

Overlord 71

Chapter 71: I Hate This Bone!

The old drunkard couldn't say no to Xiang Shaoyun's request. He knew Xiang Shaoyun still wanted to grow without his protection, and he couldn't find an excuse to reject Xiang Shaoyun's request.

"Don't worry, old drunkard. I have gotten myself a King Realm expert to act as my temporary guard. Here, no ordinary person can harm me. Even this incident is merely an accident. In any case, I am a person of great fortune. I won't die that easily," Xiang Shaoyun said. He was trying to placate the old drunkard as he understood that the old drunkard was worried about him.

"Maybe I should go catch a few more of those tiny King Realm cultivators here. How is one enough to protect your precious self?" the old drunkard offered. If others heard these words, they would definitely be immeasurably shocked. The grand and magnificent King Realm had turned into a "tiny King Realm cultivator" in his mouth.

"No, we have to keep a low profile for now. Before you head over to my sister, leave some trails to mislead them. Perhaps that will buy me more time." Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand.

The two further discussed for a bit before Xiang Shaoyun asked for two king weapons, two king armors, and some spirit stones. As for Wu Fuxiang who had been rendered unconscious by the sound wave attack, Xiang Shaoyun personally killed him. He also found out from the old drunkard that this Wu Fuxiang was the patriarch of the Wu Clan. Hence, from now on, the Wu Clan would officially be his enemy.

The old drunkard wanted to exterminate the Wu Clan before leaving, but Xiang Shaoyun stopped him. Xiang Shaoyun wanted to personally exterminate the Wu Clan. It would be a waste to use the old drunkard against a mere Wu Clan anyway.

After he dealt with Wu Fuxiang, Xiang Shaoyun took the cauldron for himself. He also swept the hidden room clean. This room was in fact Wu Fuxiang's cultivation chamber. Quite a number of treasures had been hoarded here, such as some low-grade spirit stones, spirit medicines, and weapons.

"Huh? This is a lightning stone!" Xiang Shaoyun muttered in astonishment when he found a purple stone in the corner of the room while cleaning the room of its treasures. Apart from the color, the stone looked completely normal. But when he tried touching it, electrical sparks would appear around it, rendering even Transformation Realm experts to not dare to casually touch it.

This was a stone containing the power of lightning. It was considered a king-grade stone, a great material for forging king weapons. It was quite a waste that Wu Fuxiang had left a lightning stone so valuable to gather dust.

"Young master, let me seal this lightning stone for you first. You will have a need for it in the future," the old drunkard offered.

"It's fine. I'll use it right now." Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and reached out for the stone.

The old drunkard wanted to stop him, but after a slight hesitation, he decided to do nothing. The moment Xiang Shaoyun gripped the lightning stone, it started releasing electrical currents of terrifying might. But when the electrical currents touched his flesh, an absorption force appeared from the purple bone within him and directly pulled the electrical energy into his body.

"Hmm?"

Xiang Shaoyun frowned when that happened. The electrical energy was giving him a numb sensation yet it had not harmed him. Rather, he could feel his strength growing.

"Again!" Xiang Shaoyun muttered before he tightened his grip on the stone.

This time, he triggered even more electrical energy from the stone, causing bolts of electrical current to curl around his hand.

Pa! Pa!

This much electrical energy was sufficient to destroy everything, let alone mere flesh. But at this moment, something odd happened. Xiang Shaoyun's body seemed to have turned into a natural electrical gatherer as all the electrical energy was instantly absorbed into his body.

After all the electrical energy was absorbed, the lightning stone dimmed. The old drunkard bore witness to everything. His eyes were filled with astonishment. Even Xiang Shaoyun himself was confused.

"Has something within me awakened?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

"Y-young master, y-you might have awakened the lightning bone unique to the Xiang Clan!" the old drunkard cried out, his voice shivering.

"Xiang Clan's lightning bone? Yes, that's possible." Xiang Shaoyun nodded.

When the old drunkard saw how indifferent Xiang Shaoyun was, he couldn't help but say, "Young master, are you not happy? Even sect master himself has lived a life of regret for not being able to awaken his lightning bone. Now that you have awakened yours, he would be gratified to find out!"

"Should I even feel happy? My father is after all an abandoned child of that clan. I hate that clan, and I hate this bone!" Xiang Shaoyun said, fury covering his face.

"Ohh...young master, forget about them. In any case, awakening this lightning bone will be a great help in increasing your combat power. It will also make your future revenge much easier," the old drunkard said.

"Um," Xiang Shaoyun merely groaned in response. He then said, "Let's go. Bring all these things to my place, and you can leave after that. In about 8 or 10 years, we will return to the sect!"

"Yes, young master!" replied the old drunkard, a yearning look on his face. In the past, he felt that his young master was too young and innocent, wasting his talent away by refusing to cultivate. But now, he was looking at his young master in a completely new light.

Xiang Shaoyun and the old drunkard left the hidden room and arrived at the abandoned building.

"Meow!"

As soon as Xiang Shaoyun appeared, a cry rang out, and a white flash pounced on him. Little White then appeared in his arms. Xiang Shaoyun petted Little White and said, "Little guy, I've caused you to be anxious."

Little White rubbed his head against Xiang Shaoyun's palm and licked the palm intimately, filling Xiang Shaoyun's heart with warmth.

"Here, you can have this stalk of old medicine," said Xiang Shaoyun as he fed Little White a stalk of old medicine. Little White did not bother holding back and immediately swallowed the old medicine.

"Meow!"

After swallowing the stalk, Little White meowed for more.

"Haha, you're such a glutton. Fine, you can eat your fill today!" Xiang Shaoyun laughed and proceeded to feed Little White a few more stalks of old medicine. Only after eating all of them was Little White satisfied.

The old drunkard said, "Young master, this striped tiger cub is most likely a king species, but it's not suited to be your mount, right?"

"It's fine. Since he is now with me, I will make him strong. A day will come when he is the strongest demonic tiger in existence!" Xiang Shaoyun declared confidently.

And when Little White heard Xiang Shaoyun's declaration, he howled to echo the same sentiment.

"Alright, let's go. It's time to repay them for this favor," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Thus, they headed back to the Martial Hall Palace. This time, the old drunkard with one hand carried Xiang Shaoyun, and they moved at an incredibly fast speed. An ordinary person couldn't even see them. In the span of a few breaths, Xiang Shaoyun was already back at his residence.

Chapter 72: I Am Unhappy!

After sending Xiang Shaoyun back to his residence, the old drunkard was made to leave reluctantly. Gazing at the departing old drunkard, Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly, Don't worry, old drunkard. This young master will live well. I will not spare a single one of those traitors.

As of this moment, Xiang Shaoyun greatly longed to have his strength skyrocket instantaneously, but he was also aware that something like that would not happen.

Not enough, still far from enough. I need to grow as quickly as possible! Xiang Shaoyun vowed inwardly. After changing into a new set of clothes, he walked out of his residence.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun walked out, someone noticed him. The overseer cried out in alarm, "It's X-Xiang...Y-Young Master Xiang is back."

The overseer was about to call out Xiang Shaoyun's full name, but he was able to change it to "young master" instead. The new term of address was both respectful and denoted familiarity between them.

Xiang Shaoyun's disappearance had created a large ruckus in the entire Martial Hall Palace. Elder Zhen Peng and the palace master had both personally gotten involved in the incident. How would an overseer dare to show Xiang Shaoyun disrespect? And with the overseer's shout, the news of Xiang Shaoyun's return spread throughout the Martial Hall Palace.

Soon, Elder Zhen Peng, Yang Gaochuan, Qing Xiuhe, Zi Changhe, and the other higher ups of Martial Hall Palace gathered there. Even Li Xuemeng was no exception. When Li Xuemeng saw that Xiang Shaoyun was perfectly fine, his heart thumped madly. How is this possible? Had Wu Fuxiang released him? Shit, I'm f*cked!

"Young master, are you alright?" Elder Zhen Peng stepped forward and asked.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "I'm fine. My apologies for the trouble I have caused."

"Shaoyun, can you tell us what happened during the past two days? Elder Zhen Peng and everyone else have been worried sick about you," Zi Changhe asked.

"Hold on, young master, you've reached the fourth stage?" Elder Zhen Peng suddenly cried out in alarm.

