

Overlord 561

Chapter 561: The Perfect Physique

Xiang Shaoyun had some understanding of Xia Yunxi's physique. Her physique was definitely not much worse than Di Lin's. Unsurprisingly, when she placed her palm on the assessment stone, eight stars appeared in the sky as if eight immortals were crossing the sky together, appearing extremely conspicuous.

This was a mid-grade eight-star physique, and could be considered an excellent physique even in the Dragon Phoenix Academy. It was no wonder she could also be a special-recruit disciple like Di Lin. Her physique combined with her looks and excellent temperament immediately attracted many gazes of adoration.

After Xia Yunxi left the assessment stone, Di Lin strode forth with the elegance of a prince out on a stroll. He smiled at Xia Yunxi on purpose, and she played along as she smiled back at him. It was now obvious for everyone that there was some sort of relationship between the two.

When his palm touched the assessment stone, eight stars appeared in the sky as well. They were obviously much brighter and vivid than Xia Yunxi's stars. High-grade eight-star physique! A crimson light also shone upon him, making him seem like the prince of the sun, looking incomparably dazzling.

"T-this is a high-grade eight-star physique and also an Innate Flame Star Physique!" an elder exclaimed in alarm.

"This physique is comparable to regular nine-star physiques. This is a top-tier physique. I must make him my disciple!" said a different elder.

An uproar erupted among the elders. That was especially true for the elders cultivating the power of flame.

But before they could do anything, someone said, "This kid has already been accepted by a previous generation elder as a personal disciple. Forget what you're thinking."

Just an eight-star physique was already an excellent physique. Combined with an Innate Flame Star Physique, the holder was definitely one with an extraordinary talent. An uproar had also erupted among the disciples. Their eyes were filled with envy. One could say that Di Lin was comparable to any freaks among them. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes filled with provocation and disdain.

An eight-star and an innate elemental physique? So what? Just you wait, thought Xiang Shaoyun with contempt.

Next, Feng Clan's Feng Xiaosha went up and took his assessment. He had a mid-grade eight-star physique and an Innate Wind Physique. Similarly, he attracted much attention. It was a pity that his physique was somewhat worse compared to Di Lin's, and it caused him to be rather unhappy.

However, Di Lin wasn't the one with the best physique, as physiques comparable to his had appeared as well. One of the holders was the Ye Clan's Ye Linshan, holding a high-grade eight-star and Innate Wood Physique.

Apart from him, there were also Wang Yufeng with a high-grade eight-star Innate Earth Physique, Long Shi with a high-grade eight-star Innate Gold Physique, and a few other outstanding physiques.

These eight-star innate physique holders had all been accepted as personal disciples of the various previous generation elders. Regular elders weren't even qualified to become their masters.

The people there also noticed that the renowned eight freaks such as Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, Yu Ziyang, Yu Caidie, Han Chenfei, Ouyang Chuanqi, and Xiao Xie had not taken the assessment. Presumably, the eight freaks had been hidden by the Dragon Phoenix Academy, as they were true freaks among the new disciples.

When there were less than 10 disciples remaining, it was finally Xiang Shaoyun's turn to take his assessment. In the past, regardless of whether it was during his time at the Ziling Sect or Martial Hall Palace, he had never fully revealed his physique. Only he himself knew of the top-tier physique he possessed from his observations during inner gazing.

Di Lin, Xia Yunxi, Huo Xudong, and the others all focused on him, hoping that his physique wouldn't be better than theirs. As for Xiao Wei, he started getting nervous as well. After all, this was a special-recruit he had personally recruited, and this disciple had already displayed a stunning performance during the second round of the test. It would be great if this disciple could also perform well during this assessment.

Open your eyes wide and watch me, thought Xiang Shaoyun pridefully as he slowly placed his hand on the assessment stone.

However, nothing happened. Everyone was somewhat stunned. Nobody would believe that Xiang Shaoyun had zero stars. Fortunately, the silence only remained for a short duration. Instantly, nine ancient stars appeared. The sky seemed to be shaking, as if it was going to fall, as if the world was going to crumble apart.

The nine stars started shining, sending strands of incomparably divine radiance toward Xiang Shaoyun. The radiance swirling around him was brilliant and dazzling, making him look like the son of a god.

"T-this is a nine-star physique! There is really such a physique? How scary!"

"What a surprise! What a surprise! I've never expected that I would be able to personally witness a nine-star phenomenon. Even dying is worth it after witnessing this phenomenon."

"This kid is barely 20, right? With his physique, within 100 years, he will also be yet another Saint!"

"We should try befriending a freak like this. Even if we can't be his friend, we definitely can't be his enemy. Otherwise, we can forget about ever having a peaceful sleep."

"Look, there seems to be something else as well?"

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The young geniuses were all shocked. A nine-star physique was definitely the best of the best, one that might not appear even among hundreds of millions of people. Thus, seeing one before them filled them with mixed emotions. They all wished to swap their physiques with Xiang Shaoyun. The young beauties all looked smitten, seemingly having the urge to pounce on Xiang Shaoyun and make him theirs.

And yet that was not all. The nine stars were actually incredibly clear and were even bringing them a dreadful pressure. This was a high-grade nine-star physique, an absolutely perfect physique. Since ancient times, the number of times such physiques had appeared could be counted on one hand. Each holder of such physique had eventually become a legendary god of the dominion.

"Impossible! How can he have such an excellent physique?" Di Lin roared, losing his mind.

Xia Yunxi was also greatly taken aback. Her face paled, and thick remorse surfaced in her heart. Once upon a time, this young man had been her lover. She had personally pushed him away. Not far away, Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, Lady Shura, Shou Xie, and the others were completely dumbstruck. They knew Xiang Shaoyun was extraordinary, but they had never imagined that he would have such a physique. They felt like they were dreaming.

"I-I'm not seeing things, right? Shaoyun...has a high-grade nine-star physique?" Tang Longfei gulped.

Ning Wenhua rubbed her eyes. "If you're seeing things, I must be seeing things as well."

"You're not seeing things. I'm not seeing things either. This is the truth," said Lady Shura firmly.

Chapter 562: Natural Phenomenon

When Xiang Shaoyun triggered the nine-star phenomenon, everyone in the Dragon Phoenix Academy sensed it. This was an extremely rare phenomenon, and the pressure it exuded caused everyone to shudder.

Numerous dreadful auras surged out from various spots in the academy. At the same time, several figures appeared midair as they gazed at the nine-star phenomenon with excitement in their eyes.

"How many years has it been? It has been so long since I last saw a physique so excellent! The heavens have blessed our Dragon Phoenix Academy!" said an old man whose face couldn't be seen clearly.

"Yeah, the last time a high-grade nine-star physique appeared was during the ancient times. Now, one has actually appeared here at our Dragon Phoenix Academy? Looks like old folks like us will need to get busy personally this time," said a different man whose face similarly couldn't be seen clearly.

A woman with an hourglass figure said, "Who's the recruiter of this child? Why had he not confirmed the child's physique before the assessment? By revealing the child's physique, he will only attract the attention of the other disciples. Those ancient factions would also try their best to recruit him. If they fail, they would rather kill him. After all, someone this talented can also be extremely threatening."

"No, I have to stop that from happening. I'll just take him as a hidden disciple and release him to the world 1,000 years later," said an old man as he suddenly flew toward Xiang Shaoyun. But before he could go far, he was stopped by a few figures.

