

## Overlord 531

### Chapter 531: Battle Armor Weighing a Million Catty

Ugly Gambler was not a man of his word. He had promised that after the end of the Devil Domain expedition, Xiang Shaoyun would get the antidote. Instead, he had given three years worth of partial antidotes. It would seem like he was intending to keep having Xiang Shaoyun under his control.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the antidote and said grudgingly, "Lord, is this really proper?"

"I know what you have in mind, but you're not qualified to talk terms with me," said Ugly Gambler nonchalantly.

With a helpless look, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "Fine. But this is a hard and dangerous mission. You can't let me do it without giving me any benefits, right?"

Ugly Gambler sank into thought momentarily before taking out an item and tossing it over, "Here, a battle armor. It will be sufficient to protect your life."

A badly damaged armor appeared before Xiang Shaoyun. He felt like crying when he saw it. Sure, the armor could still be worn, but it was so damaged even a blind man could see that it was a piece of useless equipment.

The Ugly Gambler has actually given me such a terrible piece of armor? How stingy is he?

Ugly Gambler could see the gloominess in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes. He said, "Don't look down on this armor. Wearing it, not even the attack of a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator can harm you."

"Lord, do you think you're lying to a three-year-old kid?" Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but to question Ugly Gambler's statement.

"Huh? You really don't want it? Fine, I'll give you an undamaged armor then," said Ugly Gambler as a shiny armor appeared in his hand.

The difference between the two armors was akin to heaven and earth. There was no comparing the two. But for some reason, Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling Ugly Gambler placed more importance on that badly damaged armor. At that thought, he tried lifting the armor curiously. To his surprise, the

armor was exceedingly heavy, and even he was only able to lift it after exerting a great amount of effort.

"T-this armor is at least 500,000 catty in weight," exclaimed Xiang Shaoyun.

When he was at the Transformation Realm, he was already capable of lifting items weighing tens of thousands of catty. Now that he was at the Skysoar Realm, a weight of 500,000 catty was nothing for him. But it was clear this armor had a weight surpassing 500,000 catty. That made it obvious it was no regular armor.

"To be precise, it has a weight of one million catty," said Ugly Gambler.

"One million catty?" Xiang Shaoyun was overwhelmed with shock. He would understand if a tiny mountain had this weight, but this broken armor was actually that heavy as well? That was hard to believe.

"Your strength right now is decent, but you still have a lot of room for improvement. As long as you wear this armor everyday, by the time you get used to its weight, your combat prowess would have increased by at least 50 percent," said Ugly Gambler. "So do you want this pretty sovereign armor or the broken armor?"

"Uh, can I have both?" Xiang Shaoyun asked after some hesitation.

Ugly Gambler's face fell as he said, "No."

"Lord, you are wise and brilliant, handsome and heroic, a person of immense fortune, the gambler who never loses, a divine gambler. Would someone like you care about these useless items? That is not the kind of stinginess someone with your exalted status should have," fawned Xiang Shaoyun.

Ugly Gambler felt like he was in cloud nine hearing the flattering words to the point he slightly lost his bearing. He then tossed the sovereign armor over as well.

Only after Xiang Shaoyun happily wore the broken armor and stowed the sovereign armor did Ugly Gambler wake up from his bliss. He grumbled, "You are too wily."

However, giving away two armors really wasn't a big deal for him. It was more important for Xiang Shaoyun to discover the divine site. That was his main focus. He believed that Xiang Shaoyun would do as told. Otherwise, there was no way Xiang Shaoyun could keep his life. It was curious what expression Ugly Gambler would have if he knew that Xiang Shaoyun had long cured himself of the poison.

"Alright, you have been rewarded. Remember to work hard. If you can get the location of the divine site's entrance, you can get even more benefits," said Ugly Gambler before he prepared to leave.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly called out, "How should I notify you after finding it?"

"Don't worry. I will visit you occasionally," said Ugly Gambler before vanishing from the hall.

After Ugly Gambler left, a smirk appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's face as he thought, Old man, you want to control me? Not so easy!

He then patted his armor and started walking around. When he took the first step, he felt like his legs had become exceedingly heavy, causing him extreme discomfort. The weight of the armor gave him a pressure comparable to the hundredfold gravity room he had been in before. Even walking was hard, to say nothing of flying. Of course, if he erupted with his full power, he could still forcefully fly, but that would consume a massive amount of energy.

Instead of turning anxious, he was overjoyed. "This armor is heavy, but it is perfect for me. Perhaps I can use it to temper my speed and further stabilize my foundation."

He then sat down on the throne and called Du Xuanhao over. When Du Xuanhao arrived, Han Pojun was actually by his side.

"Big Brother Han, I thought you were supposed to be in a seclusion?" asked Xiang Shaoyun. After obtaining the icesouls heart, it was logical that Han Pojun would have gone into seclusion to try to enter the Soul Foundation Realm.

"I don't want to hide this. My initial plan was to return to the clan and enter seclusion there. But since there is also a suitable place for me to enter seclusion here, I decided to stay. I doubt you would mind me staying here a little bit longer, right?" said Han Pojun.

"You are being too polite, Big Brother Han. It will be our honor to host you while you break through," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Thank you!" said Han Pojun. "This time I'm here to request a favor. I hope you can agree, Young Master Xiang."

"What is it?" Xiang Shaoyun had a guess what Han Pojun was about to say, but he still feigned ignorance.

"What do you think about Han Qianwei and Han Xuwei, Young Master Xiang?" Han Pojun asked.

"They are not bad," Xiang Shaoyun answered casually.

"Who do you think is the better of the two? I mean, which of the two do you prefer?" Han Pojun continued.

"Big Brother Han, just say what you have in mind. Do you want me to take one of them with me to the Dragon Phoenix Academy?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Han Pojun laughed dryly and said, "Hah, Young Master Xiang is wise. Yes, that's what I have in mind. I hope you can give them a chance."

## Chapter 532: He Is a Hidden Dragon

Xiang Shaoyun did not give an immediate response. Instead, he sank into thought. Han Pojun quickly added, "I know this is an excessive request, but I hope you can give them a chance. Both of them have the Yin Frost Physique, and they are excellent ice cultivators. Furthermore, I can promise that whoever you select will also be your lover."

Numerous young geniuses dreamed of entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy, even with the identity of a follower. After all, a genius capable of being a special-recruit disciple would definitely become a core disciple directly after joining. The followers of a core disciple would enjoy the benefits of regular disciples and would be able to utilize the resources of the academy.

One should never look down on the benefits a regular disciple could get. Anyone graduating from the Dragon Phoenix Academy wouldn't have a cultivation weaker than the Soul Foundation Realm. If one was talented enough, one could even go beyond that realm.

As for one with both talent and luck, there was a chance to even advance to the position of core disciple as well, and there was also a chance that one could be accepted as a personal disciple of an elder. Such a person would have a bright future.

That was why the young geniuses of the tier-6 and tier-7 organizations were willing to lower themselves and become a follower in order to enter one of the four academies. After all, proving themselves during the entrance test would be difficult with the sheer number of participants that would be there.

As for Han Pojun's offer, it wasn't even worth anything for a vast majority of people. After all, the Han Clan was merely a peak tier-5 organization. Although the Han Clan sisters were exceptionally beautiful with decent talents, there was no shortage of people like them in tier-6 and tier-7 organizations.

Han Pojun was nervous, and he hoped that Xiang Shaoyun would agree out of respect for Du Xuanhao. They might have to give up a woman of their clan, but if this woman could become a Sovereign in the future, the Han Clan would be able to grow to a brand new level. They could also form a connection with a genius who possessed a bright future like Xiang Shaoyun through her. Thus, they could only benefit from this arrangement.

Xiang Shaoyun finally replied, "In truth, they are still quite lacking."

A bitter look appeared on Han Pojun's face as he said, "You are right, Young Master Xiang. But I would still wish to beg for one spot. Our Han Clan will forever remember this favor."

