

Overlord 631

Chapter 631: Goldmen Guest

Tang Longfei wasn't originally invited by the goldmen, but when Xiang Shaoyun turned his head back and called out to him, he followed. And since Edoli did not say anything about that, the other goldmen kept silent as well. Just like that, the group entered the goldmen's territory.

The goldmen's headquarters was located somewhere opposite the human territory. There, numerous massive buildings constructed with gold stones dotted the landscape. The architecture was crude, yet it had a unique flavor of a different culture to it.

A large number of goldmen resided there. As they looked almost the same as humans, it was easy to determine their genders, as the only differences between them and humans were skin color and height.

Everyone was wearing the same thing: golden battle armor. That was because they were born with the armor on them, and the armor was both a defensive item and an item with inconceivable powers.

Their weaponry was more varied, but all the weapons were forged from goldsteel stones. The goldmen revealed unfriendly expressions when they saw Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei.

Although a large-scale war had not happened between the goldmen and the academy, there were still many grudges between the two. More importantly, the academy had occupied a large part of the goldmen's original territory. Therefore, none of them had a good opinion toward humans.

If Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei had intruded upon this place by themselves, they would have likely gotten themselves killed. Fortunately, they were here with Edoli, saving them from any sort of trouble.

Edoli brought Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei straight to a massive building built from gold stone. The building was shiny and dazzling, with odd symbols carved on the walls. Golden pearls acted as the building's light source, and a massive jade chair stood facing the entrance. The entire building was crude yet luxurious.

"This is my imperial residence. Take a seat," said Edoli as he sat down on the jade chair before having the servants serve his guests some fruits.

Even the fruits they served were gold and shiny. Each fruit was the size of a watermelon, exuding an intoxicating fragrance that made it clear they were no regular fruits. These were actually primegold fruits, and they were king medicines.

For Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei, the fruits were amazing for increasing their strength. The mere sight of the fruits caused Tang Longfei to start salivating. But since Xiang Shaoyun had not taken any of the fruits, he was too embarrassed to start eating first.

"Go ahead and enjoy the fruits. Make yourself at home," said Edoli.

With the invitation, Xiang Shaoyun picked up one of the fruits and started eating it one large bite at a time. Tang Longfei did the same. Xiang Shaoyun was aware that when facing a goldman, one ought to be sincere and straightforward instead of being all jumpy and hesitant, which would be viewed as disrespectful.

He had learned that from the books he had read in the Book Pavilion. One could never have too much knowledge. One shouldn't look down on those books just because they weren't battle techniques or cultivation methods. They had taught him a lot of things that others might not know. When Edoli saw the straightforward manner in which Xiang Shaoyun was behaving, he laughed cheerily.

After eating the fruit, Xiang Shaoyun could feel an energy of high purity coursing through his body. The energy filled his gold star, cramming it full. His star could no longer take in more energy, so he guided the excess energy from the fruit to his astral cosmos sea.

Xiang Shaoyun could feel that not only had his cultivation base grown, but his flesh had also grown considerably as well. It was a pity the primegold fruits were only king grade. If they were emperor-grade fruits, they would have an even more amazing effect.

After eating, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Thank you for the meal, Prince Edoli. From now onward, you are my friend! We humans place particular importance on return gifts. Since you have gifted me these primegold fruits, let me give you a gold lotus in return!"

As he said that, Xiang Shaoyun took out a gold lotus and handed it over. Edoli's eyes lit up when he saw the lotus. The goldmen barely had any chance to leave the independent space. Thus, it was very hard for them to get the resources of the outside world. This gold lotus was one of the plants with an elemental affinity matching theirs that they greatly desired.

"Savior, your gift is much more precious than what I have given you," said Edoli in excitement.

"The gift does not matter; it's the gesture. For you to invite me here, you are already showing me a lot of respect," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Edoli stood up and solemnly said, "That is a fine saying. Savior, from now on, you are the respected guest of the goldmen."

Xiang Shaoyun's generosity had earned the respect of this prince.

With a smile, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "I am honored. If you don't mind, you don't have to keep calling me savior, Prince. That's too polite. You should just call me Xiang Shaoyun."

"Haha, sure, sure, I won't be overly courteous anymore, then," said Edoli. "Let me get someone to show you around. I need to further recover from my injuries. I will throw a feast for you tonight!"

He then called a female servant over to take Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei on a stroll around their territory.

Tang Longfei whispered, "Shaoyun, will it be dangerous for us to walk around here so openly?"

"Don't worry," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Also, pay attention and see if there is anything you want here. If there is, you can consider trading with the goldmen. You might be pleasantly surprised."

At the goldmen's territory, there were numerous trade districts. Although the stalls and shops looked crude, a lot of gold elemental items were sold, with many of them high-level items. As a gold cultivator, Tang Longfei's eyes lit up when he saw them.

"That's a golden banana leaf, a great material to forge a golden fan!"

"That's an excellent-quality goldsteel stone! Look at the size of it! It's big enough to forge about 10 weapons."

"Wow, that's a primegold fruit at the emperor grade! It's so big!"

...

Tang Longfei felt like he had arrived at a paradise of gold. Everything here seemed capable of benefiting him. He wished he could have all of it for himself.

"If you are interested, you may trade for them with items of equivalent value. Our race requires some rare items of you humans. If you have anything we are in need of, the trade will be even easier," said their guide.

"I see. Let me take a look at what I have in stock," said Tang Longfei.

While he was rummaging through his storage ring, Xiang Shaoyun took out a bottle of golden liquid and said, "Are you interested in this gold lunar liquid?"

The moment he spoke, numerous gazes concentrated on him, causing him to feel uneasy.

Chapter 632: The Significance of the Gold Lunar Liquid

The gold lunar liquid was something Xiang Shaoyun had obtained at the same place he had found the white tiger's inheritance. He possessed a considerable amount of the liquid, and he also knew that the liquid was a rare treasure for any gold cultivator.

However, when he read about the actual usage of the liquid at the Book Pavilion, he was greatly surprised. He had not expected that apart from increasing one's cultivation, the gold lunar liquid was also capable of improving one's physique and enhancing one's bloodline power.

If a newborn infant was fed the liquid, the baby could very well obtain a Goldstar Physique. The gold lunar liquid was in fact a top-tier sovereign-grade liquid, one that was very close to reaching the saint grade.

However, he did not consume the liquid blindly and instead decided to wait until he reached the peak of the Emperor Realm before doing so. That way, he would be able to maximize the liquid's efficacy. Now, he had revealed the liquid to see if the goldmen were interested in it. Their burning gazes told him that the goldmen wanted it more than he had imagined.

"Honorable human, I am willing to trade 500 catties of the best goldsteel stone for that bottle of liquid in your hand," said one of the goldmen.

Immediately after, a different goldman spoke hastily, "I am willing to trade 10 gold banana leaves for your bottle of liquid!"

"You guys are too cheap. I am willing to trade my vicious steel mist pearl for your liquid!" said a sturdy goldman.

"Vicious steel mist pearl? Ewula, you actually managed to find a treasure like that?" a different goldman exclaimed in astonishment.