"Dream on. Charging out like this will only scare the child. In any case, you don't even know what power he cultivates. How can you take him as a disciple so casually?" said someone unhappily.

"That's right. We should continue observing and determine what power he cultivates before making a decision," said a middle-aged man.

"No. With our strength, we will be able to guide him in whatever power he cultivates. He is still a tiny Skysoar Realm cultivator!" said the person who tried flying toward Xiang Shaoyun earlier.

"There's no hurry. In any case, the child has already joined our Dragon Phoenix Academy. He won't be able to escape us," said the woman calmly.

"That's right. Keep observing. I think he definitely cultivates the power of water," said someone.

The entire Dragon Phoenix Academy seemed to have transformed into a boiling pot. Liu Xutian, Xiao Wei, and the other elders were filled with excitement. They had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would create such a commotion. They knew very well that a disciple of this caliber was not someone they could take as a disciple. Even so, they were still filled with a desire to have him as a disciple.

As for Feng Huosuo, he had an extremely unsightly expression. With his fists clenched tightly, he thought, How is this possible? A high-grade nine-star physique? Damn it! This must be a dream!

Xiang Shaoyun felt like it was time to stop showing off, but his nine stars suddenly erupted with a massive suction force, absorbing a certain power hidden within the assessment stone. To be precise, his stars were absorbing the power of the nine stars in the sky. The stone was merely serving as a medium.

The rays of light shining from the sky started undergoing some changes. One of the nine pure and unblemished rays suddenly turned purple, as if it had turned into a bolt of lightning. One of the hidden old fellows cried out in excitement as if he had won a lottery, "He cultivates the power of lightning! Splendid!"

He had barely celebrated when a different ray of light turned into a golden ray.

"He cultivates the power of gold as well? Excellent!" the middle-aged man exclaimed in joy.

It was understandable that someone with such a freakish talent would cultivate two powers. But soon they saw red, gray, green, blue, yellow, white, and black rays appearing one after another. The rays of light looked incredibly wondrous, presenting an exceedingly enchanting sight. The other eight stones in the area were affected as well. A resonance formed between them as they started shining brightly, accepting the incoming rays of light.

Immediately, a power that greatly resembled both the natural spiritual energy in the air and the astral energy of the stars started spreading out. The surroundings became flooded with energy. The old trees in the area grew new leaves, the spiritual herbs advanced into the next tier, the flowers instantly bloomed, and the numerous demonic beasts all stopped everything they were doing. They released their demonic cores, allowing their cores to be nourished.

Even the young geniuses in the area could sense their cultivation growing rapidly. Those who were near breakthrough were suddenly hit with a sudden bout of inspiration, as if they were going to break through at any moment. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he sank into a unique state. He felt incredibly comfortable, as if he was soaking in a hot spring or bathing under the first ray of the sun in the morning.

His nine stars started growing at an inconceivable speed. Even more unbelievable was the nine-colored energy in his astral cosmos sea. It started growing rapidly, and Money started devouring it hungrily. Under this process, Money started undergoing some changes as well.

The vicious tiger gold lotus, blaze flower, ghostbloom, and the other plants in his astral cosmos sea started shining with a glistening radiance. Not only had new buds sprouted out of them, they had even advanced to a higher tier. Everyone was stunned, and nobody could explain everything that was happening.

None noticed that beyond the sky, an additional star had appeared, its appearance vaguely discernible. The new star was completely covered by the nine colors, and it seemed like it was absorbing the power contained in the nine colors in a completely concealed state. Not even the experts at the Dragon Phoenix Academy could detect that star.

At the same time that star appeared, the powers shining upon the world below turned berserk. The nine stones suddenly exploded, and Xiang Shaoyun who was caught by surprise was sent flying.

Everyone panicked, thinking that they were under attack. They started scattering everywhere in panic.

As for the nine overseers and the disciples standing near the stones, they suffered the brunt of the impact. It was unknown if they were still alive or not. With the explosion of the nine assessment stones, the nine stars in the sky vanished noiselessly. The nine colors vanished, and peace returned, as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 563: I Would Rather Die Than Submit

The explosion of the nine assessment stones was something completely inconceivable. These stones were genuine saint-grade items. Not even sovereign weapons could deal any kind of damage to them, yet they had all been destroyed just like that. Everyone blanked out, not knowing what to think of it. Not far away, Xiang Shaoyun got back on his feet. He had not suffered many injuries, as if the explosion wasn't as scary as it had seemed.

He couldn't help but to curse, "What damnable stones are these? Why are they exploding suddenly? Are they trying to kill me? This young master was nearly killed! I need to demand justice from the academy! I need them to compensate me for the damage my body and soul has suffered! I can't let this rest!"

The young geniuses near him were able to remain standing even in the face of the sudden explosion, but they all staggered at what he said. They had seen a lot of shameless people, but they had never seen one so shameless before. He actually dared to utter such shameless words? Where had he gotten such guts?

The nine stones were incredibly valuable. The destruction of any one of them would cause the academy elders immense pain. Yet this kid still demanded compensation? He was truly someone who did not know the immensity of heaven and earth! The overseers and young geniuses that were badly implicated by the explosion wanted to get up and shout at Xiang Shaoyun, but they couldn't even get back on their feet.

The explosion wasn't fatal, but it had still injured them heavily. If they weren't given immediate treatment, it was unlikely for them to survive. Liu Xutian was the first to react, "Quickly! Treat them before we do anything else!"

At his command, people rushed over to help the injured overseers and disciples.

As for Feng Huosuo, he jumped out and shouted at Xiang Shaoyun, "You're dead! You have actually destroyed the academy's assessment stones? These are saint-grade stones! Not even your life is enough to pay for them! I suggest you save us the trouble and cripple yourself!"

As he said that, he erupted with a massive pressure that wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun. As an elder of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, there was no doubt that Feng Huosuo was an expert of massive strength. The spiritual pressure he unleashed was completely beyond the pressure exerted by the stairs. Even with the help of his Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun could still feel the invasion of a certain will into his mind.

Fortunately, he still had the protection of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to resist the invading will.

"Are you an elder of the academy? How unreasonable are you being? The stones have obviously exploded by themselves! What? Are you trying to say that a puny King like me has destroyed them? All nine stones have exploded, yet I wasn't anywhere near the other eight stones! It is obvious those stones were inferior products! They even nearly killed me! Look, my expensive clothes have been turned into rags! Also, look at my handsome and lovable face! It's bleeding! And yet you have the galls to criticize me? Are you crazy? Or are you simply deciding on the life of a disciple in accordance to your whims just because you're an elder?" Xiang Shaoyun shouted back unrelentingly.

Since the other party was obviously trying to make things hard for him, there was no need for him to hold back.

When Xiang Shaoyun was done speaking, Xiao Wei clapped and said, "That's right. Well said! The only thing some people are good for is bullying the young. Thank you, Feng Huosuo, for broadening my horizons with your shamelessness."

"What are you trying to say, Xiao Wei? Don't you know the value of these assessment stones?" Feng Huosuo questioned.

"Of course I know, but I also know that Xiang Shaoyun is worth more than these stones. To be precise, Xiang Shaoyun is invaluable!" said Xiao Wei firmly.

"Fine, fine. I don't care anymore. Do whatever you want," said Feng Huosuo when he noticed that the other elders were all looking at him with a look of amusement. It caused his face to flush red. After saying what he had to say, he quickly left.