He spoke softly, having zero confidence that Xiang Shaoyun would select his nieces.

Inwardly, he sighed, It's a pity that their Yin Frost Physiques are flawed. Otherwise, Young Master Xiang would definitely not reject them.

But what Xiang Shaoyun then said gave him hope.

"Calm down, Big Brother Han. If possible, they can come with me. But I can't guarantee they will be able to enter. Only if those other two are able to get through the test will they be able to join with me. Otherwise, I can only apologize in advance," said Xiang Shaoyun honestly.

"Those other two?" Han Pojun blanked out.

"My friends. Both of them are qualified to take part in the test, and there is a high chance both of them will make it through the test. But of course, I can't be 100 percent sure," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"In other words, if your friends can get through the test themselves, Qianwei and Xuwei will be able to enter the academy with you?" Han Pojun said with disbelief.

"Exactly. But when a day comes where I need your help, I hope you won't reject me. As for the sisters, there is no need for them to become my lovers. I only need their loyalty," Xiang Shaoyun named his conditions. He added, "Of course, if I eventually fail to bring them in with me, forget everything I've said here."

"Haha, sure, sure, not a problem at all!" Han Pojun agreed immediately.

How could he disagree with such conditions? Just a single spot was enough for him to offer even the entire Han Clan, not to mention two spots. That gave him a feeling Du Xuanhao's friendship was really worth a lot.

Meanwhile, Du Xuanhao was thinking inwardly, Why is the young master doing this? It's such a waste!

He had once mentioned Han Pojun's request to Xiang Shaoyun, but he had also reminded Xiang Shaoyun to not do it out of respect for him. It would be much better to select those with better talents as followers.

He had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would ultimately agree to Han Pojun's request and even offer both spots. That was too big of a waste! But at the same time, he was moved that Xiang Shaoyun was willing to do so for his sake. Little did they know, Xiang Shaoyun had his own reasons for doing so.

Firstly, he did not want to recruit outsiders he couldn't trust as followers, even those with excellent talents. He also couldn't believe in the loyalty of those people. Secondly, the Han Clan sisters could still be molded. If he could improve their talents, he was confident they wouldn't be any weaker than any talented genius. Thirdly, he had also taken in consideration the friendship between Du Xuanhao and Han Pojun.

Those were the reasons why Xiang Shaoyun had selected the sisters. He was confident he would be able to earn their loyalty. After some idle chatter, Han Pojun impatiently left to look for his two nieces. At present, the two sisters were chatting in their room. Both of them were frowning, as if they were filled with worries.

"Big sister, Shaoyun is going to enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy soon. Does that mean we won't have much of a chance to see him again in the future?" asked Han Xuewei.

Han Qianwei sighed, "I guess so. He is a hidden dragon. A day will come when he soars above the skies. We are only commoners. How can we soar alongside him?"

Evidently, the two were feeling sad over their parting with Xiang Shaoyun. He had already occupied both their hearts. At this time, Han Pojun's voice rang out from outside the room. "Qianwei, Xuewei, come out."

The sisters left the room. Han Qianwei asked, "Uncle, is there anything? Why do you look so happy?"

"Haha, something great has happened! Something excellent has happened!" Han Pojun roared with laughter. He went straight to the point, "Young Master Xiang has agreed to bring you two along to the Dragon Phoenix Academy."

"What? Are you sure?" the two asked at the same time.

"Of course. It took me great effort to beg for this opportunity. You must not let it go to waste!" Han Pojun said seriously. The sisters were overjoyed, their eyes sparkling.

"But don't be too happy first. Young Master Xiang mentioned that the two of you will only have the chance if both his friends manage to get through the test. Otherwise, the spots will be taken," said Han Pojun.

### Chapter 533: Random Invitation

Han Pojun told the sisters the conditions raised by Xiang Shaoyun, and they agreed to it without hesitation. That offer was akin to a free gift that had fallen into their laps out of nowhere. How would they reject a free gift?

"I can see that both of you like Young Master Xiang. My original intention was to have one of you become his lover. However, he did not agree to it. The only thing he wants is loyalty," said Han Pojun, somewhat regretful.

If he could marry one of the Han Clan sisters to Xiang Shaoyun, with the backers Xiang Shaoyun had, the Han Clan would benefit greatly. A gloom fell over the sisters' faces as slight sadness gripped their hearts.

Han Pojun consoled them, "Don't be too disheartened. You will be spending plenty of time with him in the future. So long as you perform well, I believe he won't remain indifferent. As the saying goes, a man's pursuit of a woman is blocked by a mountain while a woman's pursuit of a man is only blocked by a layer of cloth. What happens in the future will rely on your own doings."

"Xuewei, you are gentle and caring. I believe he will like you in the future," said Han Qianwei.

"No, big sister. I'm too stupid. You're smarter. I think he will like you," said Han Xuewei.

"Have you not noticed that Xiang Shaoyun doesn't really care much for me? He likes you more."

"That's definitely wrong. Big sister, you are able to provide him with great advice, but I know nothing. He won't like me."

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The sisters started praising the other and belittling themselves.

Han Pojun couldn't help but to interject, "Alright, stop this. Don't you understand what I was trying to say? He is currently uninterested in both of you. To earn his favor, you will have to work hard to prove yourself. As for who he will end up liking in the end, we can only leave that up to fate. But no matter what, remember, do not let it affect the relationship between the two of you."

"Yes, uncle," the sisters answered at the same time.

"Good. At the Dragon Phoenix Academy, work hard at cultivating. Try to keep up with Xiang Shaoyun's paces instead of getting left further behind. Even better if you can find those odd materials capable of repairing your physique. Only they will help you grow stronger," Han Pojun



advised. He handed two storage rings to the sisters and continued, "There are some cultivation resources in these rings. Use them accordingly. The Han Clan's future will lie on your shoulders."

The sisters nodded resolutely.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was telling Du Xuanhao about the things to take note of after his departure. He hoped that Du Xuanhao could work with Devouring Ghost to discover which individuals from the Skeleton Gang would be useful. They would be the ones doing his biddings in the future.

As for the territory and wealth under their control, he was planning to have the people under Tang Zhan or Green Ghost to help manage it all. He did not have the time to deal with it, so he could only let Du Xuanhao take care of everything on his behalf. As for whether anything would actually come of it, he really couldn't be bothered to give it too much thought. The only thing he could do was increase his strength as quickly as possible.

Xiang Shaoyun called over the three Skeletons and had a long talk with them as well. Naturally, the three agreed to everything he said. The three weren't exactly weak, and he hoped that Devouring Ghost would be able to help them reach the Sovereign Realm in the future.

He originally wanted to use the ghostbloom to help Celestial Skeleton forge his soul foundation, but upon some thought, he decided against it. The Noxious Blood Gang was no more. There was no need for Celestial Skeleton to rush into the Soul Foundation Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to use the ghostbloom yet. After all, he had already awakened his imperial nether bloodline. He knew very well that the Nether Soul Domain required the help of the ghostbloom to grow stronger.

The following day, when Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave for the governor, he received a report that a lot of people were requesting to meet him. They were the people with both power and status in the city. Evidently, they were there for his follower spots.

Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun released news that his follower spots had been filled up and he no longer needed any followers. Only then did they leave grudgingly. Finally, he found the chance to visit the city hall. He was no longer afraid that the Rat Assassins would come looking for him.

Both the city hall and the Ghostface Sect had declared that any member of the Rat Assassins daring to step into the city would be killed. The people in the city were confused as to why the two

organizations had made such a decision, but they all knew that the Rat Assassins wouldn't dare overlook the warning issued by these two organizations despite their might.

Walking along the path, Xiang Shaoyun felt as if he was bearing the weight of a mountain. Each step he took was extremely heavy, forcing him to constantly use his astral energy to neutralize the pressure, but it did not make him unhappy. Rather, he was in a good mood and was even observing the pedestrians around him.

