to do so," said Han Pojun with a sigh. "Even your uncle's life had been saved by him."

The sisters initially thought that Han Pojun was only giving them some random excuses, but when they heard his second sentence, they both blanked out.

"Uncle, y-you're saying he saved you?" Han Qianwei asked with disbelief.

Han Pojun laughed dryly, "There's nothing surprising about that. Brother Xiang has extraordinary combat prowess. Although your uncle is decently strong, I can still encounter problems I can't solve. So yeah, don't even mention this anymore. It will only make a joke out of your uncle."

"Xiang Shaoyun, you're amazing!" said Han Xuewei with a look of admiration.

From the tender emotions rippling out of her eyes, one would not doubt her willingness to jump into Xiang Shaoyun's embrace then and there. A young man this attractive and outstanding would be fatal to any maiden. Even Han Qianwei, who never had a good opinion of Xiang Shaoyun, had to acknowledge his talent. With their own uncle singing Xiang Shaoyun praises, their opinion of him further increased.

"I am far too inferior compared to those true freaks," said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his nose. It was rare to see him so humble. He knew he had an impressive strength, but he had once read about freaks far stronger than him in the ancient records. Thus, he did not dare to let pride settle in his heart.

"You don't have to be so humble, Brother Xiang. Otherwise, others will think you are being a hypocrite," said Han Pojun.

"That's right! As a person, you need to have your pride!" Han Qianwei agreed.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to continue this conversation, so he said, "Alright, since you are both fine, let's go back to the city."

"Finally," Han Xuewei sighed.

"Yeah, I'm starting to miss the city," Han Qianwei agreed.

This trip to the Devil Domain had shown how a cruel battlefield looked like. The deaths and departures of the white knights who had come to the Devil Domain with them had also taught them how cruel reality was and how fickle loyalties could be. They had also gained a lot from the trip, but they still wished to return and take some time properly organizing their gains.

And thus, the group started heading back. Along the way, Han Pojun started questioning the sisters about the recent events. The sisters did not hide anything and told him everything that had happened during the year he was away. Naturally, they stuck to their promise and had not mentioned the Skeleton Gang. Instead, they shifted all the blame onto the Noxious Blood Gang.

After all, Xiang Shaoyun had rescued not only them but their uncle as well. If they still exposed the Skeleton Gang after what he had done, he might turn on them. Things might not end well for them if that happened.

"The Noxious Blood Gang deserves death!" Han Pojun declared murderously.

"If you want to eliminate the Noxious Blood Gang, I am willing to help," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hehe, I'm glad to hear that, Brother Xiang," said Han Pojun.

The Noxious Blood Gang's great monarch was now a Soul Foundation Realm expert. It wouldn't be easy for the Han Clan to eliminate a gang like that. He believed that if Xiang Shaoyun was the one to act, the Noxious Blood Gang would have no hopes of surviving. It was at this time that a

powerful aura started rippling out of the blood cocoon stone, as if Du Xuanhao was going to break out soon.

Chapter 507: Di Batian

Ziling Sect, Celestial King Province.

The Ziling Sect was a prestigious top tier-7 organization in the Celestial King Province. Their sect master, Xiang Yangzhan, was an ambitious and ruthless hero. Unfortunately, during a battle with Shangguan Wusheng the Death Magistrate, both Xiang Yangzhan and his opponent had gone missing at the Wumo Pass. Subsequently, huge changes had happened within the Ziling Sect. The new sect master was not the son of Xiang Yangzhan. Rather, it was the previous deputy sect master, Di Batian.

Di Batian was a sworn brother of Xiang Yangzhan, and his strength was second only to Xiang Yangzhan in the sect. He had nine sons, each a dragon among men with extraordinary talent in cultivation. Recently, the Di Clan had finally managed to fully subjugate the internal disorders in the sect. One could say that the current Ziling Sect was finally fully under the Di Clan's control.

Currently, an imposing middle-aged man was seated on the sect master's throne in the sect's main hall. He had a pair of bright eyes, a pair of sharp eyebrows, and a bearing akin to an overbearing lion. His tyrannical aura was clear for all to see. He was Di Batian, current sect leader of Ziling Sect.

