

## Overlord 661

### Chapter 661: Devouring Phosphorus Bug Disaster

The devouring phosphorus bugs were very sinister poisonous lifeforms, but they generally wouldn't move around spreading disaster. Rather, they would spend most of their time amid the poisonous miasma. This time, the Ziling Sect people had angered them, causing them to spread out and turn the surrounding area into a disaster zone.

Some careless Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples were killed as a result, and a lot of news started spreading within the Dragon Phoenix Academy regarding this disaster.

Some claimed that the devouring phosphorus bugs were expanding their territory, some claimed that the devouring phosphorus bugs were angered by some humans trying to refine poisonous materials, while others said that there were treasures in the poisonous miasma and someone was trying to unearth them...

It did not matter which rumor was true, but the area containing the poisonous miasma had turned into a restricted zone, catching the attention of many disciples. As for the academy's higher-ups, they maintained silence as if they did not care one bit. As the rumors spread, many organizations started finding out that there was a divine site underneath the poisonous miasma.

Divine site!

The term caused a sensation. Some organizations sent their members over to figure out what was going on, while others maintained their silence. Thus, the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range became bustling with activity where all sorts of people gathered.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was still stuck with the three villains, unable to find a chance to free himself. There were a few times where he nearly summoned Summer Flame and Winter Frost to fight the villains. But after some thought, he gave up on that idea.

The three villains were extremely powerful. Winter Frost and Summer Flame might not be their match. Furthermore, the three had no intention of silencing him with death for now, and because of that, he was in no rush to escape.

Of course, it was not like he was living a good life. Yao Jiaojiao might be claiming that she would take care of him, but in truth, she had merely realized how useful he could be. Due to the news spreading, the Ziling Sect people had also withdrawn, no longer daring to stay around.

Evidently, they weren't confident they could deal with the poison, and they were also afraid of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. The three villains had no such misgivings. For them, the spread of the devouring phosphorus bugs was beneficial for their search.

"It has been seven days. The devouring phosphorus bugs are much more scattered now. It's time we make a move," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"Jiaojiao, what plan do you have in mind?" Smiling Monk asked.

"My genius plan is to have Little Brother Shaoyun work for us. Since he can detect the divine site, it proves that he has extraordinary senses. We will open up a path for him, and he will do the searching," said Yao Jiaojiao with a sweet smile.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled bitterly. "With my meager strength, how can I do that? Just let me go already."

For the past few days, he had been demanding his release, but they had ignored him. Yao Jiaojiao seemed to have always sided with him, but she was the one sending him to his death at a crucial moment like this. It caused him to be even more fearful.

"That's a great idea! The three of us are strong enough to keep him safe. I also have a detoxification pill with me that can keep him alive. This time, we will definitely find the divine site," said Ugly Gambler.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to protest some more, but Yao Jiaojiao already held his hand and smiled. "Let's go. After you finish this task, we will release you. We won't give you any further trouble."

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he should just die right then. With the powerful poisonous bugs everywhere, how could he even survive? But it was not like he had any other choices. Ugly Gambler gave him a pill and made him hold the pill in his mouth. They then headed for the poisonous miasma.

When they arrived, numerous devouring phosphorus bugs swarmed them. The bugs screeched repeatedly and spewed poison everywhere, looking incredibly sinister with their sharp fangs. The bugs flew much faster than regular Emperors.

The three villains were powerful enough to deal with the bugs. With Yao Jiaojiao as the vanguard, Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk as the wings, and Xiang Shaoyun in the middle, they slaughtered a path forward. The villains attacked rapidly, their attacks cutting through like a hot knife through butter, killing one devouring phosphorus bug after another. Soon, they arrived at the previous location they were digging at.

"News of this has already spread, so we can't delay any longer. Let's work together to dig while Xiang Shaoyun will be in charge of sensing the direction. Don't mess this up!" Yao Jiaojiao said, her eyes sharp.

Then, she started blasting the ground beneath her. With a single slap, her palm created a deep depression in the ground. Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk did not slack around either. They attacked together, creating a tunnel capable of fitting a few people at once.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was forced into the tunnel with them. Helpless, he could only try his best to search for the divine site. Once again, he made use of the profundity of earth he had grasped, sensing his surroundings while telling the three to continue digging.

The underground had even more devouring phosphorus bugs, as if it was their nest. The intrusion of humans had thoroughly offended the bugs. Although the three villains were strong, they still wouldn't be able to persevere much longer.

"We can't hold back anymore. Hold your sense of smell. I'll use my Psychedelic Aroma!" Yao Jiaojiao shouted as a certain fragrance started spreading from her sleeves.

Her Psychedelic Aroma was capable of causing any life forms to sink into an illusion and lose combat prowess. It was one of her extremely powerful drugs. Sure enough, the moment she released it, the bugs around them all fell into an illusion.

Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk took the chance to kill them all. The sight of the villains working together was an eye-opener for Xiang Shaoyun. One could say that their cooperation was flawless.

After about an hour, they dug a tunnel spanning several kilometers. Finally, they started sensing a powerful resistance.

"It should be around here, but I can't pinpoint the exact location," said Xiang Shaoyun. This seemed to be as far as he could lead them.

In truth, he had already extended the senses of his Nether Soul Domain. He was also curious as to how the underground palace looked. Unfortunately, his senses were cut short, making it impossible for him to see more.

"Spatial energy undulation! The divine site is really underneath us!" Yao Jiaojiao shouted in excitement.

Ugly Gambler was also wild with joy. "That's right. Only an expert at the Heaven Battling Realm or above could have built something like this. We found it!"

Suddenly, Smiling Monk glanced at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "This secret should be kept in a small circle. Is it time to eliminate the unnecessary person?"

Xiang Shaoyun felt his scalp go numb.

#### Chapter 662: Heaven Breaking Shears

Smiling Monk was clearly suggesting to silence Xiang Shaoyun. It caused Xiang Shaoyun to break out in cold sweat, and he didn't know what to do. If this was in the past, he could have used the nether prison devil puppet to slow his enemies down for a bit. But now that he no longer had the puppet, he had no other trump cards for this situation.

Even if he used his Nether Soul Domain and all his ghostrunes, he still wouldn't be able to stop Smiling Monk alone.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was panicking, Yao Jiaojiao said, "Alright, monk. Don't frighten my little boyfriend. He has contributed greatly in bringing us here. If we really can break through, we will just bring him with us. He won't have any chance to leak the secret."

"Fine, since Jiaojiao is saying that, I will respect your decision. Now, let's work together and see if we can break in," said Smiling Monk as he withdrew his killing intent.

"Using brute force alone won't work. We need to borrow the power of a saint-grade item," said Yao Jiaojiao. She looked at Ugly Gambler and said, "Ugly Gambler, take out your Heaven Breaking Shears. Stop hiding them."

Ugly Gambler smiled as massive shears appeared in his hand. They were shaped like a vise, looking incredibly crude, yet the blades were exceptionally sharp. As Ugly Gambler channeled his energy into the shears, they started shining brightly. This was Ugly Gambler's exclusive weapon, the Heaven Breaking Shears. The shears were a semi-saint weapon, something far beyond any sovereign weapon.

Crack! Crack!

Holding the Heaven Breaking Shears, Ugly Gambler said, "I can't break in alone. Only if both of you are helping will I be able to release the Heaven Breaking Shears' true might. Only then will we stand a chance of breaking in."