He was rejoicing in the great gains he had obtained after arriving at this city. Not only had his cultivation level grown, he had also learned a lot of information relating to his birth. He had also gained more understanding on the various questions he had after his bloodline awakened. The things he had learned gave him a better direction in his future path of cultivation and planted in him a desire to find out more about his mother.

As he walked, Xiang Shaoyun was deep in thought and completely oblivious to the gazes the many women were throwing his way, filling those eyes with bitterness. It was rare for them to see a young man so elegant and handsome, yet the young man was actually viewing them with complete disregard.

When Xiang Shaoyun neared the city hall, someone blocked his path.

"Young Master Xiang, our Young Master Qing would like to invite you to the Yu Moon Pavilion," an old man said with a beam on his face.

"You are?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion. He was sure he had never seen the old man before, yet the old man could actually recognize him, and he had even invited him to the Yu Moon Pavilion. He was probably someone from the Yu Clan.

Sure enough, the old man replied, "I am Ye Ye, a butler of Yu Province's Ye Clan. My young master is hoping to meet you after hearing of your fame. I hope you'll do me the honor of accepting this invitation."

"Ye Clan? I've never heard of it. I'm busy," Xiang Shaoyun rejected without any hesitation.

"Don't be too fast to reject, Young Master Xiang. My young master is a relative of the Yu Clan and can be considered a part of the Yu Clan as well. As for you, you're a son-in-law candidate of the Yu Clan. I am confident you and my young master will get along fine!" said Ye Ye in an unhurried manner.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. "I don't have the time for that right now."

"There's no rush. My young master does not mind changing the time to tonight instead," said Ye Ye.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw how stubborn the old man was being, he hesitated slightly and then finally agreed out of respect for Yu Caidie. "Fine. I'll be there tonight."

"We look forward to meeting you tonight," said Ye Ye before stepping aside.

Xiang Shaoyun then continued heading toward the city hall. Unknown to him, a smile of someone whose scheme had succeeded formed on Ye Ye's face.

"Hold it! Who are you? How dare you intrude upon the city hall?" The city hall guards started berating Xiang Shaoyun when he approached.

"Xiang Shaoyun, requesting to meet the governor," Xiang Shaoyun replied calmly.

#### Chapter 534: Mockery

"So it's Young Master Xiang. Please come in." A deferential smile bloomed on the guard's face when he heard Xiang Shaoyun's name. Tang Longfei had given the order to allow Xiang Shaoyun entry upon his arrival. Also, his arrival was to be immediately reported.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and entered the city hall. In large cities like the Bloodsin City, the city hall was an existence of great power. But this particular city hall looked neither fancy nor luxurious. Instead, it was spartan and spacious. Xiang Shaoyun walked along a path made of rare stone materials, and when he neared the main hall, Tang Longfei rushed out from inside.

"Shaoyun, you're finally here! You have been quite busy, huh?" said Tang Longfei cheerily.

"My apologies, Big Brother Tang. I had a lot of affairs to take care of for the past few days," said Xiang Shaoyun apologetically.

"Haha, I understand. Come on in, my father can't wait to meet you!" Tang Longfei grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's hand and dragged him into the hall.

The friendliness displayed filled Xiang Shaoyun's heart with warmth. The care shown here was one that would touch the heart and fill the heart with comfort. They entered the main hall. Inside, Tang Zhan was seated on a throne.

However, there were some other people in the hall as well. All of them focused on Xiang Shaoyun the moment he entered. They were curious as to what kind of person was worthy of being personally welcomed by the city hall's young master. They had never imagined that it would be a young man.

"Your nephew greets you, Uncle Tang," Xiang Shaoyun gave his respects.

"Your timing is impeccable, Shaoyun. Come, let me introduce you to a few friends of mine. This is Ning Chenba, you can call him Uncle Ning. That is his daughter, Ning Wenhua. This is Uncle Yan Benkai and his son, Yan Shengqiu," Tang Zhan introduced the people to Xiang Shaoyun. He then said, "This is Xiang Shaoyun, the son of my sworn brother, Xiang Yangzhan."

Xiang Shaoyun greeted the four one after another. Ning Chenba looked to be the oldest person present. He might look like he was only about 50 years old, but in truth, he was a powerful cultivator who had lived over 1,000 years.

His daughter was beautiful, with a tall and supple figure. She wore a wreath on her head, her eyes were bright, and a sword hung on her back. She exuded a clear aura of a Skysoar Realm cultivator and emanated a valiant and carefree bearing.

Yan Benkai looked middle-aged. He was slim, with a conspicuous mustache above his lips and a pair of bright eyes that seemed capable of seeing through all secrets. As for his son, Yan Shengqiu, he was dressed gorgeously and emanated an aura of pride. He wore battle attire, with two swords hanging at his waist, and a pair of silver boots.

Ning Chenba responded to the greeting with indifference. As for Yan Benkai, he asked, "Is it the same Xiang Yangzhan who had met Shanguan Wusheng in battle?"

"Yes," Tang Zhan replied.

Yan Benkai continued, "I heard that the Ziling Sect is now in the hands of Di Batian? It was rumored that Xiang Yangzhan's son is a licentious person who never cultivates, a silkpants through and through. It seems like that is far from true?"

Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat embarrassed, and he said, "I wasn't sensible back then. But I will personally retake everything!"

"Hehe, it's always good to have confidence," said Yan Benkai with a tone indicating he didn't really mean his words. In his opinion, Xiang Shaoyun was only a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. Sure, he would have a decent future, but regaining the Ziling Sect was simply a dream.

"Uncle Yan, Shaoyun is also heading to the Dragon Phoenix Academy with me," Tang Longfei said. He couldn't stand listening to the mocking tone Yan Benkai used when speaking to Xiang Shaoyun, and tried to regain some dignity for his friend.

As a response, Yan Shengqiu laughed, "Haha, Big Brother Tang, is someone with his strength even worthy of going there with us? Are you sure you're not playing a joke?"

It was clear he viewed Xiang Shaoyun's strength with scorn. In fact, he felt that having Xiang Shaoyun going with them was an insult. At this time, Ning Wenhua also spoke, and her pleasant voice rang out, "Uncle Tang, Longfei, I don't think he is qualified to go to the Dragon Phoenix Academy with us."

She was direct and plainspoken, speaking her mind without hiding anything. Like Yan Shengqiu, she viewed Xiang Shaoyun with contempt. Xiang Shaoyun's relationship with Tang Zhan did not matter, as the process of joining the Dragon Phoenix Academy was not child's play. Without the strength of a peak King, one would only fail the test. In their opinion, having Xiang Shaoyun travel with them would only embarrass them.

"Oh? Do Uncle Ning and Uncle Yan think the same as well?" Tang Longfei raised his brow.

While fiddling with a jade bead in his hand, Ning Chenba replied indifferently, "You young people can make your own decision about this."

He then shut his eyes, evidently not wanting to be involved anymore.

As for Yan Benkai, he smiled and said, "Longfei, the Dragon Phoenix Academy is one of the Four Great Ancient Academies. Only the most outstanding of geniuses will be recruited. You, Wenhua, and Shengqiu are all decent talents. It won't be hard for you to enter. But this Xiang Shaoyun is rather lacking. It will be too hard on him if he has to go with you. I suggest he wait for his next opportunity."

The Four Great Ancient Academies would only recruit one every 100 years. Thus, Yan Benkai was basically saying that Xiang Shaoyun was unqualified to join.

Tang Longfei was displeased. Just as he was about to speak, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Uncle Tang, I am only here to offer my greetings to you. Since you have some guests here, I will be taking my leave."

He then turned and left without hesitation. He couldn't be bothered to bicker pointlessly with Tang Zhan's guests. They were merely looking down on him due to his low cultivation level and his apparent lack of background. It was not like Tang Zhan was intentionally introducing them to him. After all, he had come today without notifying the city hall in advance. He had only encountered them by coincidence.