Apart from Di Batian, there were three youngsters in the hall. One of them was Di Tong, while the other two were Di Shang and Di Lin. Di Tong was Di Batian's seventh son. Di Shang was the eighth son, and Di Lin was the ninth son.

Di Tong was undeniably strong. His cultivation level was at the peak of the King Realm and he had partially formed draconic aura. He was practically an Emperor-in-waiting. After leaving the Devil Domain, the first thing he did was rush back to the Ziling Sect. His goal was to inform his father about Xiang Shaoyun.

Of the three brothers present, Di Shang had the coldest expression. He was about 25 years old and was a peak eighth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. He was no less talented than Di Tong.

As for Di Lin, he was 19 years old and was an elegant teenager with a remarkable bearing. He was Di Batian's most outstanding son, a ninth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. Someone with such strength at such an age was extremely rare in tier-7 organizations. Of the two people Xiang Shaoyun

hated most, one of them was this very Di Lin while the other was a young woman he had liked since young.

Since Xiang Shaoyun was of similar age to Di Lin, with the relationship of their fathers, the two had been playmates since young. Thus, one could say that they were as close as actual siblings. That was why Di Lin's betrayal had deeply affected Xiang Shaoyun. Even so, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but admire the patience and the scheming mind this "brother" of his had.

"Di Tong, you are saying Xiang Shaoyun is now a Super War Emperor?" Di Batian asked indifferently, his eyes as overbearing as ever.

"Yes, Father. When he was a fourth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, he was already capable of killing Devil Kings three stages above him. Now that he is a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, his combat prowess has definitely grown even more terrifying. I hope you can send a large army to kill him and end this threat once and for all, Father," said Di Tong.

Xiang Shaoyun had only started cultivating after he left the Ziling Sect, and it had only been four years. With the height he had reached in such a short time frame, they had to face him seriously.

"Seventh brother, you are overestimating him. How can that trash be so powerful?" said Di Shang, unconvinced.

"If he is still the same trash, I would have killed him the moment I saw him. Why would I even come back here to tell Father all this?" Di Tong replied.

"I have always known of his extraordinary talent. But I have never expected him to be this remarkable. Father, we have to take this seriously. We can't allow him to keep growing," said Di Lin with a sigh.

"He is indeed worthy of being Xiang Yangzhan's son. Alright, this ends here for you. I will take charge of this. He won't be able to leave the Bloodsin City alive," said Di Batian, still as calm as ever. "It's time all of you start preparing for the Dragon Phoenix Academy's entrance test. Get ready. Your elder brothers had all missed their chance to join the academy. No matter what, the three of you need to enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy, even if you have to join as an ordinary disciple."

"Don't worry, Father. We will definitely be able to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy," promised the three.

Di Lin continued, "Father, do you want me to deal with Xiang Shaoyun? I know him best, so it won't be hard for me to kill him."

Di Batian waved his hand. "No. Your only priority is to become a core disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy and work with your two brothers to make a name for yourselves. After accomplishing that, what is there to fear about Xiang Shaoyun? Even if Xiang Yangzhan himself returns, the only thing awaiting him is death."

"Father, Xiang Yangzhan is still alive?" Di Tong asked, a complicated look on his face when he recalled the previous sect master.

"Who knows? Although I'm inclined to believe that both he and Shangguan Wusheng had perished together, that fellow had never been one to die easily. But don't worry. Even if he lives, he won't be much of a threat to us anymore. Di Tong, Di Shang, both of you may leave first. Di Lin, stay," said Di Batian.

A complicated look surfaced on the faces of Di Tong and Di Shang. After saluting their father, they both withdrew from the hall. After the two left, Di Lin said, "Father, my two elder brothers will think that you are biased with what you just did."

"So what? It's perfectly understandable why they would have such thoughts right now. But they will change their minds in a few years," said Di Batian. He then took out an item and handed it to Di Lin. "Take this and keep it well. After entering the academy, take it out and search for an item according to the instructions in there. With that thing, I will be able to reach an even higher realm in the future, and it will even be possible for the Ziling Sect to become a tier-8 sect."