"Get ready, then. We'll help," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"Um. We'll help," said Smiling Monk. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun again. "But we can't suffer any disturbances. We need to put this kid under control before doing anything."

Before Yao Jiaojiao could protest, a bag appeared and trapped Xiang Shaoyun. It had happened so suddenly that Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even react. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun struggled madly, but it was useless.

He then heard Smiling Monk's voice, "Kid, just stay there obediently. This is a cosmos sack. Not even a sovereign weapon can break it. With the little strength you have, you can do nothing."

At that, Xiang Shaoyun sank into silence. He knew they wouldn't free him. His struggles were pointless. He was better off staying calm and thinking of a way to save himself.

"Just stay there obediently, Little Brother Shaoyun. When we are done, we will free you. Your big sister can't bear to let you die," Yao Jiaojiao's voice rang out.

Xiang Shaoyun did not believe a word of that. Perhaps that woman was somewhat interested in him, but for her own benefits, she would be the first to abandon him.

What should I do now? Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly.

Outside the sack, Ugly Gambler finally activated the Heaven Breaking Shears. Yao Jiaojiao and Smiling Monk also activated their respective energies, preparing to break into the sealed space.

Each was actually releasing the strength of a ninth-stage Sovereign. It was no wonder the Seven Villains were so feared at the Bloodsin City. They focused their energies on the Heaven Breaking Shears, creating a massive shears projection that filled the tunnel.

"Cut!" After grabbing the perfect timing, Ugly Gambler cut the space before him with the shears.

The Heaven Breaking Shears lived up to the "Heaven Breaking" in its name. That single cut contained a dreadful might capable of cutting dozens of mountains instantaneously.

The soil cracked, and the earth quaked. Boulders fell as if an actual natural disaster was happening. The Heaven Breaking Shears struck the seal before them, creating an intense backlash that rebounded back at them.

Rumble! Rumble!

The backlash was much more terrifying than the three villains' combined assault. It gave them a fright and forced them to join hands to block the backlash. They looked battered and exhausted; with so much dust and soil on them, they looked like they had been buried alive. Blood sprayed out of their mouths without end.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, who was trapped within the cosmos sack, he suffered an even worse fate. He had not expected the backlash to assault him as well, and he was immediately blasted into the soil. In fact, the impact almost caused his entire body to implode.

If it wasn't for the heavy armor he wore, he would have died. Before losing consciousness, he quickly refined a drop of lightning liquid to stop his injuries from worsening.

At this time, Ren Zhijiu, Winter Frost, Summer Flame, and the other Ziling Sect members appeared outside the poisonous miasma once again. They had initially withdrawn, but Winter Frost and Summer Flame had managed to convince Ren Zhijiu to return.

Of course, they had only returned with Soul Foundation Realm experts this time. The rest had been sent to the Dragon Phoenix City to wait for the Ziling Sect's reinforcements.

The moment Ren Zhijiu arrived, he sensed the berserk undulation beneath him. Excited, he said, "Old Winter, Old Summer, you are geniuses! Someone has indeed found that place! Let's go! We might be able to fish in troubled waters!"

"This should not be delayed! Let's go!" Winter Frost said.

"The poison here is too powerful. I'll open a path for you," said Summer Flame as he released a unique flame.

And thus, they charged into the tunnel the villains had dug. The only reason Winter Frost and Summer Flame were so enthusiastic was that they wanted to deal with the three villains, creating an opportunity for Xiang Shaoyun to escape.

Meanwhile, due to their injuries, the three villains did not dare to continue their attempt. They focused on recovery instead. They had barely rested when they noticed someone entering their tunnel.

"Looks like someone is trying to profit from our hard work. Let's leave," said Yao Jiaojiao with a frown.

"Um. The seal is more powerful than we had expected so we won't be able to break through it anytime soon, anyway. Let's deal with the intruders first," said Smiling Monk, his trademark smile nowhere to be seen.

Ugly Gambler naturally agreed. Staying in the narrow tunnel, they lacked initiative. They had to first gain the upper hand against their opponents. Just as they were about to leave, Smiling Monk recalled his cosmos sack and said, "I'll put my cosmos sack away first. I can't let that kid spoil my treasure."

As he said that, he reached in Xiang Shaoyun's direction. But right that moment, the cosmos sack cracked and shone with a nine-colored radiance.

## Chapter 663: Blinded

A cosmos sack was something forged of extremely rare materials. It was even rarer than spatial rings. As Smiling Monk had said earlier, not even sovereign weapons could break his cosmos sack.

That was why he felt safe enough to leave Xiang Shaoyun to his own devices once he was trapped within the sack.

And yet, the sack had cracked apart. Smiling Monk couldn't even react before Xiang Shaoyun vanished with a flash of nine-colored radiance, leaving behind only a broken cosmos sack.

"W-what in the world is that?" Smiling Monk blanked out.

"Monk, what happened?" Ugly Gambler turned back and asked.

"That kid has gone missing," Smiling Monk said.

"What's going on? Did you kill him?" Ugly Gambler questioned.

"Look, even my precious treasure is broken. That kid is definitely hiding a big secret," said Smiling Monk, regret in his voice.

"Forget it. Just ignore him for now. We need to first get out of here," yelled Yao Jiaojiao.

Wasting no time, the three charged out of the tunnel. With their strength, even when injured, Ren Zhijiu's group wouldn't be their match. It was basically impossible for Ren Zhijiu's group to finish the three villains. The moment the villains attacked, the group was disadvantaged.

Wearing saint armor, Ren Zhijiu was able to stall the villains for a bit. However, his remaining party members were completely helpless. To make matters worse, Winter Frost and Summer Flame had escaped during the crucial moment.

"Those two old bastards!" Ren Zhijiu cursed with regret.

His entire group was slaughtered, and while Ren Zhijiu thought he could escape, he was ultimately captured by Yao Jiaojiao and had his saint armor stripped off him. One could say that this group from the Ziling Sect was as good as fully destroyed.



If Xiang Shaoyun knew that, he would be wild with joy. One could say that his plan had progressed smoothly. At present, he had arrived at an unknown location. It was all thanks to the chakram that he had been able to break free of the cosmos sack.

Using the nine-colored fog, he powered the chakram and broke the cosmos sack. He even broke through the sealed space, entering the divine site the three villains dreamed of entering.

But once inside, he did not have an impression that the place was a divine site. Rather, it was like a world of endless darkness, and he couldn't see anything, as if he had been locked in a dark prison.

Fortunately, he was able to remain calm as he extended his Nether Soul Domain's senses, trying to make some sense of his surroundings. Unfortunately, the only thing his Nether Soul Domain sensed was an endless darkness and nothing else.

"What kind of a shitty place is this?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered gloomily.

He had activated the chakram to escape, not enter this weird place. He took out a night pearl, trying to bring some light to his surroundings. However, it failed terribly, and the darkness immediately corroded and assimilated the pearl.

"What power is this? Even the night pearl is rendered useless." Xiang Shaoyun was speechless.

He wanted to open a path with his chakram, but he was worried that it would bring him to an even scarier place. Therefore, his only choice was to slowly search his surroundings in hope of finding a way to escape.

But then, he felt the darkness gradually assimilate his eyes, turning him into a blind man incapable of seeing anything. He panicked.