The vicious steel mist pearl was a treasure that formed after spending many years at a place with extremely dense vicious steel mist. To the side, Tang Longfei was salivating listening about the treasure. For him, the vicious steel mist pearl would be the best treasure for continuous breakthroughs. It could also bring his combat prowess to a brand new height. However, he was even more confused by the bottle Xiang Shaoyun was holding. What treasure was it for the goldmen to be willing to pay such a high price to obtain?

"Ok! I'll take your deal!" said Xiang Shaoyun without any hesitation when he heard Ewula's offer.

Ewula said, "Wait here for me. I'll go get the pearl."

He then left for his house. He walked with wide steps, stomping on the ground so hard the ground shook, his excitement clear for all to see. The vicious steel mist pearl was a valuable treasure for any goldman, but it wasn't exactly something unimaginably valuable.

After all, the goldmen were born with a natural Gold Physique. With their ability to directly consume gold stones, vicious mist, and so on, they could naturally form vicious gold energy within their body. A vicious steel mist pearl could only increase the strength of a goldman, unlike the gold lunar liquid, which could improve their physique and bloodline.

That was why the gold lunar liquid attracted them so much. At this time, not even the guide in charge of showing around Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei could keep calm anymore. She said, "Honorable guest, your gold lunar liquid will also be very useful for the prince. May I ask if you have more?"

Her face was filled with expectation; she was evidently hoping to receive an affirmative answer.

"Yes, honorable guest. Do you have more? I am willing to trade half of everything I have for the liquid," offered a goldman.

The other goldmen were similarly getting worked up, all of them asking Xiang Shaoyun the same question.

Xiang Shaoyun shrugged and smiled. "I really don't have a lot. I'll need to discuss it further with the prince later."

At this time, Ewula returned with the vicious steel mist pearl in hand. The pearl exuded a thick vicious gold energy of extremely high purity. Tang Longfei had the urge to snatch the pearl immediately. Of course, he did not act on his impulse.

"Here, this is the vicious steel mist pearl!" said Ewula.

When Xiang Shaoyun laid his eyes on the pearl, he trembled. The pearl was something not even the Bloodsin City had in stock, yet it could be found in the goldmen territory. The mere thought of having one right before him filled him with excitement. He quickly handed over the gold lunar liquid before putting the vicious steel mist pearl away.

"Thank you, honorable guest!" said Ewula before he left impatiently for his house. He couldn't wait to consume the liquid and enhance his bloodline.

Xiang Shaoyun did not take out more gold lunar liquid. Instead, he took out some other random treasures to trade with the goldmen. They were the treasures he had accumulated over the years of killing his enemies, and it was quite a decent collection. There would definitely be some that could catch the eyes of the goldmen.

Tang Longfei no longer hesitated and took out everything he had as well so he could trade for the things he needed. After a while, the trading concluded, and everyone dispersed in satisfaction.

Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei returned to Edoli's palace once again. Edoli reappeared, and he looked much better this time. It was clear he had recovered nicely.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you actually have gold lunar liquid on you? Why didn't you tell me? I could have traded for the liquid!" said Edoli with a longing look.

"Hehe, I had no idea the liquid was so important for your race," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"It is more than important! It can recover our bloodline, and if we can further purify our bloodline after using the gold lunar liquid, we can even transform into true gold giants!" said Edoli seriously. "Do you have more? I am willing to trade for it with more treasures!"

"I do have some more, but I wonder what the prince has to trade? We might be friends, but I can't really give it away for free. Am I right?" said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Of course. Even if you want to give it for free, I won't dare to accept such a gift," said Edoli. He clapped his hands, and the servants came in with some treasures. The first treasure was a dazzling item exuding gold energy of high purity.

It was actually a saint gold crystal, one that was even larger than the saint crystal Money had taken from the Purple Lightning Pool.

"This is a saint gold crystal, something even a human Saint would want. What do you think?" Edoli asked.

"This is indeed a good treasure. I wonder...what are the other two items?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a big smile on his face.

Soon, the second and third treasures were shown as well. The second treasure was actually a gold tree sapling that was about as big as an arm. Its trunk and leaves constantly radiated a fascinating luster.

As for the third treasure...

Chapter 633: Gold Tree Sapling and Broken Stele

Gold tree sapling! Gold trees were extremely rare and valuable. Even in this independent space, only one mother tree existed, and it was under the goldmen's control. The mother tree was the foundation of all the goldmen here, and they would never allow it to be taken away from them.

In the past, an academy elder had once tried to snatch the tree from them. Ultimately, an ancient goldman who had been alive for an untold number of years appeared, killing the elder right where he stood. Since then, the humans stopped trying to get the mother tree.

The mother tree, further discouraging the humans from additional attempts, had developed its own intelligence and gained the capacity to protect itself, making it extremely hard to steal.

Edoli's sincerity was obvious from the fact that he had offered even a gold tree sapling for trade. Xiang Shaoyun had repeatedly gulped since the moment he had laid eyes on the sapling. If he could obtain the sapling and grow it, it would mature into a tree capable of producing many primegold fruits.

Of course, a long period of time would be required to make it bear fruit. As for the third treasure, it puzzled Xiang Shaoyun. It was actually a broken stele that seemed extremely ancient. It looked completely unremarkable, with its completely black surface, and seemed extremely shabby next to the first two dazzling treasures. But since the stele was something Edoli had taken out, there was definitely something more to it.

"You should know the worth of a gold tree sapling, but growing it won't be easy. It can only survive in a land rich with the power of gold," said Edoli as he pointed at the sapling. He then pointed at the broken stele and said, "This stele is something my clan has owned since ancient times. I heard it was what you humans call a Battle Techniques Stele, one that has been kept with us all this while. We haven't been able to put it to any use, so I'm showing it to you. Perhaps you will find it useful."

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and stepped forth to study the three treasures. He was having a hard time remaining calm. The saint gold crystal was temporarily useless for him since his gold star was already full. Of course, it was still equivalent to a massive amount of wealth and would help him in his endeavor to advance into the Heaven Battling Realm.

As for the gold tree sapling, it was something any organization would wish to have. Such a tree could enhance the strength and wealth of an entire organization. Of course, for a sapling to grow, thousands of years were required. Furthermore, the sapling had harsh growth requirements, and that was the sapling's biggest issue.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun was unwilling to give up on it. He believed his astral cosmos sea would meet the sapling's requirements and be sufficient for its growth. As for the broken stele, he needed to further study it before coming to a decision.

When he approached the stele and scanned it attentively, he found numerous ancient human words. With great difficulty, he started reading the contents and found them somewhat familiar. After he read through the words, his pupils constricted, and a look of disbelief appeared on his face.

Th-this is the mysterious ancient mantra! Shock overwhelmed Xiang Shaoyun.

The words written on the stele were actually the ancient mantra he had learned from the gravekeeper elder. Although some of the words had blurred, he could still glean from the other visible words that it was the mysterious ancient mantra.

Xiang Shaoyun took a deep breath before looking at Edoli. "Prince, I can see your sincerity from all three treasures you have taken out, but I wish to have all three. I wonder if that is possible?"

"Xiang Shaoyun, the three are all extraordinary treasures. You sure you want all of them?" Edoli asked.

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun said as he took out a bottle containing gold lunar liquid.

The amount of gold lunar liquid in the bottle was more than 10 times greater than what he had traded to Ewula. It was obvious Xiang Shaoyun was well prepared for this trade. In truth, even if Edoli hadn't shown such precious treasures, he would still reveal the gold lunar liquid he had to strengthen his friendship with the goldmen.