Di Lin did not open the package to see what was inside. He stowed it away and said deferentially, "Yes, Father. I won't disappoint you."

"Good. This is very important and no mistakes are allowed. If your two brothers fail to pass the entrance test, get them into the academy as your followers instead. Although that will be humiliating to them, they should still be grateful that they can enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy," said Di Batian.

Evidently, Di Lin was a special-recruit disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. The so-called special-recruit disciples were made up of insanely talented freaks. Just from the fact that Di Lin was qualified to be recruited as a special-recruit disciple, one could say that he was probably no less

talented than Xiang Shaoyun. After all, a great example of a special-recruit disciple was Yu Caidie, who similarly did not have to take any tests to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

"Yes, Father," Di Lin said. "Father, Xiang Shaoyun once told me that he has a nine-star physique. Back then, I thought he was bluffing, but it looks like he was telling the truth after all. Be careful when dealing with him, Father."

Only now did some emotions show on Di Batian's face.

Chapter 508: Du Xuanhao Greet the Young Master

The blood cocoon stone was a unique stone formed of the blood devils' blood essence, a stone with wondrous usages. After the injured Du Xuanhao was placed in the blood cocoon stone, he absorbed its blood essence, strengthening his bloodline several times over.

On top of that, his body had also undergone a round of cleansing. One could say that his injuries had brought him numerous benefits instead of harm. Currently, a massive power was erupting from the blood cocoon stone, signifying that Du Xuanhao was done absorbing the power contained within the stone.

"Old Du is going to break out of the cocoon soon," said Han Pojun in excitement.

"Um," Xiang Shaoyun was also growing excited. Naturally, he would be happy to see Du Xuanhao grow stronger. After all, Du Xuanhao was on his side. He was confident Du Xuanhao would be a great helper in the future.

Bang!

A muffled sound rumbled, and the blood cocoon stone crumbled apart. From within, a figure soared into the sky. Akin to a breathtaking saber, that figure shot toward the clouds, glorious and dazzling. The sisters paled at the sight. If they weren't under Han Pojun's protection, the shockwave from the energy eruption would have been enough to kill both of them.

"Congratulations, Old Du, for reaching a new height in your cultivation," said Han Pojun earnestly.

In truth, he was the one who had found the blood cocoon stone. He had intended to break through using the stone, but now that Du Xuanhao had benefited from the stone instead of him, he had

complicated emotions. Even so, he did not bear any sort of grudge toward Du Xuanhao. After all, the Noxious Blood Gang would have killed him if it wasn't for Du Xuanhao.

When Du Xuanhao landed on the ground, he ignored Han Pojun. Rather, he knelt on one knee before Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Du Xuanhao greets the young master!"

He did so without any sort of hesitation. Not even Xiang Shaoyun and Han Pojun could do anything before he was already on one knee. Han Pojun's mouth was wide agape, his eyes filled with disbelief. He understood Du Xuanhao well. He was a tough man who had comprehended saber intent and possessed a combat prowess no weaker than him. Yet such a person was kneeling before a young man. Seeing how willingly Du Xuanhao had gotten to one knee filled his heart with confusion.

Is this Xiang Shaoyun a successor of some super tier-7 organization? Han Pojun wondered.

The Han Clan sisters were similarly shocked. They had heard from Han Pojun that the person in the blood cocoon stone was a remarkable hero no weaker than him. And a hero like that was actually bending his knee before Xiang Shaoyun. It gave them a feeling that the gap between them and Xiang Shaoyun had grown even wider.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly reached out and helped Du Xuanhao up. "Big Brother Du, I told you this is not necessary between us."

"Proper rites should always be observed. If you had not appeared in time, Old Han and I would have died," lamented Du Xuanhao.

During his time in the blood cocoon stone, he had been aware of the things happening around him. Thus, he knew all that had happened, and his admiration for Xiang Shaoyun had only grown as a result. There were so many Emperors among the Noxious Blood Gang group, yet his young master had killed all of them easily. That was a feat not even he himself could accomplish.

"It's good to see that you're fine," said Xiang Shaoyun earnestly.