"Impossible! How can I be blind? Impossible!" He couldn't accept it. He opened his eyes wide, focusing his energy into his pupils, trying to regain his sight.

Alas, nothing he tried worked. He had truly sunk into a world of eternal darkness, losing his sight. His entire body turned cold as he blanked out with despair. When one turned blind, one would forever lose the light, forever unable to see the faces of one's loved ones, unable to see anything one wanted to see. It was a sensation of despair, something terrifying.

"AHHH!"

Xiang Shaoyun roared madly, erupting with all his power. All nine of his stars activated, and even his draconic aura started baring its fangs, displaying his anger. Unfortunately, nothing changed. He was still blind. He started losing hope, feeling like there was no meaning to life anymore. Perhaps his fate was to slowly wait for his death.

Xiang Shaoyun's body started drifting about, his aura stilled completely, as if he was a dead man. An unknown amount of time passed. Perhaps it had been a day, a month, or a year. Time continuously passed.

Dragon Phoenix Academy.

Di Lin had received news of Ren Zhijiu and his group's death. His entire body turned cold.

"How can that happen? How?" he roared.

"Based on the report from Old Winter and Old Summer, they were killed by three of the Seven Villains from the Bloodsin City. The Seven Villains are also trying to get their hands on that place," Di Shang said.

"Three of the Seven Villains? Audacious!" Di Lin clenched his teeth in anger.

"What do we do now? The commotion caused is so big everyone is aware of that place now. Do we still keep trying?" Di Shang asked.

They might be siblings, but Di Lin was the actual leader.

"Go back and tell Father to give up. I asked my master about it. From the fact that he is completely indifferent, it is obvious that the academy has long discovered the place. They are not afraid that anyone will create trouble there. Perhaps it is just a trap, not a divine site," said Di Lin with a sigh. "How about Xiang Shaoyun? I heard Lady Shura is back, and we have yet to receive any news from Zhu Changchuang even now."

"Zhu Changchuang is dead, and Xiang Shaoyun is still alive," said Di Shang with a look of indignation.

"What's up with that? Are Old Winter and Old Summer completely useless?" Di Lin was furious.

"We can't blame them, alliance master. Xiang Shaoyun had found some unknown helpers, and now even Old Winter and Old Summer aren't their matches. They were forced to escape with serious injuries," said Di Shang.

"Where did Xiang Shaoyun find such helpers? Are they the backup forces that old bastard Xiang Yangzhan had left behind?" Di Lin asked gloomily. "He has already reached a certain degree of power. If we don't suppress him now, something bad will happen to the sect sooner or later. Inform me immediately once he returns. I will fight him to the death."

#### Chapter 664: Trap and Dreamland

The commotion caused by the divine site continued growing. As a result, dozens of organizations, big and small, came to the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. Many of them suffered from the devouring phosphorus bug and the poisonous miasma, while some entered the tunnel and attempted to break the seal only to be badly injured. In short, most of them were either injured or killed.

An entire month passed, and not a single organization managed to break into the so-called divine site. Just as some of the organizations were about to get their Heaven Battling Realm experts out, the Dragon Phoenix Academy finally made an announcement.

A Heaven Battling Realm elder from the Dragon Phoenix Academy appeared, directly deterring all the other organizations from whatever they had in mind. He even announced that the place was one of the academy's restricted cultivation zones. Those who dared to continue damaging it would be killed without mercy.

The announcement sobered many people from their madness. They realized that the so-called divine site was merely the academy's trap, something they had set up to trick those who got overly greedy.

It was no wonder the academy had done nothing even though the place was so close to it. It turned out that the academy had long known everything.

Just like that, many organizations started leaving, forgetting their desire for the divine site. The three villains also heard the news, and all three vanished promptly.

Deep inside the Dragon Phoenix Academy, the grand guardians gathered yet again.

"Those people tend to get forgetful without being taught a lesson. It's like they're all brainless," said a gold-haired old man with a sneer.

The purple-haired old man said, "Each time we recruit a new batch of disciples, there will be some disturbances. It must be the works of the other three academies. They are obviously trying to exhaust the talents of our academy and waver the hearts of our disciples. Those bastards are still not willing to give up on their evil schemes!"

"This time, we managed to awe quite a lot of people. I believe the rumors will stop. In my opinion, it's time we open the primary Dragon Phoenix Battlefield and inspect the children," said a heroic man.

A beauty said, "It's better if we open the primary Dragon Phoenix Battlefield in about five years. It's still too early now."

"You're right, but this time, the other three academies are suddenly changing their minds, claiming that our previous period of 10 years per battle is too long. They are demanding that the period be shortened to five years. If we don't open the primary Dragon Phoenix Battlefield, the children of our academy won't have the chance to improve rapidly. In three years, they will completely fall behind the disciples of the other three academies. At that time, we will take last place," said the heroic man.

"We can't rush to make a decision. For a momentary glory, are we sacrificing the foundations of these children? It won't be good in the long term. We should just open it in the fourth year, giving them a rapid burst of growth during the final year. At that time, if they still end up losing to the other academies, we've already tried our best," said the purple-haired old man. "By the way, which of you know what's going on with that child?"

"Not long ago, he seemed to have accepted a mission at the Nisha Range. Two children in his faction had returned with the mission completed, but he has yet to return," someone answered.

"Old Purple, you still have your eyes set on him? Forget it. I heard he had already combined his nine powers. I'm afraid he has really created history," said the gold-haired old man.

"Yes, I heard that as well. I even know about that child entering the goldmen territory and becoming their honored guest," said the heroic man.

"Looks like the gravekeeper elder taught him well," said the purple-haired old man with a sigh.

"Let's meet him after he returns. We need to see if he has really combined the nine powers. If that's really the case, we need to work together and nurture him into the academy's future pillar."

At this time, the beauty said, "My subordinates recently reported that the kid had returned to the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range and was even seen together with three of the Seven Villains of the Bloodsin City. The three seemed to have forced him into the poisonous miasma, and he's been missing since then."

"What? Why are you only saying that now?" a few people cried out in alarm.

An awkward look covered the beauty's face as she said, "I thought we agreed to not interfere with the affairs of the children. We need to let them grow amid danger. Only then will they have great accomplishments in the future. That was why I didn't interfere."

"Shit. That child is someone the gravekeeper elder has personally taught. How long has it been since the gravekeeper elder had last spoken? If something bad happens to that kid, what are we supposed to say to the gravekeeper elder? Quick, search for that kid's update. If we can't find him, just capture the three villains to give the gravekeeper elder an answer," said the purple-haired old man in an irritated manner.

"On it," said the beauty. She was aware she had made a wrong choice, and she quickly took responsibility, hoping to make up for her earlier mistake.

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While the Dragon Phoenix Academy searched for Xiang Shaoyun, he was still trapped within the endless darkness. He was now a part of the darkness, as if he would remain in this state forever. In this state, he had a dream, a dream about his father, Xiang Yangzhan.

"You unfilial son, everything I had built was lost in your hands. Instead of snatching everything back, you're instead happily living your life outside the sect? You are a disappointment, a waste of all the years I spent raising you!"

"Father, are you still alive? If you are, you need to come back and slaughter Di Batian and all those other bastards! Your son is really too weak and is not a match for them."

"Bullshit, you're my son. How can you be such a coward? Do you want me to cripple you? If you can't solve that, I will disown you!"