His initial plan was to cripple Xiang Shaoyun when nobody was paying attention. He had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun was actually able to resist his spiritual pressure. Since that was a case, he had no choice but to give up. If he made another move, the other elders would probably gang up on him. After all, a freak this talented was too rare. The academy would definitely nurture him like a hidden treasure and would not allow him to suffer any harm.

At this time, Xiao Wei arrived beside Xiang Shaoyun and patted his shoulder before saying, "Well done! You're an excellent recruit! I like you!"

Xiang Shaoyun quickly dodged to the side and looked at Xiao Wei cautiously as he said, "I am not interested in men. Forget it. I would rather die than submit!"

Some of the disciples couldn't hold their laughter in when they heard his words.

Xiao Wei's face turned ghastly as he said, "I say, kid, can your brain not be so dirty? The like I said is not that kind of like. It's a different kind of like. Do you understand?"

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and said, "What kind of like? You're confusing me."

Xiao Wei was about to say something else when a voice rang out, "Elders, heed my command. The assessment will be put on pause. Settle all the new disciples. Bring the child that triggered the nine-star phenomenon to the meeting hall."

"Yes," the elders did not dare to disobey the owner of that voice. They bowed and started doing as told.

There were more than 10 disciples who had yet to take their assessment, but they no longer needed to do so. In any case, they were all special-recruits that would be core disciples. They wouldn't suffer much losses by not taking the assessment.

"Xiao Wei, bring Xiang Shaoyun to the meeting hall," said Liu Xutian.

Liu Xutian wanted to personally lead Xiang Shaoyun over, but Xiang Shaoyun was after all one of Xiao Wei's recruits. It wouldn't be proper to snatch this contribution from Xiao Wei.

"Come with me, Xiang Shaoyun. I'll take you to the meeting hall," said Xiao Wei with a nod. He then grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's hand and flew toward the meeting hall. The remaining disciples had a look of envy as they gazed at Xiang Shaoyun departing.

"Xiang Shaoyun is going to reach the top with a single step. Looks like in the future, we will need to fawn on him whenever we see him."

"That's right. It's best we check his origins. If we can befriend him, it will only benefit us."

"I remember he came with a few friends. Let's start befriending his friends first. That should be easier."

"Stop dreaming. A person at his level is not someone anyone can befriend. You're better off focusing on your own cultivation."

"That's right. A true cultivator relies not only on talent, but on one's unrelenting will. Only then can one stand at the peak of cultivation. My accomplishments in cultivation won't necessarily be worse than his in the future."

Chapter 564: This Kid Is Someone With a Character

The meeting hall of the Dragon Phoenix Academy was located at the central location of the academy. It was a place with an excellent environment, surrounded by ancient trees on all sides. The space in between the hall and the trees were decorated with rock gardens, bonsai trees, and flowing streams populated by numerous carps. As a whole, the location was tranquil and peaceful.

The hall was grand and imposing, with the ancient architectural design of its curved roof and grated windows. The walls were decorated with the paintings of dragons and phoenixes, exuding a majestic and ancient ambiance. There were no guards present, yet this place was akin to a forbidden zone where people with no business here would not approach. Dragged by Xiao Wei, Xiang Shaoyun moved as fast as lightning and arrived in a short period of time.

"We're here. Tidy yourself up and enter with me," said Xiao Wei.

The current Xiang Shaoyun looked incomparably sorry. His clothes were in rags, revealing the broken armor he wore inside, which looked even worse. His image as a pretty boy was greatly discounted in such get-up. If this was any other time, he would most definitely get changed before doing anything else. But this time, he was unwilling to do so.

"I need to ask for compensation from the academy. How can I remove the proof? Let's enter like this. I believe the elders will be fair," said Xiang Shaoyun, still stubbornly insisting to be repaid for the damage his soul and body had suffered.

Xiao Wei shook his head helplessly. "This is an important location of the academy. You best watch your mouth when you talk. Don't create trouble for yourself."

He then brought Xiang Shaoyun into the main hall.

The inside of the hall was akin to an entirely independent space. It was incomparably expansive, with a unique aura drifting about in the air as if actual dragons and phoenixes were flying around the hall. On the beam at the very top of the hall were the statues of a dragon and a phoenix. The two looked exceedingly lifelike and exuded a massive pressure on everyone in the hall.

Numerous jade chairs were lined within the hall. These chairs were actually made of top-quality star congregation jades. Even Xiang Shaoyun was astonished by this display of wealth. One ought to know that top-quality star congregation jades were emperor-grade items. Just a tiny piece was enough to increase one's energy gathering speed by about 10 times.

There were 99 such chairs in the hall. One ought to acknowledge how luxurious this was. This was especially true for the jade tree at the very middle of the room. It was more of a couch than a chair, and it looked incomparably majestic and luxurious.

The 12 pillars in the hall decorated by carvings of dragons and phoenixes also looked extraordinary. Xiang Shaoyun was confident these pillars were made of materials of a sovereign, or even higher, grade. Even if he attacked with all his strength, he probably wouldn't be able to damage any of the pillars. There were also various other ornaments in the hall, and not a single one of them was ordinary.

Oh heavens, they are really rich! Xiang Shaoyun thought as his eyes lit up. He had the urge to take everything in the hall for himself.

Xiao Wei had a helpless look on his face as he said, "What are you looking at? Quickly greet the principal and the elders!"

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun reluctantly move his gaze away from the expensive decorations and focused on the old man seated on a chair and the elders surrounding him. With a salute, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Xiang Shaoyun greets the principal and the elders."

"H-he resembles that kid greatly!" someone said immediately.

That remark seemed completely random, yet someone else replied, "To be precise, he looks completely the same. If it wasn't not for his age of only 19 years old, I would have suspected that the other fellow is still alive."

"Stop guessing. He is probably not that fellow. Although that fellow also has a primary-grade nine-star innate elemental physique, this kid has an even scarier physique. This kid is probably his descendant," said a different person.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely confused as a few people had suddenly appeared around him. They consisted of a purple-haired old man, a heroic middle-aged man, an exceptionally beautiful woman, an old man in a gold outfit, and a young man in a white robe. These people were nowhere to be seen earlier and had abruptly appeared out of thin air. For some reason, with these people looking at him, Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had been stripped naked, as if all his secrets had been exposed.

"Don't look at me like this. I know I'm handsome, but I'm too young for you all!" Xiang Shaoyun said bashfully.

Xiao Wei nearly fainted. Inwardly, he howled with grief, Oh heavens! Is this the same freak with a nine-star physique? Why is he such a moron? Why is he saying something so stupid here?

"Not bad, not bad at all. This kid is someone with a character. It doesn't matter if he is that fellow, but he is definitely qualified to be my successor," said the purple-haired old man with a look of admiration.

"Old Purple, how shameless are you? He not only cultivates the power of lightning," said the old man in a gold outfit. He then smiled genially before saying, "Kid, kneel down and become my disciple. I will turn you into the strongest person alive."

"Old Gold, that wasn't our initial agreement. I think we need to talk about this," said the heroic middle-aged man.

"That's right. It is obvious that this kid not only has excellent physique, he also has outstanding comprehension. All of us want to take him as a disciple, but we also need to respect his decision," said the beautiful woman.

And thus, they started bickering, with none of them willing to back off. As for the elders seated in the hall, they all smiled helplessly. It had been many years since they had last seen these grand guardian elders act like this.