Suddenly, Du Xuanhao noticed that Xiang Shaoyun was now a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. He exclaimed in shock, "Young master, y-your strength...it's growing so fast!"

"You're doing quite well yourself too. You're now a full ninth-stage Emperor. Before long, you will be able to enter the Soul Foundation Realm. This is worthy of celebration!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

That reminded Du Xuanhao of something as he looked at Han Pojun with guilt on his face. He said, "Old Han, I owe you my thanks. The blood cocoon stone was something you had obtained with great difficulty, but I was the one who ended up using it. I really don't know how I can repay you for it."

The blood cocoon stone was a sovereign-grade treasure, something extremely valuable. Du Xuanhao would have a hard time repaying Han Pojun with something of equal value.

Han Pojun waved his hand and said, "Old Du, if you see me as a brother, forget about repayment. The blood cocoon stone might be precious, but you had also saved my life. Furthermore, Bro—I mean Young Master Xiang had also saved my nieces. You don't owe me anything!"

Han Pojun was about to address Xiang Shaoyun as Brother Xiang again, but when he recalled how Du Xuanhao had behaved around Xiang Shaoyun, he quickly changed his way of address.

"Fine. One day, I will definitely give you a sovereign-grade treasure comparable to the blood cocoon stone as a gift, Old Han," said Du Xuanhao solemnly.

"Sure, I will be waiting for your good news, then," said Han Pojun with a smile.

Xiang Shaoyun was listening to the conversation as he thought, Looks like I need to find a chance to repay this favor on behalf of Big Brother Du. He won't be able to forget it otherwise.

Xiang Shaoyun currently had a lot of treasures in his collection, including a considerable amount of sovereign-grade treasures. He should be able to take out a treasure comparable to the blood cocoon stone.

However, all the treasures he had were devil materials, and they were probably unsuitable for Han Pojun. The only thing he could do was trade some of his devil materials for a proper sovereign-grade treasure useful for Han Pojun. The group thus continued traveling, heading toward the fort at the Devil Domain's entrance.

As usual, the fort was bustling with noise and excitement, with people everywhere. People were entering and leaving the Devil Domain at all times. Those entering were filled with battle spirit, and those leaving possessed looks of delight for having survived the trip to hell.

After returning to the fort, Xiang Shaoyun headed toward the Contribution Stele with his contribution plate. The Contribution Stele stood tall, constantly emanating an austere aura. On its surface were the brilliant names of the brilliant heroes of all eras.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and looked at the name Xiang Dingtian at the very top of the stele. Suddenly, numerous random scenes surfaced in his mind, causing him to blank out. A towering figure appeared in his mind, the figure of a bold and righteous hero. He couldn't see the hero's face, but he could sense his domineering aura, an aura that made the universe seem miniscule.

With a saber in hand, the hero roared, "I, Xiang Dingtian, shall slaughter the devils. Let my name, the Overlord, suppress the Devil Domain for an eternity!"

By his lonesome self, the hero entered the Devil Domain and slaughtered countless devils. Traversing the Devil Domain, he was akin to a devil himself, creating rivers of devil blood, filling the Devil Domain with devil corpses. The name Overlord resounded throughout the Devil Domain, forcing even the Four Paramount Devil Clans to send their experts to kill this human. Even so, the hero continued his path of slaughter and left the Devil Domain unharmed, establishing his supreme dominance.

"Xiang—" Han Qianwei called out when she saw Xiang Shaoyun standing there blankly.

Han Pojun quickly dragged her away and spoke to her through voice transmission, "Don't disturb him! He might have sunk into a state of comprehension upon sensing the accomplishments of those before us. This might be a great opportunity for him!"

"Old Han, I will have to trouble you to stand guard alongside me," said Du Xuanhao, who also realized what was going on with Xiang Shaoyun. Han Pojun nodded and stood guard beside Xiang Shaoyun alongside Du Xuanhao. They both released their auras, warning the crowd around them against trying anything stupid.

Chapter 509: Contribution Conversion

Not one of the people in the fort was a pushover, with a considerable number of them being Emperors. Suddenly, they had their attention caught by two powerful auras that had suddenly

stirred. The might of Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun could be clearly felt from their auras, and the people in their vicinity moved away from them.

