

Overlord 601

Chapter 601: Princess Huang Xiaoyue

Xiang Shaoyun only left the Book Pavilion after seven days, spending a considerable number of contribution points doing so. During the seven days, he had not cultivated at all. Even so, his cultivation base never stopped growing. It had now reached 97 percent completion. He no longer suppressed his cultivation base, intending to let his advancement come naturally. It would be too excessive to continue suppressing it at this point.

When Xiang Shaoyun walked out of the Book Pavilion and was about to leave with his jade plate, the old man guarding the pavilion said, "Kid, this old man has a question. Why are you reading all those books everyone else regards as useless? Why don't you read some books about battle techniques and cultivation methods?"

The old man had seen too many geniuses. Almost all of them would head straight to the second or third floor to read some battle techniques and cultivation methods. Very few would remain on the first floor to read the books many considered useless.

Xiang Shaoyun replied honestly, "For others, they might be useless. But they are very useful to me."

"I see. Do you mind telling me more?" asked the old man.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before saying, "Every single book that has been preserved over the generations has its own worth. That is why there is a saying that in a book, there is a house of gold; in a book, there is a shade of jade. We are martial cultivators, and cultivating the body should naturally be our focus. But I also believe that cultivating the mind is essential as well. That is the worth of the so-called useless books. Everyone should cultivate the mind. Only with a strong body and mind will one be able to handle and face different situations appropriately. One's frame of mind will also expand, allowing one to reach greater heights in life and face all tribulations with a smile on one's face."

A look of astonishment flashed past the old man's eyes, and he said, "Not bad at all. A youngster capable of understanding all that, like you, is very rare these days. Any single book is an accumulation of experience left behind by our predecessors. It allows one to expand one's horizon and learn new things. It is extremely important for the cultivation of one's body and mind. It is good that you realize that. I will give you a 50 percent discount when reading on the first floor from now on."

"Thank you, elder!" Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed.

He had spent a total of 10 days reading on the first floor, spending 60,000 contribution points doing so. With his current wealth, that wasn't much. However, it would still be better if he could cut costs. He had not expected that the old man would actually give him such a benefit. It was quite a joyful event. The old man then waved his hand, telling Xiang Shaoyun to leave. Xiang Shaoyun did as told and left after giving the old man a salute.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun's departing back, the old man sighed, "A youngster with such a frame of mind is very rare nowadays."

He then shut his eyes again and continued lounging there while gently waving his feather fan. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he went straight to his villa instead of the ring. He planned to enter seclusion and look for the best timing to break through into the Dragon Ascension Realm. Before he reached his villa, however, someone blocked his path.

"You're Xiang Shaoyun?" a sassy girl's voice rang out.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the young lady in astonishment. She had her hands on her hips, and he replied, "Yes, I am Xiang Shaoyun. What do you need, little sister?"

The young lady before him wore no makeup on her face. She had delicate, proportionate facial features, and on her head sat an incredibly luxurious crown covered in bright, shiny pearls.

She wore a golden outfit that glimmered with a bright luster. With one look, it was obvious her outfit wasn't a simple outfit. She had an hourglass figure and a pair of slender legs. A portion of her legs was uncovered, revealing her fair and tender skin, which looked exceedingly enchanting and alluring.

She was about 15 or 16 years old. At such a young age, it was already clear that she was a stunning beauty that would grow into someone with remarkable looks. From what she wore, it was obvious she had an impressive background. Further proving that point was the unruly and willful temperament she exuded.

"Who are you calling little sister? I am Huang Xiaoyue, a princess of the Dusk Dynasty!" said the young lady furiously.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out. Inwardly, he sighed, No wonder something seems off with the surroundings. It turns out this girl has such an impressive background?

The Dusk Dynasty was one of the seven strongest dynasties in the Central Region. Each dynasty was comparable in strength with the ancient clans. In fact, they were even better at ruling their respective territories than the ancient clans.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't familiar with the name Huang Xiaoyue, but he was very familiar with the name Huang Tianji. He was a prince of the Dusk Dynasty, also one of the academy's eight freaks, a top-10 expert on the Dragon Phoenix List.

That prince had not fought much, but nobody dared to doubt his strength. In fact, he was strong enough that nobody was certain who would win if he fought the Smiling Swordsman Baili Yixiao, who was ranked first on the list. Just that alone proved that Huang Tianji did not have an undeserved reputation. Huang Xiaoyue was most likely his little sister.

"And what brings you here, Your Highness?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I want you to be my devoted guard. Swear me your fealty," demanded Huang Xiaoyue with a commanding tone.

Anyone else telling Xiang Shaoyun this would be met with a slap without mercy. But Huang Xiaoyue looked too adorable and innocent that he couldn't even bring himself to feel any anger toward her. In fact, she reminded him of Ye Chaomu, whom he hadn't seen in a long time. Thus, he had the urge to tease her for a bit. "What do I stand to gain by swearing fealty to you?"

"Of course, you stand to gain a lot of benefits. By becoming this princess's glorious guard, your fame will spread across the Dragon Phoenix Academy and the entire dominion. Anyone who dares to disrespect you will all be beaten up!" declared Huang Xiaoyue like she was some unstoppable conqueror of the universe.

"Oh? That really sounds attractive. Too bad I'm a tad bit too weak. I'm not even at the Dragon Ascension Realm yet. How am I even capable of protecting you, Your Highness? At the very least, I need to reach the Heaven Battling Realm to be qualified to serve under you. Princess, for now, you might want to look for a more suitable guard," said Xiang Shaoyun, but inwardly, he thought, This little girl is quite innocent and adorable.

"You sure know your place. But don't worry. This princess finds you pleasing to the eye. I can guarantee that you can reach the Heaven Battling Realm easily in the future. Just stay by my side for now. This princess shall look after you," declared Huang Xiaoyue with her chest puffed.

"I think it's better we wait until I reach the Heaven Battling Realm," said Xiang Shaoyun, somewhat speechless. It was obvious his words were a polite rejection, yet this girl didn't even notice?

Chapter 602: A Fine Heroic and Handsome Prince

"No! Do you think this princess is stupid? How am I supposed to find you at that time?" Huang Xiaoyue said unhappily. Then, her eyes shifted in realization, and she said, "I understand now. You don't want to be my glorious guard at all, right?"

Looks like you're not completely stupid after all, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. He smiled and said, "It's good you understand that. I don't have to explain more, then."

He then left.

"For daring to ignore the words of this princess, I shall teach you a lesson!" shouted Huang Xiaoyue as she proceeded to attack.

But at this moment, several figures shot over rapidly. One of them shouted, "Do not be rude, imperial sister!"

The voice was loud and clear, laced with a trace of a commanding presence. When Huang Xiaoyue heard the voice, she stomped her feet sullenly and glared at Xiang Shaoyun angrily. In a flash, the newcomers arrived before Huang Xiaoyue. At the head of them was Huang Tianji, her elder brother.

Huang Tianji did not disappoint as a prince of the Dusk Dynasty. He wore a golden outfit embroidered with dragons and phoenixes, and exuded a noble presence. He was extraordinarily handsome, his eyes as bright as the sun and the moon. He also wore a crown atop his head, and his body was tall and straight, releasing the imposing aura of a dragon. Anyone who saw him would have the urge to praise, "What a fine, heroic, and handsome prince!"

He was about 25 years old, yet he was already an Emperor. Furthermore, he was not just an average Emperor. He had outstanding combat prowess surpassing many ordinary Emperors.