"Haha, I got lucky. Nothing happened to me. Thank you for the trouble. I will treat everyone to a feast to thank you all when I get the chance," Xiang Shaoyun said with a cheerful laugh.

Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to tell them the truth. It's not like any of them would believe him if he told them the truth anyway. Since that was the case, he couldn't be bothered to tell them anything more.

Everyone was shocked by his rapid growth of strength, but that was still something they could accept. They merely assumed that Xiang Shaoyun must have eaten some spirit medicine to grow that fast. When they saw that Xiang Shaoyun was fine, they dispersed. Those still outside searching for Xiang Shaoyun were called back as well.

"Thirteenth elder, please wait a moment," Xiang Shaoyun suddenly called out to Li Xuemeng.

Li Xuemeng trembled before turning. "Y-yes?"

He tried his best to calm himself, but he still couldn't avoid feeling fear. The current Xiang Shaoyun was still no threat to him. But with Elder Zhen Peng around, he had to feel fear. If a King Realm expert was angered, their entire Li Clan would be exterminated.

"Please pass your son a message. I'll see him at the arena tomorrow," Xiang Shaoyun said solemnly. When Li Xuemeng heard that, he heaved a sigh of relief. So long as it wasn't about the kidnap, he did not care about anything else.

"Y-Young Master Xiang, there is no need for that, right? I concede on my son's behalf. I'll also tell my children to get out of your way whenever they see you," Li Xuemeng said, lowering himself. He swore that so long as the kidnap remained a secret, he would no longer provoke this kid.

"No. He was too cocky the other day. I am very unhappy. I'll see him in the arena tomorrow. If I don't see him, I will be even more unhappy, and all of you won't have an easy time if that is the case," Xiang Shaoyun rejected the surrender.

"Just do as told," Elder Zhen Peng said.

"Yes, yes. I will tell my son to go and let Young Master Xiang vent his anger," Li Xuemeng quickly promised.

"No need for that. Just tell him to fight me with his full strength. I won't regret it even if I get killed tomorrow. Elder Peng and my senior brother will not do anything if I am killed in the arena tomorrow. Don't worry about it," Xiang Shaoyun promised.

Li Xuemeng did not know from where Xiang Shaoyun got his confidence. He merely nodded and left. Once Li Xuemeng left, Little White growled on Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder with a vicious expression.

"Was it him?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Meow!" Little White replied.

At this time, Zi Changhe spoke. "When you went missing, he came out from thirteenth elder's carriage. He also brought us to an abandoned building behind the Wu Estate. Unfortunately, we failed to find you."

"That's right, then." Xiang Shaoyun instantly understood everything. Li Xuemeng was the kidnapper who had handed him to Wu Fuxiang at the abandoned building. One could say that the two were the culprits.

"Young master, do you want me to...," Elder Zhen Peng asked as a ruthless glint surfaced in his eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "No, I will personally deal with these trashes one by one."

He regarded both the Wu Clan or Li Xuemeng as nothing more than his stepping stones. Xiang Shaoyun then asked them about Lu Xiaoqing. When he found that Lu Xiaoqing was safe, he was relieved.

"Elder Zhen Peng, senior brother, please come with me. I have something for you guys," Xiang Shaoyun said before entering his residence. The two were clueless about what he was up to, but they still followed him inside.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun came out from his room with two items. Both items were covered by black cloth, but from the outlines, it was clear they were weapons. He handed them both items and said, "Take it, I believe they will be useful for you guys."

Elder Zhen Peng was the first to accept the gift. He removed the black cloth, revealing the sword beneath. Without thinking, he drew out the sword.

Swish!

As the blade left the sheath, a bright radiance shot up into the sky, as if a fiery roc was soaring through the sky.

"T-this is a king weapon!" Elder Zhen Peng cried out, his voice shivering.

"Calm down, Old Peng. Keep it away first to avoid unnecessary troubles," Xiang Shaoyun said indifferently.

"Oh, right, yes. I got too excited." Elder Zhen Peng quickly kept the sword back in its sheath.

"King weapon? Did I get the same as well?" Zi Changhe cried out in surprise before he removed the black cloth from his gift as well. Similarly, a dazzling radiance shot up into the sky, yet this time, the color of the radiance was different. It was purple.

"T-this is the real Purple Lightning Spear!" Zi Changhe cried out joyfully.

"That's right. One Fire Roc Sword and one Purple Lightning Spear, both are common king weapons, but I suppose they are good enough for now," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"They aren't ordinary king weapons, right? They are at least mid-tier king weapons! They are high-quality treasures!" Elder Zhen Peng was still rather knowledgeable, after all.

"Yeah, they are too valuable. We can't accept them!" Zi Changhe said.

"Just take them. We can get as many of these ordinary things as we want," Xiang Shaoyun said indifferently.

Chapter 73: I Will Be Fully Devoted!

The very first gift Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe got from Xiang Shaoyun were king weapons, and Xiang Shaoyun even claimed that these were merely ordinary weapons. His action shocked both of them greatly. For them, king weapons were items that were extremely rare, and they had never imagined they would get one so easily. The entire thing felt like a dream.

"Young master, where did you get these weapons?" Elder Zhen Peng asked, swallowing. When he first met Xiang Shaoyun in the sixth limit room, he merely felt that Xiang Shaoyun had an outstanding potential with an extremely bright future ahead of him. That was why he had decided to become Xiang Shaoyun's follower. He had never thought about Xiang Shaoyun's origin and background. But now, he couldn't resist asking.

To the side, Zi Changhe opened his ears wide, waiting for the answer. He was also filled with questions.

"Don't worry about the origin of these weapons. They come from me," Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before replying. He assumed a solemn expression and continued, "There is no need for you to know who I am for now. Just know that any random pursuer sent by my enemies will be enough to give the Martial Hall Palace endless trouble. Therefore, Elder Peng, think it through again if you want to continue following me."

Both Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe inhaled deeply in shock when they heard those words. Any random person could bring the Martial Hall Palace endless troubles? How terrifying were his enemies? They finally had an idea of how extraordinary Xiang Shaoyun's background was.

Both Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe were left speechless. They had never faced organizations of that level; thus, they did not know what to do in this situation. After a long while, Elder Zhen Peng recovered from his thoughts. He bowed and said, "Zhen Peng is willing to forever stay by young master's side!"

Risk and reward came in pairs. Perhaps following Xiang Shaoyun would bring him endless troubles, but he was also sure he stood to gain a lot as well. Thus, after some considerations, he made this choice.

"Good, since you can make up your mind, I, Xiang Shaoyun, will not treat you unfairly," Xiang Shaoyun said with satisfaction. At present, he was still running from his enemies. With a King Realm expert by his side, he would be able to put more focus on growing stronger instead of worrying about everything personally.

Next, he looked at Zi Changhe and said, "Senior brother, don't worry. It won't be long before I leave the Martial Hall Palace. I won't bring the Martial Hall Palace any trouble."

Xiang Shaoyun had already come to a decision. In a year, regardless of whether he was already at the Transformation Realm, he would leave the Martial Hall Palace.

"I'm all alone with no family members, so I don't really care. But I only hope that the Martial Hall Palace won't get dragged into it," Zi Changhe said with a bitter expression. He had never imagined that the disciple he had brought into the Martial Hall Palace was actually a time bomb. The moment this bomb exploded, the Martial Hall Palace would be destroyed. He would be the ultimate sinner if that were to happen.

Xiang Shaoyun understood Zi Changhe's feelings. He did not know what to say as well. Back then, he only wanted to look for a place where he could peacefully cultivate. But now, he was starting to feel guilty.

"Since you have such powerful enemies, I trust you have some ways of dealing with them, right? I hope you can kill them all before they find the Martial Hall Palace," Zi Changhe said.

"Um, I will." Xiang Shaoyun nodded his head heavily.

"Ok, I'll be taking this king weapon, then." Zi Changhe no longer hesitated and kept the weapon away. That was his way of indicating that he would also stand by Xiang Shaoyun's side without regret.