Edoli stood up in excitement. "So much gold lunar liquid!"

"Prince, do you think what I have here is enough?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Of course! Of course! They're all yours!" said Edoli without even bothering to bargain.

For others, the three treasures were much more valuable than the gold lunar liquid. But for the goldmen here, although the three treasures were precious, they were incomparable to the gold lunar liquid. To enhance their bloodline, everything was worth it. That was because an improvement of their bloodline would grant them a longer lifespan and much more room to grow. It was an advantage the other treasures couldn't grant.

After handing over the gold lunar liquid, Xiang Shaoyun joyfully stowed away the three treasures.

"Haha, meeting you is a truly joyful event! Tonight, I will throw you a feast!" said Edoli, roaring with laughter.

"It will be my honor to join your feast," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Right, in the future, if you have any other treasures, feel free to consider trading with us. We are willing to put up anything we have for trade," said Edoli.

"I don't really know what you guys need. Why don't you give me a list? If I happen to get any of them, I'll come to trade. That will make things easier," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sure, I'll get someone to prepare a list and a generous gift for you! That will be my way of thanking you for saving me, so you can't reject the gift!" said Edoli.

Just like that, Xiang Shaoyun obtained the friendship of the goldmen and a bunch of rare gold elemental materials. Tang Longfei felt himself going dizzy from staring at so many treasures. He was a gold cultivator. Every single thing he saw could greatly benefit his cultivation. Furthermore, there were also a lot of sovereign-grade materials, enough to supply his cultivation all the way until the Soul Foundation Realm.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was filled with joy. He had never expected that his trip to the Vicious Steel Mist would be so bountiful. This was an unexpected but pleasant surprise. He stowed away all the gifts. When facing a goldman, one did not need to be overly courteous, or they would think you were a hypocritical person.

Later at night, Edoli called over a number of goldmen to make the feast more lively. This was also his way of formally introducing Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei to his clansmen. In the future, the two would be warmly welcomed and not attacked when they came to cultivate.

Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei were overjoyed. They even took out some of their precious liquors and shared them with the goldmen. The feast bustled with noise, joy, and excitement.

Chapter 634: Desolation

Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei were in no rush to leave the goldmen's territory. Edoli arranged a residence for them, and that residence would also serve as their VIP lodging from then on. In the future, they could visit as they pleased.

On top of that, two female goldmen were assigned to them. The two quickly rejected the assignment in shock. How would it feel like to sleep with an alien about double one's height? Well, the two believed that it would be too much for them.

More importantly, the difference between the two races was too big. They really couldn't bring themselves to accept the two female goldmen. Fortunately, Edoli did not force it, which relieved them.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei became temporary residents at the goldmen's place. For Xiang Shaoyun, he had already stored enough gold energy in his star, so he didn't really need to stay. But he needed to spend some time studying the broken stele he had just obtained.

As for Tang Longfei, he needed to use the resources he had just received to charge into the second stage of the Dragon Ascension Realm. Before he could get started, Xiang Shaoyun called out to him and handed over the vicious steel mist pearl. "Take this. Do well in your advancement!"

Tang Longfei was stunned. He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be so generous that he would give even the vicious steel mist pearl to him.

"Shaoyun, this is too valuable. I can't accept it. You need it for yourself as well!" rejected Tang Longfei without any hesitation.

If Xiang Shaoyun wasn't also a gold cultivator, Tang Longfei might have accepted the gift. But since Xiang Shaoyun cultivated nine powers, each power would help him, including the power contained within the pearl.

Xiang Shaoyun said seriously, "It is true this vicious steel mist pearl is somewhat useful for me, but it isn't as much as you think. In any case, the Overlord Legion is still growing, and it requires a higher leveled Dragon Ascension Realm expert to back up the legion. Although I am the overlord, without strong helpers, the legion won't be able to recruit too many people anyway. Big Brother Tang, you are the one I trust most. Your growth will only benefit our Overlord Legion."

When Tang Longfei saw that Xiang Shaoyun was speaking sincerely, he accepted the pearl and said solemnly, "Ok, brother. I will repay this favor even at the cost of my life!"

"You don't have to be so serious about it. Our fathers are brothers, and we are brothers as well. Let's grow strong enough so nobody can bully us anymore, and that will be enough," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Tang Longfei nodded and went into seclusion with the vicious steel mist pearl.

Inwardly, he thought, From now onward, I will be Shaoyun's sharp blade!

With Tang Longfei gone, Xiang Shaoyun started going over the three treasures he had just received. The saint gold crystal was the easiest to make an arrangement for. He simply stored it with the saint lightning crystal, planning to wait until the time came when he needed it. As for the gold tree sapling, he needed to plant it in excellent soil in an environment with sufficient gold energy so it could grow.

Xiang Shaoyun had also obtained a large number of goldsteel stones from Edoli. Naturally, the goldsteel stones would serve as the soil the sapling needed. He then planted the sapling in his astral cosmos sea to observe whether the nine-colored fog could nourish it.

Soon, he found that the sapling underwent some minute changes. It started brimming with vitality, signifying that it had adapted to its new living environment.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled with joy as he muttered, "The nine-colored fog is indeed a power filled with life and destruction. The fact that the gold tree sapling can grow in an environment with only the nine-colored fog is proof of that."

He then moved the sapling beside the pool of gold lunar liquid. There were two more vicious tiger gold lotuses there. These vicious tiger gold lotuses were not the same as the gold lotus Xiang Shaoyun had given Edoli. They were much more valuable.

Initially, he only had one vicious tiger gold lotus planted in his astral cosmos sea. But with the inclusion of the nine-colored fog, an additional lotus sprouted. It seemed to be growing nicely, and in a few years, it would mature.

Planted beside the gold lunar liquid pool, the sapling brimmed with even more vitality as it quickly extended its roots to the pool and started absorbing the energy contained within the pool.

The sapling then started growing at a visible pace, and the gold lunar liquid in the pool started reducing at a slow speed. The sight stunned Xiang Shaoyun. He had not expected the sapling to be so smart that it could quickly find what it needed, or even devour it at such a speed. If he allowed the tree to continue, it was only a matter of time before he ran out of gold lunar liquid.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was considering moving the sapling away, he found that the amount of gold lunar liquid stopped reducing. As for the sapling, it looked like a completely different tree. It seemed to be full and no longer needed any gold lunar liquid for now.

"Looks like I need to think of a way to increase the supply of gold lunar liquid in the future, or I won't be able to feed this young master," said Xiang Shaoyun helplessly.

He then ignored the sapling. After all, upon maturity, the tree would provide him with a steady supply of fruits comparable to the gold lunar liquid in value.

Finally, he focused on the broken stele. Once again, he scrutinized the words on it.

He memorized everything on the stele before comparing them with the mantra he had learned from the gravekeeper elder. He found that there were some differences between the two. The version he had learned from the gravekeeper elder seemed incomplete, while the version on the stele seemed more detailed. As for the missing parts on the stele, he could fill them in with the gravekeeper elder's version.

Ultimately, he managed to restore 90 percent of the contents on the stele. At the same time, he also noticed that at the very top of the stele, the word "Desolate" was carved. He did not know if it was someone's name or if it was the name of the mantra. But for now, he decided to tentatively name the mantra "Desolation".