They also longed to take Xiang Shaoyun as a disciple, but they were nothing in front of the grand guardian elders. How would they dare to snatch a disciple these grand guardian elders wanted?

Just as a fight was about to break out, the principal opened his mouth, "Guardians, please calm down. Don't scare the child away. Let me have a chat with him."

"I don't care. This kid is mine for sure. I will make life hard for anyone who disagrees," said the purple-haired old man.

"Old Purple, others might fear you, but not me! I hereby declare that this kid can only be my disciple!" said the old man wearing a gold outfit.

The grand guardians started bickering again. The principal added, "It will be his honor no matter whose disciple he becomes. But now, we should first get down to business and settle his issue."

At that, the grand guardians all stopped bickering and stared at Xiang Shaoyun like he was an exceptional beauty that they were going to pounce on.

"Xiang Shaoyun, are you willing to remove eight astral energies within your body and focus on only one?" asked the principal.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard that, he blanked out slightly before saying, "No!"

Chapter 565: Fend for Yourself

For a cultivator, cultivating multiple powers at once signified a split of one's focus. One needed to absorb multiple different energies and comprehend the battle techniques of different elements. Much more time would be required in comparison to those cultivating only a single power.

On top of that, someone cultivating several powers would have a much harder time to release his full strength. For example, when Xiang Shaoyun battled using the power of gold, he could only use the power from his gold star while his other stars would remain dormant.

Of course, he could always activate his stars one after another, but he wouldn't be unleashing his full strength doing so. And if he only cultivated the power of gold, with all nine of his stars being gold stars, he would be able to use all nine stars at the same time. At that time, he would be able to easily battle those even nine stages above him.

That was why a nine-star physique was considered such a powerful physique. People like this had appeared before, and their achievements were clearly recorded in history books. As for those cultivating nine powers like Xiang Shaoyun, not a single case of success had been recorded before.

In other words, nobody believed that cultivating nine powers at the same time was a smart choice. In fact, they were of the opinion that this was simply messing around and was something that needed to stop. The stars of nine colors attracted by Xiang Shaoyun had allowed these grand guardians to know that he cultivated nine different powers.

Generally speaking, nobody would spend too much time worrying over someone who had already gotten started on his path of cultivation like this. But Xiang Shaoyun possessed an extremely rare physique, and he was still very young. He wasn't even 20 years old, and he would still have a bright future even if he reset his cultivation to zero and restarted from scratch.

That was the reason for the Dragon Phoenix Academy's principal to ask him that question. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun's rejection caused the principal face to turn somewhat unsightly. All the grand guardians were also angered by Xiang Shaoyun's ignorance.

"Xiang Shaoyun, do you know the consequences of cultivating nine powers?" questioned the principal.

"Yes, but I insist on maintaining my path of cultivation," said Xiang Shaoyun firmly.

He had long heard about the consequences from Devouring Ghost. However, he was unwilling to give up. When making the decision to cultivate nine powers, he had once thought of the numerous consequences that might arise. He had the confidence to defeat all the obstacles, creating the strongest battling physique in existence.

Of course, back then, part of the reason for his courage was his lack of knowledge. But even now, he still stuck firmly to his choice. That was because the nine-colored fog that had appeared in his astral cosmos sea had given him confidence and inspiration. The fog was why he thought his choice was correct. Just because others had never succeeded did not mean he wouldn't.

"Bastard! Do you think this is child's play? This will decide your entire life! Only by cultivating a single power to the extremes with all nine stars will you achieve greatness," berated the purple-haired old man.

"That's right! Child, stop being so naive! So long as you focus on the power of gold and remove all other powers, although your foundations and cultivation base will be damaged as a result, I can still help you fully recover within one year. In the future, you will have a bright future! You can't let your emotions affect your decisions!" persuaded the old man in a gold outfit.

"That's right, kid. Don't waste your talent. If you continue like this, it will be too late to change in the future," advised the heroic middle-aged man.

It was obvious they wanted badly for Xiang Shaoyun to cultivate only one power and become their successor. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun made a decision that disappointed all of them.

"Principal, grand guardians, thank you for the favor you're showing me. But I am no longer a child. I know what I want," said Xiang Shaoyun stubbornly.

"Fine, fine, since you are unwilling to change, just fend for yourself then," said the purple-haired old man with disappointment. With a "whoosh", he vanished into thin air. The other grand guardians also reacted similarly as they all vanished from the hall.

After they all left, Xiao Wei couldn't help but criticize Xiang Shaoyun, "Xiang Shaoyun, you are too ignorant. Do you know that the grand guardians have only shown themselves out of their love for talent? It has been at least 1,000 years since they have last shown themselves. Today, they have reappeared for your sake, yet you have directly disappointed all of them? You're being completely ridiculous!"

"That's right. Looks like this is a stubborn kid. Why don't we just cripple him before sending him to the grand guardians? At that time, he will have no choice but to restart from scratch. We can't allow a physique like this to go to waste," said an elder gloomily.

Another elder spoke even more sinisterly, "I personally think we should just erase his soul. Let me occupy his body instead. I will restart my cultivation and will be able to shine brightly."

The other elders also voiced their own opinions, and it seemed like Xiang Shaoyun's opinion no longer mattered. As far as they were concerned, nothing was more important than his physique.

Xiang Shaoyun broke out in cold sweat as he listened to the discussion. He was one who could stay calm in face of many things, but in the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he was no different from a boy learning to walk. Anyone could do anything to him, and he would be completely helpless. This was the very first time he felt himself so tiny, and his thirst for power surged. Only with power would he be able to control his own fate.

"Xiao Wei, take Xiang Shaoyun to the Back Graveyard and let him reflect on himself. Only release him after he repents on his mistake."

"What? W-would that be too harsh of a punishment?" said Xiao Wei with a shiver.

The Back Graveyard was one of the academy's forbidden zones. Those banished there would only be released after they went mad or lost all their courage. Sending Xiang Shaoyun to the Back Graveyard was no different than completely abandoning him.

"Are you the principal or am I the principal?" said the principal as he slammed his palm against the table in anger.

Xiao Wei quickly said, "Yes, I'll bring him there right away. I will do my best and persuade him to repent."

He then dragged Xiang Shaoyun away without saying anything else. Soon, they arrived at a spacious and empty corner.

He tossed Xiang Shaoyun to the ground and howled, "Are you stupid? Why did you make such a choice?"

Xiao Wei was filled with disappointment toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The crash caused Xiang Shaoyun to be somewhat dizzy. After finally getting back on his feet, he smiled. "Lord, I only did so because that is the right choice. You saw it yourself. The nine astral powers I had attracted have an extraordinary effect. If one day I can do that myself, nobody in this world will be my match!"

"Kid, have you gone mad? That phenomenon is really quite extraordinary, but that is not something a human can accomplish by himself. No amount of cultivation will allow one to control such power. Looks like you really need to repent in the Back Graveyard," said Xiao Wei resentfully as he grabbed Xiang Shaoyun and flew away.

Chapter 566: The Forbidden Back Graveyard

The Back Graveyard was in essence a cemetery. Apart from the heroic spirits belonging to the deceased members of the academy, the evil spirits of those killed by the academy in the past also resided here. The heroic spirits and the evil spirits lived in two different parts of the cemetery, and Xiang Shaoyun was thrown into the region where the evil spirits resided.