"Father, don't leave, please, don't leave!"

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Xiang Yangzhan vanished from the dreamland, replaced by the remarkably beautiful Ye Chaomu.

"Big brother, you are the most handsome and capable man in the world, but you are really a big disappointment. I already have a person I love, so I won't be visiting you anymore. Take care."

"Mumu, even you are abandoning your big brother? I thought you loved your big brother the most? Have I doted on you all these years for nothing?"

"In my heart, you are a man capable of propping even the heavens up with your shoulders. But you are currently akin to a worthless pile of mud. A tiny setback is enough to eliminate the fight in you. No wonder you lost everything Father left behind. You are a disappointment!"

"No, that's not true. Mumu, listen to me..."

Ye Chaomu vanished, replaced by others. Di Lin, Xia Yunxi, Xia Liuhui, Lu Xiaoqing, Gong Qinyin, Liang Zhuangmin...they started appearing one after another, some looking at him with disdain, some speaking words of encouragement. It was a chaotic dream.

Abruptly, Xiang Shaoyun woke up from his dream and roared, "No! I, Xiang Shaoyun, will not fade away just like this!"

## Chapter 665: The Legendary Spatial Crested Snakes

Xiang Shaoyun had awakened. However, he still couldn't see anything, not even his own hands. Even so, he had regained his willpower. He was no longer giving up on life, and instead, he vowed to think of a solution to free himself from his current predicament.

"Since this place can turn everything into darkness, it must contain the power of darkness. If I can comprehend the profundity of darkness, I might be able to figure out what's going on here," Xiang Shaoyun concluded upon regaining his clarity of mind.

He then started recovering, regaining his vitality and clarity of mind. Soon, he circulated his cultivation method and absorbed the dark energy in his surroundings. His dark star grew at a rapid speed. Upon absorbing the dark energy, he noticed its immense purity and density. He had only absorbed a bit, yet the energy in his dark star had become far more plentiful.

One ought to know that he was already a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm practitioner, and his stars possessed a rather massive storage capacity. Thus, the density of the dark energy here amazed him. He increased his absorption speed, increasing his dark energy again and again. At the same time, he started chanting the Desolation mantra, trying his best to comprehend the truth behind darkness.

Darkness, something capable of bringing fear and hopelessness, a power generally regarded as evil. In truth, it was one's heart that was evil, not the power of darkness. Darkness was capable of blocking the light, obstructing one's sight, and corroding all life. How should he survive amid darkness? How should he gain the ability to control the power of darkness?

As Xiang Shaoyun had never cultivated dark elemental battle techniques, he was rather unfamiliar with controlling the power of darkness. Fortunately, it was at this time that he noted the activity within his blood, as if his bloodline possessed some sort of affinity with the power of darkness.

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun activated his bloodline power, channeling the dark energy around him into his bloodline as he attempted to form a resonance. Sure enough, the moment he activated his bloodline, the dark energy directly poured into his blood, causing his blood to boil. It was as if his bloodline power had become much thicker.

The devils grew by absorbing devilish energy, and similar to astral energy, devilish energy had numerous properties. As one of the Four Paramount Devil Clans, the Imperial Nether Clan absorbed dark elemental devilish energy, which was also the source of their trait of invisibility. With the power of darkness, they could stay invisible for a longer time.

At that realization, Xiang Shaoyun grew excited. He channeled a massive amount of dark energy into his blood, cleansing his bloodline and slowly reaching for the profundity of darkness.

Darkness was lonesome, darkness was profound, darkness was endless... Numerous thoughts surfaced in his mind.

During this time he was blinded, those were exactly the feelings he had been experiencing. Suddenly, he touched the edge of the profundity of darkness. Only a thin layer of blockage stopped him from comprehension.

Although thin, the blockage was stubborn and refused to move aside, causing him to be rather gloomy. Fortunately, his trait of invisibility seemed to have merged completely with darkness, while his eyes seemed to have also adapted to his environment, allowing him to regain his sight. He finally understood that he hadn't been blinded. He had merely been fully shrouded in darkness to the point he couldn't see anything, getting the impression that he was blind.

Now, through absorbing the dark energy around him and strengthening his bloodline, he was able to merge with the power of darkness around him. It granted his senses the ability to interact with his surroundings.

Xiang Shaoyun's mood improved greatly after regaining his sight. Instead of thinking about leaving, he calmed his emotions and continued absorbing the dark energy around him. The dark energy here was incredibly pure. It would be hard to find a source of dark energy like this anywhere else. In a sense, this was the truest power of darkness.

Xiang Shaoyun, understanding that, was in no rush to leave. He had to make use of this opportunity and absorb even more dark energy before thinking of leaving. After an unknown amount of time, he improved massively. With the help of the Desolation mantra, he also finally comprehended the profundity of darkness.

At the same time, he reached mid second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. After comprehending the profundity of darkness, he was able to sense a force tugging him toward a certain direction as if it was calling him over. That sensation came at the right timing, as he was just trying to look for an exit. He thus started heading toward the calling.

Xiang Shaoyun flew at top speed, and that continued for an untold amount of time before he sensed that something seemed to be wrong. He had actually sensed life, which caused him to be astonished. Just what kind of life form was capable of living in this kind of environment?

Suddenly, a sense of danger rose within him. Without any hesitation, he dodged to the side, and a wave of energy rushed through his original position, causing him to break out in cold sweat.



"Who is it?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm. His Goldplates appeared, protecting his entire body.

Hiss! Hiss!

Suddenly, three tiny dark figures appeared on the surface of his Goldplates. If it wasn't for the Goldplates, the three dark figures would have injured him. Upon closer look, he found that the three figures were actually three black snakes.

They were about as thick as a thumb, and their entire bodies were pitch black, about a meter in length. Each of them had a crest on its head, making it look different from an ordinary snake.

"These are the legendary spatial crested snakes!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed as all his hair stood on end.

The spatial crested snakes were a type of snake living in the endless void. They looked like they were ordinary snakes, but they were capable of living in the void and blending into darkness. These snakes were generally undetectable.

They were incredibly blood-thirsty, and the moment a different life form appeared near them, they would attack. They were capable of moving through space and hiding in darkness, granting them the ability to move undetected. Not many people could avoid an attack from one of them.

The moment one was bitten, one's chance of survival was low due to the snake's terrifying poison. With his sharp senses and his comprehension of the profundity of darkness, Xiang Shaoyun was able to move here like a fish in water. That was how he was lucky enough to avoid their previous attack.

Otherwise, that one attack would have been enough to kill him. The three spatial crested snakes were currently biting his Goldplates, and even with the Goldplates' incredible defenses, they still cracked. The terrifying poison seeped through the cracks and headed toward him.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun erupted with his energy and sent the three snakes flying away before quickly attacking the snakes with finger beams. However, before his attacks could land, all three snakes vanished amid the darkness.

## Chapter 666: Dark Origin Energy

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected to encounter spatial crested snakes here. He was forced to be on full alert. The spatial crested snakes were proficient in speed, capable of moving undetected, and they were extremely hard to catch.

Of course, their weakness was rather apparent as well. Their offensive power was rather weak. So long as one had proper defenses up, one would be safe. With his Goldplates active around him, Xiang Shaoyun continued advancing.