"There's no rush, Shaoyun. Get Longfei to accompany you for a bit. I still have something to talk with you about later," said Tang Zhan. "Although you are now a special-recruit of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, you still need to watch your temper before your uncle, alright?"

It might seem like Tang Zhan was speaking disapprovingly, but his selection of words were meant for his guests. Sure enough, the four guests were all stunned.

"Shaoyun, wait for me." Tang Longfei quickly chased after Xiang Shaoyun.

Yan Benkai finally recovered from his shock and said, "Brother Tang, d-did you just mention that he's a special-recruit disciple?"

"Yes. It's my fault for not mentioning that in advance. That kid killed an Emperor by himself at the fort above the Devil Domain. The recruiting elders of the four academies were there, and they all offered a special-recruit position to him. He ultimately chose the Dragon Phoenix Academy. He will be a guarantee for Longfei to enter the academy this time. Then again, he has quite a temper. Please don't mind him," said Tang Zhan.

Tang Zhan might be speaking apologetically, but he did not look like he was apologizing at all. Rather, he seemed rather proud. Ning Chenba and Yan Benkai were old friends of his, but neither were residents of this Bloodsin City. They had only arrived two days prior.

They had come so their children could head to the Dragon Phoenix Academy together. That way, the children could also help each other out. Tang Longfei's strength was above Ning Wenhua's and Yan Shengqiu's. Thus, they naturally wished that Tang Longfei would be able to give their children some help.

Xiang Shaoyun's visit was a coincidence, and Tang Longfei had only mentioned that he would be traveling with them. It was natural that they would look down on Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level of seventh-stage Skysoar Realm.

They were even worried that Xiang Shaoyun's participation would affect the future of their children and cause them shame. Coupled with the bad reputation Xiang Shaoyun had back at the Ziling Sect, they started speaking to him with mockery.

But now, they had indescribable expressions on their faces. Their eyes were opened wide, and their mouths were agape with disbelief. A disciple the four academies had fought to recruit was right before them, yet they had assumed that he was merely a burden, a kid that had yet to grow up. But now, it was clear they were the ones who were ignorant.

"Wenhua, go spend some time with your Big Brother Tang. You mentioned that it has been a while since the two of you last met, right?" said Ning Chenba to his daughter.

"Yes, Father," said Ning Wenhua. After excusing herself before Tang Zhan, she left.

After some hesitation, Yan Benkai said, "Shengqiu, you go as well. You youngsters should stick together. You have more topics in common anyway."

Yan Shengqiu also left without hesitation.

"Brother Tang, is that really Xiang Yangzhan's son?" Yan Benkai asked.

"Yes," said Tang Zhan.

Ning Chenba said, "A tiger father indeed begets a tiger son. Some rumors are not believable after all."

"True. Looks like I'm really getting old. Brother Tang, don't mind my earlier insolence," sighed Yan Benkai.

"There is no need to be so polite between us. I was planning to tell you of the two follower spots Shaoyun has. If any of the children happened to fail the test, we can get him to provide some help. But seems like I've messed it up," said Tang Zhan with a helpless smile.

"Brother Tang, I'm to blame for that. With the years of friendship we have, you need to speak to that child on my behalf. If Shengqiu fails to get through the test, he has to help. I thank you in advance," said Yan Benkai nervously.

Ning Chenba couldn't remain calm anymore. "Yes, Brother Tang, you gotta help us. We will never forget this favor."

The quotas to enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy were extremely valuable. From more than 100,000 young geniuses, less than 10 percent of them would end up recruited. Any youth managing to enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy was practically guaranteed to end up as a powerful individual capable of dominating vast swathes of land in the future.

Naturally, the two also wished that their respective child could be guaranteed a spot into the academy. Unfortunately for them, they had personally ruined the opportunity presented before them.

When Tang Zhan saw his friends admitting their faults, he agreed to their request as he thought, If Shaoyun wants to retake the sect in the future, he will need some helpers. I hope he can understand what I'm trying to do for him.

Tang Zhan was unaware that Xiang Shaoyun had promised the spots to the Han Clan sisters. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dared to promise his two friends he would help.

At the city hall's backyard, Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and Yan Shengqiu were gathered. Xiang Shaoyun did not have a good opinion of Ning Wenhua and Yan Shengqiu, but he did not show them his displeasure. He merely treated them with indifference.



After all, it did not matter if others looked down on him. He had confidence in himself, and for him, that was enough. Tang Longfei also knew that Xiang Shaoyun was unhappy with what had happened. Thus, he did not seem too enthusiastic when talking to Ning Wenhua and Yan Shengqiu either.

Ultimately, Ning Wenhua displayed his outspoken nature and raised her glass of liquor. She said, "Xiang Shaoyun, my words earlier were improper. I shouldn't have judged a person by mere appearances. I hope you wouldn't mind that. To show my regret, I will punish myself with three glasses of liquor."

She then downed three glasses of liquor in a row, displaying her gallant spirit.

With Ning Wenhua taking the lead, Yan Shengqiu no longer dared to put on airs anymore. He quickly said, "Xiang Shaoyun, my apologies for my words earlier. I hope you can show me leniency."

After saying that, he did the same thing and downed three glasses of liquor in a row, showing ample sincerity in his apology. Even so, the two still couldn't understand how a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm was a War Emperor. In fact, they were still filled with disbelief. However, they did not think that someone like Tang Zhan would bother lying to them.

Perhaps he is using some secret technique to hide his true strength? the two concluded.

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything, but he replied with action as he lifted his glass and started drinking as well. He downed six glasses of liquor in a row in a gallant manner.

"Don't let that bother you. I, Xiang Shaoyun, am a person with a big heart. Since you are Big Brother Tang's friends, you are also my friends," said Xiang Shaoyun in a straightforward manner.

He had noticed that Tang Longfei had been wearing an ashen expression. He understood that Tang Longfei was unhappy about the mockery he had received, but he also understood that being stuck between the two parties wasn't a pleasant experience for Tang Longfei to have either. Since they had already apologized, he couldn't be too petty. He would forgive them for the Tang Longfei's sake.

Sure enough, after hearing Xiang Shaoyun's words, Tang Longfei patted his shoulder and downed several glasses of liquor as well. He said, "Shaoyun is right. We are all friends. Don't let something so trifling harm our friendship."

He then looked at Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu and said, "You might not know, but Shaoyun is also the Yu Clan's son-in-law candidate. Although he is only a candidate with low priority, you should still know the importance of that identity."

Both Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu were left speechless. They had heard from Tang Longfei before about the Holy Maiden candidate's trip to the city. She had went went on an expedition to the Devil Domain for the yin devil wind, but in truth, it was a competition to select a son-in-law candidate.

Of course, those in the know would be aware that it was more a search for a follower than a search for a son-in-law. Regardless, that was enough of an identity to awe both Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu.

They both had considerable backgrounds, but compared to a massive organization like the Yu Clan, their backgrounds were far too lacking. On top of that, Xiang Shaoyun was now a special-recruit disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

After knowing all that, when they recalled how they had offended Xiang Shaoyun, they were filled with fear. A genius like Xiang Shaoyun would most definitely grow into an existence they could only look up at. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun did not seem to hold any grudge against them. They reached a decision to repair their relationship with him no matter what.

#### Chapter 536: Di Batian Has a Backer

After Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu changed their behavior, Xiang Shaoyun was able to maintain a harmonious relationship with them. At this time, he recalled the invitation he had received earlier, so he asked Tang Longfei, "Big Brother Tang, do you know anything about Yu Province's Ye Clan? The Ye Clan related to the Yu Clan."

He was all alone and did not have an effective network of information. However, he was confident Tang Longfei would know something.

