

Overlord 61

Chapter 61: Old Man, You Are Indeed Useless!

Sixth limit room.

A huge volume of spiritual energy converged, nearly emptying the spiritual energy from the air in the area. Even the vicinities of Wu Town were affected. A number of Transformation Realm cultivators in town glanced in Martial Hall Palace's direction at nearly the same moment.

"Who in the Martial Hall Palace is breaking through? The breakthrough is actually causing such a big scene."

"Look, the power of stars is congregating in the sky above the Martial Hall Palace! Someone is igniting a fate star!"

"What? Isn't that a sign of someone breaking through into the King Rank?"

"Perhaps the Martial Hall Palace master has gained new insights and is currently breaking through?"

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The official name for the King Realm was Skysoar Realm, the realm after the Transformation Realm. Those at this realm could start borrowing the power of the stars and would gain the ability of flight, which allowed them to freely roam the sky. A human reaching this realm was akin to a carp turning into a dragon. This was also when a cultivator would understand the true meaning of cultivation.

A King might not appear in a small town like this even once in a hundred years, and today, a new King appeared in the Martial Hall Palace. This caused the experts of Wu Town to be filled with both shock and envy.

Many people also quickly rushed to the Martial Hall Palace wishing to bear witness to such a historic moment and—most certainly—an extremely rare sight. They hoped they would be able to gain insights for their own cultivations through witnessing the birth of a King.

But they had barely approached the Martial Hall Palace when they found the palace in strict lockdown. The many elders were standing guard, and not a single person was allowed to approach. Thus, none of them dared to casually approach the palace. If any of them happened to disturb the birth of a King, it would create a grudge that would only be solved with death.

Within the sixth limit room, the old man was indeed in the midst of breakthrough. The energy he had accumulated over many years erupted, working in tandem with the external spiritual energy to allow his soul to soar into the sky. At the same time, the stars within his body stirred as they pulled in the power of the stars from the nine skies above in hope of igniting his fate star.

The old man had long reached the critical juncture of his cultivation, having reached the point where he could emerge as a King. Alas, he had never been able to take that final step forward due to his own mental issues. His desire for strength had not been firm enough, and that had slowly eroded the fight in him over the years, pushing the prospect of breakthrough further and further from him.

After all, igniting one's fate star was no easy feat. If one did not deal with the follow-up properly, the cultivator might suffer a backlash instead. The backlash could cause something as minor as a drop in strength or something as major as the eruption of one's stars.

That was why many experts were stuck at this realm. Nobody dared to casually attempt to break through into the King Realm.

Up beyond the nine skies, the old man's consciousness and astral energy were approaching his fate star. He was only a tiny bit away from igniting his fate star, elevating himself into the next realm, and becoming a higher existence.

But during the final push, the old man started lacking power. His body started trembling, and his consciousness and astral energy started slackening. If this failed, the old man stood to lose even his life. Unfortunately, a breakthrough was something nobody could help him with. He was the only one who could help himself.

"Old man, you are indeed useless! If you can't even reach a realm as low as the King Realm, how can you dream of suppressing this young master?" Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out like a sudden thunderclap.

It was a taboo to disturb anyone in the midst of breakthrough. Yet for some reason, Xiang Shaoyun's mocking had instead helped. His words infuriated the old man, stimulating the final bit of fight left in him.

"Bastard! You are my star, and this is my life! Burn!" The old man pushed out his final bit of willpower, and with a roar, he seemed to invigorate his mental power and astral energy. With a push, he finally reached his star.

Swish! Swish!

Suddenly, four beams of starlight tore apart the sky above them and descended into the sixth limit room, carrying with them a large quantity of astral energy of incomparable purity. The four stars within the old man's natal chart reacted accordingly and absorbed the new astral energy. His entire body started shining with a resplendent radiance like a star, bathing the entire sixth limit room in light.

The light was so bright Xiang Shaoyun couldn't keep his eyes open anymore. He could only vaguely sense that the old man's strength was growing at an explosive pace.

"Looks like the old man has been stuck at this realm for many years. With this breakthrough, he will most likely arrive at second-stage Skysoar Realm directly," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

For some reason, after he comprehended his own power of presence, the presence of a king, he gained the ability to see that the old man had in fact reached the completion phase of the Transformation Realm. In fact, the old man had reached the point where he could already break through to the next realm.

That was why Xiang Shaoyun made a gamble and decided to give this old man some help by provoking him into a breakthrough. Although Xiang Shaoyun was currently still weak, his understanding of the different realms was unparalleled in Wu Town. That was mainly due to the fact that he was of a completely different station compared to the people here.

After a certain amount of time, the astral energy in the sky gradually faded before vanishing. As for the astral energy within the sixth limit room, the old man's body fully absorbed it. Calm returned once more.

Bang!

The old man flew up through the roof of the room. Hovering in the sky, he roared with laughter, "Haha...I've entered the Skysoar Realm! Haha!"

The emotions the old man suppressed all these years were unleashed like a volcanic eruption. Everyone in the Martial Hall Palace saw the figure high above the sky, and all of them cried out in surprise.

"It's Elder Zhen Peng! He has reached the King Realm! This is worthy of celebration!"

"It is Elder Zhen Peng! He is one of the few living elders from two generations ago. He has actually managed to break through today! The heavens have blessed our Martial Hall Palace!"

"Hahaha! Our Martial Hall Palace finally has our own Skysoar Realm expert! It has been way too long!"

"It's not that long, right? I mean, just 10 years ago a vice palace master had broken through as well."

"But that person was unable to stay at our Martial Hall Palace! Elder Zhen Peng is different. He will be staying to protect our Martial Hall Palace! If I can gain even a bit of guidance from him in the future, it will be even better."

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"Congratulations, Elder Zhen Peng for breaking through into the King Realm," Yang Gaochuan's voice rang out as he saluted the figure up in the air. Even though he was the palace master and had been as strong as this elder prior to this, right this moment, he had to pay this elder the respect he deserved.

Perhaps in the Nine God Provinces as a whole, a King Realm expert wasn't a particularly powerful existence. But here at a small town, a King Realm expert was strong enough to dominate everyone and everything.

The other elders also saluted Elder Zhen Peng. "Congratulations, Elder Zhen Peng for the breakthrough."

The overseers and disciples did the same. None of them dared to slight the elder. Even outside the Martial Hall Palace, congratulatory messages were ringing out without stop.

"You may all leave," Elder Zhen Peng said after scanning the crowd below him. The current Elder Zhen Peng no longer appeared like the senile old man earlier. In fact, he looked to be nearly 20 years younger now, regaining his looks during his middle age. His entire body rippled with an abundant power.

"Elder Zhen Peng, please—" Yang Gaochuan was about to say something, but his words were interrupted by Elder Zhen Peng shouting in a certain direction.

"Stinky brat! Stand right there!"

Chapter 62: Please Allow Me This, Young Master

Nobody had a clue what Elder Zhen Peng was up to, and they all looked in the direction the elder was flying. There, a young man could be seen coming out of a limit room and trying to sneak away. The young man was clearly Elder Zhen Peng's target.

"Shit! Even after I did you a favor, you're still not willing to spare me?" the young man cursed to himself.

The young man was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. He had just come out of the sixth limit room. He planned to sneak off while Elder Zhen Peng was celebrating his breakthrough and had not expected to be caught. At present, Elder Zhen Peng was already before him, sealing his path of escape. Elder Zhen Peng was now a second-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator, and his new cultivation level granted him an incredibly fast movement speed.

"S-senior, w-what do you want? Fine, fine, I'll surrender," Xiang Shaoyun, raising his hands, said nervously. He was scared the old man would kill him in a fit of anger.

Elder Zhen Peng's eyes rested on Xiang Shaoyun, a complicated expression on his face. He was conflicted about what he should do to this kid. At this moment, Yang Gaochuan, Qing Xiuhe, and the other elders arrived.

Yang Gaochuan quickly said, "Elder Zhen Peng, please have mercy. I was the one who sent this child into the sixth limit room. He owns a five-star physique and has a bright future ahead of him."

Yang Gaochuan was begging for leniency on behalf of Xiang Shaoyun as he believed that Elder Zhen Peng was blaming Xiang Shaoyun for disturbing his peace during breakthrough. Although the

others did not know what had happened, when they heard Yang Gaochuan speaking for Xiang Shaoyun, they had their own guesses.