"Even with king weapons, it does not mean you will be undefeated. In fact, your confidence from having the king weapon might be the cause of your fall. Let me teach you some high-leveled cultivation methods and battle techniques. After all, the King Realm is not the strongest. It is merely a new starting point for a martial cultivator," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Before this, Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe would definitely snort with disdain if they had heard Xiang Shaoyun say something like this. But now, everything changed. Their impression of Xiang Shaoyun was of a young master from some powerful organization. Thus, they also believed that anything Xiang Shaoyun would take out would be of great quality.

Since young, Xiang Shaoyun had been an avid reader. The books he had read included the manuals of numerous cultivation methods and battle techniques. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun himself was a huge treasure trove. He could easily take out cultivation methods and battle techniques of king grade and above.

After asking Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe some questions, Xiang Shaoyun passed them the cultivation methods and battle techniques suitable for them.

After Elder Zhen Peng and Zi Changhe received the cultivation methods and battle techniques, the shock in their hearts intensified. What he gave them were definitely the best among tier-4 cultivation methods and battle techniques, also known as king-grade cultivation methods and battle techniques. These were something that they had yearned to get for a very long time.

Even if the Martial Hall Palace had something like them, they would be the exclusive treasures of the palace and would not be easily taken out. Moreover, what the palace had were only ordinary tier-4 cultivation methods and battle techniques, unlike the top quality ones that Xiang Shaoyun had taken out.

"Young master, I will be fully devoted to you in the future," Elder Zhen Peng declared solemnly.

Zi Changhe said, "Shaoyun, I don't really know how I can repay you for this."

"Don't worry about it. These were nothing too valuable. When you grow stronger in the future, I have even better stuff for you guys. We'll see." Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand. He continued, "But of course, don't let the palace master and the others know about this. It will invite unnecessary trouble."

The two nodded repeatedly. They continued chatting for a bit before Zi Changhe left. As for Elder Zhen Peng, he settled down at Xiang Shaoyun's place. Since he had decided to follow Xiang Shaoyun, he would dedicate his heart and soul to protect Xiang Shaoyun from now on.

Previously, Elder Zhen Peng was only following his instinct when he decided to become Xiang Shaoyun's follower. He still held a certain amount of doubt, but now, he couldn't be more sure in his decision to follow Xiang Shaoyun. In the distant future, this choice would be the choice he was most proud of.

Peace returned, and Xiang Shaoyun decided to pay Lu Xiaoqing a visit. No matter what, she had been injured for his sake, and he had already acknowledged her as a friend.

Lu Xiaoqing stayed at eleventh elder's, He Yinghua's, place. Thus, he had to go there if he wanted to visit her. He strolled there casually while enjoying the serene environment. The sudden growth of his strength caused him to feel rather relaxed at the moment.

"I hope my arrival will not be the ruin of this place's peace," Xiang Shaoyun lamented to himself. He was fearful that the Martial Hall Palace would one day face destruction because of him.

"Stand right there!" a crisp voice suddenly rang out behind him.

"Huh? There's killing intent!" Xiang Shaoyun had a bad feeling, and without turning, the graceful figure he saw at the Hundred Beast Mountain Range surfaced in his mind. When he thought of that person, instead of standing, he sped up.

"Why are you running? Stop! Do you hear me?" the voice rang out again, and it was getting closer to him.

"Uhm, I need to answer nature's call. We're not that close anyway, see you," Xiang Shaoyun gave a random reply and fled.

Chapter 74: Sister Chang'e

The person calling out to Xiang Shaoyun was none other than Gong Qinyin, who he had met during his excursion at the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. That single meeting had left both of them with a deep impression of each other. And because of that, neither of them could forget that encounter.

At this moment, Gong Qinyin's cold eyes were opened wide with fury, as if she was about to eat someone. She was mounted on a demonic lion, an adolescent snow lion that had just reached the Intermediate Demon realm. The moment she saw Xiang Shaoyun running, she was certain he was the enemy she hadn't been able to forget.

"You won't be able to escape me in the Martial Hall Palace!" Gong Qinyin yelled before shooting an arrow at Xiang Shaoyun.

Swish!

This arrow seemed even more destructive than the arrow she had shot during their previous encounter. It headed straight for Xiang Shaoyun's back.

"Holy shit, you don't have to attack to kill the moment we meet, right?" Xiang Shaoyun yelled when he sensed the incoming arrow and quickly dodged it. Gong Qinyin had indeed grown stronger, but her growth was incomparable to Xiang Shaoyun's. In fact, the two were now at the same cultivation level. Thus, it wouldn't be easy for Gong Qinyin to do anything to Xiang Shaoyun. She shot a few more arrows but still failed to hit Xiang Shaoyun.

When she saw an overseer coming toward them, she quickly said, "Revered overseer, please arrest this pervert for me!"

Gong Qinyin was the personal disciple of the palace master, Yang Gaochuan, and she occupied a high status in the palace. Therefore, her words still carried some weight. Unfortunately, when the enforcers got a good look at who she was trying to catch, they all stopped.

"Miss Qinyin, h-he is Xiang Shaoyun! W-we can't arrest him," the overseer said with a bitter smile.

"What do you mean?" Gong Qinyin asked, confused. She had been away for three months, so she was naturally unaware of the recent changes in the palace.

The overseer replied, "He is the junior brother of Elder Zi Changhe, also a possessor of a five-star physique just like you. He has only joined for two months, and even the palace master looks highly upon him. All the resources of the Martial Hall Palace have been made available for him. None of us have the authority to arrest him."

A look of realization surfaced on Gong Qinyin's face, but she soon sneered, "Very well. Since this is the Martial Hall Palace, you won't be able to escape me no matter what."

After hearing the overseer's words, she was no longer in a rush to teach Xiang Shaoyun a lesson, so she instead stopped and headed toward the palace master's residence on her mount. When Xiang Shaoyun found that Gong Qinyin was no longer chasing him, he headed straight toward the eleventh elder's place.

That fierce girl is also a Martial Hall Palace member. Looks like there will be a lot of trouble in the future, Xiang Shaoyun sighed inwardly. He shook his head and threw the issue to the back of his mind. He called out to the residence before him, "Is the eleventh elder here? Xiang Shaoyun requests an audience."

A leisurely figure strolled out of the residence. This person was a rarely seen beauty, her face as beautiful as a blooming flower, her skin as fair as the fairest white jade, and a youthful vigor surrounded her. She was dressed in an elegant silk outfit that perfectly showcased her hourglass figure. She was a young woman of around 18 years old, possessing an air of maturity that set her apart from many of the younger girls in the palace.

When the young woman saw Xiang Shaoyun, she smiled gently and said, "So you're my junior sister's crush, Xiang Shaoyun? Not bad, you look decent."

"You have good taste, big sister. You look decent too," Xiang Shaoyun praised the woman as well.

"Decent? What do you mean by decent? Am I not as pretty as my Junior Sister Lu?" the young woman grumbled resentfully.

"Hehe, you both are beautiful in your own ways. She is pure and innocent, while you are enchanting and alluring!" Xiang Shaoyun gave his evaluation.

"Ohhh, you sure have your way with words. No wonder my Junior Sister Lu is dreaming of you even when she's sleeping," teased the young woman.

"Is that so? Can I see her?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"No," the young woman said, a crafty look covering her face.

"Why so? Are her injuries that bad?" Xiang Shaoyun asked anxiously.

"She is fine, but if you want to see her, you have to first satisfy my requirement," said the young woman.

"I see. What is your requirement, then?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, amused.

"Simple. Praise me. If I'm happy with your praise, I'll let you in," said the young woman in excitement.

"Is that proper? You are already so beautiful, if I continue praising you, even Lady Chang'e on the moon will pale in comparison. For the sake of the moon, I think we should forget it," Xiang Shaoyun said with a reluctant look on his face.

"Haha...you're amusing. How can I compare with Chang'e?" A wide smile bloomed on the young woman's face when she heard those words.

"How can you not? If you ask me, I say Lady Chang'e is not even half as pretty as you. I must've exhausted eight lifetimes' worth of good fortune to be able to meet you today," Xiang Shaoyun continued. One ought to admit that Xiang Shaoyun's mouth was truly much more powerful than his hands. With a few short sentences, the young woman could no longer stop laughing.

"Little Xin, what are you doing? Invite Shaoyun in," eleventh elder's voice rang out from inside the building. The young woman immediately stopped laughing and whispered to Xiang Shaoyun, "Alright, pass. Go on in. Remember, this big sister's name is Chen Xin."