The evil spirits in the Back Graveyard consisted of the souls of numerous races, including those of humans, demons, and devils. Each evil spirit was at least a Sovereign in life. Those weaker wouldn't even be qualified to be locked here. The reason this whole evil spirit region was established by the academy was to serve as a place of punishment for disobedient disciples.

One could say that this was a severe and dreadful punishment. Regular disciples would have a hard time withstanding such punishment. Most of the time, they would turn mad afterwards.

Thus, it was clear how angry the principal was at Xiang Shaoyun's stubbornness. After all, for the principal, it was a massive wastage of potential for a nine-star physique to be used to cultivate nine different powers. If Xiang Shaoyun was unwilling to change his mind, he would probably have to spend the rest of his life in the graveyard.

While Xiao Wei was bringing Xiang Shaoyun here, he had already tried his best to persuade Xiang Shaoyun to change. He was unwilling to see Xiang Shaoyun ruin his future. However, Xiang Shaoyun remained stubborn, greatly angering Xiao Wei. But before Xiao Wei left, Xiang Shaoyun had still requested that he help settle the Han Clan sisters down. Xiao Wei did not agree, neither did he refuse. As for what he would do, Xiang Shaoyun had no idea.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was trapped in a place without any sunlight, a place filled with evil spirits. It was barren land with desolate mountains and nearly dry rivers. No other living beings could be seen, and every now and then, a cold gust of wind blew past, bringing with it an eerie whistling. Bones were scattered everywhere, further highlighting the graveyard's eeriness.

A barrier isolated the place from the outside world, and if Xiang Shaoyun wanted to leave, he had to possess the strength to break the barrier. However, even if he immediately reached the Sovereign Realm, he still wouldn't be able to break it. Thus, that thought never crossed his mind.

Looking at his barren surroundings, he grumbled in desperation, I was planning on showing off my extraordinary physique so the academy would properly cultivate me. However, this happened instead. There is really nothing I can do about it.

He did not blame the academy. After all, they had made it clear that they wanted to properly nurture him. However, he refused their demand, and thus, it wasn't really anyone's fault that he was in his current situation. In any case, he wouldn't just sit around doing nothing after being dumped here. He would prove to the elders that his choice of cultivating nine powers was correct.

One could say that Xiang Shaoyun was extremely obstinate when it came to cultivating nine powers. Suddenly, the skeletons near him stood up and started walking toward him.

Crack! Crack!

As the skeletons moved, cracking sounds filled the air, giving off an eerie sensation that made one's hair stand on end. The Back Graveyard was filled with a massive number of bones from various races. For no apparent reason, these skeletal remains were suddenly charging Xiang Shaoyun.

The leader was a human skeleton wielding a bone saber, and it hacked at Xiang Shaoyun rapidly, displaying a strength no weaker than an Emperor. At the same time, a demon skeleton opened its mouth and bit at Xiang Shaoyun, and a devil skeleton tackled Xiang Shaoyun at a rapid speed.

"Is someone controlling these skeletons?" Xiang Shaoyun wondered as he retreated. Unfortunately, no matter how he tried to escape, he couldn't escape the encirclement and was forced to counter attack.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

A punch with the prowess of a War Emperor was easily unleashed. This was an improvement brought by Xiang Shaoyun's advancement into the eighth stage. Yet when the lightning fist blasted forth, it failed to destroy the skeletons. Rather, a large number of skeletons arrived near him after bracing the attack.

Although Xiang Shaoyun reacted quickly, there were too many skeletons, and he was unable to evade all the attacks, resulting in his shoulder and back being hit. The two hits were as powerful as the attacks of an Emperor, instantly throwing him into the midst of numerous skeletons, putting him in an even worse situation.

The skeletons started beating him up. Even a bone spike stabbed toward his face. In his fear of being disfigured, he quickly dodged the stab. All four of his limbs were grabbed, and spike after spike were stabbed into his four limbs. The spikes were at a level comparable to Sovereign-grade weapons, and not even the Six Goldplate Manual could defend against them.

"AHHH!"

When the first spike stabbed into Xiang Shaoyun's thigh, he wailed in pain. Under such provocation, he erupted with all his strength, jolting the skeletons around him away. Fortunately, these skeletons weren't living beings and lacked the flexibility of someone living. They also hadn't confined him with energy attacks. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to break free from them at all.

"Scram, all of you!" Xiang Shaoyun was completely infuriated. He swung his fists around repeatedly, sending the skeletons flying everywhere.

But since the skeletons were not living beings, they weren't afraid of his punches. And since Xiang Shaoyun wasn't strong enough to completely destroy them, they continued swarming him unendingly. To make things worse, when he wanted to fly, he found that he couldn't. It was as if some sort of power had restricted the spiritual energy of this area, making it impossible to fly.

"The hell? Is this even necessary? Are they really trying to make me die here?" Xiang Shaoyun cursed.

Unfortunately, nothing would change just because of his curses. The only thing he could do was to keep blasting the skeletons away, not allowing them to get near him. At the same time, he continued observing his surroundings as he gradually retreated toward a safe spot while attacking.

However, there were too many skeletons around that it wouldn't be an easy feat to escape their encirclement. Just as he was about to be completely swarmed once more, he erupted with power and unfurled a pair of wings from his back. As he flapped the wings, he soared into the sky.

"Good thing I have the White Tiger Wings. Otherwise, I would be wasted to death by the never ending skeletons," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he patted his chest in relief.

Ever since he had become a King, Xiang Shaoyun had completely stopped using the White Tiger Wings to fly. Now that he was using this ability once more, he found that the wings had become even more solid, slender, and long. The speed at which he could move the wings had also increased considerably. Just as he cheerily looked for a safe spot to land, devilish clouds suddenly appeared midair and enveloped him.

"Keke, what a surprise. I can finally feast on delicious fresh blood again!" a shrill voice rang out.

Chapter 567: Big-Winged Vicious Bird

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that there would be living beings here. The other party seemed to be composed of some devils. And when Xiang Shaoyun got a clear look at them, he was given a fright. The other party was actually several vampire bats. They were extremely skinny, as if they were only bags of bones.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected their sudden appearance, and he was nearly captured as a result. The moment he was subdued, his blood would be sucked dry.

Seven Scorching Sun Claws!

Without wasting any time, Xiang Shaoyun activated the power of Yun Flame and sent several claw attacks out. The surging flame clawed at the bats, causing them to wail in pain.

"Damn it, this kid actually has such an annoying power? Don't approach him. Kill him from a distance instead!" The leader of the bats cursed and started releasing an odd sound wave with the other bats.

The sound waves weren't loud, yet they were extremely penetrating. Even when one covered one's ears, one would still suffer the effect of these attacks. Xiang Shaoyun had a sensation the sound waves had directly entered his brain, causing him to be hit with a dizzy spell.

Fortunately, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband displayed its defensive prowess yet again and isolated the sound waves, protecting Xiang Shaoyun's soul from suffering any damage.

These sound waves are capable of harming one's soul, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. Without the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, he would have been defeated.

Thinking about what his fate would be if those sound attacks had managed to harm his soul, a sense of anger toward the Dragon Phoenix Academy surfaced in his heart. Banishing someone to the Back Graveyard was no different than a death sentence! Although he had been stubborn, did he deserve death? While he was distracted by his anger, several vampire bats with crimson eyes charged at him and bit at his vital spots. The dreadful fangs stabbed into his neck, waking him from his thoughts.