Unfortunately, even the stele's inscription was incomplete. The subsequent parts of the mantra were missing. Perhaps he could only get the complete version if he could find the missing parts of the stele. After memorizing the new Desolation mantra once again, he left the residence.

He did not leave the Vicious Steel Mist. Instead, he went to the top of a certain mountain. The peak was filled with a thick vicious steel mist and was a perfect location for cultivating. The mist there was filled with sharp energy that could instantly leave wounds all over the body of a regular person who dared to approach.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he completely ignored the energy and sat down cross-legged, starting his session of comprehending the profundity of gold. At the same time, he chanted the Desolation mantra, sensing the power of gold in accordance to the mantra, and slowly blended into the mist.

Chapter 635: You Dare Lay Hands on My Woman?

Since obtaining the white tiger soul's power in the past, Xiang Shaoyun had gotten access to vicious gold energy and was basically immune to the regular variations of vicious energy. With his recent seclusion and his absorbing energy from the vicious mist in the independent space, his vicious gold energy had grown. Now, located amid such thick vicious mist, he could freely study and comprehend what he wanted to.

The power of gold signified absolute sharpness, and the saying "no stronghold is unbreakable" was the best way of describing the essence of the power of gold. It was sharp, violent, tough, and noble. These were its clear characteristics. The vicious mist in the independent space shared all these characteristics, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to slowly immerse himself with them. Of course, it wouldn't be that easy to understand the profundity of the power of gold.

First, Xiang Shaoyun put away all other energies in his body and completely screened them using his gold star's energy. He then adjusted the flow of his gold energy, moving his energy in accordance with the energy within the mist as if he had become one with the mist. He sensed every variation within the mist's power of gold.

This cultivation session lasted seven days. He seemed to be completely immersed in his cultivation and couldn't pull away from it. In his brain, the Desolation mantra repeatedly rang, like the ancient bell of a monastery. Slowly, his comprehension grew deeper and deeper.

Abruptly, the mist converged around him, turning into an incredibly impressive, golden tornado. If someone else saw it, they would definitely believe a natural disaster was happening.

Xiang Shaoyun stood up, and as he spread his arms, a large amount of vicious mist vanished from the air around him.

The profundities of earth and gold are completely different, but whichever power I try to comprehend, I need to first immerse myself and experience the power's characteristics before I can exert my control over it and use it as I wish. That is the so-called profundity of elements. It seems simple, but one would only realize how difficult it is when actually attempting it, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

After a bit, he muttered, "The Desolation mantra details that the heaven and earth, the five elements, the yin and yang, and the numerous great daos are part of an all-embracing great dao. The mantra's role is to enlighten one on the comprehension of power, and it is also the reason why I can comprehend the profundity of gold."

The power of earth allowed one to borrow unendingly from the earth below and fight on forever without running out of strength. As for the power of gold, it allowed one to unleash a might capable of crushing everything, making one's attack sharper and harder to block.

With his comprehension of the profundities of both powers, Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess benefited greatly. Done with comprehending the power of gold, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to stay. He prepared to leave, but he did not forget to pay Prince Edoli a visit. Unfortunately, he was informed that the prince was in a secluded cultivation session and would not be able to receive any visitors.

Of course, the prince had also told the servants to pass on his sincerest greetings upon Xiang Shaoyun's return. He had even assigned some of them to personally escort Xiang Shaoyun back to the academy's side of the space.

As for Tang Longfei, he was similarly in a secluded cultivation session. He would probably take some time digesting the energy within the vicious steel mist pearl. Thus, instead of bothering him, Xiang Shaoyun left by himself.

After arriving at the border of the two territories, he sent the goldmen escorting him back before continuing on ahead. Prior to this, he had beaten up some people from the Flaming Sun. He wondered if they would do anything about it.

After leaving the Vicious Steel Mist entirely, he did not head into the next cultivation zone. Rather, he returned to his villa. As the leader of the Overlord Legion, he couldn't be missing all the time. A lack of leadership would only result in the departure of his members. When he arrived, he found that a large number of people had gathered at his villa.

Xiang Shaoyun's heart sank, as their gathering gave him a bad feeling. He quickly dashed into the villa and found Shang Jifeng, Zhuge Zhantian, Ma Qihao, and Li Haonan gathered in discussion.

They were overjoyed to see Xiang Shaoyun appear, and they quickly saluted him, "Greetings, Overlord."

"What happened?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Overlord, you're back in time. The Di Alliance sent something here. Take a look," said Zhuge Zhantian as he handed Xiang Shaoyun a letter.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the letter and opened the envelope. When he saw the contents of the letter, he furrowed his brows tightly. A clump of flame lit up from his hands as he burned the letter to ash.

"What nerves! He dares to lay hands on my woman?" Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth in anger.

The letter basically detailed how Lady Shura had been captured. If Xiang Shaoyun did not show himself at the appointed location at an appointed time, Lady Shura would suffer. Of course, the Di Alliance did not admit to being the kidnapper in the letter. Rather, they claimed to have obtained news about her kidnapping through coincidence and were kindly informing Xiang Shaoyun about it.

The words weren't believable at all, but nobody could say otherwise, anyway. After all, there was no proof that the Di Alliance was the culprit. Furthermore, the kidnapping had not happened within academy grounds, so they couldn't even investigate through the academy's surveillance system.

"Overlord, the letter was sent two days ago. We were talking about looking for you, but good thing you're back now. You need to decide what to do about this," said Zhuge Zhantian.

"Overlord, this is most certainly a trap. If you go, you will only face numerous ambushes," said Ma Qihao.

"But we can't ignore Lady Shura. Even if this is a trap, we still have to step on it," said Shang Jifeng.

After thinking about it for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun said, "You guys don't have to get involved. I'm their target."

"What are you saying, Overlord? With the establishment of the Overlord Legion, we are one. Since Lady Shura has encountered trouble, we will naturally help. If you have to do everything yourself, what is the point of establishing the Legion?" Zhuge Zhantian pointed out blatantly.

"That's right. What's the big deal about the Di Alliance? Let's go together. I doubt they can capture or kill all of us," said Ma Qihao, his battle intent surging.

Shang Jifeng and Li Haonan also made it known that they were willing to go as well. Xiang Shaoyun was touched to see them offering help. Only during moments of crisis like this would he know that they were worth recruiting in the first place.

However, he had a feeling it wouldn't be so simple. Otherwise, the Di Alliance wouldn't have bothered kidnapping Lady Shura to lure him out of the academy. Perhaps his display of power had caused the Di Clan to feel threatened, and they could no longer wait to eliminate him.

Chapter 636: I'm Right in Front of You

Xiang Shaoyun was gratified to see his companions supporting him, and he said, "Since everyone is of the same mind, let's make a plan. How should we rescue Lady Shura?"

He brought everyone to the main hall to discuss their rescue mission.

When everyone was seated, Xiang Shaoyun opened the topic, "All of you might not know this, but I am mortal enemies with the Di Alliance's Di Lin. He is most certainly aiming to kill me. It is likely that a large number of experts are hiding in ambush, including Soul Foundation Realm experts. That is one of the reasons I do not want you guys to participate. I wasn't looking down on you."