Experts like those two were considered powerful even in the entirety of this fort. Nobody would wish to offend them for no reason. The people also noticed that the two peak Emperors were guarding a youngster who was staring at the Contribution Stele. And noticing the youngster caused them to be even more astonished.

"Is he comprehending the accomplishments of our predecessors? How is that even possible?"

"What a lucky youngster. I heard that every hundred years or so, someone would get to comprehend the accomplishments of the names on the Contribution Stele, getting a chance to be enlightened by the combat scenes of our predecessors. I have never imagined that I would get a chance to witness this happening with my own eyes."

"Who's that young man? What luck!"

"Watch your voice. Don't you see the two experts guarding him? If your loud voice disturbs him, they'll kill you right where you stand!"

...

The people around Xiang Shaoyun were looking at him with numerous different emotions, such as envy, admiration, and hatred. Those who had managed to comprehend the accomplishments of the predecessors on the stele had all benefited greatly from it. Most of them had eventually ended up as remarkable individuals who dominated large swaths of land.

Right this moment, an indescribable power rippled from the Contribution Stele, slowly approaching and enveloping Xiang Shaoyun. Initially, only a small number of people had noticed what was happening. But the power rippling out of the Contribution Stele alarmed everyone in the fort.

Numerous powerful auras started approaching the area. Both Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun broke out in cold sweat when they sensed the approaching auras. The owners of those auras were all Sovereigns. If they decided to meddle with what Xiang Shaoyun was doing, the two would be completely helpless.

"Hmph. Which kid is so audacious to..." Finally, one of the Sovereigns couldn't hold it anymore and tried interrupting Xiang Shaoyun.

The Sovereign's voice rumbled on. Both Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun could hear ringing in their ears. Du Xuanhao erupted with his saber aura, trying his best to withstand the pressure exerted by the Sovereign. But before he could do anything, an incorporeal palm appeared out of nowhere and swatted the Sovereign away.

"AHHH!"

After a miserable wail, the Sovereign went silent. The other Sovereigns felt their hearts palpitate when they sensed what happened. They decided to keep their mouths shut. Even so, the short interruption was enough to pull Xiang Shaoyun's consciousness back to reality. The radiance on the Contribution Stele dimmed, and it returned to how it was before.

At that, regret filled the eyes that were focused on Xiang Shaoyun. In their opinion, Xiang Shaoyun must have suffered a disastrous loss, having his comprehension session end prematurely. Shaking their heads, the people dispersed.

Du Xuanhao gripped his fists tightly and shouted, "Damnable bastard! You dare interrupt my young master's comprehension? Don't let me find out who you are, or I won't rest before I hunt you down!"

In his fury, a dreadful saber energy shot to the sky. The current Du Xuanhao was most likely a War Sovereign. The people in the area quickly scattered, not willing to be dragged into the mess.

Xiang Shaoyun recovered his consciousness and said, "Forget it. A narrow-minded scoundrel like that won't amount to much in life anyway. There is no point in wasting our energy on someone like that. In any case, it's not like I have lost anything."

After saying that, he went to a certain platform with his contribution plate. It was the same platform where the contribution plates were given out, and it was also the same place where one could record one's contribution points.

There, Xiang Shaoyun handed his contribution plate to an old man and said, "I will have to trouble you to record my contribution points, lord."

The old man nodded and took the contribution plate before placing it on a sleek stone beside him. The moment the contribution plate touched the stone, it shone, and the number 13,000,000 appeared on it. The old man raised his brow. With a gratified look, he said, "Not bad. You did well getting so many contribution points with your cultivation level."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Thank you, lord. I wish to convert these points for some rewards. I wonder what's available for conversion?"

"You can do it here," said the old man as a catalog appeared in his hand. "Anything listed in this book can be traded for, and naturally, you won't be able to trade for anything worth more than 13 million contribution points."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and started going through the catalog. When he saw the contents of the catalog, his eyes lit up.