"Yu Province's Ye Clan? I don't really know much about them, but Shengqiu might know more. His clan is also located in the Yu Clan's territory," said Tang Longfei.

Yan Shengqiu quickly explained, "Originally, the Ye Clan did not have much of a relationship with the Yu Clan. But about 10,000 years ago, a genius cultivator had emerged from the Ye Clan, Ye

Mohen. He became Yu Clan's son-in-law, and from then on, the Ye Clan has risen in power. Now, they are a powerful subordinate clan under the Yu Clan, a tier-8 organization."

"I see," Xiang Shaoyun said in realization.

"Shaoyun, why are you suddenly asking about the Ye Clan?" Tang Longfei asked.

"On my way here, I received an invitation from a Ye Clan member to meet at the Yu Moon Pavilion," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

"Do you want me to go with you?" Tang Longfei asked.

Xiang Shaoyun was about to reply when Yan Shengqiu interjected in alarm, "I might know the reason for that."

"What do you know?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"It must have something to do with their emerging genius, Ye Linshan. He is only 20 years old, yet he is already a peak King. Moreover, he is a Super War Emperor capable of battling a second-stage Emperor. He has dreadful combat prowess," said Yan Shengqiu gravely. It was as if just mentioning that genius would give him a massive pressure.

"Ye Linshan the Green Child," Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhua exclaimed in alarm.

Evidently, they had both heard of the name Ye Linshan as well.

"He is now known as Green Youth," Yan Shengqiu corrected them. "The Ye Clan has grown to their current status due to their marriage alliance with the Yu Clan. Now, they are planning to repeat history and have a marriage between Ye Linshan and the Holy Maiden. That way, they can further consolidate their relationship with the Yu Clan. Brother Xiang, since you are now a son-in-law candidate, you have likely become someone he wants to erase."

Yan Shengqiu spoke plainly, and Xiang Shaoyun naturally understood what he meant. In other words, the invitation was laced with malice.

"If that is the case, you shouldn't go tonight," said Tang Longfei.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head as he said boldly, "I don't care who he is, but I want to see him with my own eyes. Otherwise, how am I supposed to stand my ground in the Dragon Phoenix Academy? How am I supposed to make Caidie my woman?"

Yu Caidie was someone he was determined to make his lover. Ye Linshan might view him as a love rival, but he similarly viewed Ye Linshan as a love rival. Thus, it was imperative that he attended the invitation that night.

Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and Yan Shengqiu had mixed emotions when they saw Xiang Shaoyun's raging confidence. Not long after, someone came bearing Tang Zhan's invitation to have a meal at the banquet hall.

As the governor of this Bloodsin City, Tang Zhan naturally had considerable wealth. The liquors served at the banquet were excellent liquors of over 1,000 years, each brewed using numerous valuable herbs and capable of enhancing one's health and strength. As for the food to go along with the liquor, high-tier meat capable of replenishing and cultivating one's vitality were served.

Xiang Shaoyun did not stand on ceremony and started stuffing himself with food and liquor. Wearing the one million catties armor, he was in a constant state of exhaustion. Thus, he had to constantly replenish his energy. Ning Chenba and Yan Benkai naturally no longer dared to put on airs at the banquet. Rather, they were very cordial and friendly.

Xiang Shaoyun had also forgotten his displeasure and responded to their attempts at conversation politely. Subsequently, the two even gave him some gifts and mentioned passingly in a joking manner that if Ning Wenhua and Yan Shengqiu couldn't get through the entrance test, they hoped that he would be able to give them some help.

Xiang Shaoyun did not accept the gifts. Rather, he politely told them that he had already selected his followers. He would not retake the spots from the Han Clan sisters. After all, he had already promised Han Pojun.

The faces of Ning Chenba and Yan Benkai dimmed when the two saw how firmly Xiang Shaoyun was refusing them. However, they weren't displeased. Rather, they insisted that he accept their gifts and consider the gifts something his seniors were giving him.

Although Xiang Shaoyun could no longer promise their children the spots, they still wished that he could take care of them while on the way to the academy. Perhaps some change would occur and things would take a turn for the better. Since they were putting it that way, Xiang Shaoyun had no way of refusing the gifts. Thus, he accepted them.

After the banquet, Tang Zhan kept Xiang Shaoyun in the hall.

"Shaoyun, now that you have revealed your talent, Di Batian must have noticed you as well. Otherwise, the Rat Assassins wouldn't have attacked you repeatedly. Although you have the help of your nether prison devil puppet, you still need to be careful," Tang Zhan emphasized.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the concern in those words. His heart warmed as he nodded, "Don't worry, Uncle Tang. I will be careful."

"Um. At the Dragon Phoenix Academy, focus on cultivation. Don't think too much about anything else. You need to push your cultivation level to the Soul Foundation Realm or an even higher realm before thinking of reclaiming your family estate," said Tang Zhan. "Di Batian is not as simple as you think. He has a backer as well."

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. "Di Batian has a backer?"

"Yes. I've never imagined that he would be someone that good at hiding a secret. But that backer is the reason why he had the guts to snatch the sect only half a year after your father's disappearance. Without a backer, he wouldn't have dared to do so even if he was a hundred times braver."

A grave expression covered Xiang Shaoyun's face. He had the confidence to ultimately get rid of Di Batian, as he was talented enough in cultivation. But it would be an entirely different story if Di Batian had a terrifying background.

"Don't worry about it too much. Perhaps your father will return after some time. At that time, Di Batian won't amount to anything," said Tang Zhan. "This trip to the Dragon Phoenix Academy will be your opportunity to grow strong and build your own connections. As you know, anyone capable of entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy is a genius. If you can befriend them, it will be very beneficial to you."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded, gladly accepting the advice. He understood the importance of everything Tang Zhan was telling him. He was not so conceited to believe that he was the only genius in the

world. They continued chatting for a bit before Tang Zhan gave Xiang Shaoyun a storage ring. He considered it a meeting gift from an uncle to a nephew.

Xiang Shaoyun did not stand on ceremony and accepted it. He then told Tang Zhan about his plans with the Skeleton Gang, telling him to ignore the gang as someone else would be handling it. He only hoped that Tang Zhan could provide the gang some support when required. Tang Zhan knew that Xiang Shaoyun had many means at his disposal. Thus, he agreed.

#### Chapter 537: Ye Clan's Ye Youfei

At nightfall, several tall and straight figures noiselessly appeared before the Yu Moon Pavilion. They were Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and Yan Shengyang. Xiang Shaoyun wanted to come alone, but Tang Longfei had insisted on coming with him.

With the signature boldness of Bloodsin City's number one young master, he said, "I really want to see just what kind of person that Ye Linshan is."

With Tang Longfei's participation, Ning Wenhua and Yan Shengyang joined in as well since they were bored of staying indoors doing nothing. When they arrived, Ye Ye, the person claiming to be a butler, was waiting at the entrance.

"Welcome, Young Master Xiang," said Ye Ye with a genial smile.

He acted like he did not see the other three people with Xiang Shaoyun. Tang Longfei frowned, displeased with Ye Ye's attitude. No matter what, he was Bloodsin City's number one young master. That old man was actually ignoring him? That was no different than looking down on him. However, he was here to back Xiang Shaoyun up, so he did not wish to create any trouble unless necessary.

"Lead the way," said Xiang Shaoyun indifferently.

This was his second time at the Yu Moon Pavilion. It was still brightly lit at night, painting a wondrous scene dotted with rock gardens and fountains. They followed Ye Ye all the way to the second floor before arriving before an ancient-looking building. Music and the sound of people dancing could be heard; the building seemed to be bustling with activity.

Ye Ye bowed and made an inviting gesture. "My young master is inside. This way, Young Master Xiang."

Xiang Shaoyun entered without any hesitation. Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhuan, and Yan Shengqiu wanted to enter as well, but Ye Ye stopped them, saying, "Please wait outside. My young master has not invited you."