With a single look, Xiang Shaoyun could see the remarkable strength the prince possessed. Furthermore, the pressure the prince was exuding was comparable to that of a late-stage Emperor.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun muttered, Worthy of being a descendant of an imperial clan. His talent is really scary.

Huang Tianji said to Huang Xiaoyue, "Imperial sister, I thought I told you not to run around causing trouble? Quick, apologize to Young Master Xiang!"

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that Huang Tianji would actually know him. After all, he had never met the prince face to face before. He only knew the man was Huang Tianji because the man had addressed Huang Xiaoyue as imperial sister when he had arrived. Little did Xiang Shaoyun know, ever since he had shown his high-grade nine-star physique, his appearance had been spread all over the academy.

"I wasn't wrong! Why do I need to apologize?" Huang Xiaoyue rebutted unhappily. She then quickly shifted to the tone of a spoiled child, "Imperial brother, he has the best physique, right? If I can make him my guard, Father will definitely praise me for my wisdom when I return to the dynasty in the future!"

Huang Tianji had a helpless smile as he said, "My dearest imperial sister, yes, you're wise, but are the elders of the academy all blind?"

He then ignored Huang Xiaoyue and faced Xiang Shaoyun before politely saying, "Young Master Xiang, my apologies for the trouble my sister has given you."

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "Don't worry about it. Her Highness is quite a pure person."

"Smart choice!" said Huang Xiaoyue proudly when she saw that Xiang Shaoyun hadn't talked badly about her.

However, Huang Tianji understood what Xiang Shaoyun meant. Saying she was pure was merely a roundabout way of saying she's simple-minded. However, Huang Tianji wasn't angered. After all, that was the truth. Huang Xiaoyue was unruly and willful, but she was still kind at heart. It wasn't odd that Xiang Shaoyun didn't mind her at all.

He then extended Xiang Shaoyun an invitation, "If Young Master Xiang does not mind, shall we have a drink together?"

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before answering, "Sure. It is my pleasure to be able to drink with you, Your Highness."

And thus, the group headed toward a restaurant within the academy. When Xiang Shaoyun walked with Huang Tianji's group, they attracted a lot of attention. One was the publicly acknowledged member of the eight freaks, while the other was the disciple with the best physique. The gathering of the two was rather thought provoking for many people.

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Meanwhile, Feng Xiaosha had just returned to his villa from a certain unique cultivation zone. This was the same young master from the Feng Clan who had a previous conflict with Xiang Shaoyun at the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant. Xuan Zheng, who was killed by Xiang Shaoyun, was his lackey. He had subsequently sent more people to deal with Xiang Shaoyun, but only Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin returned alive.

He had no idea Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin were both currently under Xiang Shaoyun's control. After returning to him, the two had lied and said that they hadn't managed to find Xiang Shaoyun when he had sent them after him. They had also said that a Demon Emperor had attacked them and that they were the only ones to survive.

After a year of cultivation in the Dragon Phoenix Academy, Feng Xiaosha's strength had grown considerably. Although he wasn't comparable with the eight freaks, he could definitely enter the Dragon Phoenix List's top 10. He had a look of contemplation when he was updated on the various news regarding Xiang Shaoyun.

There was a previous conflict between him and Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, it was only a matter of time before they clashed against each other again. He did not wish to make a move only after Xiang Shaoyun entered the Dragon Ascension Realm. He would be in too reactive a position if he allowed that to happen.

After all, Xiang Shaoyun would always remain a dreadful hidden threat due to his insane physique. While he was busy thinking of a way to deal with Xiang Shaoyun, his uncle arrived.

Feng Xiaosha quickly greeted deferentially, "Greetings, Uncle."

The newcomer was none other than Feng Huosuo, who did not get along well with Xiao Wei. He was also Feng Xiaosha's uncle.

"Don't bother with the pleasantries." He then praised, "Your recent progress in cultivation has been great. You're even a fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator already! You have not disappointed the special-recruit quota I gave you."

"I will forever remember the favor you have shown me, Uncle," said Feng Xiaosha.

"Don't worry about it. Your growth is all due to your talent and hard work. But don't get conceited because of your growth. There are quite a number of disciples still stronger than you," reminded Feng Huosuo. He then went straight to the main reason he came. "I'm here to ask you something. I heard you once had a conflict with Xiang Shaoyun?"

"Yes, that's right," Feng Xiaosha said before giving an explanation on the conflict. Of course, even without him saying it, Feng Huosuo had long known the full story.

"I see. Even more of a reason to not allow that kid to stay alive, then. Otherwise, he will be a threat in the future," said Feng Huosuo with thick killing intent in his eyes.

"What do you need me to do, Uncle?" Feng Xiaosha asked. He was already thinking of how to deal with Xiang Shaoyun. With his uncle issuing the request, he could complete two tasks at once.

"Good. Listen..." Feng Huosuo told Feng Xiaosha the plan he had in mind. Naturally, Feng Xiaosha agreed to it and promised success. Feng Huosuo then patted Feng Xiaosha's shoulder in satisfaction before vanishing into thin air.

Chapter 603: He Might Create a Miracle

At Di Lin's residence within the core disciples' residential area, a large number of people had gathered. They were here because the leader of the Di Alliance, Di Lin, had completed his cultivation session at a unique cultivation zone. When he first arrived at the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he was only a ninth-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. With that strength, it was almost impossible to get on the Dragon Phoenix List.

But he had subsequently become a personal disciple of a previous generation elder. In less than half a year, he reached second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. His new cultivation base, coupled with his high-grade eight-star physique, allowed him to finally enter the Dragon Phoenix List.

It had been more than a year since he had joined the academy, and he had now reached third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. His growth had been rapid. Without a doubt, the previous generation elder had exhausted a lot of resources on him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to grow so quickly.

Of course, growing fast had its downside as well. His foundations weren't exactly stable, and if he did not pause his growth to temper his foundations, his future growth would be adversely affected.

Di Lin understood that, so he ended his cultivation session so that he could temper himself and stabilize his foundations before doing anything else. Little had he expected to hear from his elder brother about Xiang Shaoyun the moment he left seclusion. His face turned ghastly as he listened.

His master had told him that Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't have any future due to cultivating nine powers, causing him to ease his worry somewhat toward this nemesis of his. Even so, when he heard his elder brother talking about what Xiang Shaoyun had done, he still did not feel happy.

"Noted. For now, get some people to monitor him closely. The moment he leaves the academy, find a chance to kill him and end this hidden threat once and for all," said Di Lin with a sharp glint in his eyes.

"But since he has his nether prison devil puppet, we're not strong enough to do anything to him," said Di Shang.

"You don't have to be bothered about that. I will think of something," said Di Lin. "Eighth brother, can you get seventh brother here? A great opportunity might appear for us soon. We should get ready for it."

"There's something good coming our way? Ok, I'll go look for him," said Di Shang cheerily.

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After drinking for a bit with Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue, Xiang Shaoyun separated from them. Huang Tianji had also hinted at his interest to recruit Xiang Shaoyun, but the attempt was completely ignored. Xiang Shaoyun made his position very clear about the recruitment.

Huang Tianji could see that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't one to submit under anyone. Thus, he stopped persisting. He even warned Huang Xiaoyue to stop creating trouble for Xiang Shaoyun, and he did so right in front of Xiang Shaoyun. Naturally, Huang Xiaoyue was unhappy about it and sat there pouting sullenly.