"Palace master, what is going on with Xiang Shaoyun? How can you allow him to enter Elder Zhen Peng's sixth limit room?" Qing Xiuhe asked probingly.

Yang Gaochuan replied, "Now is not the time for that. Let's deal with this first."

It was also at this time that Li Xuemeng suddenly shouted at Xiang Shaoyun from among the group of elders, "Impudent! Xiang Shaoyun, quickly kneel down and apologize for your offense! Disturbing Elder Zhen Peng's breakthrough is a crime punishable by death!"

Li Xuemeng's words came at the perfect time to ignite the fury in all the other elders. It had always been a taboo to disturb someone's breakthrough, not to mention something as major as Elder Zhen Peng's ascension into the Skysoar Realm.

A single King Realm expert signified the prosperity of the Martial Hall Palace as a whole. If the breakthrough failed, Xiang Shaoyun would not be able to make up for it even if he was to die 10 times over, even if he had a five-star physique.

"For daring to disturb Elder Zhen Peng's breakthrough, this kid can't be spared!" said an elder.

"That's right. Regardless of why he was in the limit room, he can't be spared from punishment."

"Damnable brat, does he really think he can do anything just because he has a five-star physique? I say we cripple his cultivation and expel him from the Martial Hall Palace!"

"I think we should just kill him to prevent future problems."

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A few elders echoed Li Xuemeng's sentiment. Some were close to Li Xuemeng while others were simply trying to get on Elder Zhen Peng's good side.

As for the other elders who had not said anything, they all revealed complicated expressions. They still did not have a clear idea on what had happened, so they did not make any decisions.

Zi Changhe couldn't help but say, "Fellow elders, I think we should let Elder Zhen Peng make the decision here. If Xiang Shaoyun has indeed committed any wrongdoing, he should be punished. But if this is merely a misunderstanding, I beg Elder Zhen Peng and palace master to spare him out of respect for my master."

"Zi Changhe, don't forget that disturbing Elder Zhen Peng's breakthrough is a crime punishable by death. Even your master won't protect him in this situation. Elder Zhen Peng's breakthrough into the King Realm is no trifling matter!"

"You are clearly abusing your official position to avenge your private grudge! I believe Elder Zhen Peng has his own thoughts on this. The final say is not up to you!" Zi Changhe stood his ground.

Li Xuemeng was about to argue back when Yang Gaochuan bellowed, "Enough. Stop bickering. Just listen to Elder Zhen Peng's arrangement."

With that, everyone sank into silence.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun said meekly, "S-senior, d-don't keep staring at me like this. I-I'm shy." After saying those words, his neck shrunk further. His current look gave one the urge to rush forth and give him a good beating.

"Sigh. I, Zhen Peng, have spent my life in cultivation yet my clarity of mind is not even comparable to a youth," Elder Zhen Peng sighed and proceeded to do something that shocked everyone there.

He gave Xiang Shaoyun a deep bow. "Young master, please allow me to stay by your side and guard you from now onward."

Bang!

Those words slammed into everyone's minds, sending them into a daze. A King Realm cultivator was an existence high above many others. He was the strongest in the Martial Hall Palace, also the most powerful in Wu Town.

But this King was currently swearing his allegiance to a tiny Astral Realm young man? It turned their world upside down. They wondered if everything was merely an illusion. Even Xiang Shaoyun was stunned.

"Please allow me this, young master!" Elder Zhen Peng begged when he received no reply.

At this time, Yang Gaochuan licked his lips and said, "E-Elder Zhen Peng, d-do y-you want to think this through? This kid is only at the Astral Realm. Even if he has a five-star physique, he is not worthy enough for this! If you really think so highly of him, you can just give him some guidance in his cultivation."

"That's right, Elder Zhen Peng. I think you should first focus on consolidating your cultivation," Qing Xiuhe chimed in.

Li Xuemeng also couldn't resist speaking up, "Elder Zhen Peng, h-have you been tricked by this brat? I'll kill him for you!"

"Bastard!" Elder Zhen Peng turned his head and cursed Li Xuemeng. His single word rumbled out like an all powerful thunderclap, and an aura of kings flowed out, instantly sending Li Xuemeng flying and coughing out blood. The sight of this shocked the elders.

Elder Zhen Peng scanned the crowd then said with an unprecedented seriousness, "I, Zhen Peng, am not yet senile. I know what I'm doing. From today onward, he is my young master. I will stand guard by his side as he grows. Laying even a finger on him will be tantamount to attacking me!"

Elder Zhen Peng spoke with such resolution that it did not seem he would change his mind. Yang Gaochuan, Qing Xiuhe, and the others once again revealed complicated expressions on their faces.

When Li Xuemeng heard those words, he was so enraged he spat out another mouthful of blood. After all, he had already included Xiang Shaoyun in a list of people he must kill. But now, Elder Zhen Peng had taken on the role of Xiang Shaoyun's guardian. No, to be precise, Elder Zhen Peng had become Xiang Shaoyun's follower! Would he still have a chance to do anything to Xiang Shaoyun? What if Xiang Shaoyun turned around to make a move against them instead? Not a single one of them could resist a King Realm's wrath!

At this thought, Li Xuemeng's entire body grew cold.

Chapter 63: Forget It

"Please allow me that, young master!" Elder Zhen Peng repeated his request.

By this point, everyone was staring at Xiang Shaoyun, their eyes filled with all sorts of emotions such as envy and doubt.

Xiang Shaoyun coughed before finally giving a reply. "Fine, in view of the sincerity you've shown, just follow me around in the future. Your aptitude is really nothing special, but I suppose you can improve with some guidance. It won't be difficult for you to reach the peak of Skysoar Realm. But of course, you need to work hard if you want to reach an even higher level."

Bang!

The words slammed into the minds of the others, giving them a sensation that they were going to faint soon. A tiny Astral Realm cultivator was going to guide a new King Realm cultivator? Shouldn't it be the other way round? That was no different than a tiny brat claiming to teach an adult, something that completely toppled common sense.

"Many thanks, young master!" Elder Zhen Peng replied deferentially.

The people were now even more stunned. They were even starting to wonder if Elder Zhen Peng had been possessed or something. Why was he listening to this kid?

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at the crowd and said with a shrug, "Alright, alright, don't look at me like that, guys. Your aptitudes are even worse. I won't even accept you fellows as my underlings. Forget it."

Everyone's faces darkened.

What the hell is this? Screw this kid! everyone cursed inwardly.

They were elders of the Martial Hall Palace, experts at the Transformation Realm. And a kid was speaking to them with such contempt? That was an insult!

"Elder Zhen Peng..." Yang Gaochuan did not know what to say anymore.

Elder Zhen Peng waved his hand and said, "Leave, all of you. Don't spread the news that I've broken through. Deal with the aftermath as you see fit." He paused slightly before adding, "Of course, the matters of Martial Hall Palace will still be of my concern."

He only added the final sentence to placate these people. Sure enough, everyone heaved a breath of relief when they heard his guarantee. They were worried that Elder Zhen Peng would focus on being this kid's underling and ignore everything about the Martial Hall Palace from then on.

After Elder Zhen Peng said all he had to say, they saluted him and left one after another. It was at this moment that Xiang Shaoyun called out to Yang Gaochuan, "Palace master, please stay."

"Oh, ki—uhm. What do you need?" Yang Gaochuan asked. He no longer dared to call Xiang Shaoyun "kid".

"Where are my rewards? I've passed the sixth limit room! Don't leave without giving me my rewards!" Xiang Shaoyun said, stepping forth.

"Sure, sure, I won't skimp on your rewards. Just go take whatever you need from the Weapon Hall and Medicine Hall. I will also get someone to pass 100,000 points to you as reward," Yang Gaochuan quickly said.

Xiang Shaoyun now had the backing of Elder Zhen Peng. Where in the Martial Hall Palace couldn't he go? And what in the Martial Hall Palace couldn't he enjoy?

"Oh, nice. That's it, then," Xiang Shaoyun said in satisfaction. He indeed needed a large amount of resources for his cultivation. If the Martial Hall Palace was able to fully open up to him, he would be able to at least triple his cultivation speed. To the side, Zi Changhe smiled helplessly as he watched on. He did not even know what he should say about this Xiang Shaoyun anymore.