"You got it wrong. It's Big Sister Chang'e," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"No wonder my Junior Sister Lu is completely smitten by you. I can't allow this. I have to warn her to stay far away from you. You are too much of a sweet talker!" Chen Xi said, seemingly praising and admonishing him at the same time before rushing into the building.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled before stepping in too. When he entered the yard, He Yinghua was walking out of the building too. When she saw Xiang Shaoyun, she smiled and said, "Come in and have a seat, Shaoyun."

Ordinary disciples would definitely not be greeted by an elder when they visit. This was a treatment only accorded to Xiang Shaoyun.

"Greetings, Elder He," Xiang Shaoyun greeted politely.

"You're too polite. I am of the same generation as your senior brother. If you don't look down on me, just call me senior sister," He Yinghua said enthusiastically. When Chen Xin heard that, she staggered and nearly planted her face on the ground. That caused He Yinghua to send her a dissatisfied glance. "Why are you so clumsy?"

"N-nothing, m-master. I-I forgot to watch my step," Chen Xin quickly explained herself. She shouted inwardly, Since he is calling master senior sister, wouldn't the seniority be completely messed up when he marries Junior Sister Lu in the future? Oh my heavens!

One ought to admit that Chen Xi had quite an active imagination.

"Thank you for the favor you have shown me, El—Senior Sister He. How is Lu Xiaoqing?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"She's fine. You can see her inside," He Yinghua said before telling Chen Xin to bring Xiang Shaoyun to Lu Xiaoqing. Little did Xiang Shaoyun know that this meeting with Lu Xiaoqing would put him in a predicament.

Chapter 75: Shit! I Really Wasn't Lying!

Lu Xiaoqing had been injured by Li Xuemeng. Although the injury wasn't fatal, it was still rather serious. Fortunately, Zi Changhe treated her in time, allowing her to recover without much trouble. After she woke up, she was incredibly worried about Xiang Shaoyun. After all, even after the Martial Hall Palace sent out a huge search party, they still failed to locate Xiang Shaoyun and the kidnapper. That was worrying.

"Junior sister, look who's here to visit," Chen Xin said the moment she arrived outside Lu Xiaoqing's room with Xiang Shaoyun. Lu Xiaoqing walked out of the room, her face still pale. When she noticed Xiang Shaoyun, tears dripped from her eyes.

"Ahhh, girl, don't cry. You look ugly when crying!" Xiang Shaoyun was as flippant with his words as ever. In the past, whenever he said something like that, Lu Xiaoqing would be furious. But this time, she pounced on him instead.

"Wuuu...wuuu...I was so worried about you!" Lu Xiaoqing wailed in Xiang Shaoyun's arms.

Huh? What's with this? The excessive reaction stunned Xiang Shaoyun. He had never expected that Lu Xiaoqing would act this way. It was completely different than what he had expected.

"What a lucky guy. Remember to treat my junior sister well in the future." Chen Xin glared at Xiang Shaoyun before swaggering away. Xiang Shaoyun felt even more awkward after hearing that.

He patted Lu Xiaoqing's shoulder and said, "Lu Xiaoqing, are you still asleep or something? Wake up!" Inwardly, he muttered to himself, Shit, she's taking advantage of me!

In truth, they hadn't known each other for that long. At most, he only considered her a good friend.

Why was she hugging me under broad daylight? A man and a woman should not touch before marriage!

"No, my mind is clear. Shaoyun, I-I've fallen in love with you!" Lu Xiaoqing dug her face into Xiang Shaoyun's chest and wrapped her arms tightly around him as she confessed to him.

Bang!

Xiang Shaoyun felt his mind go blank.

"I-is this a joke?" Xiang Shaoyun asked. He was definitely not here to pick up girls. He was only here so that he could have a place to cultivate in peace. As for a romantic relationship, he hadn't even considered it. In any case, he only saw Lu Xiaoqing as a good friend, and he had no romantic feelings for her.

Lu Xiaoqing slowly released Xiang Shaoyun and gazed straight into his eyes. "Will I joke about something like this? D-do you n-not like me?"

Xiang Shaoyun did not know how to answer.

"I have always thought of you as a close friend. I have never seen you romantically," Xiang Shaoyun answered honestly.

"No, I don't want to merely be your friend. I want to be your other half. Didn't you say that I'm pretty? Were you saying that just for fun?" Lu Xiaoqing said stubbornly.

Shit! I really did say that just for fun! Xiang Shaoyun inwardly cursed.

Lu Xiaoqing was certainly a beauty, but Xiang Shaoyun had seen too many beauties, each of them with an extraordinary bearing. In comparison, Lu Xiaoqing seemed bland.

"Lu Xiaoqing, listen to me. I am a person with a blood feud, and my only goal is to reach the King Realm or an even higher realm as soon as possible. Only then will I be able to take my revenge. Before that, I have no interest in romance. This is no time for me to be distracted by something else. Do you understand?" Xiang Shaoyun said seriously.

"You're not lying?" Lu Xiaoqing asked.

"I swear! May lightning strike me if this is a lie!" Xiang Shaoyun swore.

Rumble! Rumble!

Suddenly, the sky turned dark, and thunder rumbled, scaring Xiang Shaoyun shitless.

"Shit! I really wasn't lying!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

"Fine. I can bear that burden with you. I am willing to work hard with you, to one day reach the King Realm and get revenge with you!" Lu Xiaoqing, grabbing Xiang Shaoyun's hands, said with agitation. She really did look like she was prepared to give her entire being to Xiang Shaoyun. A woman was indeed unstoppable when she fell in love.

At this point, Xiang Shaoyun no longer knew what to say. His heart would always be soft when it came to his friends, and he couldn't bring himself to be too harsh with the truth. Nevertheless, he was still a quick-witted person. He quickly said, "Lu Xiaoqing, I am very touched, but if you really do love me, you have to prove it with your actions. How about this...if one day your cultivation level catches up to mine, I will let you be my woman. I have a five-star physique with a bright future ahead of me. I can't allow my woman to be too weak either. What do you think?"

Lu Xiaoqing was rather simple minded, and she found his words reasonable. She therefore nodded. "Ok! Those are your own words! When I catch up to you, we will be together, and we will take your revenge together!"

"Um. I am now at the fourth-stage Astral Realm. You need to continue working hard. Otherwise, our gap will only widen," Xiang Shaoyun said.

"No, that won't happen. I will catch up to you!" Lu Xiaoqing vowed solemnly before landing a peck on Xiang Shaoyun's cheek. Then, she released him, turned around, entered her room, and shut the door. Everything she had done earlier were things she would never do usually. Thus, she was too embarrassed to continue facing Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun merely rubbed his face with a bitter smile, his heart filled with melancholy. Unfortunately, there were some things he just couldn't accept. If this was in the past, he wouldn't mind fooling around with her. But he was now a different person. He had to be responsible for himself and the people around him. He did not want to hurt her.

"Rest well. I'm leaving," Xiang Shaoyun said and left.

But he had barely left when Chen Xin came out from a certain corner and said, "Brat, you dare take advantage of my junior sister! I'll tell my master!"

"Impudent. Your master is my senior sister. So I am your martial uncle," Xiang Shaoyun said with a solemn look on his face.

When Chen Xin saw Xiang Shaoyun's serious display, she immediately felt guilty and said, "I-I did not intend any disrespect!"

"Haha! I was just kidding!" Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter. He continued, "Advise your junior sister to leave me. I am not a good person."

Right after saying that, Xiang Shaoyun stepped forth toward Chen Xin, as if he was going to molest her.

"If you come one step closer, I will crush your balls!" Chen Xin said fiercely. Her threat frightened Xiang Shaoyun so much he felt a chill enveloping his lower body for no apparent reason. He quickly fled.

"Fine, you win!" Xiang Shaoyun did not forget to stop and shout with his thumb raised before he continued fleeing.

"Haha, of course. Don't forget who I am," Chen Xin laughed smugly. Chen Xin might seem playful here, but that should never mislead someone. She was in fact one of the top 10 disciples in the Martial Hall Palace.