After Xiang Shaoyun left, Huang Tianji spoke softly to Huang Xiaoyue, "Imperial sister, although his physique is decent, he cultivates nine different powers. He won't have a bright future. Why are you even looking for him?"

"Hmph. I only find him pleasing to the eye," said Huang Xiaoyue.

"Imperial sister, are you lying to even your imperial brother?" said Huang Tianji as he lightly knocked Huang Xiaoyue's head in a doting manner.

Others would think that Huang Xiaoyue was pure and innocent, but Huang Tianji did not share that opinion. In fact, this little girl was extremely wily and had a smart brain. Most people were merely tricked by her appearance.

A crafty look appeared on her face as she said, "I have a feeling he can create a miracle."

Huang Tianji's face shifted as he asked solemnly, "Are you certain?"

"Of course not. It's only an intuition. You know me, imperial brother. My intuition has always been accurate. That is why I tried recruiting him. Alas, that scoundrel actually refused! It's so infuriating!" Huang Xiaoyue said.

Huang Tianji sank into silent contemplation. This was something that could shock the entire dominion. Fortunately, Huang Xiaoyue was merely relying on her intuition. Thus, even if news of what she said spread, not many people would believe her. But for Huang Tianji, her intuition was something worth taking seriously.

As Huang Xiaoyue herself had said, her intuition had always been accurate. Things she sensed had mostly turned out to be true. The Dusk Dynasty called her intuition a talent of prophecy, and it was an extremely rare talent.

"Looks like in the future we will have to get off our high horse and properly befriend this Young Master Xiang," said Huang Tianji with a sigh.

"Let me deal with him! I will definitely be able to make him mine!" Huang Xiaoyue was eager to try.

"You're confident you can subdue him?" Huang Tianji asked.

Huang Xiaoyue shook her head, but a bright look covered her face as she said, "I'm not confident, but this only makes things interesting and challenging!"

"Forget it. It's better you don't bite off more than you can chew. I don't want the dynasty to suddenly obtain a dreadful enemy because of this," said Huang Tianji.

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After leaving Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue, Xiang Shaoyun went straight to Lady Shura's villa. He already considered Lady Shura his woman. She had been in seclusion for a month, and he wondered if she had successfully broken through. When he arrived, Lady Shura came out to welcome him. She still wore the same mask, but her eyes were gleaming with a bright luster. She wore revealing armor, accentuating her seductive, alluring figure.

When Xiang Shaoyun swept his gaze over, joy covered his face, and he said, "Looks like you have successfully broken through."

"Yes. Finally. But of course, there is still a clear gap between me and the others," said Lady Shura.

"You don't have to worry about that. We have plenty of time. It's better to build a solid foundation for now. When you eventually use the gold lotus, you will be able to erase the gap," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After leading Xiang Shaoyun into the villa, Lady Shura said, "I plan to take some missions to earn contribution points."

"That sounds good. You should look for Brother Tang and the others as well. Maybe they have the same thought, and we can all go together," said Xiang Shaoyun.

In truth, he had the same thought as well. Although he could earn a lot of contribution points fighting on the ring, he felt like it was time he left and experienced a different environment to further temper his mentality. His current focus should be to reach the Dragon Ascension Realm.

The two immediately acted on their words and went looking for Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhua. The two agreed after hearing about the reason for their visit. They also needed contribution points. Thus, it was time for them to take some missions, and together, the group headed to the place where missions were assigned within the academy.

The place where all sorts of missions were given out was known as the Missions Hall. The missions offered were of numerous difficulties, and naturally, their rewards were different.

Chapter 604: Mission Selection

All sorts of missions were available, and even Xiang Shaoyun was astonished to see the variety of missions offered. Some could be completed in the academy, such as completing certain jobs the academy required to earn contribution points. Some had to be completed outside the academy, such as looking for treasures, or finishing some jobs for other organizations, and so on. In short, a large variety of missions were available, and each mission came with a time limit for one to be eligible for the reward.

When Xiang Shaoyun's gaze landed on a certain mission, he exclaimed in astonishment, "There's even a mission like this here? What an eye-opener."

He was looking at a notice saying: "Looking for a piece of Demon Saint feces for a reward of one million contribution points." A piece of feces for a million contribution points? That was completely inconceivable and odd. Of course, if one noted the "Demon Saint" keyword in the mission description, one would understand that the one million contribution points offered wasn't excessive.

A Demon Saint was equivalent to a Heaven Battling Realm human in strength. No ordinary person would dare to encroach upon the territory of a Demon Saint. Thus, just a piece of feces could be invaluable. Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei, and company started browsing through the mission notices, trying to decide on a mission to take.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun set his gaze on a certain mission: "Looking for dragon liquid. Each drop can be exchanged for 200,000 contribution points."

The so-called dragon liquid was a type of unique liquid formed after being polluted by draconic aura. It was also known as the emperor liquid and was extremely valuable to any Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. It could increase the speed of the draconic aura's solidification, and it was extremely beneficial for the growth of one's cultivation base.

Apart from Xiang Shaoyun, the mission also caught the others' attention. For them, both contribution points and dragon liquid were important. If they could actually get their hands on some dragon liquid, they might not even be willing to exchange it for contribution points.

"This is it, then," said Xiang Shaoyun with absolute certainty.

At this time, Tang Longfei said, "Shaoyun, don't be in too much of a rush. The location of this mission is within the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. It looks like a great mission, but very few people have actually managed to find some dragon liquid."

"What do you mean?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"The Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range is an extensive region. Do you know where in the mountain range one can find dragon liquid?" Tang Longfei asked.

"You're saying that this mission can't be completed since the dragon liquid can't be found?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Tang Longfei nodded. "Yes. When looking for the dragon liquid, most people can only rely on luck. Thus, there is no time limit for this mission. Anytime you can bring some dragon liquid here, you will be rewarded for this mission's completion. Furthermore, failure of completion also won't cost you anything apart from the contribution points you pay when taking the mission."

"Uh, you need to pay contribution points to accept a mission?" Xiang Shaoyun blanked out and asked.

"Of course. Otherwise, everyone will take whatever mission they can and cause a big mess. The higher the mission's grade, the more contribution points you need to pay. If you can complete the mission, your deposit will be returned alongside the reward," Tang Longfei explained.

After more than a year in the academy, Tang Longfei had a basic understanding of the affairs within the academy, unlike Xiang Shaoyun, who still knew nothing. After the explanation, Xiang Shaoyun realized that the points he had to pay would only serve as a deposit. One would only part with the contribution points in the event of mission failure. As Xiang Shaoyun hesitated on which mission to take, Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin also appeared at the Missions Hall.

"Haha, it's great to see you here, Young Master Xiang," Shou Xie said with a hearty laugh. Jin Shui and Ling Lin also smiled cheerily. They came with a few other people. Evidently, they had formed a group.

"You're here to take a mission as well?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Yes. It's not easy to earn contribution points, so we have to take on some missions," said Shou Xie. He then said to the two beside him, "Yan Gang, Zhong Xia, this is Xiang Shaoyun, Young Master Xiang, whom both of you admire. Yan Gang and Zhong Xia are respectively a crafter and an alchemist. They are similarly special-recruits and are my good brothers."

Xiang Shaoyun found that the two were indeed weaker than other disciples, as both of them were peak Kings. They probably hadn't even formed their draconic aura. Even some followers were stronger than them. However, they had unique skills, and their future would not be determined by their strength alone.

Shou Xie was a beast tamer, Yan Gang was a crafter, and Zhong Xia was an alchemist. For the latter two to be able to join the academy at such a young age, it was obvious they were very skilled in their vocations.