Freak?

Yes, that was the most fitting description for Xiang Shaoyun. Zi Changhe still remembered how Xiang Shaoyun had bragged about what an incredibly talented genius he was when he first joined. Now, he finally believed that Xing Shaoyun hadn't been bragging. What he had said was the utter truth. That much was obvious after Xiang Shaoyun reached the second stage of the Astral Realm.

And with some unknown method, Xiang Shaoyun had even managed to trick Elder Zhen Peng into becoming his underling. But no matter what, that still proved how extraordinary Xiang Shaoyun was. Zi Changhe now deeply believed that Xiang Shaoyun was an extraordinary person. He even started to feel as if Xiang Shaoyun no longer needed him as a senior brother.

Right this moment, Xiang Shaoyun walked toward Zi Changhe and said, "If there's nothing else, let's go, senior brother. I'll demonstrate the Lightning Spear Technique once when we get back. I think I'm already at the level you requested."

Zi Changhe blanked out when he heard that. He had never expected that Xiang Shaoyun would still call him senior brother.

"Why are you blanking out? Are you nervous because Old Peng is here? Don't worry, just pretend he's an ordinary elder," Xiang Shaoyun consoled.

Zi Changhe cursed, Kid, even if you know that, you shouldn't have exposed me like that!

He immediately recovered and shouted, "Go back and show me!"

"Haha, don't be like that, senior brother. I was just kidding. Look at me, I'm wounded all over! We have to at least wait for my wounds to heal, right?" Xiang Shaoyun said as he pointed at his wounds.

"How did you get those wounds? Limit room?" Zi Changhe asked.

At this time, Elder Zhen Peng interjected, "Young master, have you challenged all the limit rooms before the sixth limit room? I mean, have you passed all the challenges?"

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Of course. Why else would the palace master allow me to enter the sixth room?"

Elder Zhen Peng's pupils shrank, and a look of admiration covered his face. "Young master is indeed a giant among men, able to reach the sixth limit room I guarded with only the strength of first-stage Astral Realm. I thought you'd entered through the back door or something. Looks like I had merely been too ignorant."

Even as a King Realm cultivator, Elder Zhen Peng was still completely astonished by Xiang Shaoyun's accomplishments. With the strength of first-stage Astral Realm, he charged all the way to the sixth limit room. This was definitely a first in the history of the Martial Hall Palace.

In the past, only those at the fourth rank and above had ever reached that far. From this, it was obvious how remarkable Xiang Shaoyun was. When Zi Changhe heard their conversation, he was shocked once again. He suddenly felt extremely ignorant in the face of this junior brother.

In the past, he had seen Xiang Shaoyun as an unpolished gem who needed some time to temper his character. When he grew more mature, it would be the perfect time to nurture him, helping him reach an even higher level in the future.

But now, Xiang Shaoyun displayed a monstrous cultivation talent even without Zi Changhe teaching him anything.

Xiang Shaoyun no longer bothered with anything else and started heading back to his residence. Before leaving, he did not forget to remind Elder Zhen Peng to have a talk with Yang Gaochuan about the incidents today. He did not want any unnecessary trouble for himself. He only wanted to cultivate peacefully.

This young master is truly mighty. With a wave of my majestic hand, my august presence is revealed. And with that, a King Realm immediately begs to come under my wing! My charm is indeed irresistible! Xiang Shaoyun mused to himself narcissistically.

Chapter 64: The Child of Heaven Has Descended Upon the Mortal World

Wu Estate.

Martial Hall Palace's thirteenth elder, Li Xuemeng had arrived to meet with Wu Clan's patriarch, Wu Fuxiang.

"Town Head Wu, I've arrived at a decision on your proposal. I will be helping you with it!" Li Xuemeng said seriously.

"Oh? Why did you change your mind?" Wu Fuxiang asked, surprised.

"Are you aware of the incidents yesterday?" Li Xuemeng asked instead of answering.

"Are you referring to Elder Zhen Peng reaching the King Realm?" Wu Fuxiang said, a longing look on his face.

"Yes," Li Xuemeng answered.

"How is that related to this business between us?" Wu Fuxiang asked.

"After my explanation, you will understand," Li Xuemeng said before telling Wu Fuxiang everything that had happened the day before. Li Xuemeng's words sent Wu Fuxiang into a long daze. A King Realm expert had actually bowed to an Astral Realm kid? That was simply ludicrous! But he knew Li Xuemeng would never joke around about something like this.

"I now understand why you've changed your mind. You do not want the Martial Hall Palace to lose Elder Zhen Peng, right?" Wu Fuxiang said.

Prior to this, Wu Fuxiang had invited Li Xuemeng to collaborate with them and kidnap Xiang Shaoyun. Li Xuemeng, however, had not immediately agreed. He only gave some noncommittal response, most likely because he had his own misgivings about it.

But now, Li Xuemeng had come to a decision. Perhaps the incident yesterday was the reason for that change of mind. But of course, there was also a possibility that there were some other factors at play.

Li Xuemeng nodded. "Yes, but apart from that, you should be aware that I am not on friendly terms with that Zi Changhe. Otherwise, you wouldn't have looked for me in the first place." After a slight pause, he continued, "I have a clue as to why you want that kid, just be sure to not skimp on what you promised me when the job is done."

"Don't worry, this old man will not go back on his words. But the kid now has Elder Zhen Peng by his side. It won't be easy to touch him anymore," Wu Fuxiang said.

"Well, I'll need Town Head Wu's help with that. If you can go pay Elder Zhen Peng a formal visit and distract him, I will be able to kidnap that kid," Li Xuemeng suggested.

Wu Fuxiang gave it some thought before saying, "Ok. I'll pay this new King a visit today. It'll be too impolite for us Wu Clan to not do so."

The two discussed further in detail, and Li Xuemeng left once they were done.

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Today, the Martial Hall Palace was much more lively than usual. Any person with status in town came to pay Elder Zhen Peng their respects. In Wu Town, the birth of every new King Rank cultivator was a major event.

Elder Zhen Peng did not like dealing with such social events, but Xiang Shaoyun told him to go deal with it. Otherwise, those people would continue visiting endlessly, and that would ultimately disturb his cultivation.

Elder Zhen Peng could only helplessly promise to finish dealing with this as soon as possible before focusing on standing guard for Xiang Shaoyun. As for why Elder Zhen Peng had decided to follow Xiang Shaoyun, even he himself found it a radical idea. But he did not regret his decision as he could clearly sense how extraordinary Xiang Shaoyun was. Perhaps this choice would be the turning point of his life.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was focused on healing his injuries in his residence. He had charged through four limit rooms in a row the day before, and he had sustained rather heavy injuries in the fifth and sixth room. He needed to spend some time recovering. After a night of recovery, he had nearly regained his full strength, but his external injuries still lingered. But at present, he couldn't be bothered about these external injuries. He was busy grasping the essence behind the power of presence.

Yesterday, under Elder Zhen Peng's suppression, the presence of a king was forced out of Xiang Shaoyun. His presence of a king was different than the presence of someone at the King Realm. Rather, it was an innate presence of a person born to be sovereign. It allowed him to be fearless in the face of other presences, and no ordinary power of presence could hope to shake his power of presence.

Although he had grasped an initial understanding of the presence of a king, it wasn't easy to fully master. First, he had to possess the heart of a king who could reign above all others. This was a criteria he had long fulfilled. Secondly, he had to possess sufficient strength to back up this presence. Otherwise, his power of presence would be an empty shell.

"The presence comes from the mind. By strengthening one's mind, the presence would be all powerful, unshakable, akin to the power of the heavens!" Xiang Shaoyun meditated on the sensation of presence without rest as he tried to increase his comprehension on the power of strength.

His hard work rewarded him with a growing understanding of the power of presence.

Of the power of presence, the empty presence was shapeless. He had reached this level. And if he grew further in strength, he would be able to give form to his presence and use it against others.

Generally speaking, only those at the Transformation Realm or beyond would be able to even sense the power of presence. But Xiang Shaoyun was clearly an exception as he had done the same as a second-stage Astral Realm cultivator. One ought to admit that he truly had an excellent aptitude for cultivation.

Xiang Shaoyun took out the illusionary star flower and a few stalks of other old medicines. He muttered to himself, "I hope I can further expand my astral cosmos sea."