The spatial crested snakes occasionally appeared, trying to bite through his Goldplates to assault him with their poison. Of course, Xiang Shaoyun would not allow himself to remain in a reactive position for long. Just as the spatial crested snakes appeared once again, he grabbed the opportunity and swung the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, slashing one of the snakes into two.

"Come at me, you poisonous life forms. I, Xiang Shaoyun, am not afraid of you," said Xiang Shaoyun, his battle intent soaring.

If he hadn't comprehended the profundity of darkness, it wouldn't be so easy to detect the spatial crested snakes. But the more he advanced, the more spatial crested snakes there were. They became so numerous even he started feeling fear.

"Don't tell me I have arrived at their lair," he muttered doubtfully. At this time, six spatial crested snakes shot out from six different directions.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to blast them to death by summoning lightning from the sky. However, he found that the only lightning power he had access to was his innate purple lightning. Even so, the power of darkness suppressed the innate purple lightning he released, and his lightning was thus not destructive enough to deal with the snakes. At that realization, he tried using the power of Yun Flame. Similarly, the power was weakened as well.

Xiang Shaoyun finally realized that here, probably only the power of darkness would be effective. When that realization hit him, he switched his weapon to a black sword and swung it around madly, powering his slashes with dark energy. Sure enough, only when using the power of darkness would he be able to attack smoothly.

Hiss! Hiss!

The spatial crested snakes flitted in and out of existence, attacking him from numerous different directions. Some came from above, some came from below, some came from his waist, and so on. In an instant, the number of spatial crested snakes grew to more than 10, causing his Goldplates to be on the brink of collapse.

If he hadn't been slashing his black sword madly, killing a few of the snakes, he would have been in much greater trouble. He no longer dared to continue flying. Instead, he activated his trait of invisibility.

His trait of invisibility was not as simple as turning invisible. Even his entire presence was masked, causing the spatial crested snakes to lose track of him. They started appearing one after another, looking for him everywhere to no avail.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had completely blended with the darkness, letting him see the spatial crested snakes clearly. He no longer held back, slashing the spatial crested snakes with his black sword.

The spatial crested snake's biggest weakness was its lack of defense. Under Xiang Shaoyun's mad slashes, they started dropping one after another. Some of the faster ones immediately fled, no longer daring to stay.

Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief and continued advancing. Naturally, along the way, he encountered more spatial crested snakes. Hidden amid the darkness, they were extremely hard to see with the naked eye.

However, Xiang Shaoyun had already comprehended the profundity of darkness. He now possessed night vision and could see them all clearly. He did not kill easily anymore, and he only attacked when his path was blocked.

As he went deeper, he finally found the thing that had been calling him over. Almost a thousand spatial crested snakes were ahead of him, surrounding a clump of energy and absorbing it. The jet-black spiraling energy was a unique existence within this dark space.

After he approached, Xiang Shaoyun sensed a dense dark energy emanating from that clump, and even he started to absorb the energy by instinct. His dark star grew rapidly, and his bloodline power stirred again.

He could sense that the clump was no simple item. He swallowed and started approaching the spiraling clump. When he approached, he found that the spiral was akin to a black hole capable of swallowing everything. The dark energy it emanated was of the highest purity. Although it was not a type of unique dark power, it was even more precious than a unique dark power.

Xiang Shaoyun started searching his mind for the information he knew about dark energy, trying to figure out the spiral's origin. Finally, a look of astonishment covered his face as he exclaimed, "Is this a clump of dark origin energy?"

The more he thought about it, the more certain he was that it was dark origin energy. The ultimate form of the power of darkness was a black hole, and this spiral seemed to be on the path of turning into a pure black hole. It was formed of pure dark energy, and perhaps after several tens of thousands of years later, it would become a terrifying black hole.

This clump of dark origin energy was an optimal material to build one's soul foundation. Any Sovereign would turn mad over the discovery of this thing. Obtaining it would not only allow one's strength to grow rapidly, but would also help one perfect one's soul foundation. It would also alter one's body, helping one enter the Heaven Battling Realm. One could say that this clump of dark origin energy was a true saint-grade material. It could even be called a god-grade material.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that he would be able to find something like this here. He repeatedly swallowed, not knowing what to do. He had just entered the Dragon Ascension Realm and was incapable of absorbing the dark origin energy. At most, he would only be able to absorb a tiny bit of it, and even that much was enough for him to benefit greatly.

However, he was unwilling to give up on it just like that. It was a saint-grade material, one that was extremely rare. Some Sovereigns, and even Saints, would spend their entire lives never coming across it. Since he was lucky enough to encounter it, he had to grab onto this opportunity.

I must take it away! Xiang Shaoyun told himself.

He had an astral cosmos sea that was different from anyone else's. He planned to take the entirety of the dark origin energy into him. At present, his astral cosmos sea had reached a level nobody could imagine, capable of containing an incredibly massive item.

Xiang Shaoyun acted immediately on his thought as he approached the clump of energy. Numerous spatial crested snakes were surrounding the dark origin energy, joyfully absorbing its energy. Perhaps they were only able to freely traverse the endless darkness thanks to the energy they had absorbed here.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the dark origin energy, his eyes burning with passion. He activated his astral cosmos sea, aimed his absorptive force at the clump, and pulled. However, what he expected did not happen...

## Chapter 667: Kill Them All

The astral cosmos sea was supposed to be an object capable of storing anything without life. Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea, on the other hand, defied all common sense and could store even living beings.

Of course, storing lifeless objects and living beings required different methods. The former only required him to scan the object with his consciousness, whereas the latter required him to form a connection with the being he intended to store. Only when both parties had the same intention would he be able to store the living being.

Xiang Shaoyun had assumed that this clump of dark origin energy was just an object capable of being directly absorbed into his astral cosmos sea. But when he tried to store it, he failed and sensed a willpower fighting against his.

"What is going on? Is there a living being in this clump of energy?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered in confusion.

After more observations, he confirmed that there was no life in the clump of energy. It was simply energy. The so-called origin energy was the purest form of a particular energy. Although it was not a living being, it possessed its own willpower, and because of that, the astral cosmos sea couldn't store it like a regular lifeless object.

The only way of storing it was through either erasing its willpower or subjugating it. That placed him in a difficult position. His failure made him extremely gloomy. If there weren't all those spatial crested snakes around, he could take his time slowly refining the energy before fusing it with his own willpower and storing it away.

At that thought, he steeled his heart as he thought, These spatial crested snakes are incredibly harmful. Today, I shall eliminate them for the greater good before taking this dark origin energy for myself.

He acted on that thought immediately, and he noiselessly appeared near the snakes. Using his fingers as a blade, he activated his dark energy and slashed the snakes. Instantly, tens of the snakes were killed. The other snakes were alerted and immediately vanished into thin air.

Hiding amid the void, they started searching for their enemy to no avail. In this space of darkness, Xiang Shaoyun's trait of invisibility had been greatly enhanced. One could say that he could stay hidden for unlimited time here. That was why he had the courage to attack all these snakes.

When the snakes failed to find their enemy, they gradually appeared near the dark origin energy again. Once again, Xiang Shaoyun attacked and killed a bunch of them. After a few repetitions, about half the snakes were killed. As for the others, they all fled after feeling threatened.

After spending some time observing, Xiang Shaoyun found that new spatial crested snakes were no longer appearing. Only then did he start dealing with the dark origin energy.