The others were stunned when they heard the truth. They had believed that this was merely a minor conflict between the two factions, but surprisingly, there was much more at play.

"If Sovereigns are taking part as well, this will be a big incident. We are decently strong, but all of us are too young. And since we can't borrow the strength of external forces, the rescue mission will be hard to complete," said Zhuge Zhantian.

"But the Di Alliance members are also academy disciples like us. How had they obtained help from external forces, then?" Ma Qihao asked in confusion.

Xiang Shaoyun answered, "They have long been prepared. Otherwise, they wouldn't have bothered doing it far away from the academy. Brothers, since you wish to help me, then go and beat the Di Alliance members up. Beat them so badly they can no longer stand straight. Meanwhile, I will focus on the rescue mission."

But at this time, Shang Jifeng smiled. "Overlord, you don't know this, but the Nisha Range is actually not that far from my Shang Clan's territory."

"Is that so?" Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed.

"Haha, I won't joke about things like this," said Shang Jifeng with a chortle. "We only have a few days left before the appointed time. If we rush over with a teleportation portal, we might be able to make it in time."

"Is your clan fine with this? This will have a far-ranging impact," asked Xiang Shaoyun, somewhat worried.

For a tier-7 organization, sending Sovereigns out on a mission was a big deal. Xiang Shaoyun could guess that a genius like Shang Jifeng definitely had a high status in his clan, but that did not guarantee help from his clan's Sovereigns.

"Don't worry. I still have some respect in the clan. Let's get going and not delay any further," said Shang Jifeng confidently.

Xiang Shaoyun replied gratefully, "Ok, I will remember this favor. Everyone, with Shang Jifeng's help, you guys don't have to come with me. Focus on growing stronger. A day will come when we eat up the entire Di Alliance!"

"Yes, Overlord. May you return in triumph," said the others.

Next, Xiang Shaoyun and Shang Jifeng went to the Missions Hall to accept a random mission. To leave the academy, they required a proper excuse, such as a mission. Based on Zhuge Zhantian's report, Lady Shura's mission was to kill the sin dragons at the Nisha Range for their bones.

The evil dragons were a species of demonic beast that had inherited a tiny bit of the evil dragons' bloodline. Like the flood dragons, they possessed incredible combat prowess, and their bones were excellent materials for weaponsmithing.

Despite their strength, the sin dragons did not generally stick together. Lady Shura's initial intention of accepting the mission was to complete it as her strength allowed. She had never expected to be targeted and kidnapped. Of course, nobody would expect something like that, so she wasn't to be blamed for it. Besides, the actual target in the scheme was Xiang Shaoyun, not her.

Xiang Shaoyun and Shang Jifeng first teleported to Dragon Phoenix City before teleporting directly to a city near the Nisha Range. There, the two split off. In fact, the moment they left the academy, they had been followed. Xiang Shaoyun noticed their tail, but he did not say anything about it and allowed the tail to continue following them.

The tail was merely a small fry of the Di Alliance, so dealing with him wouldn't mean anything. The real show would begin at the Nisha Range. As Xiang Shaoyun traveled, he thought, Di Lin and his men will definitely go all out to kill me this time. I wonder if there will be an inescapable trap waiting there. I really need to be careful this time.

He was no longer as confident. Since everyone knew about his puppet, they would definitely be prepared for it. At the very least, three Sovereigns would be involved in the plan, as they did not intend to let him leave.

But since Lady Shura was his woman, he had to save her. And to do that, he had to place his hopes on the help Shang Jifeng was seeking. Upon his arrival at the Nisha Range, Xiang Shaoyun vanished right before the eyes of his tail, causing the person tailing him to be flustered.

"How had he vanished right in front of my eyes? That is not possible!" muttered a shifty-eyed man indignantly.

He was a short man with an appearance that wasn't exactly pleasing, the kind of person whose company most people wouldn't enjoy. However, his scouting technique had caught Zhu Changchuang's eyes. Thus, he was accepted as a follower and was able to join the academy with that identity.

He was the person sent to monitor Xiang Shaoyun's whereabouts, yet he had failed at his task. His failure filled him with a sense of urgency. After all, they were currently in a spacious and flat land with few places to hide, yet Xiang Shaoyun had vanished into thin air. He had trouble believing his own eyes.

"Are you looking for me?" Xiang Shaoyun's ethereal voice rang out abruptly, frightening the person tailing him so much that the man started shaking.

The tail quickly scanned his surroundings and extended his senses, but still, he failed to locate Xiang Shaoyun. It filled him with confusion.

Is it an illusion? the man thought to himself.

Little did he know, Xiang Shaoyun was standing right in front of him. He was the one who couldn't see Xiang Shaoyun at all.

"You had followed me here from the academy. You are quite a good tail, I must admit," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Once again, the tail jumped. He stepped back and said, "W-where are you?"

"I'm right in front of you. Can't you see me?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered.

"No, that's not possible! Stop with your tricks and show yourself," said the tail as he hastily retreated.

Since he had been discovered, he couldn't stay any longer. Unfortunately for him, Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't let him go. Dashing forward, Xiang Shaoyun wrapped his fingers around the tail's throat. The tail felt his entire body turn cold as he sensed Xiang Shaoyun's frosty killing intent.

Bang!

Without the slightest hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun slammed the tail on the ground, creating a cloud of dust. Before the man could get off the ground, numerous incorporeal symbols plunged into his brain.

Chapter 637: Zhu Changchuang's Scheme

Diao Hao was the name of the person tailing Xiang Shaoyun. He was an excellent tail. Unfortunately for him, he had encountered Xiang Shaoyun. Whatever skill he had, it was completely useless.

After putting Diao Hao under his control with the Nether Dragon Soul Curse, Xiang Shaoyun made him confess everything. He learned that Zhu Changchuang was the person who had drawn the plan to kidnap Lady Shura. With Zhu Changchuang being the number one expert under Di Lin, it was clear that the kidnapping definitely had something to do with Di Lin.

Zhu Changchuang is only in charge of kidnapping Lady Shura. The Di Clan's lackeys are probably the actual ones in charge of killing me, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

After thinking about it for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun decided to play along with the scheme and use Diao Hao to inform Zhu Changchuang that Xiang Shaoyun was coming with a group of helpers and would arrive in about three days.

Of course, the so-called helpers referred to only the academy disciples with no outsiders involved. The reason for that was to keep Zhu Changchuang and his people settled so he could find a chance to sneak into the Nisha Range and rescue Lady Shura.

After telling Diao Hao to travel by himself, Xiang Shaoyun rushed toward the Nisha Range at top speed. He couldn't imagine how those people would treat Lady Shura with her in their hands.

If you dare harm even a hair on her, I will make sure all of you die a horrible death, Xiang Shaoyun inwardly vowed. While he traveled, he fed the ghostrunes the devil cores he had accumulated.

"Gui Qi, what is your rank right now?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Master, I am now a sixth-stage Emperor," answered Gui Qi.

"A sixth-stage ghostrune Emperor? That's fast progress, but it's still not fast enough," Xiang Shaoyun sighed.

In the past, Gui Qi was only a peak King. To reach his current level in only about three years could be considered a rapid improvement. Xiang Shaoyun was hoping that Gui Qi could have reached peak Emperor Realm by now. That way, he would be a threat to even Sovereigns. Perhaps they would even be able to assassinate a Sovereign or two. That way, rescuing Lady Shura by himself would be much easier.