He then stuffed all the herbs down his throat. The illusionary star flower was very beneficial in helping one awaken one's stars, but for those already in the Astral Realm, this herb seemed useless.

But why had Xiang Shaoyun bought it? Because it was also useful for growing the astral cosmos sea. After reaching the second stage of Astral Realm, his astral cosmos sea had also grown in size. It initially had the space the size of a fist, but now, it had the space the size of two fists.

If Xiang Shaoyun kept this up, he only needed to keep advancing to grow his astral cosmos sea to the point he could store more and more items in it. But he was impatient. He thus needed to rely on spirit medicines to help with the growth. The medicinal power flooded his body as his astral cosmos sea started spinning rapidly to absorb all the medicinal power.

The illusionary star flower was indeed worthy of being a spirit medicine. The energy contained within it was extremely beneficial, and with the old medicines acting as the catalyst, a pure power streamed into the astral cosmos sea, helping it grow at a rapid pace.

As the astral cosmos sea grew, the nine stars of Xiang Shaoyun also reacted accordingly, creating a river of light within Xiang Shaoyun's body, one that looked enchanting and magical. Even his

physical body seemed to glow. If someone saw the current him, they would most likely cry out in shock that the child of heaven had descended upon the mortal world.

Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of what was happening, and his only sensation was of warmth and comfort. Unfortunately, that sensation did not last long. In less than an hour, the medicinal power was fully absorbed.

"It's over just like that?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered in disappointment after opening his eyes.

The illusionary star flower was a spirit medicine; thus, its medicinal power was pure and thick. At the very least, that was the case for people of Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level. Even so, it did not last long at all.

"Let's see how much the space has grown." Xiang Shaoyun did not keep thinking about the issue and quickly moved on. He walked to a corner of the residence, stared at a pile of random objects, and willed with his mind.

Chapter 65: A Tad Bit Small

Xiang Shaoyun willed, and the empty space in his astral cosmos sea appeared in his mind, telling him how much space he had available.

"Huh? It's actually this big now?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered gleefully. He found that the astral cosmos sea was now the size of a head, much larger than its original size. At the very least, it was sufficient to store many medicinal herbs.

"Looks like training the Astral Cosmos Sea Technique is the correct choice. It helps with the medicinal power absorption rate," Xiang Shaoyun said before standing up and ending his short meditation. He then lifted his Lightning Spear.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The Lightning Spear danced in the air like lightning bolts. With purple qi twirling around the spear, it split the air with an incredible might. Yesterday in the fifth limit room, Xiang Shaoyun had used the Lightning Spear Technique. His mastery over this spear technique had increased, reaching slightly more than 60 percent.

Zi Changhe required him to reach 70 percent mastery, and he was about 5 percent from reaching it. However, he was only taking this long because he hadn't been spending all his time on the spear technique.

Of the various weapons, what Xiang Shaoyun loved most was still the saber. The saber was the overlord among weapons, known as the weapon for the fearless. That was also why Xiang Shaoyun had a soft spot for sabers since young. However, brandishing other weapons such as sword, spear, halberd, and so on still looked rather cool, so Xiang Shaoyun did not mind learning all weapons either.

After practicing the spear technique once, Zi Changhe walked out from a certain corner and praised, "So you've already reached 50 percent mastery. That was unexpectedly fast. Looks like reaching 70 percent mastery won't be that hard for you after all. I don't have anything to teach you anymore."

Zi Changhe had been greatly shaken after he figured out how freakish Xiang Shaoyun was. He firmly believed that even without his guidance, Xiang Shaoyun would still grow into an outstanding expert.

"That is all thanks to your guidance, senior brother," Xiang Shaoyun said humbly. Although Zi Changhe had not helped him much, he was still the person who had brought Xiang Shaoyun into the Martial Hall Palace. As such, Xiang Shaoyun was very grateful for him.

Zi Changhe smiled. "It's good that you know to be grateful." He paused slightly and continued, "Moving on, you will be able to get anything you want so long as the Martial Hall Palace can provide it. In the coming half year, I hope you can focus on increasing your strength. A grand event will be held in half a year, and I hope you can win glory for Martial Hall Palace during the event."

Right as Xiang Shaoyun was about to reply, someone else appeared outside the courtyard.

"Lu Xiaoqing?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out joyfully when he saw the newcomer. Then, he ignored his senior brother and jogged outside. Zi Changhe cursed inwardly when he saw that, What a typical guy, valuing chicks over bros!

He left tactfully.

It had been quite some time since Xiang Shaoyun had last seen Lu Xiaoqing. She looked slimmer than before, and the previous tenderness on her face had lessened to be replaced by a tenacious

look. This change made her look even more attractive than before. She was dressed in a green, body-hugging outfit, one that showed off her hourglass figure.

"Shaoyun!" Lu Xiaoqing called out to the approaching Xiang Shaoyun; her eyes rippled with tenderness. For some reason, she addressed Xiang Shaoyun differently now, and this new form of address was much more affectionate than previously.

The other day, she had left running after Xiang Shaoyun had berated her. But after leaving and thinking back about it, she finally understood that Xiang Shaoyun was only doing that for her sake. In truth, Xiang Shaoyun was simply trying to put her out of harm's way. That was why he had scolded her away. But she only realized that after quite a while.

Upon realizing that, she rushed back to the Martial Hall Palace at the fastest speed she could and told her master, the eleventh elder, He Yinghua, about it. But when she returned to the ambush location with her master, Xiang Shaoyun was nowhere to be found.

Subsequently, after Zi Changhe returned, her master and Zi Changhe went to the Wu Clan for Xiang Shaoyun. However, they returned empty handed. She thought that Xiang Shaoyun was dead for sure, and she had been grieving over him.

Recently, she had been in secluded cultivation. Only today when she had ended the seclusion did she find out that Xiang Shaoyun had returned safely. It caused her to be wild with joy. Unbeknown to her, he had already occupied a spot in her heart. Now, she finally saw him again. The confidence and grace he exuded had only grown after all this time. Gazing at him, she fell into a slight reverie.

But she still needed to maintain the virtue of a young lady; thus, she resisted her urge to pounce into his arms. Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of all that. He only wanted to thank her properly. She was someone who had not abandoned him even during the most dangerous moment, a proof that she was someone worth trusting, a friend he could trust his back with.

"Tsk ts, it has been only a month, and you have grown even prettier," Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but praise Lu Xiaoqing when he got near her.

Lu Xiaoqing blushed as she replied meekly, "You're lying."

"Haha, I don't have many merits, but one of the few I have is my honesty. But still, it's too bad," Xiang Shaoyun laughed as he looked at the blushing Lu Xiaoqing.

"You're still as narcissistic as ever!" Lu Xiaoqing said with contempt before asking curiously, "Too bad about what?"

Xiang Shaoyun coughed, "Cough, cough. Uhm, I don't think I should say it."

"No, I want to know!" Lu Xiaoqing purred.

"Fine, remember, you demanded it. Don't you be angry over it later," Xiang Shaoyun stated before shifting his gaze to Lu Xiaoqing's chest and said, "Cough, cough, they're a tad bit too small."

Raising her brows, Lu Xiaoqing yelled, "Scoundrel!" Then she sent a slap at Xiang Shaoyun.

Lu Xiaoqing was a first-stage Astral Realm cultivator. Although she did not use her full power, her slap still carried a considerable might.

"Hey, hey, you promised you wouldn't be angry! Why are you beating me? Stop being so coarse lest you won't find a husband in the future!" Xiang Shaoyun yelled as he dodged the slap.

"You're the one who won't be able to find a wife! You scoundrel!" Lu Xiaoqing stamped her foot on the ground and cursed.

"Haha, I don't mind getting married to a queen who can take care of my living for me! That would be great!" Xiang Shaoyun howled with laughter.

"You? Nobody would want you!" Lu Xiaoqing said. Despite what she said, this naughty disposition of Xiang Shaoyun had in fact deeply attracted her.

"Alright, I'll stop messing around. Thank you!" Xiang Shaoyun stopped joking around and thanked her solemnly. He deeply hated those who betrayed him, but he also greatly appreciated those who were loyal to him.