He used the most commonly used method, absorbing the dark origin energy by circulating his cultivation method. His first step was to cram his dark star full of energy. Each strand of origin energy he absorbed brought with it a dense and pure dark power.

Only a short while had passed when Xiang Shaoyun sensed that his dark star was completely full, reaching a point he couldn't even compress the energy within anymore. Part of the reason he couldn't compress it was the purity. At this point, his only option was to cram his other eight stars full as well before converting his energy into draconic aura. He would then be able to advance into the third stage.

And now, the disadvantage of cultivating nine powers showed. If he only cultivated one power, just this clump of dark origin energy would be enough for him to advance several stages in a row, perhaps even bringing him straight to the Sovereign Realm.

With his dark star full, he was forced to channel the energy into his bloodline instead, trying to further awaken his bloodline power. As his bloodline power grew, Xiang Shaoyun sensed that his Imperial Nether Clan talents were improving. He even awakened a new ability—Nethergate.

Nethergate was an extremely tricky ability to deal with, one that could be activated by gathering dark elemental devilish energy through his bloodline. It was capable of shifting an opponent's energy into the void, causing the opponent's attacks to be harmless. With enough strength, one could even banish an opponent into the void.

It was an ability that was supposed to only awaken after one reached the Devil Sovereign realm or above. For Xiang Shaoyun to awaken it now, it was evident his bloodline had been purified significantly.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely out of words. "The Imperial Nether Clan is truly scary. Each ability is inconceivable. No wonder they are one of the Four Paramount Clans."

He tried activating the ability, but even after using the entirety of his bloodline power and astral energy, he could only form a door as big as a head. The door was so small it couldn't even shift a regular attack. Thus, it wouldn't be able to display his ability's incredible prowess.

Xiang Shaoyun understood that although he had awakened the Nethergate ability, his cultivation level was not high enough to display its true might. Instead of wasting his time thinking about it, he refocused on the clump of dark origin energy and tried to think of a way to absorb it.

"Right, since it can fight my willpower, I will try influencing it with my will, making it obey," decided Xiang Shaoyun after thinking about it for a while.

And thus, he sat down cross-legged before the dark origin energy, trying to penetrate it with his consciousness. With the filthless soul at the level of a Sovereign, he was able to create a rather powerful pressure.

Since the dark origin energy was without an owner, its consciousness was rather pure and innocent. Soon, Xiang Shaoyun's consciousness penetrated inside, but he still couldn't store it away.

"What do I lack?" Xiang Shaoyun sank into confusion.

He tried activating his dark star, forming a resonance with the dark origin energy, before pulling with his consciousness. Finally, the dark origin energy reacted. It started enveloping Xiang Shaoyun, and it moved so fast he couldn't even escape in time.

He was trapped right in the middle of the clump, allowing him to sense the deeper truth of darkness. The energy also started permeating his body, forcefully entering his dark star, causing the star to expand rapidly. It spoiled the balance between his nine stars, and since he couldn't convert the excess energy into draconic aura, he had a feeling his dark star was on the verge of implosion.

"I refuse to believe I can't subdue you! Refine!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and channeled the excess energy into his astral cosmos sea, using it to enlarge the astral cosmos sea.

He also set his Nether Soul Domain free, completely trapping the dark origin energy within the domain before releasing all 8,000 of his ghostrunes. As the ghostrunes were of a similar origin with the Imperial Nether Clan, they also longed greatly for the dark origin energy. They started devouring the dark origin energy like crazy. Even his filthless soul benefited greatly.

#### Chapter 668: Severing Saber Manor's Young Master Xiao Xie

The soul was an existence of extreme yin, and it could be considered similar in nature with the power of the dark origin energy. With the nourishment of the dark origin energy, Xiang Shaoyun's filthless soul further solidified. His soul power grew rapidly, reaching a level comparable to the soul of a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator.

The Nether Soul Domain also grew rapidly, its durability reaching a brand new level. With the current strength of his Nether Soul Domain, he could trap and kill a bunch of Sovereigns easily. Every single one of the ghostrunes had also undergone a thorough transformation. They now looked much fiercer and extraordinary, and their cultivation levels had also grown.

That was especially true for Gui Qi, who reached the eighth-stage Devil Emperor realm from the sixth stage. His pair of ghostrune wings was now dreadfully bewitching. Even so, the clump of dark origin energy had not reduced in size by much. That was because in this unique environment, the dark origin energy could endlessly replenish its energy from its surroundings.

At this point, Xiang Shaoyun had formed a tiny level of affinity with the dark origin energy. His will could now penetrate it deeply.

"Withdraw!" Xiang Shaoyun waited no longer and tried pulling the dark origin energy into his astral cosmos sea.

This time, he succeeded, and the entirety of the dark origin energy converged in his astral cosmos sea.

Xiang Shaoyun isolated the dark origin energy at a corner, not allowing it any sort of contact with the rest of his astral cosmos sea. The so-called origin energy was energy with zero impurity. If it made contact with other energies, its purity might be ruined, losing the perfect balance of its makeup.



The astral cosmos sea was something Xiang Shaoyun had personally formed. Thus, he could alter it as he wished. It wasn't a problem for him to make some empty space to store the dark origin energy.

But he soon found that after leaving the space of endless darkness, the dark origin energy started constricting, and there were indications that it was going to gradually dissipate. If it continued, it would become smaller and smaller until it eventually vanished.

At that discovery, Xiang Shaoyun muttered, "Looks like I need to increase my cultivation as quickly as possible before refining the entirety of this thing into my dark star. But for now, I should look for an exit."

After deciding on a direction, he started flying at full speed. He believed that this place was definitely not boundless in size. However, even after flying for an unknown amount of time, he still did not find anything. He almost sank into despair.

Here, there were no other sources of energy he could absorb. The only thing he could do was replenish his energy using spirit crystals while cultivating his other stars at the same time.

He finally couldn't take it any longer and took out the chakram as he muttered, "I'll split the space again! I refuse to believe I can't find an exit!"

He did so immediately. Powering the chakram with all his strength, he struck at a random direction.

...

Castle of Darkness.

This was one of Dragon Phoenix Academy's nine great cultivation zones. The castle was perfectly conserved, built with unique architecture. Each unit of the castle contained the unique architecture of a different race. The ancient construction at the center of the others was the actual place of importance within the Castle of Darkness.

It was rumored that the central building used to be a super expert's exclusive residence. His inheritance was contained within, which granted the building an extraordinary significance.

Within the Castle of Darkness, the most commonly seen life form was a beast called the dark bat. They occupied the castle, and the moment someone approached, they would attack in great numbers.

Fortunately, they mostly restricted their activities to the central keep and its vicinity. They wouldn't easily approach the other buildings around the keep. Thus, the castle's outer buildings became the cultivation spots of the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples.

A space of darkness shrouded the entire Castle of Darkness. Hence, the dark energy in the air was extremely dense. Staying at the castle would allow a cultivator to grow rapidly. Apart from that, the disciples could also earn contribution points by slaughtering the dark bats.

The dark bats could reproduce easily. If they were allowed to grow unchecked, they would occupy the entire Castle of Darkness sooner or later. Thus, the academy had their disciples hunt the dark bats to suppress their quantity and maintain the current balance.