"Piss off!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and erupted with the power of Yun Flame.

Bang! Bang!

The overbearing power of the dark red flame instantly ignited the vampire bats that were completely caught by surprise. They started wailing in pain and quickly flew away. Unfortunately, they had already been ignited by Yun Flame's power. Two of them were instantly turned into ash, while the others turned into fireballs that flew far away.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun chased after them. Perhaps only the lair of these bats would be a place he could stay safely. Unfortunately, before he could even catch up to the bats, a big-winged vicious bird appeared from the side and charged him.

The bird was oddly shaped, possessing a pair of wings spanning 18 meters and a body that was less than two meters long. The contrast was large. Additionally, it had a massive beak, and with a pair of sinister eyes, it flew forward rapidly. With a flap of its massive wings, Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was caught in a hurricane as his body started spinning uncontrollably.

Bang!

He then crashed heavily on the ground, creating a cloud of dust. Blood dripped out at the corners of his lips, and he felt like his bones were going to fall apart. If it wasn't for his heavy armor blocking a majority of the impact, that one attack would have likely been enough to kill him.

Without a doubt, the bird possessed a strength comparable to a peak Emperor. Otherwise, its attack wouldn't be so terrifying. The bird flew forward again, and before Xiang Shaoyun could react, he was caught in the bird's beak. He maintained his calm and was about to summon the nether prison devil puppet. However, he found that the bird was merely carrying him toward a certain direction, not directly swallowing him. Thus, he put the summoning on hold.

Shortly after, Xiang Shaoyun was brought to a dry nest on a certain mountain ridge. The nest was dozens of meters in width, and it was the home of this bird. In the nest were three tiny birds that hadn't even opened their eyes. Even so, they were constantly crying out. Evidently, they were starving.

Xiang Shaoyun finally realized that he was about to be served to the hatchlings. Without any hesitation, he summoned the nether prison devil puppet. The moment the puppet appeared, the bird cried out fiercely and tried to crush Xiang Shaoyun before doing anything else.

However, the nether prison devil puppet did not give it a chance to do so. With three punches, the bird was blasted into smithereens. At this time, another massive bird flew back toward the nest. This bird was actually a Sovereign Realm bird. When it saw its mate dead, it attacked recklessly in fury.

Alas, it was only a first-stage Sovereign. It was not a match for the nether prison devil puppet and was killed off as well. Xiang Shaoyun had no mercy toward these birds. After all, they were planning to feed him to their hatchlings. There was no reason for him to spare them. In any case, he didn't even know if he could leave this place alive. He stood before the nest and looked at the three hatchlings whose eyes had yet to open. He raised his hand, intending to kill the three as well.

But after some hesitation, he dropped his hand and sighed, "Forget it. You have not done anything wrong. Since I have murdered your parents, the grudge between us is settled."

He then took out some dried meat and fed the three hatchlings. They did not seem to be picky about food, as they quickly devoured the dried meat. Not satiated with that much food, they continued crying for more food. Feeling helpless, Xiang Shaoyun took out more dried meat and fed them until they stopped crying.

After the meal, the hatchlings fell asleep in the nest. Gazing at the silently sleeping hatchlings, a sense of pity rose in Xiang Shaoyun's heart. He then scanned his surroundings with his Nether Soul Domain. He found that there were no dangers in his immediate surroundings, but further away, he could sense some powerful auras.

He then withdrew his own aura and thought, Looks like this mountain was the territory of those two birds. This is probably a rather safe location for now. That might not be the case if I leave. I better stay here for a bit and take some time increasing my strength before doing anything else.

He knew very well the kind of situation he was in. This was merely the periphery of the evil spirit's part of Back Graveyard. Any deeper would be a place where even Emperors and Sovereigns would have a hard time surviving.

Chapter 568: Vicious One, Vicious Two, Vicious Three

At a certain secret location within the depths of Dragon Phoenix Academy, the grand guardians and the principal were gathered. They were looking at a white stone of about two meters in width. A certain scene was playing out on the surface of the stone.

"This kid sure has a lot of tricks up his sleeve. He is actually able to fly, and he even has that nether prison devil puppet. Looks like he won't have much trouble surviving in the Back Graveyard," praised the purple-haired old man.

"Old Purple, now is not the time to praise him. This kid won't submit without any suffering. I think we need to throw him deeper into the Back Graveyard and let him witness real evil spirits. What do you think?" suggested the old man in a gold outfit.

At this time, the principal said, "Grand Guardian Gold, I don't think we should do that. Not even Sovereigns can survive against those evil spirits. Even if this kid has a flame of extreme yang in his possession, he won't be able to survive."

"That's right. We should be patient. He won't be able to last long there. Furthermore, there are more than some vicious beasts around him. There are also some low-level evil spirits. Not even that nether prison devil puppet can do anything to those evil spirits. At that time, the kid will start his life of suffering," said the beautiful woman.

Others voiced their agreements as well.

"Since that is the case, we'll let him stay there for a bit. But be careful to not get him killed. Otherwise, it will be too much of a waste," said the purple-haired old man.

"That's right. He has a freakish physique that can even destroy the saint-grade assessment stones. Perhaps he has even more secrets. Let's wait," said the heroic middle-aged man.

Next, they all left, returning to their respective places of seclusion. It was unknown what Xiang Shaoyun would think if he knew everything he was doing was being observed. For now, he remained at the bird nest. He had the nether prison devil puppet standing guard outside the nest

while he used a drop of lightning liquid to heal the injuries he had sustained under the big-winged vicious bird's attack. His injuries weren't as bad as he had imagined. The broken armor was truly incredible.

Only now did Xiang Shaoyun feel that Ugly Gambler was actually treating him quite nicely. At the very least, this broken armor was a treasure through and through. He had gradually gotten used to its weight. The day he took it off would be the day his speed reached a brand new level.

However, he had decided to not take the armor off unless absolutely necessary. That was because he had always been extremely strict on himself. This was a way of maintaining his motivation to keep striving forward.

After quickly healing up, Xiang Shaoyun started thinking about his next course of action. He had been dumped here, and it was unknown when he would regain his freedom. The level of danger was also not as simple as it appeared. Thus, he had to prepare himself thoroughly and grow in strength as best as he could. That would be the best way of protecting himself.

"It's time I start my cultivation of wood, water, earth, light, and darkness. Which should I start with? Or perhaps I should focus on my soul?" Xiang Shaoyun contemplated.

After some hesitation, he finally decided to start with the power of darkness. He had a feeling the power of darkness would have a high degree of resonance with his devil blood, able to increase the time he could keep the Nether Shadow Evanescence active. That way, he would be able to better protect himself.

At the fort above the Devil Domain, Xiang Shaoyun had purchased several items with unique elements. They were respectively a 3,000-year-old root essence, a 1,000-year-old congealed liquid ball, an earthstone heart, a radiant meteorite, and a dark heart.

The dark heart was an item that would only form in a unique environment of absolute darkness. It looked completely black and had a glossy surface. Occasionally, it would throb, as if it was a living heart, and it gave off an eerie sensation.

Xiang Shaoyun directly refined the dark heart in his astral cosmos sea, channeling all the energy he drew from the dark heart into his dark star. The power contained within the dark heart was no weaker than the power contained within an emperor medicine. In fact, an ordinary Emperor would be able to directly refine it to obtain a great increase in strength.