"Don't worry about it. It's not like I was much help anyway. I nearly got in your way instead," Lu Xiaoqing muttered guiltily. During the incident, she had felt completely helpless. And because of that, she had spent the past month cultivating with all her effort. Finally, she broke through and

reached the first stage of the Astral Realm, officially becoming the personal disciple of the eleventh elder.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Don't ever think that way. You are a loyal friend! You're...only slightly lacking in intelligence."

Lu Xiaoqing's heart was filled with sweetness when she heard the first part of the sentence. But when she heard the latter part, her face darkened.

Chapter 66: Kidnapped

"Say that again!" Lu Xiaoqing yelled furiously, looking like a fierce tigress with her hands on her hips.

"Haha, I'm kidding, I'm kidding. Come in, take a seat. As the saying goes, joy is to have a faraway friend visiting! No, wait, that's wrong. You're not from very far away at all," Xiang Shaoyun laughed.

After a slight hesitation, Lu Xiaoqing stepped into the courtyard. Little White was sleeping to the side when she walked in. He opened his eyes and gave her a glance before ignoring her and resuming his sleep.

Recently, Little White had been focused on digesting the demonic core he had swallowed not long ago. He spent most of his time sleeping. When Lu Xiaoqing saw Little White, a cheery look covered her face, and she exclaimed, "Wow! Such a cute kitty!"

She ran over and tried lifting Little White. But before she could even get near him, he darted to a different spot with a flash.

"Meow!"

Little White yelled resentfully while glowering at Lu Xiaoqing, seemingly warning her against approaching him.

"Don't be rude, Little White. Shoo, go resume your sleep somewhere else," Xiang Shaoyun said.

But Little White did not move away. Instead, he leaped onto Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder.

"Shaoyun, is this your pet? He's so cute! I wish I had a kitten this cute, too!" Lu Xiaoqing said enviously.

"If you like beasts, I will get you a Demon King beast in the future!" Xiang Shaoyun promised generously.

"Pffft. You just can't stop bluffing, can you?" Lu Xiaoqing did not trust a word of that. Demon King was the demonic beast's equivalent of the human's King Realm. It wouldn't be that easy to get one.

"I knew nobody would trust me when I speak the truth." Xiang Shaoyun shrugged helplessly. He spoke again, "Take a seat first. I'll go get something for you."

Then, Xiang Shaoyun entered the house. As for Lu Xiaoqing, she started getting nervous for no apparent reason.

H-he's g-going to give me something? What would it be? I-is he trying to confess to me? B-but I'm not prepared for that yet! Lu Xiaoqing thought to herself, her face red.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun came out again. He was carrying a jade bottle. "Here, for you."

Lu Xiaoqing looked at the jade bottle and asked curiously, "What's this?"

"Earth Star Spring," Xiang Shaoyun replied indifferently.

"T-this is Earth Star Spring? Y-you found it?" Lu Xiaoqing was startled.

"Nothing surprising about it. This young master is a beloved child of heaven, accompanied by good fortune wherever I go. If I want a spiritual treasure, it will come with a snap of my finger," Xiang Shaoyun said as he flung his hair around.

Xiang Shaoyun had always been quite handsome, and for some reason, flinging his hair really did work on causing the young lady's heartbeat to speed up.

Lu Xiaoqing was sent into a daze again, and instead of accepting the Earth Star Spring, she said, "I can't take something this valuable!"

"Stop dilly dallying. Just take it. Otherwise, I will take it as you looking down on me," Xiang Shaoyun grunted. He added, "If you refuse, I might as well throw it away. No point keeping it with me."

"No, don't. Fine, I'll take it," Lu Xiaoqing said.

"That's more like it," Xiang Shaoyun said in satisfaction.

Lu Xiaoqing accepted the jade bottle, her heart thumping furiously as she thought to herself, Why is he treating me so nicely? H-has he fallen in love with me?

As Lu Xiaoqing was indulging her thoughts, Little White suddenly meowed, and his fur all stood up on end. He bared his fangs, as if a large enemy was approaching. The moment Xiang Shaoyun noticed Little White's behavior, he started paying attention to his surroundings. He was very clear on the sharp senses demonic beasts had. Little White wouldn't behave like that for no reason. But they were currently within the Martial Hall Palace. What danger could there be?

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a figure streaked across the air like a phantom. Then, a black sack wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun from above. Even though Xiang Shaoyun was already on alert, he still couldn't react in time and was subdued just like that. Little White was the only one who could react in time. He leaped away and was able to avoid being captured together with Xiang Shaoyun.

"What the hell? What's going on?" Xiang Shaoyun cursed to himself before he started struggling.

"Keep still!" the kidnapper bellowed and slapped Xiang Shaoyun.

Bang!

The slap was extremely powerful, as it caused Xiang Shaoyun to spit blood with one attack. His inner organs almost exploded, and he fainted from the slap. No Astral Realm cultivator could unleash an attack like this. The kidnapper was at the very least a Transformation Realm expert.

Lu Xiaoqing was greatly frightened, and just as she was about to shout, a kick sent her flying. Fortunately, the kidnapper did not seem to intend to kill her. Otherwise, she would've been killed with one kick. Even so, she was still sent flying several meters and coughed up blood and fainted.

As for the kidnapper, he quickly left with Xiang Shaoyun. Not far from the residence, a carriage was waiting. The kidnapper directly leaped into the carriage with Xiang Shaoyun.

"Gya!" The coachman immediately whipped the horse, and the carriage sped toward Martial Hall Palace's exit.

"Meow!"

Little White was hot in pursuit, and shortly after, he caught up and hid beneath the carriage. The people on the carriage had their attention somewhere else so they did not notice Little White. The carriage arrived at the exit. The guards took a look at the coachman before stepping aside to make way for the elder's carriage. Upon leaving the Martial Hall Palace, the people on the carriage heaved a breath of relief. Next, the carriage headed toward Wu Clan's estate.

Meanwhile, Zi Changhe had just returned to Xiang Shaoyun's residence as he had suddenly had a bad feeling. However, when he had returned, he only found an unconscious Lu Xiaoqing. His face immediately fell. He rushed over and woke Lu Xiaoqing before asking, "What happened? Where's Xiang Shaoyun?"

"H-he was kidnapped!" Lu Xiaoqing struggled out a reply.

"Damn it!" Zi Changhe bellowed in fury.

Xiang Shaoyun was his junior brother and also had Elder Zhen Peng as his follower. Yet someone still dared to make a move against Xiang Shaoyun? That person was too brazen! After feeding Lu Xiaoqing a healing pill, Zi Changhe rushed to the exit.

"Did you see anyone leaving earlier?" Zi Changhe shouted at the guards.

"Nineteenth elder, too many people are coming and leaving today. May I know who you are looking for?" one guard replied nervously.

"I asked about earlier. Just a short while ago. Did you see any suspicious people leaving? My junior brother Xiang Shaoyun just got kidnapped. Have none of you noticed anything?" Zi Changhe roared.

Chapter 67: Search

Xiang Shaoyun had been kidnapped! This incident created waves within the Martial Hall Palace. Elder Zhen Peng was enraged when he heard that. He had just become Xiang Shaoyun's follower not long ago, yet someone dared to kidnap Xiang Shaoyun? The nerve of the kidnapper!

"Investigate! Find out who did it! If I find out who's the culprit, I'll exterminate his entire clan!" Elder Zhen Peng howled with fury.

Yang Gaochuan was similarly furious. "Where are the enforcers? How have you been guarding our Martial Hall Palace? Something like this happened under broad daylight? Do you not want your position anymore?"

The enforcer elder wiped his sweat and said, "Palace master, it was my mistake. There were too many visitors, and we were all focused on the security here. Because of that, the security of other areas have slackened. I'll immediately start searching for him!"

"The kidnapper is definitely Xiang Shaoyun's enemy. Who has he offended?" Elder Zhen Peng frowned.

"I am sure it's the Wu Clan!" Zi Changhe said.

"Why so?" Elder Zhen Peng asked.

"Xiang Shaoyun had defeated a member of Wu Clan, and they have been holding a grudge against him for that. Prior to this, they had tried kidnapping him but had failed. A few days ago when Xiang Shaoyun had returned from the Hundred Beast Mountain Range, they had tried kidnapping him again. I had arrived in time and killed them off. Apart from them, I can't think of anyone who's gutsy enough to do something like this," Zi Changhe explained.