Xiang Shaoyun cupped his fists at the two and greeted, "So I'm looking at two masters here."

Crafters and alchemists were extremely rare. Wherever they went, they were respected. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun made sure to treat them with respect as well. Although both Yan Gang and Zhong Xia normally focused only on matters concerning their respective profession, they had still heard of Xiang Shaoyun's famous name. Thus, they responded politely as well.

"Young Master Xiang, have you picked your mission?" Shou Xie asked.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "Not yet."

"Are you interested in doing a job with us?" Shou Xie asked.

"Tell me more. I have to see if it suits me," said Xiang Shaoyun without giving any promises.

"It will definitely suit you. That is the mission we're taking," said Shou Xie confidently as he pointed at a certain notice.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked over, he narrowed his eyes as astonishment flashed past his face. Shou Xie had selected the same dragon liquid mission. Tang Longfei repeated what he knew to Shou Xie, trying to reject the mission on behalf of Xiang Shaoyun.

"Young Master Xiang, Young Master Tang, don't be in too much of a hurry to reject me. I am taking this mission because I am confident about it. I only lack trustworthy companions to help with it. If it wasn't for the fact that Young Master Xiang once saved me, I would have kept the mission for myself," said Shou Xie with a lowered voice.

That moved both Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei. If they really had an idea where the dragon liquid was, the mission would be worth taking.

"Since that is the case, I'm ok with it if your friends are fine with me joining as well," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"They won't have any issues," said Shou Xie.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked at Yan Gang and Zhong Xia, he found that they did not seem to mind at all. Thus, he agreed, "Ok. I'll go with you."

"Excellent! With Young Master Xiang's participation, I have even more confidence in completing the mission," said Shou Xie joyfully before he went on to accept the mission.

Chapter 605: Treasure Seeking Mouse

Xiang Shaoyun left the Dragon Phoenix Academy with Shou Xie and company. News of his departure quickly spread to a few core disciples of the academy. Shortly after, a considerable number of people set off after Xiang Shaoyun's group. Of course, Xiang Shaoyun and company were still unaware of it and were traveling east.

The academy was located within the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range, surrounded on all sides by mountains. According to legend, the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was once home to dragons and phoenixes. Not many people knew if the legends were true.

A large number of natural treasures could be found within the mountain range, as well as many different veins of ore. One could say the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was a natural land of treasures. Of course, it also contained numerous dangers. After all, this was demon territory, and numerous breeds of demons filled the mountain range.

In fact, that was obvious from what the disciples encountered during the first round of their entrance test. Exploring the mountain range without sufficient strength would cause one to pay with one's life.

There were 15 people in Xiang Shaoyun's party. Apart from Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhuan, the others were the followers of Shou Xie, Yang Gang, and Zhong Xia, and some other disciples the three had invited.

Among them, one of them was ranked higher than Xiang Shaoyun on the strength rankings. He was Li Haonan, taking 893rd place on the Jiao Luan List. He was a friend of Zhong Xia, and they had invited him quite a while ago to work together during the mission. After all, traversing the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was extremely dangerous. Without an expert or two with them, they would have a hard time completing the mission.

Shou Xie, Yan Gang, and Zhong Xia had not reached the Dragon Ascension Realm. Even though they had Dragon Ascension Realm followers, the combat prowess of their followers was still incomparable to the geniuses on the Jiao Luan List. That was the main reason they had invited Li Haonan.

Li Haonan was a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator who cultivated the rare water and wood powers. He was against Xiang Shaoyun's group joining them. After all, even if they knew the rough location of the dragon liquid, it was still unknown how much dragon liquid they could find. The bigger the group, the more people they had to share the harvest with, which was something he did not wish to see.

But since Shou Xie was the leader of the expedition and the only person who knew the location of the dragon liquid, Li Haonan had no choice but to suppress his dissatisfaction. One should not look down on Shou Xie just because he wasn't very strong. He had three tamed Demon Emperors by his side, and that made him a person to be feared.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the traces of hostility Li Haonan was showing him, but he wasn't bothered about it, even if Li Haonan was a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He only hoped that he would not create any trouble for him. Otherwise, he wouldn't mind teaching Li Haonan a lesson.

Shou Xie had invited Xiang Shaoyun because he was aware of Xiang Shaoyun's freakish combat prowess. He knew more than others, as back then, he had personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun slaughter a third-stage Demon Emperor with a cultivation level of fourth-stage Skysoar Realm. He still remembered everything as if it had happened the day before.

The other battles Xiang Shaoyun had gone through also proved that he had an unfathomable combat prowess. The strength Xiang Shaoyun had displayed on the ring was only half of his real strength. Shou Xie knew that very well. Thus, he planned to properly latch on to Xiang Shaoyun since it would benefit him.

This time, Xiang Shaoyun had Money remain outside the astral cosmos sea. He did not wish to see Money lose his combat awareness, becoming a snake that only knew how to grow his cultivation level but not fight. Money needed to recover some of his bestial nature, which would be beneficial for his future growth.

Soon, after traveling a distance from the academy, the group started encountering the attacks of demonic beasts. Fortunately, they were able to easily deal with the demonic beasts of this level and did not suffer much damage.

With one of Shou Xie's Demon Emperors leading the way, the group continued deeper into the mountain range. The Demon Emperor was actually a mouse, one with a treasure hunting ability. It possessed a partial bloodline of the bejeweled treasure mouse, known as the treasure seeking mouse.

If it was an actual bejeweled treasure mouse instead, it would be a very big deal. The bejeweled treasure mouse was an extraordinary breed of mice, capable of seeking treasures in addition to some other inconceivable abilities. This treasure seeking mouse had inherited the treasure seeking ability of the bejeweled treasure mice and was also a considerably rare breed of mice.

This mouse was why Shou Xie knew the rough location of the dragon liquid. But since the dangers at the location were too much for him to handle, he had no choice but to share the possible harvest with others.

After a while of traveling, Xiang Shaoyun suddenly had a bad premonition, one that originated from a different source of danger, not from the beasts inhabiting the mountain range. He immediately spread the senses of his Nether Soul Domain to scan his surroundings.

Soon, he found that two groups of people were tailing them from two different directions. Both of them were groups of considerable strength as well. In fact, they possessed a strength beyond what mere disciples of the academy should possess.

Among them were peak Emperors and even a Sovereign. Xiang Shaoyun was astonished to learn that someone of that strength was actually tailing his group. He wasn't stupid enough to believe that they were there to protect them secretly. And he was also sure that they were not there for Shou Xie and the others. Thus, it was more believable that they were there for him.

Apart from Di Lin and Huo Xudong, I can't think of anyone who hates me more than them in the academy. They had definitely sent these people after me. They are probably afraid of making a move here because we are still not too far from the academy and they don't want to attract the attention of the elders. When we travel farther away, they will definitely attack. The nether prison devil puppet won't be able to effectively stop them either. After all, they know me quite well. What should I do? Xiang Shaoyun sank into conflict.

He did not wish to see harm falling onto his companions just because of him. But how was he supposed to tell them about this?

"Young Master Xiang, why have you stopped moving?" Shou Xie asked when he saw Xiang Shaoyun stop.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before saying, "Nothing. I have suddenly thought of something urgent I need to deal with, so I might not be able to complete the mission with you guys anymore."

His words astonished Tang Longfei, Shou Xie, and the others. None of them had expected that Xiang Shaoyun would suddenly withdraw from the mission.