Among the many disciples, the strongest dark cultivator was the Severing Saber Manor's young master, Xiao Xie. The Severing Saber Manor was an incredibly mysterious organization. They had always been low-profiled, and few people knew much about them.

They specialized in saber techniques, and they enjoyed collecting famous sabers. That was how their organization came to be named the Severing Saber Manor.

Xiao Xie was one of the academy's top 10 genius disciples, his saber mastery seemingly unrivaled. He was also a self-proclaimed inheritor of the Saber Devil. It was obvious he had remarkable combat prowess.

Currently, Xiao Xie was within the Castle of Darkness. He was slim and tall, his chin pointed, his eyes sharp. No one dared to meet his gaze. He was dressed in a tight-fitting black outfit, and a monstrous and massive saber hung on his back. His entire person emanated a sinister sensation.

Standing on a heroic-looking black qilin, he exuded overbearingness. The black qilins were one of the strongest demonic clans in existence. They possessed incredible combat prowess and were second only to the true dragons, the white tigers, the phoenixes, and the black tortoises. A qilin was a beast with the head of a dragon, the horns of a deer, the body of a lion, the tail of a horse, and the claws of a wolf. Each part of its body was filled with power.

Each qilin represented a different symbol. For example, the fire qilins represented prosperity, the water qilins represented safety, and the black qilins represented disaster. It was generally believed that a calamity would follow the appearance of a black qilin.

One could say that the black qilins represented evil, and they were exceedingly hard to tame. Just the fact that Xiao Xie had a black qilin mount proved that he was a person with extraordinary fortuitous encounters. At present, he was staring at the central castle, seemingly wanting to charge there all by himself.

"Darkstorm, you think we should go?" Xiao Xie asked his black qilin.

The black qilin replied, "I can sense a thick killing intent in there. It is most definitely not the rumored place of inheritance. Instead, it feels more like a place of imprisonment."

"Place of imprisonment? Then, one can only imagine the strength of the person imprisoned there. How I long to personally witness a person like that. Too bad there are too many dark bats here. With our strength, it will be too hard to get through them," said Xiao Xie with regret.

"There is no point. Even if we managed to get in there, we wouldn't reap any harvests. On the other hand, the sky above us is filled with a type of pure dark energy. If you can charge into the void in the sky, you will be able to reap great harvests," said the black qilin with his head raised.

Xiao Xie raised his head as well. His eyes blazed with passion as he said, "The mysterious void is what everyone longs for. When I reach the Heaven Battling Realm, I will definitely charge up and see just what kind of treasures are contained within!"

At that moment, a streak of light trailed through the sky, heading straight toward the central keep.

## Chapter 669: Yet Another Prison

Many people noticed the sudden flash of light. All of them were stunned

"What's that? Are there meteors in this dark space?"

"No idea. What an odd phenomenon. It can't be some new secret emerging from the castle, right?"

"It felt like someone had appeared. Has the owner of the Castle of Darkness appeared?"

"Let's go take a look at the ancient keep. Maybe this will be an opportunity."

...

With the appearance of that flash of light, many disciples started heading toward the central keep. But when they approached, a large number of dark bats flew out, forcing them to withdraw. Even Xiao Xie was forced to retreat, cutting a sorry figure doing so.

"Darkstorm, what is that exactly?" Xiao Xie asked his black qilin.

"Feels like a human, but the flash had been too fast, so I hadn't sensed it clearly either," answered the black qilin.

Looks like this Castle of Darkness is hiding a massive secret, thought Xiao Xie.

The inside of the gloomy central keep did not look as imposing as its outside appearance. It was spacious and empty, with only a massive dark bat specter within. Numerous bloody runes trailed the walls of the hall, seemingly sealing something evil within.

At the middle of the hall was a depression on the ground, where the bloody runes converged. The numerous dark bats only stayed outside the hall. None dared to enter, as if this was the residence of their ruler. Without the permission of their ruler, they couldn't enter.

Suddenly, a human figure appeared, causing the dark bats to start screeching. The dark bats screeched madly, wanting to charge into the hall yet lacking the courage to do so. The human figure was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. He had activated his chakram in the space of endless darkness to split space apart, bringing him to a location unknown to him.

In the hall, he studied his surroundings, and a look of joy covered his face. "Haha, I have finally escaped that damn place!"

Right after he said that, the bloody runes in the hall suddenly started flowing and emanating a thick stench of blood. A massive sense of crisis struck Xiang Shaoyun, causing his hair to stand on end.

Without any hesitation, he charged out of the hall. But as soon as he moved, a dense power bound him, and it even dragged him to the depression at the hall's center.

Whoosh!

In a flash, Xiang Shaoyun vanished.

The next moment, he found himself crashing into the ground, and he hissed in pain from the fall. He maintained his clarity and started studying his surroundings. He found that he had arrived within a basement filled with dark bat corpses. Their shriveled appearance made it obvious these bats had been drained to death.

"What damnable place is this?" Xiang Shaoyun cursed.

"Kid, you came here without knowing what this place is? Interesting," a hoarse voice rang out.

The sudden emergence of the voice gave Xiang Shaoyun a jump.

"Who? Who's there?" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in alarm.

He scanned his surroundings. The place was completely dark, but that posed no issue for Xiang Shaoyun, who had night vision. He could see a shriveled figure sitting cross-legged at a certain corner of the room.

It was obvious that the figure had a big skeletal frame, as even in such a shriveled state, he still looked big. His hair drooped down his face, covering it and revealing only a pair of eyes pulsing with crimson radiance. Upon further observation, Xiang Shaoyun found that this person was shackled by nine thick chains. His four limbs, his head, his waist, and other vital parts were all locked by the chains.

This is yet another prison? Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

This sight reminded him of his meeting with Devouring Ghost. In fact, it was incredibly similar. The only difference was that this body still contained vitality within it, unlike Devouring Ghost's, which was completely dead.

"L-lord, hello. This kid has entered by mistake and has disturbed your peace. I shall leave immediately!" Xiang Shaoyun said as he started running.

A person like that was extremely dangerous. He would not dare to bet on his luck here. Unfortunately, since that person had dragged him in here, it was unlikely that he would allow him to leave. An indescribable power confined Xiang Shaoyun's body, making it hard for him to even budge.

"Lord, just spare this kid. My father is 80 years old, my little sister is 19 years old, and both need my care. Please show me kindness..." Xiang Shaoyun started pleading. It was not like he had other options. This person was too scary.

Xiang Shaoyun would be perfectly content so long as he could preserve his life. He did not wish to die in such a manner.

"Enough, cut the nonsense. If I had wanted to kill you, you would be dead by now," said the prisoner.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately shut his mouth, waiting for the prisoner to say more.

"Every 100 years, the Dragon Phoenix Academy will let a batch of disciples come in here. But not one of the disciples has been able to make it this far. You are the first. So can they fulfill their promise and free me, the Scarlet Flame Monarch?" the prisoner muttered in excitement. But he soon sighed, "Look at the tiny strength you have. It's just wishful thinking. Those hypocrites. How hateful!"

The prisoner seemed to be in an unstable emotion, his yells resounding in the room endlessly. Xiang Shaoyun felt like his eardrums were going to burst apart even as his blood stirred, putting him in intense torture. Hands around his ears, he flailed about on the ground, feeling like his organs were going to explode. He then fainted. When he regained consciousness, he found himself hurting everywhere. Words couldn't express his current torturous pain.

