

Overlord 861

Chapter 861: Battling the Devil Sovereign Puppets

When one looked inside the cave, the only thing one would see was pure darkness. However, that did not apply to Xiang Shaoyun. With his vision capable of penetrating darkness, he was able to see how scary it was inside the cave with a single glance.

Apart from the phantoms of the dragon and the phoenix radiating rich energy, there were over 100 Devil Sovereign puppets. They were the gorge's final guardians. Lying behind them were an uncountable amount of treasures, such as saint-grade spring water, saint equipment, and technique manuals.

Xiang Shaoyun saw everything, and his eyes burned with desire. He was certain every single item was incomparably precious, its value over 100 times greater than any treasure one could find from the stone steles throughout the battleground.

However, strength was paramount to obtain them. Not many disciples could survive the guardians' onslaught. Even if more of the disciples were to arrive, the only thing they could do in the face of such terrifying defenses was to retreat.

"Overlord, let's work together and push inside," Han Chenfei's voice rang out.

Xiang Shaoyun knew now was not the time to be petty, so he nodded and entered with her. Inside the cave, the dragon and phoenix phantoms were the strongest. They roared incessantly, sending waves of energy attacks toward the intruders. The energy attacks were as powerful as the attacks of late-stage Sovereigns.

Fortunately for the disciples, the dragon and phoenix phantoms were the final line of defense and did not attack in high frequency. The Devil Sovereign puppets were the main force of defense.

The devil puppets consisted of numerous different devils, such as the giant devil apes, three-eyed yakshas, and four-winged devil rats. All of them were attacking the intruding disciples.

Xiang Shaoyun and Han Chenfei were greeted with passion the moment they stepped into the cave. A devil ape's massive fist thrust toward Xiang Shaoyun's head, and a three-eyed yaksha pounced at Han Chenfei.

They could not afford to hold back as they were facing Devil Sovereigns that completely suppressed them in terms of cultivation. Without giving their all, they wouldn't be able to obtain what they were here for.

Like a slime, Xiang Shaoyun slid past the fist and dashed away without bothering to help Han Chenfei.

The cave was filled with treasure. Wherever one charged, one would be greeted with something valuable. However, it seemed like the jade cases at the very middle of the cave were the most valuable.

That was also where Xiang Shaoyun was trying to go, but he switched direction after a slight hesitation. He was not arrogant enough to believe that he could withstand the dragon and phoenix phantoms by himself.

He moved swiftly, leaving afterimages in his wake as he passed through the numerous Devil Sovereigns. When the academy was setting this cave up, they had naturally considered that there would be candidates specializing in speed. Thus, puppets of lightning devil birds had also been installed in the cave to deal with the speedsters.

The lightning devil birds were incomparably fast, with beaks and claws that were as sharp as the sharpest weapons. The moment one was poked or clawed, one would definitely be injured, if not dead.

Currently, a lightning devil bird had arrived above Xiang Shaoyun, and it clawed at him with its terrifying sharp claws. Xiang Shaoyun reacted nimbly and dodged to the side. A different Devil Sovereign pounced on him, forcing him to roll on the ground to avoid the attack in an extremely ungraceful manner.

Naturally, the Devil Sovereign would not let him off that easily. It attacked with a barrage of fierce attacks.

Xiang Shaoyun was aware that the best method of dealing with this Devil Sovereign was by killing it. His saint sword was definitely capable of that, but there was more than one Devil Sovereign. After killing one, another would take its place. Killing them would only slow him down when he was trying to collect the treasures, allowing the other disciples to steal from him.

Therefore, he was relentlessly advancing even when he was busy dodging the incoming attacks. However, the lightning devil bird stuck close to him, forcing him to finally attack with his sword after facing an attack that he couldn't dodge in time.

Alas, his reaction was too slow. The claws struck his chest, tearing his clothes and sending him flying. Fortunately, he was amply prepared as he had the Radiant Saint Armor on him. It was as if he wasn't afraid that the news of him possessing saint equipment would leak.

But one couldn't blame him for that. The treasures of the academy definitely couldn't be earned that easily. He had limited strength, and he had no choice but to show some of his trump cards. In any case, he was not the only one with powerful trump cards.

The instant Xiang Shaoyun landed on the ground, he swung his Radiant Saint Sword and sent a Devil Sovereign flying. It was a pity that he was still an Emperor. Even with a saint weapon in hand, he was unable to show the weapon's true power. The only thing his slash did was leave a scar on the Devil Sovereign. He wasn't able to truly destroy the puppets, resulting in their continual attack.

Faced with their counterattack, Xiang Shaoyun quickly dodged in panic. Moving at the fastest speed he was capable of, he charged the incoming lightning devil bird.

"I'll slash you apart, you darned bird!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he gathered his light energy into the Radiant Saint Sword before swinging at the lightning devil bird.