"Wu Clan? Town Head Wu Fuxiang was here visiting me earlier. Is it really them?" Elder Zhen Peng muttered angrily. He paused before adding, "Come, let's pay Wu Clan a visit. If it's really them, there is no need for the Wu Clan to continue existing anymore."

After saying that, Elder Zhen Peng grabbed Zi Changhe and flew straight toward the Wu Estate. Wu Town wasn't very big. A King Realm expert only needed the span of a few breaths to arrive at the Wu Estate.

"Wu Fuxiang, come out!" Elder Zhen Peng yelled when he arrived.

When the Wu Clan members saw the people in the sky, they were all alarmed. Fear covered their faces as they understood that those capable of flight were all extremely powerful.

The higher ups of the Wu Clan were all alarmed as well. Shortly after, Wu Fuxiang led the higher ups and came out. "So it's Elder Zhen Peng. I have just returned from your place, yet you're already here. I am overwhelmed by the favor you are showing me. Why don't you come in and take a seat? The Wu Clan will be honored to have you as our guest."

Elder Zhen Peng did not bother saying anything else and landed with Zi Changhe.

"Are you the ones who had kidnapped my young master, Xiang Shaoyun?" Elder Zhen Peng asked frankly.

"May I ask who this Xiang Shaoyun is? I have never heard of him," Wu Fuxiang asked, his face looking confused.

"Old town head, Xiang Shaoyun is my junior brother. Before this, your Wu Clan had tried multiple times to harm him. Now that he has gone missing, I suspect your Wu Clan is the culprit. Old town head, if you're unsure, you can ask the present town head if he knows anything!" Zi Changhe said.

"Elder Zi, you can't accuse others without proof. Why would the Wu Clan harm your junior brother?" Wu Hongxi stepped forward and spoke.

"You dare say the previous two waves of kidnappers were not from your Wu Clan?" Zi Changhe questioned.

"I'm curious, why are you so sure those people were from the Wu Clan?" Wu Hongxi countered with a question.

That instantly rendered Zi Changhe speechless. Of the two waves of kidnappers, one had gone completely missing while the second had been quickly killed by him. The dead couldn't testify.

"No answer?" Wu Clan sneered before saying, "I'm only showing restraint out of respect for your position as an elder of the Martial Hall Palace. Nobody is allowed to blindly accuse the Wu Clan like this."

"Hold your tongue, Hongxi," Wu Fuxiang berated. Then, he spoke politely to Elder Zhen Peng, "Elder Zhen Peng, you heard them. I don't think this has anything to do with the Wu Clan. How about this, we will send some people to help with the search and will find out the truth and prove our innocence. After all, the Wu Town is the turf of the Wu Clan."

Zi Changhe still wanted to say something, but Elder Zhen Peng spoke before him, "Thank you for your help. Xiang Shaoyun is my young master. I will exterminate the entire family of anyone daring to harm him."

Then, Elder Zhen Peng left with Zi Changhe. After they left, Wu Hongxi said with a sinister expression, "Father, what should we do now?"

"Stand down, everyone. This is nothing." Wu Fuxiang waved his hand. He added, "Send some people to search for him."

Wu Hongxi left and arranged a search party.

A nervous atmosphere enveloped the Wu Town as numerous people were stopped during their travels and questioned. Most of the people in town had no idea what was going on. Because of that, they were all confused and anxious. At a certain location, Zi Changhe said to Elder Zhen Peng, "Elder Zhen Peng, are we going to let them off just like this?"

"Think about it. Apart from Wu Clan, are there any other suspects?" Elder Zhen Peng asked. He added, "I believe the Wu Clan wouldn't be so audacious as to come kidnap someone from our Martial Hall Palace. I think this is probably an inside job."

"Inside job?" Zi Changhe was stupefied. He had not considered that possibility as his attention had been focused solely on the Wu Clan.

"How would an outsider be able to so easily leave the Martial Hall Palace? Even if they wanted to sneak over the wall, it wouldn't be an easy feat," Elder Zhen Peng reasoned.

"Perhaps its thirteenth elder Li Xuemeng?" Zi Changhe pointed almost immediately.

"How are you sure it's him?" Elder Zhen Peng asked. Zi Changhe then gave him a simple explanation of everything he knew.

"I see. Let's go," Elder Zhen Peng brought Zi Changhe back to the Martial Hall Palace after listening to the explanation. They headed straight to Li Xuemeng's residence. Unfortunately, Li Xuemeng was nowhere to be found. However, his children were there.

"Greetings, Elder Zhen Peng," Li Tianba and Li Hong'er greeted Elder Zhen Peng deferentially.

"Where is your father?" Elder Zhen Peng asked.

"I think he's outside the palace. We're not too sure," Li Tianba answered.

"Is that so? What a coincidence." Elder Zhen Peng frowned.

"Elder Zhen Peng, we have to locate him immediately! He is definitely the culprit!" Zi Changhe said.

Right this moment, a carriage could be seen heading toward them. When the carriage stopped, Li Xuemeng got off. Seeing Elder Zhen Peng, he immediately offered his greetings, "Elder Zhen Peng, is there anything I can help you with?"

Right as Elder Zhen Peng was about to speak, a white figure darted out from underneath the carriage.

"Meow!"

Little White landed beside Zi Changhe, bit the leg of his trousers, and pulled, seemingly trying to say something.

"This is Shaoyun's striped tiger cub! Sure enough, Li Xuemeng is the kidnapper!" Zi Changhe immediately howled when he recognized Little White.

Chapter 68: Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill

"Zi Changhe, what bullshit are you spouting? I've just returned from outside. When did I kidnap Xiang Shaoyun?" Li Xuemeng replied with no sign of nervousness. Even if he was the culprit, he would definitely not admit it.

"Stop trying to deny it. Shaoyun has gone missing while his pet is with you. You are surely the culprit. Say it! What did you do to Shaoyun? If anything happens to him, I won't spare you!" Zi Changhe bellowed at Li Xuemeng.

"This beast must have followed me while I was on my way back. I have no idea what you're talking about. Elder Zhen Peng, please show me justice!" Li Xuemeng replied.

But before Elder Zhen Peng could say anything, Little White meowed again and ran off, waving his paw repeatedly as if trying to get Zi Changhe to go with him.

"This beast is an intelligent one. He definitely knows where Shaoyun is at," Zi Changhe said before chasing after Little White.

As for Elder Zhen Peng, he snorted coldly at Li Xuemeng and said, "Before we figure out the truth, you are not allowed to leave the Martial Hall Palace. Otherwise, I will hunt you down no matter where you go."

After that, Elder Zhen Peng also ran after Little White. Once the two left, Li Xuemeng's face paled. He had taken everything into consideration before carrying out his plan, but he had missed the cub. He despaired at the thought of what was waiting for him.

"Father, this...this has nothing to do with you, right?" Li Tianba asked cautiously.

Li Xuemeng did not give him an answer. He shut his eyes and thought to himself, Wu Fuxiang, you better move fast. If they find him, I'm dead!

Behind the Wu Estate was an abandoned residence. This area was still the turf of Wu Clan, but it was an abandoned area. Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was there, still unconscious within the sack.

Suddenly, a certain hidden wall moved before opening to reveal a tunnel. A person appeared from the tunnel.

The newcomer quickly lifted Xiang Shaoyun and entered the tunnel. After they entered, the opening closed again, and the wall returned to normal. This was a man-made tunnel that connected directly to a hidden room below the Wu Estate. The hidden room was spacious, and Wu Fuxiang was currently standing there waiting anxiously.

Before him was a massive cauldron. This was a rectangular cauldron with a simple and crude design. On the cauldron were numerous complicated markings, making the cauldron seem out of the ordinary.

A raging flame was burning under the cauldron, while atop the cauldron, steam could be seen billowing out. Numerous valuable medicinal herbs were around the cauldron, a large amount of spirit medicines among them. The medicinal herbs filled the room with a medicinal smell. The person carrying Xiang Shaoyun appeared, and he dumped Xiang Shaoyun on the ground.

"Alright. All of you stand guard outside. Don't come in without my command," Wu Fuxiang ordered. With his command, the people hidden throughout the room scattered and left.

"Haha, I have finally gotten my hands on this five-star physique! Now, I can start refining my Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill!" Wu Fuxiang howled with laughter. The Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill was a pill capable of increasing one's life span and improving one's physique.