Chapter 76: Before the Match

Wu Clan had already received news that Xiang Shaoyun was still alive. When Wu Hongxi arrived at the hidden room, the corpses of his father and their subordinates greeted him. The discovery frightened him greatly.

"How? How did this happen? Did Elder Zhen Peng find this place? That's not possible!" Wu Hongxi muttered blankly to himself. If it was Elder Zhen Peng, he would have come for them long ago. How would everything stay so peaceful?

Filled with sorrow, Wu Hongxi returned to his study. Only after a long while did he remember to request help from the Wu Clan of Cloud Margin City. No matter what, they had to get a King Realm expert to come back them up. Otherwise, their only option would be to pack up and leave town.

At the same time, Li Xuemeng, Li Hong'er, and Li Tianba were gathered at Li Xuemeng's residence.

"Father, are there no other options?" Li Tianba asked with indignation. His father had just told him to intentionally lose during the match with Xiang Shaoyun tomorrow, and he found it hard to accept.

"Yeah, Father. So what if he is backed by Elder Zhen Peng? That bastard is the challenger! In an arena battle, even killing the opponent is allowed!" Li Hong'er said viciously.

"No, you don't understand. Things are not as simple as you think," Li Xuemeng sighed. He couldn't bring himself to tell them about the kidnap job.

"Father, I think you worry too much. Even if I do kill him tomorrow, Elder Zhen Peng might be angry for a while. But isn't that a good thing for him as well? Like you said, he had sworn allegiance to Xiang Shaoyun before everyone's eyes. With Xiang Shaoyun dead, he would be free again. His loyalty would remain with the Martial Hall Palace, and he won't easily kill us," Li Tianba analyzed.

Li Xuemeng hesitated slightly. His eyes shone, and he said, "Fine! We'll do it! But don't mess it up!"

"Don't worry. With my strength, killing him is as easy as killing a bug," Li Tianba promised confidently.

"Don't underestimate him. That kid has probably swallowed some spirit medicine. He is already at the fourth stage," Li Xuemeng reminded.

"So what? I'm still two stages above him." Li Tianba remained indifferent.

...

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of their conversation. He was presently practicing his Lightning Bolt Fist and Lightning Spear Technique. With his present strength, he was able to unleash even more might from his battle techniques. His mastery over his Lightning Spear Technique had reached about 85 percent. His actual focus was placed on the Lightning Bolt Fist.

The first stage of Lightning Bolt Fist's mastery was to unleash attacks akin to lightning bolts. He blasted the empty air, punch after punch. The purple qi swirling around his fists made him look rather domineering.

"Haa!"

Shouting, Xiang Shaoyun dashed forward with the ferocity of a tiger and punched out with the might of a lightning bolt. A purple lightning bolt snaked out of his fist and shot straight at a stone not far ahead of him.

Bang!

Instantly, the nearly 500-kilogram, heavy stone was blasted into smithereens.

"I am already capable of transforming energy into lightning. Looks like the lightning bone has indeed benefited me greatly," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

Even sixth-stage Astral Realm cultivators might not necessarily be able to unleash an attack that destructive. Xiang Shaoyun had relied on himself to accomplish it and had indeed grown much stronger in recent days.

...

A day and a night passed, and the news of the match had spread all over the Martial Hall Palace.

"What is Xiang Shaoyun doing? He has just returned, and he immediately challenges Li Tianba? Does he not know that Li Tianba is one of the top-10 inner court disciples?"

"Yeah. Even if he is now in the Astral Realm, he is still not Li Tianba's match. Is he trying to create another miracle?"

"Or perhaps Li Tianba was the one who had provoked him into a match? Since Xiang Shaoyun couldn't find an excuse to reject him, he agreed?"

"We shall see. I have a feeling this will be a match worth watching."

...

The match had yet to start, but all the disciples were already gathered. Nobody was optimistic about Xiang Shaoyun. After all, for them, the gap between Xiang Shaoyun and Li Tianba was too big.

"Huh? Isn't that Senior Brother Leng Han? He hasn't been seen for a long time, but he has actually shown himself?" a certain outer court disciple cried out in alarm. The cry turned numerous heads; all the gazes congregated on a certain cold-looking youth.

The youth was Leng Han, an outer court disciple, also the current strongest outer court disciple. He was a cultivation addict and was rarely seen ever since he had grabbed the spot of being the number one outer court disciple. He spent most of his time tempering himself outside the palace. This time, he had likely appeared because it was coincidentally the end of one such excursion. Thus, he was here to see the new rising star, Xiang Shaoyun.

At a different corner, Mo Buhui and Mei Lianhua appeared as well. After the Hundred Beast Mountain Range trip a month ago, Mo Buhui had been missing. Today, he finally showed himself again. But for some reason, he had an odd look on his face, as if there was something wrong with him.

Apart from them, Xia Liuhui had also appeared. He was just done with his secluded cultivation session. Using the Earth Star Spring Xiang Shaoyun had given him, he managed to reach peak first-stage Astral Realm. His growth was very obvious as his cultivation had grown two stages in one go.

"My boss will definitely win! My boss will definitely win!" This time, he was behaving in a very conspicuous manner. He had a white cloth wrapped around his head, and he shouted while waving a white flag.

The people around him all stepped far away from him, looking at him like he was some idiot. Inwardly, they were cursing, What an idiot. Isn't a white flag a sign of surrender?

But one certain girl did not leave. She stood beside him, waiting with a longing gaze. This girl was Lu Xiaoqing. She was here to cheer on Xiang Shaoyun.

Shaoyun will definitely win! Lu Xiaoqing thought to herself.

Suddenly, there was a disturbance at a certain corner of the arena.

"Roar! Roar!"

Several roars rang out, attracting the attention of many disciples. When they looked over, they saw several youths mounted on different beasts. Each of them were fully equipped with weapons and armor, looking incredibly impressive and mighty.

"What's happening here?" the handsome young man who was leading the group asked a junior brother beside him.

"S-Senior Brother Ye, it's an arena battle between Senior Brother Li Tianba and Xiang Shaoyun," answered the nervous disciple.

"I know Li Tianba, but who's Xiang Shaoyun? Is he an outsider?" the young man asked.

"H-he is a new disciple, the junior brother of Elder Purple Lightning Marquis, someone with a five-star physique," the disciple said.

"Yet another five-star physique? Interesting," the young man muttered, a look of envy on his face. This young man was Ye Tianlong, one of the top three inner court disciples. He was also the first elder's personal disciple.

Chapter 77: All of You Can Come at Once

The top 10 inner court disciples were all at the late stage of the Astral Realm, the foundation of the palace's next generation. Ye Tianlong was a domineering and haughty person, and that was obvious from how he would charge his way forward while riding his mount.

Many outer court disciples were unhappy about it, but they did not dare voice their displeasure. Here, only the strong were entitled to a voice. Those without strength should always maintain a low profile lest the strong would suppress them.

Ye Tianlong's appearance caused the atmosphere to grow more lively. Not long after, Wu Mingguang and Wu Mingliang of the Wu Clan also arrived. They were led by their fifth brother, Wu Mingyang.

Wu Mingyang was an expert equal to Li Tianba, or to be precise, he was now stronger than Li Tianba since he had recently broken through to the seventh stage of the Astral Realm.

"Fifth brother, Ye Tianlong is back," Wu Mingguang said after glancing in a certain direction.

"Yeah. Looks like everyone was making their final preparations for the Battle of Towns in half a year," Wu Mingyang said. He continued, "So long as I get one of the spots, I don't care about anything else."

"Yes, I am confident fifth brother will amaze the world with a single brilliant feat. And if you can get the opportunity to cultivate at the Cloud Margin City, your future will be even brighter," Wu Mingliang said.

"You two have decent talent as well. Stop focusing on other unnecessary issues and focus on cultivation. That is where your focus should lie," Wu Mingyang advised.

Finally, Li Tianba arrived. Equipped with battle armor, he rode an armored lizard and wielded a weapon, looking like a general that was about to head to the battlefield.

Behind him stood Li Hong'er, dressed in red. The bright color was gorgeous, yet she seemed to have an arrogant look forever stuck on her face, one that annoyed anyone who looked at her.

The crowd parted and made way for them, but Li Tianba chose to leap straight onto the arena instead of walking to it. He was still about 10 meters away from the arena. Hence, the distance he covered with a single leap attracted cheers from the crowd.