"I should still be alive," Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he refined a drop of emperor-grade spring liquid to nourish his injuries.

"Since you're still alive, have a chat with me. It has been 10,000 years since I last spoke to anyone. I'm going mad having only those bats for company," the prisoner's voice rang out. "Do you have any liquor on you? Offer some up to this monarch."

Xiang Shaoyun clambered up to his feet and offered a jar of liquor.

Bracing himself, Xiang Shaoyun asked, "Are you really the Scarlet Flame Monarch of the Five Skyslaying Generals under Overlord Xiang?"

#### Chapter 670: You're Really the Overlord

The Five Skyslaying Generals following the Overlord were respectively the Purple Lightning Marquis, the Scarlet Flame Monarch, the Gold Clothed Blood, the Devouring Ghost, and the Ten Thousand Slayer. Those were the five who had accompanied the Overlord on his conquest, spreading their fame far and wide.

Unfortunately, about 10,000 years ago, the Overlord had been besieged by numerous organizations and had ultimately been killed. As for the five, they were either dead or captured.

Based on Devouring Ghost's explanation, this Scarlet Flame Monarch was ranked second of the five. He was extremely powerful, with a fiery temper. Not many people dared to offend him.

Devouring Ghost had personally witnessed the deaths of the Gold Clothed Blood and the Ten Thousand Slayer. As for the Scarlet Flame Monarch, he was barely alive as well, and it did not seem likely that he could have survived. As for the Purple Lightning Marquis, he was the most likely survivor of the five.

Even back then, the Purple Lightning Marquis had the strength to defeat Heaven Battling Realm experts, and he was the Overlord's number one subordinate. Instead of encountering the most likely survivor, the Purple Lightning Marquis, Xiang Shaoyun had instead encountered the one most likely to perish, the Scarlet Flame Monarch. He was both overjoyed and surprised.

The appearance of the Scarlet Flame Monarch was too different than he had imagined, to the point he was having difficulty believing his eyes. The Scarlet Flame Monarch raised his head and regarded Xiang Shaoyun with pulsing red eyes.

Abruptly, he exclaimed, "Y-you're the Overlord! Have you arrived to free your subordinate?"

He struggled to stand up, but the chains around him started emanating a terrifying power, making any sort of movement impossible.

"Arghhhh! Piss off! Piss off!" The Scarlet Flame Monarch roared furiously as he struggled endlessly. A terrifying presence filled the basement, once again torturing Xiang Shaoyun with a dreadful suffocating sensation.

"Calm down," Xiang Shaoyun roared when he finally couldn't take it any longer.

At the same time, he circulated his Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, trying his best to counter the pressure emanated by the Scarlet Flame Monarch. After activating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, some random memory fragments appeared in his mind. These memories seemed to have accompanied him in birth, yet they also seemed to be sudden intruders.

He saw a sturdy and powerful man swearing fealty to him, the same man accompanying him in his numerous conquests, spreading their might throughout the dominion. From Xiang Shaoyun's roar, the Scarlet Flame Monarch sensed a will that allowed no disobedience. His violent temper slowly calmed.

"Overlord! You're really the Overlord!" he said, his voice confident.

He had been conquering his entire life, and the only person he would submit to was the Overlord. The young man before him was definitely the Overlord. Xiang Shaoyun acted like he had heard nothing and remained in a daze.

"Scarlet Flame, do you admit your mistake?" Xiang Shaoyun suddenly asked.

The Scarlet Flame Monarch answered obediently, "Your subordinate admits his mistake!"

"Back then, I told you and Purple Lightning to protect my Xiang Clan. Why are you imprisoned here? Who has such audacity?"

"I have failed the Overlord. I surrendered myself back then. They claimed that they would work together to eliminate the Xiang Clan otherwise."



"Those bastards! Did they think they had really defeated this overlord? I had merely suffered backlash during a breakthrough. That is the only reason they had been able to defeat me. Just wait. I shall slay every single one of them."

"Overlord!"

...

The Overlord was unrivaled, and his rule spread far and wide. Unfortunately, his arrogance and ambition had offended many organizations. Ultimately, his enemies joined hands to defeat and ultimately kill him.

Xiang Shaoyun suddenly woke up and muttered in confusion, "What is wrong with me?"

Everything he saw earlier felt like things he had personally experienced, yet they also felt like just a dream. He could not understand why he had uttered those words. The experience felt as if he had been possessed.

But he also felt like he was the very Overlord from 10,000 years ago, with the Scarlet Flame Monarch being his most devoted subordinate. The contrast sank him into confusion. He couldn't even find an explanation for what just happened to him.

The Scarlet Flame Monarch also realized something as he gazed at Xiang Shaoyun in excitement and said, "Overlord, you're the Overlord reincarnated! There's no mistaking it! Haha, I knew the Overlord wouldn't die so easily. Your cultivation is unrivaled, and your strength defies the heavens. If you don't want to die, who can subject you to death? Overlord, please save me from this place. Scarlet Flame shall stay by your side yet again, conquer the world with you, and establish the rule of the Xiang Clan!"

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the Scarlet Flame Monarch and sighed, "I don't know what happened either. I am Xiang Shaoyun, a descendant of the Xiang Clan. I am not the Overlord you know, but I did save Devouring Ghost. He told me about your past with the Overlord. He also told me I greatly resemble that Overlord. I also cultivate the same Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual and wield the same Overlord Skyslaying Saber."

The Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand. Purple lightning trailed around the saber, showcasing his domineering side as he stood there wielding the saber.

"Devouring Ghost! Devouring Ghost is still alive? Haha, that's great!" the Scarlet Flame Monarch roared with laughter. "If he says you're the Overlord, you're the Overlord. He won't be wrong. I believe you will slowly awaken all your memories in time."

"Forget about that for now. Let's see if there's any way of freeing you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After finding out about the Scarlet Flame Monarch's identity, a sense of closeness and unconditional trust toward him had arisen within Xiang Shaoyun's heart. That was the reason why he was considering rescuing the Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"These are god-grade chains. Not even I can break free of them. With your current strength, I doubt you can do anything. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber seems to have been broken as well, or there might still have been a chance you could free me," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with regret. "But to be able to meet the Overlord again, I am happy. I believe it won't be long before you are able to free me, Overlord!"

"Can your body still last?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Of course. The Dragon Phoenix Academy has provided such a place for me where I can drink the blood of those bats at any time. It helps in preserving my vitality, and living for a few thousand years more won't be a problem," said the Scarlet Flame Monarch.

A sense of sadness rose within Xiang Shaoyun when he heard those words. He took out some liquors and meat before saying, "Let's drink!"

"Haha, yes, life is great with liquor!" said the Scarlet Flame Monarch with excitement.

Just like that, the two chatted while eating and drinking. As if they were friends who had known each other forever, they had ceaseless topics to talk about, their conversation never ending. Through the conversation, Xiang Shaoyun learned that he was within the Dragon Phoenix Academy's Castle of Darkness.

He had not expected that he would end up here after leaving the space of endless darkness, and he heaved a breath of relief. At the very least, leaving wouldn't be too much of an issue. His only issue was how to free the Scarlet Flame Monarch. After all, the Dragon Phoenix Academy was

imprisoning the Scarlet Flame Monarch on behalf of other organizations. He had to properly think his plan through.