Unfortunately, it seemed impossible to push Gui Qi to that level immediately despite his fast growth. More importantly, the ghostrunes' bloodline power wasn't too powerful. It hadn't been easy for them to reach this level. For Gui Qi to reach the Sovereign Realm, some time would still be required.

Even by feeding them a large number of high-level devil cores, it still wouldn't be possible to increase their strength rapidly within a short time frame. After all, just digesting the devil cores required time.

Xiang Shaoyun regretted not feeding the ghostrunes the devil cores earlier to push Gui Qi into the Sovereign Realm.

Traveling while thinking, Xiang Shaoyun finally arrived near the Nisha Range proper. Once again, he entered invisibility. He was sure there must be some people waiting for him to deliver himself to his death at the Nisha Range's entrance. Apart from the nether prison devil puppet, he really had no way of dealing with a Sovereign for now. Rescuing Lady Shura wouldn't be an easy feat.

Nisha Range was an ancient mountain range that was still comparable to the Hundred Beast Mountain Range Xiang Shaoyun had seen before, even though it wasn't as massive as the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range.

Numerous ancient trees dotted the mountains, making it hard to see the happenings in the mountain range. At a certain mountain near the range's fringe, Lady Shura was tied to a big tree. Her mask had been taken off, yet the face she showed was incredibly ugly.

Thus, regardless of her alluring figure, the men lost all interest in her. This was a face she got using a human face mask before leaving the academy. Her caution had paid off, as it had now saved her from humiliation.

Zhu Changchuang wasn't standing guard. Instead, there were two Emperors, and they were no pushovers. One was a peak Emperor, while the other was a ninth-stage Emperor. However, they weren't the actual guards. The true guards were hidden nearby, lying in wait.

As for Zhu Changchuang, he was staying with the two old men in charge of dealing with Xiang Shaoyun. At this time, he received a letter from a flying mouse messenger. With the mouse in hand, he read the letter before saying to the two old men, "Xiang Shaoyun is on the way and will be here in about three days."

The two did not even bother opening their eyes. One of them answered, "Ok. You may also return after this is dealt with."

Zhu Changchuang answered obediently, "Yes."

The two old men were the same ones who had once hunted Duo Ji, the two known as Winter Frost and Summer Flame. After all this time, their cultivation level had grown stronger.

The Ziling Sect's determination to end Xiang Shaoyun could be seen just from the fact that they had sent over two late-stage Sovereigns. Since Zhu Changchuang did not want to continue staying with the two old men, he headed toward Lady Shura.

"Brothers, can you allow me to have a chat with that woman? Xiang Shaoyun will only be here after three days. You guys don't have to keep standing guard here all the time," Zhu Changchuang said to the two Emperors watching over Lady Shura.

The ninth-stage Emperor smiled. "What? Are you interested in a woman like that? Your taste is quite unique, heh?"

Zhu Changchuang laughed awkwardly and said, "This place is insanely boring. It feels terrible to not have a way of venting myself. Brothers, please allow me this. I believe the two elders won't mind either."

"Haha, everything is fine so long as the two elders are agreeable. Come, let's go take a piss," said the ninth-stage Emperor with a chortle before leading his companion away.

That left only Zhu Changchuang and Lady Shura there. With a lusty look, Zhu Changchuang approached Lady Shura and smiled. "You think you can fool me with a human face mask? You're probably quite a beauty underneath that mask, right? How can you be Xiang Shaoyun's woman otherwise?"

Some emotions finally appeared in Lady Shura's eyes.

Zhu Changchuang gently caressed Lady Shura's face and smiled. "Before Xiang Shaoyun comes to save you, let me have some fun. He's dead for sure anyway. If you can satisfy me, I might let you live."

He then reached for Lady Shura's bosom.

Chapter 638: How Generous

Zhu Changchuang was rather good at observing people, and he had always suspected that the face Lady Shura was showing was a fake one. Through several days of observation, he was now sure that her current face was fake. That was how he came to the decision of having some fun with her before Xiang Shaoyun's arrival. He reasoned that both Xiang Shaoyun and Lady Shura wouldn't survive, so he might as well enjoy himself first. After all, Lady Shura's figure was truly too alluring. If it wasn't for the fake ugly face she had, he would have taken her much sooner.

Lady Shura shut her eyes helplessly, her heart filled with despair. She had left the academy alone to prove that she was capable of achieving something with her own two hands. She was trying to increase her strength with her own efforts to reduce the gap between her and Xiang Shaoyun.

But instead, she was captured. It made her feel extremely powerless. She thought of Xiang Shaoyun, wondering if she would have the courage to face him after being dishonored by a different man. Just as Zhu Changchuang's hand was about to reach her, something else suddenly happened.

The peak Emperor had suddenly returned, sending a palm thrust toward the back of Zhu Changchuang's head. Zhu Changchuang had a reaction time that lived up to his reputation as a genius capable of entering the Dragon Phoenix Academy. He crouched down instantly and barely avoided the peak Emperor's fatal attack. However, the peak Emperor did not stop at that, and he pressed on with a kick.

"AHHH!"

Zhu Changchuang was sent flying far away like a kite with a broken string. Both Winter Frost and Summer Flame noticed the disturbance. They rushed over and shouted at the peak Emperor, "What the hell are you doing?"

"Elders, he was trying to harm the hostage. I was trying to stop him," said the peak Emperor.

"What's the big deal about that? You were attacking to kill! How are you going to answer to the ninth young master about this?" questioned Winter Frost with a frown.

"I had attacked in consideration of the ninth young master. If he decides to punish me for it, I'll accept it," answered the peak Emperor.

"Watch over the girl properly, then. I'll go check on that kid to see if he's dead," said Summer Flame as he dashed toward Zhu Changchuang.

At this time, the early ninth-stage Emperor returned as well. He had not expected that in the short time they had split, his partner would return and nearly kill Zhu Changchuang. Of course, he did not dare to question his partner. They were all sent here by the Di Clan, and he was the weakest of the lot. It was not his place to question anyone.

However, the incident still filled him with doubt. Earlier, his partner had not bothered stopping Zhu Changchuang. So why would he suddenly return and attack? Zhu Changchuang was still alive, at his final breath, and was successfully rescued by Summer Flame. The Emperor's attack was something Zhu Changchuang had not seen coming, and he couldn't even understand the reason no matter how hard he thought about it.

Xiang Shaoyun, who was hiding not far from them, had also learned about what had happened. In truth, the peak Emperor was one of the people who had attacked Xiang Shaoyun at the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. He was Yu Lin, and he had already fallen under Xiang Shaoyun's control during the attack. Xiang Shaoyun had only discovered that Yu Lin was also here when he had arrived. Through the Nether Dragon Soul Headband, he started controlling Yu Lin.

How generous of them to send Winter Frost and Summer Flame to deal with me, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

The two old men were Di Batian's loyal followers. They were considerably powerful, and only an old expert at the level of Duo Ji could be a match for them. Even with the nether prison devil puppet, he would have a hard time dealing with just one of them, not to mention both of them. Although he could ambush them with his invisibility, actually killing them was a pipe dream. He might even cause Lady Shura's death if he tried anything stupid. His only option was to wait for Shang Jifeng's reinforcements.