Regardless of Li Tianba's character, he had the strength to back it up. The moment he landed on the arena, he howled, "Where is Xiang Shaoyun? Today, I, Li Tianba, will teach you an unforgettable lesson!"

With his domineering aura, Li Tianba seized the upper hand by a show of strength the moment he arrived. He would make a great general.

"This young master is here. I shall see what you can do to me today," an indifferent voice rang out from not far away.

When the crowd looked over, they saw Xiang Shaoyun casually strolling toward the arena. He was busy wolfing down some steamed rolls, and Little White was silently hanging around his shoulders. No matter how one looked at him, he did not seem like someone here for an arena battle. He was giving off an impression that both the arena battle and Li Tianba were not worth his attention.

The sight infuriated Li Tianba. He said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I will make you kneel and beg for mercy."

"Heh, you won't be able to do that," Xiang Shaoyun said and smiled as he ate, looking quite comical.

At this moment, a certain figure dashed toward Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Shaoyun, you got something on your mouth. Let me wipe it for you." Apart from Lu Xiaoqing, who else could this person be? The crowd was filled with envy.

Seeing Lu Xiaoqing with Xiang Shaoyun was akin to seeing a blooming flower stuck on a pile of cow dung. Of course, that was due to jealousy. In truth, many of the girls also thought Lu Xiaoqing was not worthy of Xiang Shaoyun.

By reflex, Xiang Shaoyun dodged Lu Xiaoqing's attempt to wipe his mouth, and he smiled, saying, "No, there's too many people. I'm shy."

Without waiting for Lu Xiaoqing to react, he charged toward the arena. When he arrived, he looked at Li Tianba and said, "By the way, I don't mind you and your sister fighting together. I'm worried that you alone won't last long."

"Haha, let me see if your strength is as mighty as your mouth!" Li Tianba howled with laughter before stepping toward Xiang Shaoyun. He did not launch a sudden attack. Rather, he was planning to let Xiang Shaoyun clearly understand the gap between them.

As Li Tianba had a tall and sturdy body, when he opened his eyes wide and glowered at someone, he would give off an incorporeal pressure. Unfortunately, it was ineffective against Xiang Shaoyun, who had faced a King Realm expert's presence before.

As Li Tianba approached Xiang Shaoyun, Xiang Shaoyun suddenly yelled, "Scram!"

His voice rumbled like a thunderclap. Li Tianba sensed a suffocating sensation press down on him, as if Xiang Shaoyun had suddenly transformed into a sovereign looking down upon him. His heart thumped as he stepped backward by instinct.

Xiang Shaoyun withdrew his presence, returned to his flippant self, and said, "Good boy."

"You...YOU BASTARD!" Li Tianba howled in fury from embarrassment and slammed his palm at Xiang Shaoyun.

Blood Noxious Palm!

A crimson glow surrounded Li Tianba's palm as the palm energy directly crashed towards Xiang Shaoyun's vitals. The moment Li Tianba attacked, he went for the kill. His attack was quick and violent, and even a fifth-stage Astral Realm cultivator would find it hard to defend against this attack. Everyone held their breath and stared at Xiang Shaoyun.

Instead of facing the attack, Xiang Shaoyun dodged it before shouting, "Slow down, I have something to say."

"What final words do you have?" Li Tianba howled, evidently still furious.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at Wu Mingliang and Wu Mingguang. He said, "All of you come together. Otherwise, this will be boring."

"What!" Everyone was shocked to see that. Li Tianba alone was already a scary opponent, but Xiang Shaoyun was also challenging others at the same time? This Xiang Shaoyun was too brazen!

"You sure you want to challenge us?" Wu Mingguang asked.

"Haha, are you too afraid to come up?" Xiang Shaoyun howled in laughter.

"Fine, since you want to die, I'll oblige," Wu Mingguang said.

Right as he was about to step onto the arena, Wu Mingyang patted his shoulder and said, "Be careful. This kid is not as simple as he looks."

"Don't worry, fifth brother. With Senior Brother Li here, he won't be able to do anything," Wu Mingguang said before jumping on the arena.

"Still not enough. Wu Mingliang, come as well. I thought you've always wanted to defeat me? I am giving you a chance. Come, if you guys are actually capable of defeating me, I will die without regrets," Xiang Shaoyun extended yet another challenge.

"Impudent!" Wu Mingliang cursed and jumped onto the arena as well.

"Do you have the guts to let me on the arena as well?" Li Hong'er couldn't help but ask.

"Come on up then. All four of you can come at me together. Please don't disappoint me," said Xiang Shaoyun as he gestured at all four of them. Everyone was of the opinion that Xiang Shaoyun had gone crazy.

One sixth-stage Astral Realm, two third-stage Astral Realm, and one first-stage Astral Realm cultivators. This combination was one capable of killing even someone at the sixth stage of the Astral Realm. Was Xiang Shaoyun a sixth-stage Astral Realm cultivator? That seemed unlikely.

Chapter 78: Now an Overlord

"Has Xiang Shaoyun gone crazy? He's challenging so many people? Is he planning to settle all his grudges at once?"

"In truth, the biggest threat among them is Li Tianba. The others don't really amount to anything. But Xiang Shaoyun has still acted too recklessly. Nobody would dare issue random challenges like him during an arena battle."

"Perhaps he thinks that with a five-star physique he can do whatever he wants? Little does he know that a genius is nothing before he grows up."

"I keep having a feeling that there is some conspiracy here. Look at that sly smile on his face. I can smell the cunning all the way from here."

The observing disciples started talking among themselves. Even for the original match between Xiang Shaoyun and Li Tianba, people were not optimistic of Xiang Shaoyun's chances. Now that he was challenging even more people, everyone believed his victory was simply impossible.

Li Tianba stood there and watched silently as he thought to himself, Since you are the one with a death wish, you can't blame anyone for what's going to happen.

"Anyone else? I'll deal with all of you today," Xiang Shaoyun said, further shocking the people. Was he going to challenge all his enemies?

"Enough. Xiang Shaoyun, are you going to fight or not? Stop messing around," Li Tianba shouted, finally losing his patience.

"Hehe, you guys may attack freely. Remember, don't hold back. Otherwise, your defeat will be very miserable," Xiang Shaoyun sneered as he gestured at them. This was the moment for him to vent his pent up anger. The Wu Clan and Li Clan had nearly caused him to lose his life. Now was the time for him to get a tiny bit of payback.

"We don't need so many people for you. I alone am enough," Wu Mingguang shouted and immediately attacked with his weapon. The long sword snaked through the air toward Xiang Shaoyun.

In the blink of an eye, numerous sword energies enveloped Xiang Shaoyun, each of them incomparably sharp. Wu Mingguang was worthy of being a third-stage Astral Realm expert. His attack unleashed 60 percent of the sword technique's power, and an ordinary Astral Realm cultivator would find it hard to defend against such an attack.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the sword energies indifferently. With a look of disdain, he said, "Too slow, too weak."

Right after he uttered those words, he moved. He danced amid the sword energies, avoiding all of them before rushing up to Wu Mingguang.

Cloud Splitting Palm!

Xiang Shaoyun only used an ordinary tier-1 battle technique, but for some reason, this ordinary tier-1 battle technique contained an earth-shattering might.

"Careful!" Li Tianba had sharp eyes and immediately realized that Wu Mingguang was in danger. He quickly threw out a reminder as he dashed over. Unfortunately, he was too late. Xiang Shaoyun's palm smoothly landed on Wu Mingguang's chest.

Bang!

The palm sent Wu Mingguang flying. His chest sank, and he coughed out blood without stop. When Xiang Shaoyun was a first-stage Astral Realm cultivator, he was already capable of fighting those at the third stage. Now that he was at the fourth stage, he could dispose of a third-stage cultivator as easily as an adult bullying a child.

What happened was precisely what he had intended—to teach these arrogant fellows a lesson before they even realized how strong he was. After Wu Mingguang was sent flying, Li Tianba arrived with his massive axe and swung it down toward Xiang Shaoyun's back. Xiang Shaoyun moved like he had a pair of eyes behind him. With an odd footwork, he dodged the attack and charged in a different direction.