"What is the meaning of this!" Tang Longfei was instantly furious.

Ye Ye straightened his back, looked at Tang Longfei, and said "My young master did not invite any of you, so you can't enter."

"Haha, how arrogant! Do you know who I am?" Tang Longfei sneered.

"Hehe, number one young master of this city, Young Master Tang Longfei. Yes, of course I know you. Unfortunately, my young master has not invited you. My sincerest apologies, but you can't enter," said Ye Ye with a smile. One ought to admit that Ye Ye was someone with excellent patience, someone who knew when to advance and retreat, and he suited the position of a butler well.

Just as Tang Longfei was about to start raging, Xiang Shaoyun stepped back and said, "Big Brother Tang, let's go."

Tang Longfei blanked out slightly before wrapping his arm around Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder and said, "Haha, sure. Since they don't want us here, we'll leave."

Tang Longfei was happy with how considerate Xiang Shaoyun was being. As for Ye Ye, his face fell. The butler stepped forth and said, "Young Master Xiang, my young master—"

Xiang Shaoyun interrupted him before he could finish, "I don't know your young master, nor am I interested in knowing him. If it wasn't out of respect for Caidie, I wouldn't have bothered coming at all."

He then left with Tang Longfei and the others. At this time, several people walked out of the building. One of them said, "What an impudent person. You dare not show me, Ye Youfei, any respect?"

He was about 27 years old. He looked handsome and carefree, wearing a black outfit with golden markings, a gorgeous belt, and a pair of silver boots. His eyes were filled with arrogance, and he

looked like a typical rich young master. Three beautiful women surrounded him, displaying his nature as a philanderer.

Xiang Shaoyun's group stopped, and Yan Shengyang's voice sounded in Xiang Shaoyun's ears, "Ye Youfei, the older cousin of Ye Linsan. He is a War Emperor. He's actually here as well, but it's understandable why he's the one doing this. Green Youth Ye Linshan is arrogant, and he wouldn't lower himself to do something like this."

After listening to the introduction, Xiang Shaoyun ignored Ye Youfei and continued leaving.

Ye Youfei's face turned cold as he said, "Butler Ye, what are you waiting for? Take him!"

Ye Ye was left with no choice and helplessly flickered before appearing in the path of Xiang Shaoyun's group. Tang Longfei finally lost his temper. "A good dog never blocks the way. Piss off. Do you think this is your Ye Clan's territory?"

If it wasn't out of respect for the Yu Clan, he would have already ordered someone from the city hall to come teach them a lesson. As per the saying, a powerful dragon would find it hard to repress a local snake. Many people understood this concept well.

Ye Ye knew the same; hence he said humbly, "Young Master Tang, please calm down. Since my young master has shown himself, why don't you guys have a nice chat?"

"I don't care who he is. You need to know, this is the Bloodsin City!" Tang Longfei roared. He wasn't the number one young master of this Bloodsin City for no reason. If he did not do anything after being stepped, what would happen to his reputation?

"What big words!" Ye Youfei said as he strode forward.

He then pointed at Tang Longfei before asking Ye Ye, "Is he Xiang Shaoyun?"

"No, young master. This is Young Master Xiang. That is the city hall's young master, Tang Longfei," Ye Ye introduced.

"Ah, so it's a little boy that still stinks of his mother's milk?" Ye Youfei ignored Tang Longfei and started sizing Xiang Shaoyun up with disdain.



"Shaoyun, I don't know about you, but I can't stand him anymore. I'm going to beat him up," said Tang Longfei furiously. He then threw a punch at Ye Youfei.

Celestial Dragon Fist!

His fist roared like a dragon as it shot forth with a powerful golden energy. Some time had passed since the Devil Domain expedition, and Tang Longfei's draconic aura had reached 88 percent completion. It wouldn't be long before he reached 90 percent completion. However, before the punch could hit, Ye Ye appeared before Ye Youfei.

Bang!

Ye Ye did not attack and just stood there as the punch struck him. Instead of injuring his target, Tang Longfei was jolted off by the impact. Ye Ye's strength was evident.

"Butler Ye, he is actually thinking of teaching me a lesson. Are you not going to show them a lesson?" complained Ye Youfei resentfully.

"Young Master Fei, we're here to solve an issue, not to make an enemy," said Ye Ye respectfully. Those did not seem like the words a servant should be telling his master.

"Hmph. Are you questioning my way of handling things?" Ye Youfei questioned unhappily.

"Ye Ye dares not," Ye Ye bowed.

"Of course you don't," said Ye Youfei with disdain. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I'm warning you to stay far away from my cousin, Yu Caidie, after entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Don't be a toad who dreams after the swan. Nobody would be able to protect you otherwise."

## Chapter 538: Consuming Astral Expansion Flower

On his way to the Yu Moon Pavilion, Xiang Shaoyun had already braced himself to face anything that might happen. One of the possibilities he had considered happening was the Ye Clan withdrawing after realizing he wasn't someone to be messed with. However, one possibility he had never imagined was that there would be someone as conceited as Ye Youfei present.

Ye Youfei might be decently strong and the Ye Clan rather powerful, but Xiang Shaoyun did not fear them. He now had nothing, and someone with nothing to lose had nothing to fear. He did not mind fighting the Ye Clan at all. Even if he wasn't a match, he could always flee!

"Big Brother Tang, let's leave. The dog is so loud it's deafening," said Xiang Shaoyun, completely ignoring Ye Youfei.

The only way to fight rudeness was with more rudeness. Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would be so haughty. They were impressed, but they were also afraid that the Ye Clan's anger would fall on them as well.

Without a doubt, Xiang Shaoyun's words had thoroughly angered Ye Youfei. Without saying anything else, he attacked. He knew that Xiang Shaoyun was a War Emperor, so he attacked with full power immediately, creating a tornado swirling around his hand. Just as his palm attack was about to strike, Xiang Shaoyun dodged to the side and sent him a kick.

Similarly, Xiang Shaoyun didn't hold back. No matter how fast Ye Youfei's reaction time was, he wasn't as fast as Xiang Shaoyun. After all, Xiang Shaoyun had comprehended the power of wind. Not only had his movement speed increased, his attacking speed had increased as well.

Because of that, Ye Youfei couldn't even do anything as the kick hit his thigh. He staggered and nearly fell to the ground. Xiang Shaoyun was about to press on, but Ye Youfei disregarded his pain and unleashed two palm attacks in a row.

The palm attacks were so fast Xiang Shaoyun could feel the air tear beside his face after he dodged to the side. From the short exchange, it was clear Ye Youfei was no pushover. He possessed combat prowess comparable to Tang Longfei's. Xiang Shaoyun was prepared to use more of his strength and teach Ye Youfei a lesson when he suddenly sensed a massive power forcefully separating him and Ye Youfei.

"Young Master Fei, this is the Yu Moon Pavilion," an ethereal voice rang out from a corner.

A middle-aged man took one step, flickered, and appeared before Xiang Shaoyun and Ye Youfei. Xiang Shaoyun had seen this man before. He was the same person who had led the group of geniuses into the Yu Moon Pavilion when they were here attending Yu Caidie's test. This person was none other than the Yu Moon Pavilion's shopkeeper.

Ye Youfei's haughtiness dropped somewhat when he saw the middle-aged man. He said to Xiang Shaoyun, "Little bastard, you will suffer at the Dragon Phoenix Academy."

He then turned and reentered the ancient-looking building.

"Big Brother Tang, let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Meanwhile, a praising look appeared in the shopkeeper's eyes as he looked at the departing Xiang Shaoyun.

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After leaving the Yu Moon Pavilion, both Ning Wenhua and Yan Shengyang heaved a breath of relief. They were afraid that they would get implicated if a fight did break out. With their strength, they did not necessarily fear Ye Youfei, but it wasn't wise to offend the Ye Clan for the sake of Xiang Shaoyun.