The catalog was separated into several sections. One of the sections was the herb section, filled with herbs at the king medicine grade and beyond. A large number of emperor medicines could also be found, and even sovereign medicines and saint medicines were available as well. There was also a weaponry section, with weapons of the king weapon grade and beyond.

Apart from that, there was also a technique section. It was filled with battle techniques and cultivation methods. Numerous other rare treasures were also listed in the catalog, and it was as if one could find everything in it. Every single item listed in the catalog had a price tag corresponding to their value attached. With enough contribution points, one could even get a saint medicine from it.

Of course, the price tag for something like a saint medicine was over 10 billion contribution points, an amount one might not be able to earn in a lifetime. Someone with over 10 million contribution points like Xiang Shaoyun could only purchase the emperor medicines or emperor weapons in the book or other treasures of corresponding grade.

Xiang Shaoyun also found the blood cocoon stone listed in the book's sovereign medicine section. The price tag listed was 500 million contribution points and 30 sovereign-grade devil cores.

His eyes grew wide at the listed price. He had known that the blood cocoon stone was rare, but he had never known that it was this valuable. It wasn't hard to get 500 million contribution points. One only needed time. But getting 30 sovereign-grade devil cores would be extremely hard, and it was certainly not something an Emperor could do.

Xiang Shaoyun continued going through the book, trying to see if there were any other sovereign-grade treasures comparable to the blood cocoon stone. Soon, he saw a mid sovereign-grade treasure called the icesouls heart, with a price tag of 600 million contribution points and 35 sovereign-grade devil cores.

This icesouls heart would be a decent treasure, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

At this time, the old man reminded him, "Young man, don't get ahead of yourself. With your contribution points, you won't be able to afford any sovereign-grade treasures. Just focus on emperor-grade treasures."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and did as told. Soon, he found what he was looking for.

True Martial Academy entrance test quota, limited to those below 30 years old, priced at 10 million contribution points.

Nine Palace Academy entrance test quota, limited to those below 30 years old, priced at 10 million contribution points.

Dragon Phoenix Academy entrance test quota, limited to those below 30 years old, priced at 10 million contribution points.

Sacred Deer Academy entrance test quota, limited to those below 30 years old, priced at 10 million contribution points.

Chapter 510: A True Scum

"I'm trading my contribution points for a Dragon Phoenix Academy's entrance test quota," said Xiang Shaoyun while pointing at the catalog.

"Ok," said the old man with a nod. He took the catalog and placed the corresponding page on the stone. With a flicker, 10 million was deducted from the number written on the contribution plate. Next, the old man returned the plate to Xiang Shaoyun. A different jade plate appeared in his hand. A dragon and a phoenix were carved on the plate, both exquisite and vivid.

"This is the entrance test plate of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. You can head straight to the Dragon Phoenix Academy with it in hand to take the test. As for whether you will be able to pass the test, that will depend on yourself," said the old man.

He further told Xiang Shaoyun more about the location of the Dragon Phoenix Academy and the time of the test. Done with all that, he left Xiang Shaoyun alone. Looking at the plate, Xiang Shaoyun found that apart from the dragon and phoenix, the number 55,555 was written on it.

It was really a rather big coincidence that Xiang Shaoyun was the 55,555th person to obtain the test qualification. Inwardly, he sighed, There are actually so many people taking the test. I reckon the number of participants will continue growing.

After stowing the plate away, he made way for Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun. The two had gathered a considerable number of contribution points as well. Naturally, they were here to spend their points.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun headed elsewhere. He was heading to the Contribution Hall, a place constantly filled with a large crowd. The so-called Contribution Hall was a place where one could trade their devil materials for contribution points. Of course, the trades conducted there were all free trades. There was no specific way in which one could trade. A lot of people would directly trade with other individuals instead of trading with the hall.

Xiang Shaoyun went to the hall to trade his devil materials for enough contribution points to purchase either a blood cocoon stone or an icesouls heart that he could use to repay the favor Du Xuanhao owed Han Pojun.

One ought to say that Xiang Shaoyun was really generous when it came to his own people. Upon entering the hall, he found that the hall was rather spartan in architecture. A few appraisers were seated at different corners of the hall, and they were in charge of appraising the value of the different devil materials brought here by the various cultivators.