Xiang Shaoyun was only a fresh eighth-stage King. Thus, it was impossible for his strength to stay the same after absorbing the power of the dark heart. Fortunately, his stars had recently expanded, allowing him to store as much energy as a late-stage Emperor.

Because of that, after compressing his newly gained energy, a large amount of remnant energy was left for him to expand his astral cosmos sea. His bloodline power had also absorbed some of the remnant energy.

The heavy armor had also played a great role in helping to suppress the energy, making his newly gained energy thick and solid. Thus, after absorbing all the energy in the dark heart, Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation base had only increased by a little. In other words, his cultivation level had only increased from fresh eighth-stage to mid eighth-stage.

If anyone else found out about this, they would be greatly shocked. The dark heart contained enough energy to allow any King to advance by two or three stages. Even an Emperor would benefit greatly from absorbing its power. And yet Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation base had only increased by a tiny bit. It was evident how excessive the amount of energy his body could contain. Not even regular Emperors were comparable to him in terms of storage capacity.

Of course, a big part of the small growth in cultivation level was due to his bloodline. The devilish power within the bloodline of the Imperial Nether Clan was in essence pure power of darkness. Therefore, more than half of the energy he had gotten from the dark heart had actually been absorbed by his bloodline. After his bloodline absorbed the energy of the dark heart, his vitality and physical body had further enhanced.

Xiang Shaoyun was still in meditation when the three birds started crying again, waking him up. Evidently, they were hungry again. He quickly took out some food. It was at this time that he noticed one of them opening its eyes and looking at him with a bright gaze. This particular bird had obviously hatched earlier than the other two. Two days later, the other two birds also opened their eyes one after another.

"Looks like I will have no choice but to bring you along in the future. Time to name all of you. It will be easier for me to greet you guys in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun. After some thought, he said, "Since I have Little White and Money, you will respectively be Vicious One, Vicious Two, and Vicious Three. Yes, that's it. You three will definitely grow up into vicious birds."

The three birds seemed to have sensed Xiang Shaoyun talking to them. Thus, they started chirping one after another. Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly pushed a pile of dried meat to them before he refocused on refining the earthstone heart he was working on.

Chapter 569: Evil Spirit

The earthstone heart was different from the dark heart. It was a piece of brownish stone. Those without a good pair of eyes would assume that it was a regular piece of stone that was somewhat shiny, whereas those with a good pair of eyes would be able to judge that it was an earthstone heart from its markings and the energy it exuded.

An earthstone heart was essentially a stone formed amid ancient soil, mountain, or stone through absorbing the essence of the earth. This particular earthstone heart was much larger than the one Xiang Shaoyun had previously snatched from the cannibals for Liang Zhuangmin.

A thick earth power was contained within it, and it was much harder to refine compared to the dark heart. Thus, it would take longer. However, Xiang Shaoyun understood how much the three little birds longed for the power within the earthstone heart. Thus, while he was refining the stone, he also channeled some of the stone's power over to the three birds.

That action allowed the three birds to greatly transform their bodies, building them solid foundations. Through absorbing the power of the earthstone heart, apart from a growth in strength, Xiang Shaoyun also comprehended the power of earth, which was his greatest gain.

He comprehended the thickness, toughness, and tolerance of earth, which in turn further improved his mental state again and again. The past events that had caused him joy, love, hatred, worry, and other emotions were replayed in his mind with greater clarity.

He gained a deeper understanding of karma, and his wisdom seemed to have increased as well. Perhaps that was the essence of earth, to have a heart as wide as the earth, and through having such a heart, one would be able to undertake greater responsibilities and pressure.

Unknowingly, one month passed.

During this period, flying beasts would occasionally attack, but the nether prison devil puppet killed them all. Xiang Shaoyun had gotten a month of rest, during which he had refined the earthstone heart. After refining the earthstone heart, his cultivation level had similarly only increased by a tiny bit, reaching late eighth-stage Skysoar Realm.

That was a result of him compressing and splitting off the power he gained from the earthstone heart. Nurtured by the power of the earthstone heart, the three little birds had evidently grown much

larger. His astral cosmos sea had also expanded greatly, and it now also contained a certain thick and heavy aura.

Apart from that, Xiang Shaoyun's flesh had also become much tougher as well. That was the great transformation the power of earth had brought him. At present, he was seated in the nest, madly absorbing the natural earth energy from his surroundings, constantly growing in strength. The speed in which he was growing was rather astonishing.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't content with his present situation. Although he did not continue refining the other unique items he had, he did not idle around. He started focusing on his battle techniques instead. This time, his battle technique cultivation was done with an emphasis on the powers of earth and darkness.

Without corresponding battle techniques to use alongside his two newly gained powers, it would be a waste. Unfortunately, he had only started cultivating his battle techniques for a few days when he was finally attacked by evil spirits.

The so-called evil spirits were actually remnant soul bodies. They were once extremely powerful and evil existences, and although they were no longer as strong as they once were, they could still easily take on regular Emperors.

The evil spirits currently before Xiang Shaoyun were roaming around mindlessly. Drifting together with the wind, they arrived near the nest. When they arrived, they seemed to have transformed into demons, and immediately bared their fangs at Xiang Shaoyun.

These low-level evil spirits were capable of dealing large damage to one's soul. The moment one's soul was corroded, one would be assaulted by madness, eventually losing one's mind completely. This was the scariest aspect of the Back Graveyard.

The reason why Xiang Shaoyun hadn't met these evil spirits before this was due to the location he was hiding at. Apart from that, he had also been lucky. Now, with wind blowing in the nest's direction, the evil spirits were brought over as well. They appeared like a violent tide, one that Xiang Shaoyun couldn't escape even if he wanted to.

Initially, he wrapped Yun Flame's power around himself and the three little birds. It discouraged the evil spirits from approaching, and some who dared approach were immediately ignited and killed. But there were too many evil spirits, enough to flood the entire mountain they were on. If he couldn't set the entire mountain aflame, he wouldn't be able to avoid their endless tide.

To make matters worse, Xiang Shaoyun could sense that there were even more terrifying evil spirits in the depths of the Back Graveyard. Perhaps those powerful evil spirits would suddenly come out as well. At that time, he wouldn't be able to hold on anymore.

"No, I can't allow this to continue. I need to think of something," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he sank into thought.

He was contemplating releasing all the ghostrunes. The ghostrunes would have no trouble dealing with these evil spirits. However, he ultimately decided against it. The ghostrunes were one of his trump cards. Unless absolutely necessary, he wasn't willing to show them.

"Since I can't release them, I should just let these evil spirits in instead," decided Xiang Shaoyun as he withdrew Yun Flame's power.

The instant Yun Flame's coating vanished from his body, his head was swarmed by an endless torrent of evil spirits. Even an Emperor would not be able to survive something like this. However, he remained seated with complete calmness. His eyes shut, he allowed the evil spirits to invade his mind, acting like he was completely ignoring them.

In truth, within his head, the Nether Soul Domain had formed an independent world. The moment the evil spirits entered, they landed in the independent space. Once inside, regardless of what they did, they weren't able to deal any damage to the space.

When the 8,000 ghostrunes saw the evil spirits, their eyes lit up with excitement as they quickly swarmed and devoured the evil spirits. The evil spirits might be vicious, but the ghostrunes were their nemesis. The evil spirits weren't even able to deal the ghostrunes any damage before they all turned into food.