...

The Shang Clan was a well-known and influential clan within the Eastern Pass. Although they weren't as prestigious as the Yu Clan, they were stronger than tier-7 organizations because the clan was a tier-8 organization. Shang Jifeng was the most outstanding Shang Clan member of his generation. Thus, he was greatly loved by his clan.

More importantly, he also hailed from the main family line, giving him an even higher status. After returning, the first thing Shang Jifeng did was look for his father for reinforcements.

His father, Shang Yuanlan, had not expected to see his son. When he heard about the request for reinforcements, he asked, "What are you doing? You've only been in the academy for a bit more than a year, and you're already declaring wars with others?"

"Father, you misunderstand me. I got myself a boss at the academy. Now that my boss is in trouble at the Nisha Range, I need to help!" Shang Jifeng explained.

Shang Yuanlan had a look of disdain as he said, "It is completely normal for you academy disciples to encounter trouble when training outside. If you guys come back home for help at the first sign of trouble, what's the point of your training? You might as well abandon that kind of boss."

"If that's really what happened, I would never come for help. You see...," Shang Jifeng explained everything to his father.

"Oh. So his woman was captured, and he knows there's a trap there waiting for him, and he still walks right into it? What a moron," said Shang Yuanlan.

"Father, only someone with such loyalty to his people is worth helping!"

"Don't even dream about it. Someone like that will simply die under some trick sooner or later. You should leave him as soon as possible. I can't let him turn you into a moron like him!"

"Father, he holds a high-grade nine-star physique, the strongest physique in the academy. You sure you're not helping?" Shang Jifeng was getting nervous, to the point he even exposed Xiang Shaoyun's physique.

Sure enough, Shang Yuanlan narrowed his eyes. He blurted, "For real?"

"Why would I lie to you? Only someone with that physique can be my boss," said Shang Jifeng.

"I see. Then we have to help." Shang Yuanlan's attitude immediately took a complete change. "Do you know what kind of experts your enemies have sent this time?"

"A few Sovereigns, I suppose," guessed Shang Jifeng.

"A few Sovereigns? That is really over the top to deal with a young genius. I'll get Uncle Chen to pick a few people and have him go with you. If you manage to save him, remember to invite your boss to visit our place," said Shang Yuanlan.

"Thank you, Father. Will do," said Shang Jifeng joyfully. And thus, he successfully secured the reinforcements he required.

Chapter 639: Eager to Save

In the blink of an eye, two days passed. Xiang Shaoyun was getting impatient with waiting around. Through his senses, he confirmed that Yu Lin was being monitored. It was likely that Yu Lin had incurred suspicion. Zhu Changchuang had also recovered, and he had demanded that Yu Lin be killed. He even said that if nobody was willing to do that here, he would report it to Di Lin.

As someone on the Dragon Phoenix List, Zhu Changchuang was someone with extraordinary talent. A person like him would mature into a Heaven Battling Realm expert at the very least.

Thus, Winter Frost and Summer Flame could not afford to treat him like a regular junior. They wouldn't have allowed him free reign over Lady Shura otherwise. The only person acting weird was Yu Lin, the one who had created a fuss. In truth, Yu Lin wasn't at all important to them, but now was not the time to kill him.

"I will give you a satisfactory answer when this is over," promised Summer Flame to Zhu Changchuang.

"Thank you, Elder Summer. We can't spare him easily!" Zhu Changchuang said.

"It has been two days, and Xiang Shaoyun should be here already. Has he changed his mind after finding out that this is a trap?" Winter Frost was getting impatient.

"That kid is quite smart, so he must have guessed the truth. If he's not coming, what should we do?" Summer Flame asked.

"I don't think so. My subordinate told me that he is on his way," Zhu Changchuang said.

"Hmph. If you're in his position and know that this is a trap, will you still come and throw your life away?" Winter Frost snorted coldly.

An awkward look covered Zhu Changchuang's face as he asked, "What should we do, then? Why don't you let me deal with the girl? We have no other uses for her anyway."

"Lust is like a knife hanging above your head. Looks like you have yet to understand that," said Summer Flame in a displeased manner. "You can take the girl away, but make sure to kill her before the day ends."

"Thank you, Elder Summer. I will definitely do so," said Zhu Changchuang in joy.

Still harboring the same evil intentions, Zhu Changchuang rushed toward Lady Shura. These days, Lady Shura's strength was completely sealed. She was completely helpless and had no way of escaping.

"Come with me. Today is the day you die regardless of whether Xiang Shaoyun is coming or not," said Zhu Changchuang as he dragged Lady Shura away after freeing her from the ropes binding her. He even shot Yu Lin a provocative look, as if challenging him to do something about this.

Yu Lin wanted to help, but with the two Sovereigns around, there was nothing he could do. Xiang Shaoyun lost his patience, seeing Zhu Changchuang's actions.

Screw it! I must keep Lady Shura safe! Xiang Shaoyun decided as he summoned the nether prison devil puppet and sent it flying toward Lady Shura.

As for himself, he went invisible as he followed the puppet. The moment Xiang Shaoyun moved, Winter Frost and Summer Flame detected some changes in their surroundings. However, they had only sensed the puppet and had not discovered Xiang Shaoyun.

"Let me deal with the puppet," said Winter Frost as he shot toward the puppet. He palmed the air before him repeatedly, sending forth a wave of frost energy that froze up the puppet.

As for Summer Flame, he spoke to Zhu Changchuang through voice transmission, "Xiang Shaoyun is here. Do as you see fit."

Zhu Changchuang sneered, "It's even better that he's here. He will personally witness me humiliate his woman before he dies."

He then tore Lady Shura's clothes apart with a look of lust on his face.

Despairing, Lady Shura said, "Farewell, Shaoyun."

She was prepared to die. Just as she was about to bite her tongue and kill herself, Zhu Changchuang's wail rang out. On the arm he used to tear Lady Shura's clothes, a tiny silver snake had appeared, severing the arm with a single bite. With a whip of the snake's tail, Zhu Changchuang was sent flying. Summer Flame had been concentrating on Lady Shura, as he knew Xiang Shaoyun would come prepared.

Instantly, Summer Flame's power wrapped around Lady Shura and the snake as he shouted, "Little bastard, you think you can save them? How naive!"

He then slammed a palm at Lady Shura and Money. The palm was powerful enough to flatten a mountain. It was clear Summer Flame wasn't planning to spare them. It was at this moment that Yu Lin suddenly erupted with all his strength before charging Summer Flame. When a peak Emperor fought with his life on the line, he could still deal a considerable amount of damage.

With a frown, Summer Flame attacked Yu Lin with his other hand. At the moment of distraction, Xiang Shaoyun released his Nether Soul Domain and pulled both Lady Shura and Money in, making them disappear from where they were.

Bang!

As for Yu Lin, Summer Flame's attack crushed his entire body, and the Sovereign's other attack landed on the ground, blasting open a massive crater. Just the attack's shockwave almost shattered Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain. Fortunately, he had entered the Emperor Realm, allowing his filthless soul to reach the level of a Sovereign. That was how his Nether Soul Domain had barely survived.