Bang!

The terrifying sword sliced through the air and split the bird into two. It was a full-powered attack, completely unlike his casual swings earlier. After destroying the lightning devil bird, he used the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and continued his advance. Finally, after avoiding several encirclements, he arrived before an iron case. He quickly grabbed it.

"Finally, I got something!" Xiang Shaoyun rejoiced.

The moment he put the case away, a Devil Sovereign came from his back. With his sharp senses, he dodged the attack and dashed toward a different direction. There were many treasures in the cave, and he did not mind gathering as many as he could. As for whether the other disciples could get anything, that was not within his consideration.

At this moment, Yu Caidie, Ouyang Chuanqi, and the others arrived one after another. With them sharing the Devil Sovereigns' attention, the pressure the others faced was alleviated.

Intense sounds of explosions rumbled again and again in the cave. Just the sounds alone would be too much for an ordinary cultivator to take.

Finally, Pan Yun arrived as well. He quickly chased after the specter that had been hiding at a corner and shouted, "Release Lady Shura, or suffer the consequences!"

"Hehe, sure, I'll return her," said that person with a creepy laugh as he tossed out Lady Shura before charging into the cave.

Chapter 862: The Prodigies Snatching the Treasures

The battle in the cave was extremely intense, with attacks flying everywhere. A moment of carelessness would cause one to be injured. The disciples here were the elites of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Each of them possessed the combat strength of a peak Emperor, if not a Sovereign's. With high-level weapons in hand, they fought relentlessly.

The number one disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, Baili Yixiao, seemed to be effortlessly moving amid the Devil Sovereigns with a sword in his hand. His figure drifted about, and it was as though none of the Devil Sovereigns could land a hit. These Devil Sovereigns were, after all, puppets incapable of unleashing a Devil Sovereign's true power. Thus, it wasn't easy for them to harm Baili Yixiao.

Baili Yixiao himself had exceedingly impressive swordsmanship, having reached the second stage of sword intent, the sword steering stage. He could manipulate his sword like an extension of his arm, landing hit after hit on the Devil Sovereigns that tried to attack him, causing them to fall around him. He even directly slashed some of them into pieces.

He quickly grabbed the first sword he encountered in the cave. One could say that he was the first among the disciples present to obtain a treasure. Even Xiang Shaoyun was much slower than him.

As for Zhan Wushuang, he was the second to obtain a treasure.

Zhan Wushuang was known as the Fist Emperor. With his fists, he could smash everything apart. He wore a pair of extraordinary gloves, granting him the ability to face the Devil Sovereign puppets

head on without being forced onto his back foot. He was akin to a humanoid dragon that was shockingly domineering. With his fists, he punched a way through, obtaining some saint-grade spring water.

Lei Bao from the local faction was no less eye-catching than them. Explosive lightning bolts erupted from his body endlessly, blasting all the Devil Sovereigns in his way before he, too, obtained a treasure.

As for Yu Ziyang, he transformed into a burning sun that burned everything with a raging flame, creating a path before him. He snatched a treasure for himself.

Huang Tianji was also doing well. As a prince, he was equipped with excellent weapons and armor. Coupled with his Royal War Aura, he was able to obtain a treasure.

The others were still having a hard time against the Devil Sovereigns. For example, Wang Yufeng, the seventh-stage Emperor who was famed for his defensive prowess, had been seriously injured and forced to withdraw from the battleground.

Nobody bothered going for the five treasures at the middle of the cave because they knew they had to face the dragon and phoenix phantoms to obtain them. The two phantoms were as powerful as late-stage Sovereigns. Even if they merely existed as phantoms, they were not opponents these disciples could take down alone.

The latecomers, such as Yu Caidie, Ouyang Chuanqi, Xiao Xie, and Ye Linshan, also demonstrated their full strength as they fought for the remaining treasures.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun had reached the second treasure he was aiming for. But right as he was about to grab it, someone arrived to fight over it, greatly infuriating him. That person was none other than the buff Long Shi from the Sword Society.

He wielded a massive sword that was clearly no ordinary weapon. Before arriving, when he saw that Xiang Shaoyun was about to grab the treasure, he actually swung his sword at Xiang Shaoyun. If Xiang Shaoyun had reacted any slower, the sword would have opened a wound on his back.

Xiang Shaoyun suppressed his fury and moved at his top speed, planning to snatch the treasure before doing anything else. But at that time, a Devil Sovereign appeared in his way and stopped him.

After using his footwork to move past the Devil Sovereign, he found Long Shi taking the opportunity to reach for the treasure.

"Trying to steal from me? Not so easy!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he unleashed a fiery claw forward, ripping Long Shi's palm energy apart. He then used Phantom Shift to appear beside the treasure and took it for himself.