On the other hand, Tang Longfei had no misgivings whatsoever. After all, Bloodsin City was an extremely unique city. Although his father hadn't been its governor for long, he had still been a governor for quite some time. Furthermore, his power and influence was in an upward trend of growth. Thus, no organization could easily do something to him.

"That Ye Youfei is way too conceited. Shaoyun, you want me to get my father to deal with him?" asked Tang Longfei. This no longer concerned Xiang Shaoyun alone, as his prestige as the number one young master needed to be preserved.

"Big Brother Tang, this is a conflict between people of our generation. It's better to not bother the older generation for this. In any case, someone like that is not even worth our attention," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

That Ye Youfei was decent in terms of cultivation, but his conceited temperament displayed his shallowness, serving as his weakness. If he was someone capable of feigning friendliness before betraying his target like Huo Xudong, he would be a much scarier opponent.

Tang Longfei was no fool. He immediately understood what Xiang Shaoyun meant and laughed, "Your thoughts are penetrating. In any case, no clan can control the Dragon Phoenix Academy. If he

dares to create trouble for me at the academy, I will beat him up so badly even his mom won't recognize him."

"Exactly," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

Next, they returned to the city hall on Tang Longfei's invitation of Tang Longfei, as Xiang Shaoyun felt it improper to reject. In a spacious guest room, Xiang Shaoyun took out an astral expansion flower and consumed it.

The astral expansion flower was an emperor medicine that had taken 3,000 years to form, and it was capable of expanding one's stars. A person's stars could have many sizes, with the size being the factor determining the amount of astral energy one could store. That was part of the determining factor of one's talent and the reason why talent was important in cultivation.

Xiang Shaoyun had a nine-star physique. Thus, he had outstanding talent. However, his stars weren't too big. Expanding their size would only give him benefits. Although the astral expansion flower was only an emperor medicine, it was extremely rare. Generally, one could only purchase it using contribution points at the fort above the Devil Domain.

The power of the astral expansion flower spread through his body. The dots of light littering his body were extremely brilliant. Slowly, they became one with the astral cosmos sea, creating an enigmatic and noble river of stars. The power slowly separated and went into the nine stars, nurturing and expanding them.

The stars were expanding, but when Xiang Shaoyun looked at them through inner gaze, they did not seem like they had changed much. The only obvious change was that his energy now circulated more quickly and he needed to accumulate more energy to advance.

It was quite a pity that the astral expansion flower's grade wasn't too high. With Xiang Shaoyun having nine stars, the flower was only able to expand the size of his stars by about one third.

It would be much better if he could increase the size of his stars by about 50 percent or even 100 percent. If this thought was known to outsiders, they would most likely beat him up in anger.

One's stars were fixed at birth and would only gradually expand as one grew in strength. To expand the size by even 10 percent without an accompanying growth of cultivation level was extremely hard. And yet Xiang Shaoyun dared to be unhappy even after an expansion of one third in size. He was like an ant dreaming of swallowing an elephant!

After fully digesting the power of the astral expansion flower, Xiang Shaoyun felt that the gap between him and the peak seventh-stage Skysoar Realm had widened considerably. His initial plan was to reach the peak of the seventh stage while on his way to the Dragon Phoenix Academy. But now, it seemed like he would need more time. That could in a way be considered an adverse effect of expanding his stars.

However, although the speed of his advancement slowed, it did not mean his strength would not grow. On the contrary, among those with the same cultivation level, the size of one's stars determined one's endurance and combat prowess in battle. Now that he was heading to the Dragon Phoenix Academy soon, he had to accumulate more resources so as to deal with the freaks coming from all over the dominion.

Of course, his current focus would be placed on Green Youth Ye Linshan of the Ye Clan. As for Ye Youfei, he was most likely a vanguard testing the waters for Ye Linshan. He was an ordinary chess piece that would not pose any threat whatsoever.

#### Chapter 539: Their Physiques Are Really Terrible

The next day, Xiang Shaoyun met Tang Longfei and made an appointment to head for the academy three days later. He then returned to the Skeleton Gang. There, he found that Devouring Ghost had returned. He brought two masked experts with him.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even sense the strength of the two experts. Therefore, he was sure they were no weaker than the Sovereign Realm. Since they could follow Devouring Ghost around, it was clear they were Green Ghost's devoted subordinates.

"Young master, I've already drawn a rough plan on how to handle the Skeleton Gang. Let me tell you my plans," said Devouring Ghost. He then went straight to the topic.

His plan was simple—to merge the Skeleton Gang into the Ghostface Sect. The Ghostface Sect would manage everything the gang had. As for the gang members, the sect would train them before sending those with potential out for tempering. From an outsider's perspective, the gang had been swallowed by the sect.

But in reality, the sect would not swallow anything belonging to Xiang Shaoyun. When he returned, everything would fall under his control again. Even the trained gang members would be under his command.

If it were anyone else who had proposed this plan, Xiang Shaoyun would reject it without hesitation. But since this was Devouring Ghost's plan, he had full confidence Devouring Ghost would handle it properly in a way that he wouldn't suffer any losses. In any case, Devouring Ghost was even hinting that even the Ghostface Sect could fall under his command if he wished.

An outsider would find it hard to believe everything Devouring Ghost was saying. But Xiang Shaoyun believed him wholeheartedly. He had personally witnessed the obedience Green Ghost showed Devouring Ghost. He also sincerely believed that even if the world betrayed him, Devouring Ghost would not. He had an odd sensation that, in a previous life, Devouring Ghost was a brother he could trust with his life and someone worth his absolute confidence.

After listening to the plan, Xiang Shaoyun agreed with zero hesitation. After all, the territories of the Skeleton Gang and the Noxious Blood Gang were nothing for the present Xiang Shaoyun, even though outsiders considered their territories a delicious cake. Xiang Shaoyun knew that so long as he kept growing, he could get anything he wanted in the future with his own strength.

Xiang Shaoyun then introduced the Han Clan sisters to Devouring Ghost. He did that so Devouring Ghost could find a way to fix the flaws in their physiques.

"Devouring Ghost, help me take a look at their talent for cultivation," Xiang Shaoyun went straight to the point.

"Yes, young master," Devouring Ghost answered. He then said to the sisters, "Come, let me read your pulse."

The sisters appeared confused, but they still listened and walked over. They had already learned from Han Pojun the proper method of conducting themselves after becoming Xiang Shaoyun's followers.

They had to know their place and obey his words, or they would have no chance of entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Devouring Ghost first read Han Qianwei's pulse, and an odd look appeared on his face. He then did the same to Han Xuewei.

"Alright. Got it," said Devouring Ghost before signaling Xiang Shaoyun with his eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun understood tacitly and said to the sisters, "You may leave first."

The sisters nodded and left the hall.

"Big sister, who is that person? Young Master Xiang seems to trust him a lot?" Han Xuewei asked through voice transmission.

"He's obviously a hidden expert behind the young master. When I faced him, the sensation he exuded was even scarier than when I face uncle," said Han Qianwei. "But don't worry. Young Master Xiang only wanted to know our cultivation talent. We both have the Yin Frost Physique, so our talent is decent. Everything will be fine."

"That might be the case, but the ancestor mentioned that we have some flaws to our physiques. What we have aren't perfect physiques," said Han Xuewei as she pouted.

"You can't be thinking that Young Master Xiang will abandon us, right?" Han Qianwei asked.

Han Xuewei shook her head, but then she quickly nodded. "He is a man of his word, so he won't easily renege. I believe he is just trying to evaluate how useful we can be in the future."

"Exactly. Uncle said that we should work hard and catch up to him as soon as possible. Otherwise, we won't be qualified to be his followers, let alone his women," said Han Qianwei.

"Big sister, you finally admitted it! I thought you didn't want to be his woman?" Han Xuewei teased.

"So what? Don't tell me you're not thinking the same?" Han Qianwei admitted frankly.