Wu Fuxiang did not have much of his life span left and would probably be dead in a few years. He could not accept that. But if he wanted to keep on living, he had to reach the King Realm. Unfortunately, he no longer had sufficient vitality to reach the King Realm. Thus, he had to seek an alternative.

The Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill was the best alternative. However, the Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill required someone with a five-star physique to be the main ingredient. That was why he had tried everything he could to kidnap Xiang Shaoyun.

Wu Fuxiang did not wish to keep dragging this on. Thus, he removed the sack around Xiang Shaoyun. He then removed Xiang Shaoyun's clothing, leaving him naked. If someone else saw this scene, they might have thought that this old man was an old pervert. Wu Fuxiang proceeded to toss Xiang Shaoyun into the boiling water within the cauldron.

"AHHH!"

The unconscious Xiang Shaoyun was immediately awakened by the scalding pain. Unfortunately, his screams did not matter as the lid of the cauldron was lowered immediately after he was tossed inside.

"I'll first boil you until you're cooked before slowly adding the other herbs. I reckon the pill will be done in three days and three nights," Wu Fuxiang muttered.

Within the cauldron, Xiang Shaoyun was no longer unconscious. However, after the initial scream, he sank into silence. He was not dead. Rather, he was accustomed to such temperatures.

"Damn it. Who's trying to cook me? Good thing I basically grew up in a cauldron. Otherwise, I would've been cooked by now," Xiang Shaoyun cursed. The slap he received earlier had given him quite a serious injury. Even the scalding hot water almost couldn't wake him up. He had been soaked in boiling medicine since young. Thus, his physique was something nobody could compare with.

Even so, if this continued, he would suffocate to death before he was cooked. He started circulating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual and started to slowly heal his injury. At the same time, he borrowed the heat in the cauldron to further squeeze out the potential hidden within his body.

The temperature in the cauldron was excessively high—to the point Xiang Shaoyun's skin turned completely red. But because of the excessive temperature, the potential hidden within him was unearthed at an astonishing speed.

This speed even surpassed the speed Xiang Shaoyun had awakened his potential when he was in the limit rooms. As he awakened the hidden power within him, his injury healed at a terrifyingly quick pace. Apart from that, his strength also grew. But instead of advancing his cultivation, Xiang Shaoyun pushed the newly gained energy to his astral cosmos sea.

"This time, I have to increase the size by at least one fold," Xiang Shaoyun vowed.

Compared to strength, he longed to increase the space within his astral cosmos sea. After all, for him, increasing strength wasn't hard, but expanding his astral cosmos sea was. If he expanded his astral cosmos sea, he would be able to store even more stuff within. That was the function he needed most for now.

Meanwhile, Little White had arrived at the abandoned building behind Wu Estate with Zi Changhe and Elder Zhen Peng. Unfortunately, they couldn't find Xiang Shaoyun here at all. Because of that, both Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe started wondering if Little White had brought them to the wrong place.

"Nobody? How can there be nobody here? Have they destroyed even his corpse to remove all evidence?" Zi Changhe said with indignation.

Elder Zhen Peng scanned his surroundings and said, "They might have moved him somewhere else instead. I think someone was here just earlier."

"Meow!"

Little White meowed before he started searching for Xiang Shaoyun's smell. Unfortunately, a different strange odor lingered in the air, masking all other smells. Because of that, Little White's search was fruitless.

Chapter 69: Purple Bone

Wu Fuxiang had taken into consideration everything he could in his plan. He first got Li Xuemeng to kidnap and deliver Xiang Shaoyun to the abandoned building. Then, he had someone deliver Xiang Shaoyun to him through the hidden tunnel. And to avoid having any beasts detecting the hidden tunnel, he scattered some items capable of messing with a beast's sense of smell to cover everything up.

Because of that, even after Little White brought Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe to the abandoned building, they couldn't find Xiang Shaoyun.

Soon, half a day passed.

Wu Fuxiang felt that Xiang Shaoyun was definitely dead by now. Thus, he lifted the lid slightly to reveal a tiny opening before tossing a bunch of old medicines and three stalks of spirit medicine into the cauldron.

"I'll first turn everything into a medicinal liquid before gradually adding all the other ingredients. With that, the Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill will be completed." Wu Fuxiang became more excited the more he thought about it.

Inside the cauldron, when Xiang Shaoyun heard Wu Fuxiang, he held his breath and made no sound. He was sure that the moment he made any sound, he would be killed.

Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill? So that's what this old bastard is up to! Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly. Although he had no idea who this old man was, it was clear this old man was treating him as a medicinal ingredient. That was truly hateful.

After the medicines were added into the cauldron, they were dissolved by the heat within the cauldron. Xiang Shaoyun moved quickly and grabbed at a spirit medicine that had yet to be completely dissolved. A gleeful look surfaced on his face when he caught it. A low-grade spirit medicine, nervebone vine!

The nervebone vine was a spirit medicine capable of strengthening one's nerves and bones. It was an excellent medicine to strengthen one's body. With no hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun swallowed the nervebone vine.

Want to refine a Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill? Dream on! This young master will eat all your medicine! Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

After swallowing the nervebone vine, Xiang Shaoyun refined it as quickly as he could. The nervebone vine had a powerful medicinal efficacy and had a great effect on Astral Realm cultivators. Strains of energy streamed through his body and started strengthening his nerves and bones.

Suddenly, his lower backbone started glowing with an odd purple radiance, and as the purple radiance rippled through his body, his backbone absorbed all the medicinal energy of the nervebone vine. It absorbed everything, leaving nothing behind.

After the backbone absorbed the medicinal energy of the nervebone vine, its purple radiance brightened, filling Xiang Shaoyun's body with a purple aura. The purple aura also slowly spread to the surroundings of Xiang Shaoyun's body.

Swish! Swish!

Strains of purple qi leaked from the lid of the cauldron, and accompanying the purple qi was the fragrance of the dissolved medicines, filling the hidden room with an alluring fragrance.

Wu Fuxiang was in the midst of meditation when he took in a deep breath. He opened his eyes joyfully and said, "Nice. A five-star physique is indeed a terrific medicinal ingredient. I've just started the refining process, and purple qi is already leaking. Looks like when the Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill is finally done, I will be able to directly enter the King Realm."

With no hesitation, Wu Fuxiang started adding even more medicinal herbs into the cauldron. This time, before the medicinal herbs could even land in the boiling water, Xiang Shaoyun caught three of them. The three were spirit medicines with the strongest medicinal efficacy among this batch of herbs. He stuffed them all into his astral cosmos sea.

Since Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea had been growing lately, stuffing a few stalks of spirit medicine inside was no problem for him. As for the other old medicines, he merely stuffed them all into his mouth.

Eat! Eat! Xiang Shaoyun chewed without stop. He did not even care if they were old medicines or something else, as an intense hunger had suddenly assaulted him as if his body greatly lacked the nourishment of energy.

And thus, apart from the old medicines, Xiang Shaoyun also started drinking the medicinal liquid in the cauldron. His backbone seemed to have an odd power that incessantly absorbed the medicinal energy. Because of that, even his nine stars weren't able to absorb much of the medicinal energy.

Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of this phenomenon. The only sensation he had currently was an extreme hunger for energy.

Break! Xiang Shaoyun even proceeded to refine the three stalks of spirit medicine in his astral cosmos sea. The massive amount of medicinal energy spread out from his astral cosmos sea, and his astral cosmos sea grew again. Now, the astral cosmos sea was already half a meter wide.

The nine stars shone brightly, covering the astral cosmos sea in their radiance. In the middle of everything was the backbone that kept glowing with a purple radiance. The purple qi spread everywhere and slowly connected with the stars and the astral cosmos sea, seemingly trying to form a new universe within his body.

Xiang Shaoyun's strength grew, and he directly reached late-phase, second-stage Astral Realm. It did not take long for him to advance straight into the third stage of the Astral Realm. With the

breakthrough, the energy within his body became extremely dense, and the purple qi kept overflowing from him and from the cauldron, to the point the cauldron started shaking.

Joy covered Wu Fuxiang's face when he saw what was happening. "Haha, this is the elephant facing the heaven phenomenon, a phenomenon that will only appear during the early formation of a spirit pill. Looks like this kid's physique is even better than expected. Otherwise, this won't happen. It's time to add the final ingredients."