"Are you sure, Young master Xiang?" Shou Xie asked.

"My apologies. You guys should move ahead without me," said Xiang Shaoyun apologetically.

"Xiang Shaoyun, are you playing a joke on us?" Li Haonan could no longer hold in his temper.

Chapter 606: Assassination

Li Haonan found Xiang Shaoyun an eyesore, and now that Xiang Shaoyun was withdrawing from the mission, he could no longer hold back.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored him. Instead, he spoke to Shou Xie and Tang Longfei through voice transmission, "We are being followed. They are most likely here for me, and they are too strong. You better leave first."

Shou Xie's expression turned solemn. As for Tang Longfei, a firm look covered his face as he said, "I'll stay and help!"

"No, you need to leave immediately. I have a way of getting away from them. If you stay with me, you will only slow me down," said Xiang Shaoyun as he prepared to leave alone.

But at this time, Li Haonan blocked his path and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, if you don't give me a satisfactory answer today, I won't mind teaching you a lesson."

He then locked down at Xiang Shaoyun, as if he was going to attack the moment Xiang Shaoyun attempted to leave.

"Get out of my way!" Xiang Shaoyun roared after sensing the surging auras of those tailing them. Those people must have sensed what was going on. He also quickly withdrew Money into his astral cosmos sea before dashing away.

"You're courting death!" Li Haonan was further infuriated after being shouted at, and he drew his sword in preparation to attack.

He was a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator capable of punching above his weight. His attack prowess reached a level comparable to a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. His attack shot straight at Xiang Shaoyun's back.

"No! (Bastard!)" shouted both Shou Xie and Tang Longfei. However, it was too late for them to do anything. They could only stare blankly as Li Haonan's attack reached Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun also sensed the incoming attack and cursed, "Damnable bastard!"

He was forced to dodge to the side and avoid the attack. Not satisfied with a single attack, Li Haonan charged forward and shouted, "You think you can come and go as you wish? In your dream! Take an attack from me!"

As he said that, he attacked again. At this time, Tang Longfei and Lady Shura also attacked, with Li Haonan being their target. This was not a duel where two combatants had to fight without interference. Since Li Haonan was attacking Xiang Shaoyun, how would they watch on without doing anything?

Li Haonan lived up to his status as someone on the Jiao Luan List. He was able to react speedily, and he shot straight into the sky like an arrow to escape Tang Longfei and Lady Shura. He then continued toward Xiang Shaoyun. And due to the repeated interruptions, Xiang Shaoyun's escape was delayed, allowing some of the experts tailing them to arrive.

The newcomers were in no rush to attack. Rather, they first focused on completely isolating this place into an independent space.

"Since you want to die that much, I will grant your wish," said Xiang Shaoyun, thoroughly infuriated. His Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand as he swung it without restraint.

Lightning Slash From the Clear Sky!

Instantly, numerous silver lightning bolts rained down. The saber energy seemed unstoppable as it split apart Li Haonan's attack and continued toward him. The attack was unleashed with saber intent, carrying an overbearing might that was even sharper than Li Haonan's attack.

Li Haonan had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun's attack would be so dreadful. He was forced to focus on defending himself. Xiang Shaoyun did not spend more time tussling with Li Haonan. Instead, he summoned the nether prison devil puppet and pointed at a certain direction before shouting, "Those who are here for me, show yourself. Why do you keep hiding?"

As he said that, the nether prison devil puppet shot toward the direction he was pointing and threw a powerful punch forward. The force of the punch pulverized the numerous trees in its way. A figure appeared and flew out to block the puppet's attack.

The newcomer was actually a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, but he seemed weaker than the nether prison devil puppet, and the impact of his collision with the puppet sent him flying. Unfortunately, the nether prison devil puppet was incapable of using energy. Otherwise, the Sovereign wouldn't have withstood the punch.

"That puppet is strong. You guys go and kill that kid. I'll keep this puppet busy," said the Sovereign as he started bombarding the puppet with attacks.

The Sovereign fought smartly. Instead of meeting the puppet force with force, he focused on keeping the puppet busy, preventing it from leaving his range of control so the others would be able to move on Xiang Shaoyun.

"We're only here for Xiang Shaoyun. Everyone else, piss off," a loud voice rang out.

A boundless aura surrounded Xiang Shaoyun, an aura at the level of a peak Emperor. Apart from that person, a few others appeared as well, all of them late-stage Emperors. Their combined strength was enough to put a check on the courage of Xiang Shaoyun's group.

It was at this moment that Li Haonan finally realized why Xiang Shaoyun had been in a rush to leave. It turned out Xiang Shaoyun had already realized that some enemies were coming after him. He wouldn't have suddenly proposed to leave otherwise.

At that thought, guilt flashed in his eyes, but it was soon replaced by delight. He muttered, "Well, serves you right."

"Let's leave," said Li Haonan toward Shou Xie, Yan Gang, Zhong Xia, and the others. He did not believe that he would be strong enough to deal with their opponents. There was even a Soul Foundation Realm expert involved.

Yan Gang, Zhong Xia, and company left unhesitatingly. After all, they had just met Xiang Shaoyun. There was no need for them to die together with him. As for Tang Longfei and Lady Shura, they wanted to stay. However, Xiang Shaoyun spoke using voice transmission again, "You two leave as well, or you will only distract me, making it harder for me to escape."

The two clenched their teeth before leaving with the others. Shou Xie also received the same voice transmission. Thus, he left without delay. The only reason the attackers had even spared them was because of the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

If they really killed so many disciples at once, the academy would do all they could to vent their anger. Although they weren't Dragon Phoenix Academy members, the people who had sent them on the mission were members of the academy. They couldn't cause their employers trouble.

"Send him on his way," coldly commanded the peak Emperor. At his command, one of them, a seventh-stage Emperor, attacked Xiang Shaoyun. Even though Xiang Shaoyun had freakish talent, it would be hard for him to escape the seventh-stage Emperor.

Chapter 607: You Guys Can Go on to the Afterlife, Then

Xiang Shaoyun had met a considerable number of seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. If he had to face someone like this head on, he would be defeated unless he was also in the Dragon Ascension Realm. Fortunately, apart from his combat prowess, he also had the mysterious Nether Soul Domain.

Without hesitation, he released the Nether Soul Domain, enveloping the people around him. They were not Dragon Phoenix Academy members and were definitely sent by his enemies. As for which of his enemies were the actual culprits, he would only find out after capturing the people sent. None of them had seen the Nether Soul Domain coming, and their faces turned ghastly.

"What is this? Break!" roared the peak Emperor as he blasted his surroundings with all his strength, trying to destroy the Nether Soul Domain.

In the past, Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain would not last the bombardment of a peak Dragon Ascension Realm. But he was no longer the same. After forming his filthless soul, the Nether Soul Domain had benefited greatly. Not only had it expanded, its durability had also reached a point beyond what a peak Emperor could damage. Furthermore, he was the master of this domain, and the strength of others would be suppressed, making it hard for anyone other than himself to display their full strength.

Xiang Shaoyun did not give them any chance. He directly summoned the ghostrune Emperors to attack them with soul attacks. At the same time, chains shot out from everywhere and wrapped around his opponents.

"Ahhhh!"

The human Emperors were still in confusion even as the chains tied them up and prevented them from moving. One of them was a flame cultivator, and he released his flame energy, trying to burn apart the domain. Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun had long refined the Nether Soul Domain with his own flame power, removing this weakness.