Xiang Shaoyun headed toward one of the appraisers and stood waiting for his turn. At this time, the Han Clan sisters came over and stood beside him. The two beauties immediately attracted the attention of the other cultivators in the hall. Many of them started harboring evil designs on the sisters.

Despite their perverse thoughts, none of them dared to create trouble in the Contribution Hall. As for the sisters, they were already accustomed to being gawked at, so they did not seem to care.

Xiang Shaoyun asked them, "Here to trade?"

Han Xuewei answered, "Yes. We had gotten some stuff from the Devil Domain as well, so we're here to trade them for some contribution points."

"Oh," Xiang Shaoyun gave a short reply and said nothing else.

Suddenly, a youngster approached them and said, "Qianwei, Xuewei, you're both here? Nice to see you here!"

The young man was handsome and lavishly dressed, with a frivolous look on his face. He was clearly the young master of some organization. He was about 30 years old, his name was Yang Shuo, and he was a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. One could say that he was decently talented in terms of cultivation. He was one of the Han Clan sisters' many pursuers.

Back then, after Xiang Shaoyun had released the Han Clan from the Skeleton Gang, the two had gathered a number of young cultivators to form a group that would head into the Devil Domain and search for the other Han Clan members.

At the second layer, they were attacked by a group of devils. As a result, many of the people in the group were killed. Subsequently, they encountered the Noxious Blood Gang, which resulted in the death of more of their group members while the rest fled.

This Yang Shuo was one of those who had fled with his guardian elder the moment they had encountered the Noxious Blood Gang. He had not expected that the sisters would be able to escape the gang. Thus, when he saw the sisters, he had to come explain himself and repair his image in the hearts of the two beauties.

After all, the sisters used to have a decent impression of him. Unfortunately for him, no joy could be seen on their faces when they saw him. Evidently, they were still displeased with him.

"Hey, Mister Yang," responded Han Xuewei indifferently.

To the side, Han Qianwei said unhappily, "Why are you talking to someone like that?" She then said to Yang Shuo, "We don't know you. Please leave."

"Hehe, how can you say that, Qianwei? Are you forgetting me after I helped you two? You're breaking my heart!" said Yang Shuo.

"Someone who abandons his friends during a moment of danger is not qualified to criticize us. Leave. We will be strangers from now on," said Han Qianwei.

"Come on, look at you? Both of you are still fine!" Yang Shuo argued. He shot Xiang Shaoyun a glance and said, "Are you abandoning your old lover after getting a new lover? How heartless of you!"

He was only saying that in order to make Xiang Shaoyun think that the sisters used to have a relationship with him. But Xiang Shaoyun did not react. Instead, the sisters were the ones infuriated.

"You bastard! What nonsense are you saying?" Han Qianwei raged.

Han Xuewei was also furious. "I have never seen someone as shameless as you!"

"Haha, I can't be bothered to bicker with sluts like you two. Brother, you have quite an appetite, huh? How do you like my leftovers?" said Yang Shuo as he howled with laughter.

He was the type of person who would ruin what he couldn't get so he could feel better about himself—a true scum. The Han Clan sisters were so infuriated they were on the verge of attacking.

However, an imposing voice suddenly rang out, "Do not create trouble in the Contribution Hall."

It was not known where the voice had come from, but it was imposing enough that the sisters no longer dared to do anything. Even Yang Shuo shut his mouth and left, still feeling pleased with himself.

Before leaving, he glanced at Xiang Shaoyun one more time as he thought, Don't dream of getting what I failed to get.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered to offer any sort of reaction. Not even Emperors were worth his attention right now. And finally, it was his turn to make the trade.

"Take your items out," said the appraiser.

Xiang Shaoyun already had a storage ring on his finger. He did not dare to expose the fact that he had an astral cosmos sea before so many people.

Whoosh!

A large pile of devil materials appeared. The appraiser merely gave the materials a glance before saying, "3,000 seventh-stage Devil King materials, valued at 210,000 contribution points. 4,050 eighth-stage Devil King materials, valued at 360,000 contribution points..."