"F*ck it! Die!" Wu Mingliang had been paying close attention to Xiang Shaoyun. When he saw Xiang Shaoyun rushing toward him, he clenched his teeth and attacked.

Wu Mingliang was only at the first stage of the Astral Realm. His attack was nothing in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes. As Xiang Shaoyun's strength grew, his speed had also grown massively to the point people could hardly catch a glimpse of him when he moved. Noiselessly, he arrived behind Wu Mingliang and heavily kicked Wu Mingliang's back.

Ka!

Thus, Wu Mingliang repeated what had happened to his sixth brother—flying in the air while coughing up blood.

"You are the one who has created troubles for me again and again. I will give you an unforgettable lesson," Xiang Shaoyun said as he chased after the flying Wu Mingliang with a ruthless glint in his eyes.

"Don't get too full of yourself!" Li Tianba howled and mustered all his strength to chase after Xiang Shaoyun. He swung his axe. Unfortunately, his speed was incomparable to Xiang Shaoyun's. After catching up to Wu Mingliang, Xiang Shaoyun grabbed him and tossed him toward Li Tianba's incoming axe.

"No!" Wu Mingliang peed his pants in fear when he sensed the terrifying axe heading his way. When Li Tianba saw what was happening, he forcefully shifted the trajectory of his axe since it was too late to withdraw the attack. However, Xiang Shaoyun kicked Wu Mingliang to send him toward the axe's new trajectory.

"AHHHH!"

Li Tianba had no way of stopping his attack, and thus the attack squarely hit Wu Mingliang's shoulder, sending his arm flying. Blood sprayed everywhere, presenting everyone with a scene of gore.

"AHHHH!" Wu Mingliang grabbed his severed shoulder and wailed miserably.

"Seventh brother!" Wu Mingyang screamed. He tried jumping onto the arena, but the martial officer stopped him.

The officer said, "An ongoing battle cannot be disturbed. Any offender is punishable by death."

"Bastard! He severed my brother's arm!" Wu Mingyang yelled furiously.

"Who do you think you're scolding? If your brother surrenders, he can leave the arena immediately," the martial officer said unhappily.

"Fine, fine, I am conceding on behalf of both my brothers," Wu Mingyang shouted.

"I-I sur—" Li Hong'er was scared out of her wits, her body still shivering from fear. Thus, she tried to surrender as well. Unfortunately, before she could finish her words, Xiang Shaoyun appeared beside her and slapped her face.

Pa!

"You want to duel me, right? I hope you are enjoying yourself," Xiang Shaoyun said as he slapped Li Hong'er repeatedly, causing her face to swell as she wailed.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun had already forgotten about Li Hong'er. But since she insisted on creating trouble for him, he decided to no longer hold back when facing her, either. At this moment, Li Tianba finally recovered from the shock of severing Wu Mingliang's arm. Fury filled his eyes. "Bastard! Let go of my sister! Die!"

This time, Li Tianba no longer dared to wave his axe around. He ran over and sent a palm strike towards Xiang Shaoyun with all his might.

Blood Noxious Palm, 100 percent power!

"Li Tianba? The self-proclaimed, number-one overlord of the Martial Hall Palace? Today, let this young master show you what an overlord looks like. I was born to be king, and today, I hereby proclaim myself as overlord. With one punch, I will defeat you!" Xiang Shaoyun decided to use Li Tianba to establish dominance, to properly plant fear in the hearts of all the disciples. The time had arrived for him to prove his might.

He sent Li Hong'er flying with one more slap then clenched his fist and focused his power into it. Purple qi curled around his fist before his fist shot out to meet Li Tianba's palm.

Bang!

Chapter 79: Blood Eruption Technique

The fist met the palm, and the clash created an oppressive sound. Astral energy rippled out everywhere. Everyone believed that the collision would cripple Xiang Shaoyun's fist. But when they saw the sight of Li Tianba clutching his arm with his other hand and retreating, their eyes nearly popped out from disbelief.

"H-how is this possible? Li Tianba is the one retreating? Am I seeing things?"

"No, you're not seeing things. I saw it too. What kind of strength is this? I thought Xiang Shaoyun was only a third-stage Basic Realm cultivator two months ago? Why is he suddenly strong enough to face Li Tianba without losing? This makes no sense!"

"This Xiang Shaoyun is totally a freak! He is actually a match for Li Tianba. No, he is probably even stronger. No wonder he dares to challenge all four of them at once."

"He is definitely an expert at hiding his own strength, and has been hiding his actual strength all along. How else can he be this strong? What a trickster!"

"Oh heavens, he is so handsome! This young lady has a new crush!"

On the arena, Xiang Shaoyun domineeringly advanced with his Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, leaving numerous afterimages behind as he streaked across the arena. The crowd couldn't even see which of the afterimages was the real him. Li Tianba retreated without stop and madly waved his axe around to create a wall of axe afterimages to force Xiang Shaoyun away from him.

"Is that all you have? Too weak," Xiang Shaoyun said with disdain. He sprinted through the wall of axe afterimages then attacked with his Gale Winds Kick.

Bang! Bang!

Several kicks struck Li Tianba, causing him to lose his balance and crash onto the ground. If he hadn't been wearing heavy armor, the kicks would have seriously injured him.

"Come on, stand up! I thought you were amazing? I thought you were going to break all four of my limbs? If you don't get back on your feet right now, I will be breaking your limbs instead," Xiang Shaoyun stopped and said. He needed to vent his anger and prove his dominance.

Li Tianba crawled back up and said furiously, "Do you think this is all I have? Open your eyes wide and watch!"

And then, Li Tianba finally unleashed all the power available from his peak sixth-stage Astral Realm cultivation base. A dense crimson radiance shone from his axe; the radiance surrounding the

axe reached a height of several meters. A massive sense of oppression appeared, one that was comparable to even the sense of oppression a seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator could release.

Bloody Axe Slices the Night Away!

With all his power, he swung his axe, sending a terrifying wall of crimson energy crashing down toward Xiang Shaoyun. This was an attack not even a seventh-stage Astral Realm cultivator could resist. This was a tier-3, high-grade battle technique, an extremely mighty attack.

"That's more like it!" Xiang Shaoyun's battle intent surged as he drew the Lightning Spear from his back and stabbed forward.

Cling! Clank!

Instantly, sparks filled the arena as an intense exchange unfolded. After a while, Xiang Shaoyun's hand started to grow numb. But he could still hang on. Li Tianba was not enough to defeat him. As for Li Tianba, the more they fought, the worse he felt. In a head-on collision, Xiang Shaoyun had actually suffered no disadvantage. In fact, Xiang Shaoyun countered all his attacks perfectly, and Li Tianbe couldn't accept this result.

Right this moment, electrical currents started crackling around Xiang Shaoyun's spear as the spear shot forth from a tricky angle and went right through Li Tianba's defense before striking him. Li Tianba's heavy armor, however, was no ordinary item. It stopped the spear's advance, and he was only forced to take a step backward.

Xiang Shaoyun continued his attack, this time aiming for Li Tianba's limbs, which weren't protected by the heavy armor.

Kill!

An intense killing intent surged out of Xiang Shaoyun as his spear stabbed forward and unleashed 80 percent of the Lightning Spear Technique's power. His astral energy turned into a bright purple radiance that flooded the arena as he launched attack after attack. This was not something a fourth-stage Astral Realm cultivator was supposed to be capable of. His combat prowess had already reached the sixth stage, or perhaps even higher.

"Ahhhh!"

Li Tianba's defense finally faltered and several bloody holes appeared in his arm. The pain caused him to wail. Xiang Shaoyun took this opportunity to push on. He dashed forward and flung his spear at Li Tianba's axe, sending the axe flying. He then jumped and sent a kick at Li Tianba's face.

Bang!

The attack landed, causing blood to spray from Li Tianba's nose as he was sent flying toward the edge of the arena. The crowd, witnessing this scene, sank into absolute silence. Li Tianba, one of the top 10 disciples and the number one overlord of the Martial Hall Palace, was defeated just like that?

They felt like they were dreaming. This was too unbelievable.

"Get up. Is that all you got? If you don't get up, I will kill you right now." Xiang Shaoyun's blood was still boiling from his raging battle intent.