Now, the Nether Soul Domain was practically immune to flame. It wouldn't be so easy to destroy it. Of course, if the flame cultivator could actually attack with all his strength, he might still stand a small chance. It was a pity that the attacks from the ghostrune Emperors kept him busy, and the chains quickly killed him off.

Apart from the peak Emperor, one Emperor after another was killed without getting a chance to escape. Xiang Shaoyun had spared the peak Emperor because he wanted to uncover the culprit behind the attack.

The other group near them had not moved. They were all shocked to see all the Emperors suddenly vanish in front of their eyes.

Their leader was similarly a peak Emperor, and he led five other people. After finding out that a Soul Foundation Realm expert had attacked, they no longer dared to move recklessly for fear that the attack of the Soul Foundation Realm expert would implicate them as well.

"I have not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would have such a powerful puppet under his control. Good thing we hadn't attacked first," said the leader softly.

"What should we do now? That puppet seems really strong. I'm afraid even that Sovereign is having a hard time dealing with it," asked someone beside him.

"Let's observe for now. Since all of us are here to take Xiang Shaoyun's life, it will be fine to just watch as they kill him," said the leader.

However, none of them could see where Xiang Shaoyun was at. The group of people attacking him earlier had also vanished. In fact, the leader was starting to have a bad premonition about this.

It was at this moment that Xiang Shaoyun suddenly appeared beside them, but none of them noticed him because he was using the Nether Shadow Evanescence to hide from them. Only those with unique talents or eye cultivators would have a chance at locating him in this form.

Here to kill me? You guys can all go on to the afterlife, then, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he attacked them from behind.

The instant he drew the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, five severed heads flew into the air. The five were all late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators, but they had all been killed without even realizing it. The peak Emperor leading the group reacted the fastest. Without delay, he sent an attack flying in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was prepared, and the Nether Soul Domain swept out again, trapping the peak Emperor.

"What damnable place is this? Break!" the peak Emperor roared and prepared to blast his surroundings apart.

Unfortunately for him, a ghost rune Emperor was waiting for him. Waves of soul attacks swept out and tormented him, allowing the chains to tie him up tightly. Suddenly, numerous abstruse symbols floated through the air toward him.

Nether Dragon Soul Curse!

This was Xiang Shaoyun's mysterious trick to control others, one that had never failed him. At this time, the Sovereign who was battling the nether prison devil puppet high in the air could no longer persist with the fight.

In life, the nether prison devil had been a peak Devil Sovereign, but its strength had dropped to late-stage Devil Sovereign after being turned into a puppet. As for the Sovereign human, he was a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, one that was considerably strong.

Assassinating Xiang Shaoyun by sending a cultivator of this level should be an easy feat, but the puppet was never taken seriously. Alas, that was a lapse in their judgment. All initiative seemed to have been snatched from them in this mission, which was supposed to be destined to succeed.

The Sovereign wasn't exactly a fool. As he fought, he slowly retreated, trying to lure the puppet away so the others could finish off Xiang Shaoyun. However, he couldn't sense his subordinates anymore, causing him to become nervous.

Does that kid have some hidden trump cards? But I can't even sense any battles around here! thought the Sovereign.

During his momentary distraction, the puppet struck him with a heavy punch, sending him flying away and coughing blood. Finally, the Sovereign decided to leave and not extend the fight any longer. Unfortunately for him, the puppet did not fall for his trick, and it returned to Xiang Shaoyun. From how the puppet was behaving, it was obvious Xiang Shaoyun was still alive. If that was the case, something bad must have befallen the others.

Damn it! Who was the one who claimed that this puppet only has the strength of a regular Sovereign? That bastard sent us to our deaths! inwardly cursed the Sovereign as he left without bothering to look back.

He was afraid that the academy would sense what was happening. At that time, he wouldn't be able to escape even if he wanted to. When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the Sovereign's departure, he heaved a breath of relief. He then released the two Emperors who had fallen under his control and started questioning them for the culprits.

He wasn't surprised by their answers as they merely validated his guesses. The group with the Sovereign was sent by Di Lin, while the other group was sent by Feng Huosuo. As an elder of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, Feng Huosuo had actually sent someone to assassinate one of the academy's disciples. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even begin to understand why he would do something like that. But he soon recalled Feng Xiaosha. Since both of them shared the same surname, could they be related?

Chapter 608: The Dreadful Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist

Xiang Shaoyun had placed Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin under his control prior to this, but he had ordered them to stay with Feng Xiaosha as spies. Since they hadn't sent news regarding the assassination, they probably knew nothing about it. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and was not too bothered by their lack of warning. He could further investigate after returning to the academy. It was certain now that he had provoked two powerful enemies, and he had to focus on increasing his strength.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly left, afraid that something else might happen if he remained. Since he had parted with Shou Xie and the others, he could either complete the dragon liquid mission alone or

return to the academy first. He selected the former option, deciding to temper himself within the mountain range and advance into the Dragon Ascension Realm before returning.

And if he was lucky enough to get the dragon liquid while he was at it, that would be even better. As for Li Haonan, he couldn't even be bothered with him. In any case, he was the one who had gone against their initial agreement of finishing the mission together. Li Haonan's anger was understandable.

Xiang Shaoyun then sent away the two peak Emperors he had just placed under his control. He would only put them to use during crucial moments. That way, they could play a greater role than if they had remained by his side.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun started adventuring alone with Money by his side. The Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was filled with powerful demonic beasts. Each step he took was akin to walking on thin ice. Any sort of carelessness would turn him into beast fodder. Though, he still felt somewhat at ease with the nether prison devil puppet. He also had the Nether Soul Domain, which could help him reverse any dangerous situation.

Three days later, Money advanced yet again, advancing two stages to become a seventh-stage Demon King from the fifth-stage. Xiang Shaoyun could sense that the change of cultivation base wasn't the biggest change Money underwent. Rather, the durability of his body had become even scarier than before.

He was certain of the change because Money had undergone two lightning tribulations in a row, but he had suffered barely any injuries. Although Money grew up within the silver lightning core, as he grew in strength, the lightning tribulation he faced became even scarier. In fact, any lightning tribulation a demonic beast faced scaled in destruction with the demonic beast's strength.

And yet Money was able to completely ignore his lightning tribulations. After some questioning, Xiang Shaoyun learned that this was a result of physical strengthening after Money absorbed the nine-colored fog. Money's breakthrough had also attracted many powerful demonic beasts, but Xiang Shaoyun had dealt with all of them.

Xiang Shaoyun's draconic aura formation had returned to 99 percent completion, and only 1 percent was required for him to step into the Dragon Ascension Realm. He thus stopped traveling and started focusing on increasing his grasp over the powers he cultivated. At the same time, he also meditated on the draconic aura, trying to understand it more.

But before he could fully focus, he smelled a certain scent ahead of him, a scent that caused him to suddenly feel extremely comfortable and calm. Money reacted even more poorly and directly shot toward the scent's source like a bolt of lightning.

That forced Xiang Shaoyun to give chase. Shortly after, he heard demonic beasts battling halfway up the mountain before him. From the sounds, it seemed like a battle among Demon Emperors.

"Has an emperor medicine appeared?" Xiang Shaoyun wondered as he continued ahead. When he approached, he saw a massive red lizard battling a bear with spikes on its back.

They were fighting with their lives on the line, snapping at and clashing against each other, raining destruction on their surroundings. It was worth noting that a certain spot in their surroundings was completely undamaged. Both parties seemed to be exerting great care to not let any of their attacks fly in that direction.