While he was putting the treasure away, Long Shi swung his sword again. A massive sword was brought down from above, coming at such force that the air around it cracked. It was as if a mountain was collapsing right above his head, something no ordinary person could withstand.

Baili Yixiao's sword mainly focused on the concept of soft and flexible attacks. On the other hand, Long Shi's sword worked on pure brute strength, similar to how Zhan Wushuang used his fists.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the power behind the sword. He would be disadvantaged if he faced it head on, but he had no time to dodge, as he had been slightly delayed when putting the treasure away. He had to protect himself by erecting his strongest energy barrier before diving to the side.

Bang!

A heavy strike landed on Xiang Shaoyun's shoulder, and cracks appeared on the Goldplate he had erected around him. Before the sword energy could penetrate his body, his Radiant Saint Armor blocked it out. Thus, he had not suffered any damage.

Blood would have flowed if it wasn't for the Radiant Saint Armor. Xiang Shaoyun was surprised by Long Shi's might. He quickly used his footwork to widen the distance between them.

However, Long Shi pushed on after his attack struck. He showed no quarter and unleashed a barrage of merciless attacks at Xiang Shaoyun, closing all routes of escape. It was as though he was aiming for Xiang Shaoyun's life.

Long Shi's persistence caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise, and he decided to no longer hold back. After several evasive maneuvers, his Radiant Saint Sword lashed out. The saint sword was far more powerful than any Emperor, possessing an incomparably terrifying sharpness.

When Long Shi sensed the might of the sword, he swiftly dodged, causing the sword to instead strike a pursuing Devil Sovereign and leave a dreadful wound on it. The Devil Sovereign had almost been sliced into two.

"You dare attack me? I'll kill you!" Xiang Shaoyun roared. Prepared to take his revenge, Xiang Shaoyun was about to continue attacking.

When Long Shi saw Xiang Shaoyun's fury and realized that he was wielding an excellent sword, he decisively dashed away in a different direction. Xiang Shaoyun was about to give chase when he noticed that Han Chenfei was in danger.

While she was trying to grab her first treasure, Huang Tianji had interfered. The two were currently engaged in an intense battle. Xiang Shaoyun was not too far away from them, so he dashed over without hesitation.

Prior to this, Han Chenfei had been injured by a Devil Sovereign. She was able to arrive before this treasure after much difficulty, but Huang Tianji was here to make things difficult for her and nearly caused her to die. When she sensed his killing intent, she realized that his love toward her had transformed into hate.

After an intense battle with him coupled with the Devil Sovereigns' relentless attacks, Han Chenfei was barely hanging on.

Am I going to withdraw just like this? thought Han Chenfei, her heart filled with unwillingness.

Chapter 863: Dragon and Phoenix Phantoms

"Chenfei, since you have no feelings for me, let me send you to your afterlife. You can be my woman in your next life," said Huang Tianji. His powerful aura surged out and suppressed Han Chenfei. Just as he was about to stab her, Xiang Shaoyun's attack arrived.

The Radiant Saint Sword Xiang Shaoyun wielded was akin to a cheating tool. It was way too powerful.

When Huang Tianji sensed the incoming attack, he pulled his Tianji Spear back and swept it toward Xiang Shaoyun. The sword and the spear collided, creating an eruption of two powerful auras as energy rippled everywhere. Huang Tianji was sent flying away, and he was almost hit from behind by a nearby Devil Sovereign.

Taking advantage of the opening, Xiang Shaoyun grabbed the treasure and tossed it to Han Chenfei while shouting, "Take it! Focus on recovery!"

Joy covered Han Chenfei's face when she caught the treasure. After putting the treasure away, some healing spring water appeared in her hand, and she gulped down the water.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I'll kill you right here!" Huang Tianji roared, infuriated that Xiang Shaoyun had actually pushed him away. His Royal War Aura surged out, surrounding him with incomparable majesty. With his draconic aura, he looked incomparably noble as he gathered a powerful force into his spear. He then madly stabbed Xiang Shaoyun with it.

Ten Thousand Dragons Leaving the Nest!

Instantly, the spear energies transformed into numerous roaring dragons. It was as though there were actually 10,000 dragons charging forward, the sight exceptionally impressive and shocking. They wreaked havoc in their path, and even the Devil Sovereigns weren't able to approach them. This attack's power was evident.

Xiang Shaoyun activated his gift of instincts in his attempt to see through the technique. However, the attack was too fierce, and any openings were covered up. It wouldn't be easy to find an opening. Even so, he had no fear. Facing the attack head on, he slashed with his sword.

Second stance of the Dazzling Sky Sword Technique, Shower of Light!

A massive amount of sword energy transformed into numerous streaks of light that rained down upon the dragons like a rain of swords. The rain held the complete upper hand and riddled the dragons with numerous holes. This was the might of a saint weapon.