Li Tianba was indeed still able to stand. As he held his injured arm with his other hand, a look bordering insanity surfaced on his face. He yelled, "You asked for this! You asked for this!"

As he yelled, his entire person suddenly turned blood red, and a bloody aura flooded his surroundings. The bloody aura emanated an intense murderous intent, one that caused everyone's hair to stand on end.

"Tianba, stop!" an anxious voice suddenly rang out. The voice belonged to Li Xuemeng, who had been observing the entire battle. He did not wish to see his son using that technique. It was a forbidden technique. But Li Tianba acted as if he did not hear anything. At this moment, Li Tianba's vitality suddenly erupted.

Blood Eruption Technique!

This was a technique that gathered a person's vitality into the person's stars to forcefully increase the person's cultivation level for a limited time. It would only last an hour, and the user would suffer a terrible backlash after the hour was up.

Thus, from the seventh stage, Li Tianba's strength grew to mid seventh stage, late seventh stage, all the way to primary eighth stage. A certain presence seemed to be appearing in the air as well. This was different from the power of presence one would unlock during the Transformation Realm. Instead, it was a presence reeking of blood.

"He actually reached the eighth stage?" Ever since Xiang Shaoyun unlocked his presence of a king, he gained an ability to judge a person's cultivation level from their aura. That was how he could see Li Tianba's new strength with a single look.

"Xiang Shaoyun, die!" Li Tianba roared and charged Xiang Shaoyun like an insane beast.

He charged at a breakneck speed and reached Xiang Shaoyun in the blink of an eye. A fist enveloped with a bloody aura shot out towards Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 80: Useless

When one reached the eighth stage of the Astral Realm, each punch would carry with it a might beyond 1,000 catties of weight. Such a punch could turn even stone into powder. Facing such a terrifying punch, Xiang Shaoyun did not dodge. Instead, his battle intent surged as he yelled, "Excellent!"

The stars within him started shining brightly as astral energy rippled out of him. His body dashed forward, and he met Li Tianba's punch with his own punch.

Rushing Qi Fist, full power!

Bang!

The fists collided, sending astral energy rippling everywhere. The clash forced Xiang Shaoyun to take several steps backward. He was slightly disadvantaged in the collision.

"Die!" Li Tianba's murderous intent was still growing, and each step he took caused the ground to shake. Once again, he punched out with his crimson fist. The terrifying fist carried with it a murderous and bloody aura.

"Bring it on!" Xiang Shaoyun did not cower as he sent his own punch out again.

Bang! Bang!

Punch met with punch again and again. Even the air itself seemed to be vibrating from all the clashes. The intense battle raged on, and the viewers' blood boiled with excitement.

"Strong. Both of them are so strong. I won't be able to take even one punch from them."

"Yeah. Xiang Shaoyun has actually pushed Li Tianba so hard he resorted to a forbidden technique. Xiang Shaoyun is too strong, but unfortunately, I don't think he will win."

"We don't know that yet. If Xiang Shaoyun can last an hour, Li Tianba will be the loser."

"No matter the result, Xiang Shaoyun will qualify to be one of the top 10 disciples from now on. His might is unquestionable."

"A day will come when I'm also as strong as them!"

...

Among the spectators, Lu Xiaoqing was incredibly nervous. She kept thinking inwardly, Shaoyun will win! Shaoyun will win!

"Victory to my boss! Victory to my boss!" Xia Liuhui howled as he waved the white flag repeatedly. He was completely engrossed in his role as a little underling.

On the arena, Xiang Shaoyun was still resisting Li Tianba's domineering attack. Several fists had already struck him, and a trail of blood could be seen dripping from the corner of his lips. Although Xiang Shaoyun was very powerful for someone at the fourth stage, Li Tianba was still four stages above him. Such a gap was not something that could be easily overcome. If he did not try his best, he could very well lose.

"Come on, Xiang Shaoyun! Let me show you who's the actual overlord! I, Li Tianba, am the true overlord!" Li Tianba howled madly as his attack grew even more intense. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun was already doing very well for a fourth-stage Astral Realm cultivator. But this much was not enough for him.

Xiang Shaoyun yelled, "What kind of overlord are you? Let me crush your pathetic confidence!"

Abruptly, purple qi appeared around Xiang Shaoyun's body. The purple qi seemed to have transformed into actual electrical currents carrying an extremely destructive force.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Xiang Shaoyun moved like a rumbling thunder while his fist punched out like a lightning bolt. When the ferocity of his fist reached a certain level, a terrifying lightning bolt suddenly shot out of his fist, one that was no weaker than a lightning bolt from the heavens. At the same moment, Li Tianba unleashed all his vitality power and sent a crimson fist straight at Xiang Shaoyun.

Bang! Bang!

Continuous sounds of explosions rang out in the arena. Purple and crimson radiances seemed to have turned solid as they splashed everywhere. Even the disciples near the arena were scattering for fear of being hit by the aftermath.

Finally, a fountain of blood sprayed high into the air, and a figure was sent flying far away. When that figure crashed to the ground, everyone was stunned. The person sent flying was Li Tianba, the one who had used a forbidden technique. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he stood there motionless, still assuming a punching posture. Electrical currents swirled around his body, making him look mighty impressive.

"Truly...useless," Xiang Shaoyun said with disdain as he withdrew his fist.

Li Tianba tightly held his now badly mangled arm, and his aura started dropping rapidly. He yelled like a madman. The hour was up, and he was now suffering the repercussions of using a forbidden technique.

"Tianba!" Li Xuemeng cried out in alarm. He jumped onto the arena and stuffed a healing pill into Li Tianba's mouth.

Even the martial officer did not dare to say anything. Xiang Shaoyun did not bother stopping Li Xuemeng. He merely spoke indifferently, "You are the reason this is happening. Before long, I will extend a challenge to you as well, thirteenth elder."

Then, Xiang Shaoyun got off the arena and swaggered off under everyone's gazes. Countless young ladies gazed at his back with a smitten expression.

"Xiang Shaoyun is so strong! Is he declaring a war against the thirteenth elder? This is how an overlord should be!"

"Shit! I think I have fallen in love with him! What should I do? Am I even worthy of him?"

"I've come to a decision. From now on, I will stay by his side at all times. With my looks, he will definitely fall beneath my skirt!"

"Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror? You need to be as beautiful as me if you want to do something like that."

...

One battle shocked the entire Martial Hall Palace. The elders could see clearly that Xiang Shaoyun was still a fourth-stage Astral Realm cultivator, but he was already capable of defeating Li Tianba whose combat power had reached the eighth stage during the match. He was a freak through and through. And he was indeed worthy of the title overlord.

This match also caused Yang Gaochuan to once again call for an emergency meeting between the elders. There, he announced that they must do their best to protect Xiang Shaoyun—and to provide Xiang Shaoyun with all the resources the Martial Hall Palace had. They would give their all in nurturing Xiang Shaoyun.

Nobody objected.

Xiang Shaoyun's potential was clear for all to see. And with Elder Zhen Peng backing him up, nobody could object.

...

Since the match, Xiang Shaoyun's residence had become an extremely popular place. Numerous smitten female disciples gathered there in hope of getting to know Xiang Shaoyun.

"Sister-in-law, things are not looking very good for you! A lot of them are even inner court disciples!" Xia Liuhui said to Lu Xiaoqing at a certain corner. In Xia Liuhui's eyes, Lu Xiaoqing was already his sister-in-law, the romantic partner of his big brother, his boss.

"This only proves that I have good taste. They can freely fight over Shaoyun with me. He will only be mine," Lu Xiaoqing declared confidently. Then, instead of continuing to Xiang Shaoyun's residence, she returned to her own place. She vowed that she had to catch up with Xiang Shaoyun as soon as possible. Otherwise, he would only be further and further away from her.

As for Xia Liuhui, he stood there blanking out, not knowing if he should leave or not. Ultimately, he decided to squeeze into the crowd. "Stop pushing! Stop pushing! Oh shit, even my balls are hurting from this!"

Right after he said those words, punches rained down on him.

"Damn! Xiang Shaoyun is my boss! Who punched me? Do you want to be blacklisted?" Xia Liuhui shouted. His words worked. The girls quickly made way and gave him passage. Many of them were even smiling at him, hoping that he could bring them along as he entered.