Thus, with no hesitation, he tossed in all his remaining ingredients. There were a few spirit medicines among them, and each stalk of these spirit medicines contained extremely rich energy.

Xiang Shaoyun spared none of the medicine. Since his astral cosmos sea had grown, he could store even more stuff inside. Thus, he stored all the medicine. After storing all of them, he started refining some. The extreme hunger he was feeling caused him to panic.

Every single spirit medicine contained extremely rich energy, and for an ordinary person, eating a single spirit medicine would sustain them without food for half a month. Yet even after Xiang Shaoyun refined three spirit medicines and some old medicines, the intense hunger still assailed him.

But in the midst of this intense hunger, his strength was somehow still growing. His astral cosmos sea was also expanding, and an unknown change was happening within his body. All this was due to the odd power contained within his backbone. His backbone had absorbed most of the medicinal power and started to slowly change. Half the backbone had already turned completely purple.

Purple bone!

This was definitely not an ordinary bone. Even weirder, there were strains of purple electrical bolts crackling around the bone, as if tiny dragons were dancing around it.

After refining yet another batch of medicinal herbs, the purple bone seemed to have finally reached some sort of saturation. The purple qi finally withdrew, leaving the nine stars and the astral cosmos sea to continue absorbing the leftover energy.

Xiang Shaoyun tried his very best to suppress the energy, but the energy was still rich enough to push him straight into the fourth stage. As for his astral cosmos sea, it now had the space of one square meter, finally reaching a somewhat respectable size.

One could say that he had transformed this disaster into profit. In the span of two days, he had advanced two stages and had obtained an astral cosmos sea with a decent space. As for the purple bone, he still had no idea what it was for now.

Outside the cauldron, Wu Fuxiang was able to sense the change within the cauldron. "Haha, the Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill is probably done!"

He impatiently lifted the lid.

Chapter 70: Old Drunkard Duo Ji

Wu Fuxiang could no longer wait to get his hands on the Yang Restoration Body Sculpting Pill. The moment he lifted the lid, he looked down impatiently. Suddenly, a beam of water shot at him from the cauldron. Wu Fuxiang was a peak Transformation Realm expert, but he had never expected that Xiang Shaoyun would still be alive within the cauldron. Thus, his guard was completely down. Because of that, the scalding water landed right on his face.

"AHHH!"

The heat burned his face, causing him to yell out in pain. Not everyone was as resistant to high temperatures as Xiang Shaoyun. At the same instant, Xiang Shaoyun leaped out the cauldron, gathered all his strength in his fist, and punched Wu Fuxiang's chest.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Might of thunder, force of lightning!

Bang!

Wu Fuxiang couldn't even defend himself in time before he was struck and sent into retreat. Although Xiang Shaoyun had grown stronger, his explosive punch was only able to cause Wu Fuxiang to cough up a mouthful of blood.

The gap between the Astral Realm and the Transformation Realm was too big, with more than 10 minor stages between them. It was not possible for Xiang Shaoyun to kill Wu Fuxiang with one punch.

"Old bastard, die!" Xiang Shaoyun did not let go of the available opening. With a roar, he mustered all his strength and rained down punches of Lightning Bolt Fists on Wu Fuxiang. Using the Lightning Bolt Fist, crackling electricity snaked around his fist. Thus, his punches were not powered by astral energy alone. Each punch was as powerful as the attack of an eighth-stage Astral Realm cultivator.

This was quite a terrifying combat prowess as Xiang Shaoyun had unleashed a might four stages above his current stage. This unnatural combat prowess was greatly related to the oddity that had occurred in his body.

Bang! Bang!

Tens of punches landed on Wu Fuxiang's body while sounds of explosions rumbled. Unfortunately, the attacks seemed to be ineffective as an energy barrier had formed around Wu Fuxiang's body, blocking all of Xiang Shaoyun's attacks.

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was punching an unbreakable iron bastion, his attacks completely fruitless. This was the might of a Transformation Realm expert. One would be able to form an energy barrier that protected one's body against normal attacks.

"Bastard! I'll swallow you alive!" Wu Fuxiang wailed—eyes still shut—and slammed his palm toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Even though Wu Fuxiang was unable to see, he was still able to sense Xiang Shaoyun. Instantly, his palm arrived before Xiang Shaoyun's chest. The palm carried with it an incredible might, one that no Astral Realm cultivator would be able to resist. Even those in the Transformation Realm would die if hit by such an attack. This was an attack by a furious peak Transformation Realm expert, an extremely terrifying attack.

"It's over!" Wu Fuxiang's aura was completely locked on to Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun had no way of avoiding the attack. But right this moment, a thunderous voice rang out.

"The likes of you are not worthy of touching my young master!"

The sound wave surrounded Wu Fuxiang, shattering his eardrums and sending him flying and coughing up blood. A sound wave alone had seriously wounded a peak Transformation Realm expert. How terrifying was this sound wave exactly?

It was worth noting that the person who shouted was already holding back. He wasn't exactly sparing Wu Fuxiang, but he was leaving Wu Fuxiang for Xiang Shaoyun. The newcomer was not Elder Zhen Peng. Rather, he was a sloppy, one-armed old man. No matter how one looked at him, he did not seem like a remarkable expert. One truly couldn't judge a book by its cover.

"Young master, are you alright?" the old man arrived beside Xiang Shaoyun and asked deferentially.

When Xiang Shaoyun saw the newcomer, a smile originating from the depths of his heart bloomed on his face. He said, "Old drunkard, I'm fine. I knew you wouldn't abandon me for real!"

The old drunkard's name was Duo Ji, a devoted guardian of Xiang Shaoyun who had helped him escape the sect. Without Duo Ji, Xiang Shaoyun would have died long ago. Looking at the missing arm, Xiang Shaoyun's heart pained. That arm had been lost for the sake of saving him.

"How can this old servant abandon the young master? I only left because that was young master's request back then. But subsequently, I understand that young master merely wanted to grow strong with your own strength. Thus, I came looking for you again," the old drunkard gave a simple explanation.

Before Xiang Shaoyun joined the Martial Hall Palace, he had been staying with the old drunkard. But he did not wish to be guarded by the old drunkard all the time. Thus, he chased the old drunkard away and even pretended to give up on himself. He was afraid that one day, his enemies would find them and the old drunkard would suffer harm because of him. On top of that, he also wanted to achieve something relying only on himself. He did not want to rely on the old drunkard for everything. If he did, he would not be able to grow.

Xiang Shaoyun sighed. "Old drunkard, it's all my fault."

"Young master, please don't say that. It's the fault of those traitors. A day will come when the sect master returns and all of them will pay the price for their actions!" the old drunkard said furiously.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard the old drunkard mentioning the sect master, a gentle look covered his face. "Even if Father does not return, I only need 10 years. In 10 years, I will definitely return to the sect, kill all the traitors, and retake everything that belongs to my Xiang Clan!"

Xiang Shaoyun spoke resolutely, his eyes filled with confidence.

"I have full confidence in you, young master. With your talent, that will definitely happen!" the old drunkard agreed.

In the span of only two months, Xiang Shaoyun had reached fourth-stage Astral Realm from third-stage Basic Realm. That was a speed worthy of the title "freak". The old drunkard was clear this young master of his was no less talented than the sect master. Perhaps the young master's talent even surpassed the sect master's.

"By the way, since you have been around, were you the one who had killed off those pursuers before?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Yes. I couldn't sit around when I saw you in danger," the old drunkard replied.

"Um. Stop following me around anymore. I will be able to protect myself for now. I need you to do something else for me instead," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"But what if they find you?" the old drunkard asked with a frown.

"It will be at least another year before their search reaches here. You don't have to worry about me," Xiang Shaoyun said. He then added, "I need you to go protect my sister. Keep her safe."

"The little princess is well protected by the 13 eagles and a powerful master. Nobody will dare to harm her," said the old drunkard with reverence.

"Even so, that girl has a bad temper. If she decides to do something stupid, it will put her in danger, and it will be too late for us to go look for her then. Old drunkard, you must protect her from the shadows. Also, try to find out how many of my scattered brothers are still alive. I will personally return in the future for my revenge," Xiang Shaoyun gave out one command after another.