Their actions allowed Money, who had reduced his size, to approach the spot. Soon, he left with something hanging in his mouth. Leaving with the prize finally caught the attention of the massive red lizard and the spiked bear. Both stopped attacking each other and charged Money. They roared. Xiang Shaoyun didn't even get a chance to get a clear look at what Money had in his mouth before he was forced to charge the lizard and the bear.

"Bring it on! An intense battle is just what I happen to be looking for!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun with his battle intent raging.

He controlled the power of earth, making use of the profundity of earth he had comprehended. His body shone with a brownish light, and he repeatedly threw his fists at the two Demon Emperors. Both of them were peak third-stage Demon Emperors, and they possessed combat prowess comparable to a fourth-stage human Emperor's.

For Xiang Shaoyun to dare face them head on, his courage had truly been bolstered by his strength. The lizard swept its massive destructive tail forward while the bear slammed its mountain-like paws down, sending two completely different but dreadful powers toward him.

Rumble! Rumble!

A series of explosions erupted, the impact turning the nearby trees into fine powder and kicking up a cloud of dust. The impact pushed Xiang Shaoyun's body tens of meters backward. If he wasn't borrowing the power of earth, the two attacks would have killed him through impact alone.

"Again!" A look of excitement covered Xiang Shaoyun's face as he roared and drew even more earth energy from his earth star. At the same time, an unending stream of earth energy flowed into his body from the earth beneath him.

The power of earth allowed him to battle the two beasts to his heart's content, but this much power was not enough to defeat them. In fact, under the joined assault of the two beasts, things got dangerous for him many times.

He was forced to change the way he fought. He fully unleashed his speed and fully activated his gift of instincts, baring the attack trajectories of the two beasts to his eyes. He then attacked with numerous powerful techniques, and slowly, he started getting the upper hand.

Devil Severing Edge!

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Seven Scorching Sun Claws!

The attacks of wind, lightning, and flame spiraled around each other as they blasted the two beasts, causing them to wail in pain. However, the two had freakishly durable bodies. It was rather hard for Xiang Shaoyun to defeat them with pure brute force.

Thus, he used his strongest technique: the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist.

The moment he threw his fist out, it was as if his fist had turned into a star, flooding the surroundings with an ancient aura that was overbearing and oppressive, shocking both the beasts.

One punch to overturn the cosmos, one punch to obliterate the myriad daos.

Nine bright stars appeared at the same time, sending nine-colored energy rippling outward, destroying the nearby mountains. It was at this moment that the two beasts decided to flee, but it was too late. Their tough bodies were unable to withstand the torrential fist energy, and they were turned into mincemeat.

The demonic beasts in the surroundings sensed the terrifying power and fled far away in fear. They did not dare to stay nearby, as they were afraid that whatever was happening would somehow implicate them as well.

When the dust settled and Xiang Shaoyun got a clear look at the destruction around him, even he himself was stunned. He had known that the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist was terrifying, and he had also known that the nine-colored fog was destructive, but the damage the two had caused still filled him with disbelief. This attack was even scarier than the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique!

Chapter 609: Entering the Dragon Ascension Realm

Intoxicating fragrant flower. This was a unique flower that would cause one to enter a deep trance after consuming it. Within this trance, a cultivator could comprehend the karma of everything that the cultivator had experienced before.

After awakening from the trance, two things might happen. One would be able to fully understand one's heart and reaffirm one's faith, gaining a greatly increased comprehension ability that would smoothen one's progress in the path of cultivation. Or one would sink into eternal confusion and no longer be able to maintain a clear mind, becoming a true fool.

One could say that the intoxicating fragrant flower could be either extremely helpful or harmful. That was what Money had just harvested. The intoxicating fragrant flower radiated an enchanting scent capable of easily attracting the attention of demonic beasts. The moment a demonic beast consumed it, the beast would have a chance of increasing its intelligence and forming its demonic soul, or it might lose any ounce of intelligence it had and become as good as a cripple.

Holding the flower in his hand, Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Keep it for yourself. I don't need it."

The intoxicating fragrant flower was fatally enticing for many cultivators, but Xiang Shaoyun had his Nether Soul Domain and filthless soul. His comprehension capability was already extremely good. Thus, this intoxicating fragrant flower wouldn't do much for him. It was hardly worth taking, yet it would be a pity to discard.

Since that was the case, it was better to keep it for Money. It might be very helpful for him. After Xiang Shaoyun told Money the flower's function, Money gave it some thought before swallowing the flower without hesitation. Then, he transformed into a drunk snake, wobbling and swaying about as if he had consumed too much liquor, looking rather comical. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he stood guard in the area to avoid anyone from disturbing Money.

You must make it! Xiang Shaoyun prayed nervously.

He had great confidence in Money. Even if Money didn't end up as powerful as Little White in the future, he wouldn't be too much weaker. At the thought of Little White, Xiang Shaoyun started missing him. Perhaps that fellow was already much stronger than him now!

After all, Little White had obtained the inheritance of the white tigers. And now, the demons were personally nurturing him. It was almost impossible for Little White to not grow strong under such conditions.

After an unknown amount of time, Money's body suddenly erupted with a brilliant silver radiance. Strands of silver lightning danced around his single horn as the horn rapidly enlarged, looking even more malicious and conspicuous than before. As he released his aura, his serpentine pupils shone with a look of wisdom, as if his eyes contained an indescribable grace. It was also at that moment that he transformed into his human form—a handsome young man with silvery-white skin.

"Boss!" Money smiled at Xiang Shaoyun.

This was his first time in human form. In the past, he would never appear as a human as he preferred his snake form more. For some reason, he had decided to change his form that day.

"Not bad at all. Looks like you have benefited greatly," said Xiang Shaoyun praisingly. Money smiled as a layer of scales appeared on his skin, protecting his vitals and forming a silver-scaled armor, making him look even more extraordinary than he was.

"Yes, I have indeed benefited greatly. It's all thanks to you, boss," said Money gratefully.

"Don't worry about it. It's something you got yourself. It doesn't have much to do with me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand. "I'm nearing advancement too. I might need you to stand guard for me when I break through."

Money nodded. "Don't worry, boss."

Next, the two looked for a quiet place and settled there. After the previous battle, Xiang Shaoyun could no longer keep his draconic aura suppressed. His draconic aura had fully formed, and his spine had also assumed the form of a dragon. He had to advance as soon as possible.

Due to how much he had been suppressing his own strength, his comprehension of the nine powers within him had also grown considerably. Thus, his advancement progressed smoothly without any hiccups.

After the advancement, a nine-colored dragon soared into the sky, and the spiritual energy in the surroundings all converged around him. Nine incorporeal strands of astral energy flowed from the sky into the dragon, further solidifying its shape, as if a nine-colored celestial dragon had descended on the mortal world, spreading an aura of prosperity and peace far and wide.

The aura nourished all the plants in the area, filling them with life as the plants started growing lushly. Money, who was standing guard over the advancement, wasn't surprised by the sight. Inwardly, he thought, No human has ever managed to cultivate nine powers successfully. However, my boss will definitely create a miracle.

Within Dragon Phoenix Academy's Back Graveyard, a crooked figure appeared high in the sky. His empty eyes rippled with an odd undulation, and his gaze seemed to penetrate layers of space to reach a certain faintly discernible nine-colored celestial dragon.