"I, y-yes..." Han Xuewei lowered her head and answered with a blush before running away.

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In the main hall, Xiang Shaoyun asked Devouring Ghost, "So?"

"Young master, are you sure you're bringing them to the Dragon Phoenix Academy?" Devouring Ghost asked.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Yes."

"If possible, abandon that thought. Their physiques are terrible!" Devouring Ghost sighed.

"Is it that bad? I heard they each have a Yin Frost Physique. Although their versions are flawed, it can't be that bad, right?" Xiang Shaoyun was astonished.

"What do they know? What they have isn't even the Yin Frost Physique. They merely have some innate frost in their body. This tiny talent can at most help them reach the Dragon Ascension Realm. It's almost impossible for them to reach a higher height," said Devouring Ghost with disdain.

"What? That bad?" Xiang Shaoyun blanked out.

"There's more to it. They won't live past 50," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun staggered. He had assumed that their talents wouldn't be that bad, so this was quite a surprise.

"What's up with that? Don't they look fine right now?" Xiang Shaoyun asked nervously. If they were really that bad, he might really have to give up on them. It wasn't that he looked down on them, but he needed followers with potential instead of followers that would die young. Also, he wouldn't know how to face Han Pojun after they died. In this scenario, bringing them with him would be an arduous and thankless task.

"Their innate frost energy should be something accompanying them since birth. You can also call it fetal frost energy. If they possess a full Yin Frost Physique, they would be fine. Moreover, they would have excellent talent in cultivation. Unfortunately, they each only have a strand of fetal frost energy in them. At birth, they were mere babies that couldn't control the fetal frost energy, resulting in the energy damaging their natural lifespan. They might look fine, but the stronger they become, the stronger a backlash they will suffer from their fetal frost energy, ultimately leading to death," said Devouring Ghost gravely.

#### Chapter 540: Repairing the Overlord Skyslaying Saber

Xiang Shaoyun was blanked out for quite a while before asking, "Is there nothing we can do about this? I mean, is there a way to let them live longer?"



In truth, even if he couldn't bring them into the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he still wished to change their fate of dying young.

"It's hard. The fetal frost energy is innate, and it has already intruded into all their internal organs. It's impossible to fully remove the energy," said Devouring Ghost.

Xiang Shaoyun was going to sigh when Devouring Ghost continued, "However, if they are lucky to find a place of extreme yin and frost, absorbing the extreme yin frost energy there will help them assimilate their fetal frost energy to form true Yin Frost Physiques. It will solve their crisis and reform their talents. But it is also an exceedingly dangerous method. There were people who tried doing the same before, and nine out of ten died."

"In other words, without using that method, they can still live till 50, while using the method is risky but still holds a tiny hope?" Xiang Shaoyun clarified.

"Yes," Devouring Ghost sighed. "The Dragon Phoenix Academy is one of the Four Great Ancient Academies. They occupied the ancient lands surrounding the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. Perhaps there's a land of extreme yin and frost there."

Xiang Shaoyun swept his gaze at Devouring Ghost before sinking into contemplation. He was clear Devouring Ghost would not lie to him. In that case, should he attempt to help the sisters? He would be the one making the decision, not Devouring Ghost. Devouring Ghost did not say anything and waited for Xiang Shaoyun's decision silently.

After spending an hour in thought, a resolute look covered Xiang Shaoyun's face as he said, "Since I have made them a promise, I will give them this chance. I hope they can seize it."

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't one to randomly change his mind. His initial thought to give up on the sisters wasn't due to the follower spots that would go to waste. Rather, it was due to their short lifespan, which was as short as a blink of an eye for a cultivator. With such a short lifespan, he wished for them to live a happy ordinary life instead.

He ultimately decided to let them stay by his side and to give them a chance to change their fate of dying young. Perhaps there would be such a chance in the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Otherwise, Devouring Ghost wouldn't have bothered mentioning it. If they really ended up not encountering such a location or ended up failing the transformation, that could only mean that their short lifespan was their destiny.

No matter what, he wouldn't regret it so long as he had tried his best to help them. Devouring Ghost wasn't surprised that Xiang Shaoyun would make such a decision. He also didn't believe that Xiang Shaoyun was the kind of man to act recklessly for a woman. In his opinion, Xiang Shaoyun simply wasn't attaching much importance to the two follower spots.

In any case, the Dragon Phoenix Academy was filled with geniuses. His young master would have plenty of time to gather followers during his time there. After spending some more time talking about their future plans, Xiang Shaoyun returned to his room. His current plan was to refine his Overlord Skyslaying Saber in the remaining three days he had left.

He had a lot of emperor and sovereign materials accumulated. It wouldn't be hard to use some to further refine the Overlord Skyslaying Saber. Although the original grade of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber was high, he did not have materials of corresponding grades to fully restore the saber. Thus, he could only slowly refine it bit by bit.

After nurturing the saber in his body for an extended period of time, he had fully become one with the saber, which indicated that the Overlord Skyslaying Saber had formed a certain connection with him and that the saber was now akin to an extension of his body he could freely control. Thus, he could easily refine it.

For others, refining their own fate weapons would require the help of outside forces to temper the weapons. That was not the case for Xiang Shaoyun. He had Yun Flame in his astral cosmos sea and could refine the saber right inside his astral cosmos sea using the materials that were also stored in the same astral cosmos sea. He didn't need to take anything out of him and could control the refinement process with a thought. It granted him a massive advantage over others.

He first needed to submerge the saber amid Yun Flame, softening the saber, before burning and mixing the various materials with the saber. The materials would then fuse into the saber and slowly restore the saber. Emperor and sovereign materials were top-tier treasures for many people, but for the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, they were merely some insignificant materials. After the refinement process, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber looked much better than before.

Xiang Shaoyun then proceeded to further nourish the saber with his innate lightning energy and vicious gold energy before feeding the saber with some of his essence blood, increasing the spirituality of the saber.

With the current strength of the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, it was capable of unleashing the might of a peak emperor weapon and withstanding the attack of sovereign weapons without being destroyed. In short, this round of refinement had allowed the saber to recover even more of its

original might. After gathering more sovereign materials, Xiang Shaoyun would be able to repair the saber back into a sovereign weapon.

"This much will be enough for quite some time. After getting some more better materials, I will continue upgrading it," muttered Xiang Shaoyun to himself.

Done with all that, he did not leave his room. There were two more days left, and he did not wish to waste any free time. His gaze landed on Yun Flame as he thought, Time for it to return. He then willed Yun Flame to return to the flame star. After fusing with the devil flame seed, Yun Flame had reached a brand new level in power. Not even an Emperor would dare to lightly touch a flame of its level.

One could say that Yun Flame had further evolved from its original form, and perhaps only one or two more types of flames were required for it to evolve into a flame equivalent to a ten millennia flame. At that time, it would become a sacred flame. Of course, it was far from that level currently, but its current destructiveness was scary enough.

Prior to this, Xiang Shaoyun had entered the seventh stage by borrowing the power of the silver lightning core and the yin devil wind. To consolidate his gains, he hadn't allowed Yun Flame to return to the flame star.

Now that he was done with consolidating and was growing once more with the expansion of his stars, it was time for Yun Flame to return, which would also further improve his cultivation. As Yun Flame returned, the flame star erupted with power, fusing once again with it.

Bang! Bang!

The star burned, and it felt like cracks were going to appear due to the intense heat. It was a sensation Xiang Shaoyun had experienced before, but that did nothing to alleviate his current pain. After all, the Yun Flame had also grown, and its prowess wasn't something one could easily withstand.

A layer of red enveloped Xiang Shaoyun's body, as if he was being cooked. Steam rose from his body, making it look like he was in terrible suffering. This state lasted a day and a night before it ended. Fortunately, he had outstanding willpower. Otherwise, he would have fainted from the pain. Naturally, his cultivation level had grown from the process.