Even after devouring so many evil spirits, the ghostrunes still looked hungry. When Xiang Shaoyun sensed that, his lips curved into a smile as he completely removed his defenses, allowing the evil spirits to enter his mind as they wished.

Unsurprisingly, all the evil spirits turned into ghostrune feed, allowing the 8,000 ghostrunes to undergo a massive growth in strength. One could say that the evil spirits were akin to a tonic that was even more useful than soul medicines to the ghostrunes.

The ghostrune patriarch grew into a seventh-stage Emperor, and over a dozen new Emperors had appeared among the ghostrunes as well. In total, there were now more than 50 Emperors among them. As for the Kings, their cultivation levels had also advanced greatly.

This rapid advancement was an accumulation of growth from the time Xiang Shaoyun left the Devil Domain until now. Along with the increase of his strength and the awakening of his devil blood, the Nether Soul Domain had also changed, greatly benefiting the ghostrunes. In fact, just the ghostrunes alone were comparable to a tier-5 organization. And when the unique attacks of the ghostrunes were taken into consideration, they could easily destroy regular tier-5 organizations.

Chapter 570: A Fine Filthless Soul

Dragon Phoenix Academy.

The new disciples had all settled down. Clear cliques had also formed among the regular disciples, core disciples, and personal disciples. A new ranking of strength for them had also been released. Apart from the eight freaks that had been completely hidden by the academy, a few other new disciples had also displayed their talent and shocked the entire academy.

These people were all personal disciples of the academy elders, becoming a target of admiration for many disciples. Apart from that, some of the academy elders' children, who were also personal disciples and were considered part of the academy's local factions, had started recruiting from the new disciples and became part of the strongest factions in the academy.

The same would happen during each recruitment. Some would become leaders and some would become followers. Numerous small factions would sprout, and they would then start fighting over the cultivation resources supplied by the academy.

Xiang Shaoyun, who had shocked the academy with a single brilliant feat, also had a hope of becoming one of the strongest faction leaders. Unfortunately, he had completely vanished after the academy had brought him away.

Some claimed that he had been hidden, becoming a personal disciple of a previous generation elder. Some claimed that he had become the principal's personal disciple. Some even claimed that he had been placed on house arrest due to his disobedience.

Initially, many people were inclined to believe the first two rumors, but eventually, someone confirmed that Xiang Shaoyun had indeed been locked somewhere. Moreover, it seemed like he was in serious trouble, as there was a possibility that he wouldn't appear anymore.

After news of that spread, some were worried while some were happy. People like Di Lin, Di Tong, and Di Shang were celebrating, while people like Tang Longfei and company were anxious.

Fortunately, the academy had still settled down the Han Clan sisters, whom Xiang Shaoyun had brought. They were both classified as Xiang Shaoyun's followers and were accorded the treatment of regular disciples.

However, they were somewhat lacking in strength and were having a hard time keeping up with the other disciples. But due to their exceptional looks, they weren't really prejudiced against. Some people were also starting to set their eyes on the two.

These people knew the sisters had joined with Xiang Shaoyun, but when they learned of Xiang Shaoyun's imprisonment, their courage grew. Naturally, they were beaten off by Tang Longfei and Lady Shura.

However, they were no pushovers either. They declared that a day would come when Tang Longfei and company were taught a lesson. The Han Clan sisters were greatly saddened, and they vowed to grow their strength as best as they could. Thus, they became two of the most hardworking followers in the academy, eventually advancing from the sixth-stage to the seventh-stage.

Of course, that was not enough. They would continue working hard. After all, this was a place filled with geniuses, and they were among those with the weakest talents in the academy.

...

Xiang Shaoyun was naturally unaware of all that was happening outside. He was still cultivating steadily. For him, since even the evil spirits that were the biggest danger in the Back Graveyard were no longer a threat to him, he no longer feared anything there.

Massive numbers of evil spirits were constantly being transformed into ghostrune feed, and he himself was also not idling around. Using these evil spirits, he started tempering himself. His soul had already solidified and was as powerful as the soul of a top Emperor. Thus, he needed to have a good practice of soul battles.

After all, upon reaching the Soul Foundation Realm, soul battles would no longer be avoidable. In that realm, those with the stronger soul foundation would be the stronger cultivator.

Thus, it wasn't wrong for him to start practicing early. One could say that he was preparing an umbrella for the rainy day. With the protection of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, Xiang Shaoyun was considered invincible when facing the evil spirits.

He slaughtered the evil spirits without stop, exhausting his soul power ceaselessly. The regeneration after exhaustion would usually result in a growth of his soul. Apart from that, he had also used some flame power and lightning power to temper his Imperial Nether Prison, making his chains impervious to flame and lightning.

While doing so, something beyond Xiang Shaoyun's expectation happened. The Nether Soul Domain had undergone an obvious change after the tempering. When he noticed the change, he started tempering his soul in the same manner as well. The instant the lightning and flame powers touched his soul, he wailed in pain. It was a risky attempt, one where carelessness would result in death.

The only reason Xiang Shaoyun even dared to make the attempt was due to the protection of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband. The tempering caused him to wail in pain endlessly, and after the tempering, he became severely weakened. Even the three little birds became anxious watching him. Nowadays, the three birds were already capable of walking around. They could already flap their wings as well. Before long, they would be able to fly.

They were extremely vicious and ferocious, yet they were incredibly intimate with Xiang Shaoyun. Unfortunately, they could do nothing to make his situation better. Xiang Shaoyun did not let them stay worried for long. He quickly swallowed some soul spring liquid and immediately recovered considerably. And by the time he fully recovered, he found that his soul had solidified even further. His soul body looked sparkling and translucent, as if it was completely free of filth.

Seeing that reminded him of something, causing him to exclaim in shock, "In the legends, when one reaches the Heaven Battling Realm, one's body will transform into a saintly body and one's soul will transform into a filthless soul. With a filthless soul, one can form independent clones that can battle outside of the main body. My current soul feels incredibly pure. Is this a result of tempering using powers of extreme yang?"

At that thought, he grew excited. If he could form a filthless soul at his current cultivation level, it would signify a massive increase in not only his soul power but also his intelligence and comprehension.

Thus, in the coming days, Xiang Shaoyun focused on tempering his soul. He started with a small amount of the powers of extreme yang, and as his soul slowly adapted to it, he increased the amount. Eventually, he even took his Nether Dragon Soul Headband off and enveloped his entire soul in a layer formed of powers of extreme yang.

Although he had to withstand an unimaginable pain doing so, he gained a lot as well. His soul power rose greatly, reaching a level comparable to a peak Emperor's. He also finally built himself a genuine filthless soul. The so-called filthless soul was a soul with no impurity whatsoever. The difference between such a soul and a regular soul was as clear as a cleansed body and an unwashed body.

If one could see Xiang Shaoyun's current soul, the sight would be shocking enough to cause eyeballs to pop out of the eye sockets. His soul was akin to a newborn's, resembling nature itself, with no imperfection. It was sparkling and translucent and had an indescribable splendor swirling around it constantly, as if it were the soul of a son of god, pure and ethereal.

At this sight, anyone would sing a heartfelt praise such as "What a fine filthless soul!"

Ultimately, some powerful evil spirits at the depths of the Back Graveyard noticed Xiang Shaoyun. And with that, a massive calamity noiselessly approached him.