Inwardly, he muttered, The hardest part of cultivating nine stars and nine powers is merging the nine powers into one. Looks like the boy has succeeded in that, forming a nine-colored celestial dragon. Will he bloom just for a moment like a firework, or will he become a stunning eternal river of stars? That will rely on himself.

At the depths of the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range, a certain old demon had also sensed the nine-colored celestial dragon. The old demon had an incredibly massive body that seemed boundless, and because he was buried deep beneath the mountain range, nobody knew of his presence. Any changes happening within the mountain range could not escape him, including the nine-colored celestial dragon.

Looks like a remarkable boy has appeared among the humans, thought the old demon.

Not long after the nine-colored celestial dragon appeared, it re-entered Xiang Shaoyun's body. The draconic aura within him became 15 percent solidified, pushing him right into mid first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. The reason why he was able to advance half a stage immediately after advancing was because he had constantly suppressed his cultivation base, but the might of his nine stars had also helped.

As his draconic aura grew, Xiang Shaoyun felt it nourish and enhance every inch of his body. His vitality increased greatly, signifying that his lifespan had also grown significantly.

Generally, a Transformation Realm cultivator had a lifespan between 200 to 300 years. A Skysoar Realm cultivator had a lifespan of about 500 to 600 years, a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator had a lifespan of about 1,000 to 1,500 years, and a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator had a lifespan of about 3,000 years.

Based on this common knowledge, those in the Dragon Ascension Realm could live at least 1,000 years, but in Xiang Shaoyun's current condition, his lifespan was comparable to a peak Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator's, reaching about 1,500 years. That was due to the rich vitality the nine-colored draconic aura brought him.

Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea had expanded considerably as well. The nine-colored fog within had become much denser, and the plants in his astral cosmos sea had also advanced, each growing new buds.

As for his filthless soul, it had now reached the level comparable to the soul of a Sovereign, with the only difference being the lack of a soul foundation. One could say that this breakthrough was a new turning point in Xiang Shaoyun's life.

Chapter 610: Dragon-Scaled Elephant's Territory

Xiang Shaoyun's advancement had also pushed his senses to a level most people couldn't imagine having. Basically, his senses were now as good as a regular Sovereign's. It was evident he was now ahead of many Emperors, and this would greatly benefit him in his future growth.

"Congratulations, boss, for reaching a brand new height," said Money when Xiang Shaoyun finally walked out of his cultivation spot.

"Haha, you're quite a smooth talker, aren't you?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh. "Let's go. We'll look for some dragon liquid to further grow our strength."

"You sensed it as well, boss?" Money asked in astonishment.

"What? Did you sense it long ago?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Money replied, "During your seclusion, I did sense something. It might have something to do with my bloodline."

"Well, let's see if we sensed the same thing, then," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

They then headed toward a certain direction together. That was also where Shou Xie, Yan Gang, Zhong Xia, Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Li Haonan were currently. The group had their sights set on two particular mountains, as pointed by the treasure seeking mouse. However, a group of powerful demons resided in the area, and they wouldn't be able to search the area easily.

This was the territory of the dragon-scaled elephants, a demonic beast breed with a massive body and seemingly endless strength. The dragon scales on their skin protected them, making it almost impossible for opponents of the same level to harm any of them.

Each dragon-scaled elephant had a trace of draconic aura in its body, granting it a valiant offensive prowess. Furthermore, they were very united and always moved together whenever there was a conflict.

Fortunately, there weren't many dragon-scaled elephants in the area. There were about a hundred of them, and not a single one was weaker than a Demon King. About one third of them were Demon Emperors, and among them, some were even peak Demon Emperors.

Shou Xie and company had discovered this area, but they did not dare to approach. If they provoked the elephants in some way, even escaping would be hard. They all hid and tried to pinpoint the location of the dragon liquid so they could sneak off with it.

The treasure seeking mouse wasn't exactly powerful in terms of offensive strength, but it had the ability to fly and drill into the earth. It could also transform its form freely. Thus, it could move freely within the dragon-scaled elephant territory without worry. The elephants were large and cumbersome, and they could do almost nothing to the nimble mouse.

After spending about two days in search, the treasure seeking mouse finally locked on to a certain location where the dragon liquid could possibly be found. It was a place the dragon-scaled elephants frequented. In fact, they enjoyed resting there and only left when it was time for them to forage for food.

"We found it, but with our strength, it will be too hard to steal from the elephants," said Shou Xie.

They had all consumed some concealment herbs so they would not need to fear detection. They sank into thought, evidently considering their options.

After a while, Li Haonan said, "I have an idea, but I don't know if anyone will dare to do it."

Zhong Xia asked, "What is it? Tell us about your idea."

"Some of us should go lure the dragon-scaled elephants away while the others go steal the dragon liquid," proposed Li Haonan as he swept his glance at Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhuan.

Tang Longfei said, "Are you suggesting we act as baits?"

"That's right. Nobody is better suited for this task than you guys," said Li Haonan without hesitation.

"What a great plan. Why don't you be the bait?" said Tang Longfei unhappily.

"I have to stay here to assure their safety. You guys are not strong enough to protect them. Since we're here together, we naturally need to cooperate. Since I am stronger, you guys should listen to me. You guys will be given a fair share after we get the dragon liquid," said Li Haonan as though stating a fact.

At this, some others also voiced their agreement to the plan. No matter what, Li Haonan was an expert on the Jiao Luan List. He was the strongest combatant in the group. Thus, it was acceptable that he was to act as everyone's protector. In any case, the assassins Xiang Shaoyun had attracted earlier had caused them to be disgruntled over Tang Longfei's group of three.

At this point, even Shou Xie couldn't say anything. He wanted to speak for Tang Longfei and company, but he was afraid he would invite everyone's anger. Although he was a beast tamer, it was impossible for him to tame a dragon-scaled elephant in a short time frame and send the elephants off one by one.

"Fine, I'll do it. If you really find the dragon liquid, don't forget our share, or I won't let this rest," agreed Tang Longfei as he clenched his teeth after seeing the situation they were in.

Being bait was a dangerous job. The elephants might be slow, but their attacks were dreadfully destructive.

"Don't worry, you will get your share if we really manage to find anything," said Li Haonan smugly.

Inwardly, he thought, I don't know who Xiang Shaoyun offended to attract so many expert assassins. He is probably dead by now. Although these three are decently strong, they are nothing for me. If we really find the dragon liquid, I definitely won't share anything with them.

"I don't trust you." Tang Longfei was no fool. A simple promise from Li Haonan would never be able to gain his trust. Instead, he said to Shou Xie, "Shou Xie, as the organizer, give me your word."

"Ok. If we can find the dragon liquid, you will get your share!" Shou Xie promised as he slapped his chest.

"Good!" Tang Longfei nodded before calling Lady Shura and Ning Wenhua over. After a short discussion, they dashed toward the dragon-scaled elephants.

Instead of attacking brainlessly, they attacked the dragon-scaled elephants from far away then fled in a different direction. The dragon-scaled elephants fell for their trick and immediately gave chase. The earth shook as the elephants ran. Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhua fled at their top speed, but they seemed incapable of breaking away from the elephants.

"We need to split up, or we won't be able to stay alive," Tang Longfei quickly said.

The two women did not hesitate and split off in different directions. However, one particular dragon-scaled elephant that was extremely powerful broke off from the rest of the elephants. It charged the three like a moving mountain. The three were so shocked they felt like their souls were going to leave their bodies.

They had no way of withstanding such a terrifying charge. It was at that moment that a certain figure landed from the sky and blocked the dragon-scaled elephant.