Even so, the shockwave had hit him as well, making it harder for him to remain invisible. His talent of invisibility was powered by his bloodline and astral energy. The shockwave had damaged his Nether Soul Domain, causing his filthless soul to suffer and his talent of invisibility to weaken.

"Lady Shura, remove your willpower resistance and allow me to summon you in," said Xiang Shaoyun through voice transmission.

Lady Shura was moved that Xiang Shaoyun had really come for her. She did as told and found herself appearing in an indescribable space. She had no idea what place it was, but she knew it was Xiang Shaoyun's doing.

Money's voice rang out, "This is my boss's astral cosmos sea. Don't worry, sister-in-law."

"This is Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea? How did we even come in?" asked Lady Shura in confusion. She was not someone who knew nothing, and she had never heard of an astral cosmos sea capable of storing a living person.

"I don't know. You might need to ask my boss about it. Oh, the nine-colored fog here is very good for us. You can absorb some of it when you're free."

He then ignored Lady Shura and started absorbing the nine-colored fog around him. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun's invisibility was finally removed, fully revealing himself before his enemies.

Chapter 640: Seven-Layered Soul Foundation

Summer Flame was feeling extremely depressed. He had been focusing fully on Lady Shura and Zhu Changchuang as he knew the puppet's appearance also signified that Xiang Shaoyun was present. And he got that right.

What he did not expect was the appearance of a tiny snake that had injured Zhu Changchuang with one bite. In fact, he did notice the snake approaching. He had merely assumed that the snake was merely some wild snake demon from the forest. Surprisingly, the snake was part of the rescue team as well.

Furthermore, he had confidence that Zhu Changchuang would be able to notice the snake as a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. However, the snake had suddenly gone mad and moved at an inconceivable speed that had caught Zhu Changchuang by complete surprise.

By that time, it was too late for Summer Flame to save Zhu Changchuang. The only thing he could do was kill both the woman and the snake. But even that he had failed in doing.

Yu Lin's betrayal had delayed him, and by the time he killed Yu Lin and his other attack landed, Lady Shura and the snake had vanished. The fact that not even a drop of blood remained made it clear that the two had been rescued.

"Who is it?" Summer Flame soared to the sky and roared.

He spread his senses in all directions and found nothing as if his enemies had vanished into thin air. Unwilling to accept it, he kept scanning his surroundings and finally found something. Somewhere considerably far away, he sensed the existence of a human. He flew over and instantly arrived above Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, Xiang Shaoyun, you are indeed here! Just surrender!" said Summer Flame as he howled with laughter, forming an energy palm to grab Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun cursed, "How unlucky am I?"

Without any hesitation, he released his Nether Soul Domain once again.

Facing absolute superiority in strength, that was his final trump card. If not even the Nether Soul Domain could help him, there would no longer be any way out for him. The moment the Nether Soul Domain appeared, it surrounded and weakened Summer Flame's attack. Within the domain, numerous chains shot out and blasted the attack into pieces. However, Xiang Shaoyun could feel an intense explosion within his Nether Soul Domain, giving him a sensation that the domain was about to burst apart.

"Soul power? Has that kid reached the Soul Foundation Realm?" Summer Flame exclaimed in astonishment as he released his soul foundation.

Instantly, a sparkling and translucent soul foundation with seven layers appeared, exuding a powerful soul suppression that pressed down on Xiang Shaoyun.

With the appearance of his soul foundation, Summer Flame was finally able to sense what Xiang Shaoyun was doing. He cried out in alarm, "Isn't this the Imperial Nether Clan's Nether Soul Domain?"

Taking advantage of the momentary distraction, Xiang Shaoyun charged Summer Flame and expanded his Nether Soul Domain, attempting to envelop Summer Flame.

Summer Flame could see what Xiang Shaoyun was trying to do. He sneered, "I don't care how you got this Nether Soul Domain, but before absolute strength, everything you try is pointless. Crush!"

An exceedingly formidable soul power flowed out of his seven-layered soul foundation, to the point the soul power seemed to have solidified. The power crashed into Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain.

He was underestimating Xiang Shaoyun, as he was only using his soul foundation instead of his own strength to attack. Of course, he had the strength to back his arrogance. The Nether Soul Domain directly collapsed before it could even lock in its target, and Xiang Shaoyun felt a massive impact in his head, assaulting him with a dizzying pain that made him feel like his head was going to explode.

"Ghostrunes, come out." Unable to maintain the Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun was forced to reveal his final secret.

Instantly, 8,000 ghostrunes appeared. A massive amount of soul power transformed into an ocean of needles before shooting toward Summer Flame's soul foundation.

"Shit! Ghostrunes!" Summer Flame exclaimed in alarm.

He withdrew his soul foundation without any hesitation. The ghostrunes specialized in soul attacks, but Summer Flame wouldn't be so nervous if there were only one or two ghostrunes.

But there were thousands. If he let them hit his soul foundation, they would destroy it completely. In truth, he had been too nervous. If he had attacked with his full power when the ghostrunes had appeared, he could have eliminated all risks.

But his priority in withdrawing his soul foundation instead of killing the ghostrunes had allowed them to turn into a great threat. An endless rain of soul needles stabbed into his soul foundation.

Initially, Summer Flame was able to hang on in face of their attacks, but as the needles continued to rain down, his defenses crumbled and his soul foundation swayed, scaring him even more.

If his soul foundation was damaged, even his cultivation level would drop. With a terrified yell, Summer Flame started fleeing with his soul foundation at the fastest speed possible. Naturally, the ghostrunes were incapable of stopping his escape. They did not bother to try. Instead, they quickly

converged around Xiang Shaoyun as they fled together. Xiang Shaoyun quickly used the soul raising stone, soul spring, and his filthless soul to reconstruct his Nether Soul Domain.

However, the recovery speed was too slow for his liking. Inwardly, he thought, Summer Flame will definitely return. The puppet won't be able to stop Winter Frost for long, either. I need to think of something.

At that thought, his gaze landed on the two stalks of ghostblooms in his astral cosmos sea. One of them had matured long ago, while the other was near maturity. He first obtained the ghostbloom at the Land of Soul Springs, while the second ghostbloom had subsequently grown out of the first stalk.

Now, his only way of quickly reconstructing the Nether Soul Domain was by consuming a ghostbloom and increasing his soul power. It was his only option to increase his chances of saving himself.

He quickly consumed the mature ghostbloom, sending strands of medicinal power to his filthless soul. The filthless soul had already reached the Sovereign Realm prior to this. Nourished by the power of the ghostbloom, it started to grow rapidly yet again.

The Nether Soul Domain reformed as well. With the recovery of both his filthless soul and Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun's bloodline power was once again filled with vitality. He would have no problem going invisible right now.

The absorption of the ghostbloom had yet to end, but Xiang Shaoyun was too busy to focus on that. Instead, he hurriedly withdrew all the ghostrunes. Although the ghostrunes could temporarily obstruct Summer Flame, after he overcame his initial shock, he would definitely return with vengeance.

Xiang Shaoyun had no intention of sacrificing the ghostrunes like that. Unsurprisingly, both Winter Frost and Summer Flame were heading toward him at the same time.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you won't be able to escape us!" Winter Frost shouted from far away.

"Damn it! I refuse to believe I can't escape," Xiang Shaoyun cursed as he pulled out a unique weapon.