Huang Tianji also finally realized how terrifying Xiang Shaoyun's sword was. His face sank as he cursed inwardly, This fellow is actually wielding a saint sword!

"Come, come! This overlord has been finding you an eyesore for a while. Today, I'll slaughter you!" shouted Xiang Shaoyun cockily after gaining the upper hand. He planned to continue attacking.

The saint sword brought him great strength, but wielding it was also extremely exhausting. If it wasn't for the fact that he had comprehended the profundity of light, he wouldn't be able to unleash even 10 percent of the sword's might.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun approach aggressively, Huang Tianji was forced to retreat. He dove into the midst of the Devil Sovereigns. Clearly, he planned to use the puppets to obstruct Xiang Shaoyun.

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun was merely scaring him off. When he saw that Huang Tianji was fleeing, he kept the Radiant Saint Sword away and thought, The saint sword is great, but it's too tiring to wield. I need to preserve some strength.

He had noticed that many disciples had arrived and that fights were breaking out everywhere over the treasures. The battlefield intensified, and people were starting to fight over the five jade cases at the middle of the gorge.

The ones daring to aim for the jade cases were none other than Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, Lei Bao, and Yu Ziyang.

The moment they approached, the dragon and phoenix phantoms charged them. The dragon phantom swept at them with a thick battle aura, while the phoenix phantom unleashed a torrent of powerful flame, making it hard for anyone to approach.

The four disciples were immediately forced to retreat with multiple wounds on their bodies. It was obvious how scary the dragon and phoenix were.

"We can't hold back anymore, or we won't be able to get those treasures," roared Zhan Wushuang as his aura surged. He grew in size, and a unique battle aura shrouded his entire body, greatly increasing his combat strength.

This was one of Zhan Wushuang's other techniques, the Indestructible Avatar. Not only could it greatly increase his combat strength, it could also improve his defenses.

Once again, Zhan Wushuang punched. This time, his fist transformed into an overbearing brilliant golden fist as it shot toward the dragon phantom.

Unrivaled Fist!

Second stage of fist intent!

The Unrivaled Fist was a top-tier battle technique, one that Zhan Wushuang had relied on to eventually be known as the Fist Emperor. His fist intent had reached the second stage, granting his punches an extraordinary might.

Baili Yixiao also knew very well that if they couldn't defeat the dragon and phoenix phantoms, they wouldn't be able to get the treasures. He drew his sword and sent numerous ethereal sword energies shooting forward. The sword energies streaked through the sky and surrounded the dragon phantom.

Although his attack did not look like it was anything special, there was a certain unique feel to it, as though he had the entire world in his grasp with a sword in hand.

As for Lei Bao, he wielded two hammers. Each swing of the hammer created a thunderous lightning strike, as if the god of lightning was furious. His lightning strikes seemed capable of destroying everything, and they headed straight toward the phoenix phantom.

At the same time, Yu Ziyang was facing the phoenix phantom head on. He swung his sword again and again, sending out numerous burning suns as he tried to suppress the phoenix phantom. The four freaks were doing all they could to obliterate the dragon and phoenix phantoms.

Unfortunately, their combined strength still wasn't quite enough. The dragon phantom whipped about, sweeping the fist and sword energies into nothingness, also causing Zhan Wushuang and Baili Yixiao to fly away while spewing blood. The phoenix phantom flapped its wings, fanning away the lightning attacks. The incoming fire attacks were completely ignored as it assimilated the flame into its own flame. Both Lei Bao and Yu Ziyang were torched black, and they nearly lost their lives.

These were the top freaks of the Dragon Phoenix Academy that could match Sovereigns in battle. However, they had yet to fully mature, and it was understandable that they weren't a match for the dragon and phoenix phantoms.

The dragon and phoenix phantoms pushed out, and at that time, the sound of a phoenix's shriek rang in the air. It was the shriek of a true phoenix. A remarkably beautiful woman could be seen stepping atop a phoenix that flew straight at the phoenix phantom.

"Caidie, be careful! That phoenix phantom is extremely powerful!" Yu Ziyang called out.

At the same time, a tiny demonic beast that looked like both a serpent and a dragon appeared from a different direction and charged the dragon phantom. It was at this time that another person transformed into numerous ghost phantoms, instantly broke through the numerous obstacles, and charged right toward the five jade cases.

Chapter 864: Devouring the Dragon-shaped Battle Aura

The phantom moved rapidly, arriving before the five jade cases in a flash. Just as he was about to grab the five cases, the dragon phantom swept its tail at him, causing the approaching person to quickly move away in panic.

The phantom was none other than the person who had kidnapped Lady Shura earlier. Not many knew his identity, but his fame was comparable to An Lulu's and Ye Linshan's when he first joined the academy. He was none other than Young Master Ghost, Gui Mochou.

During the past few years, Gui Mochou had fully concentrated on his cultivation while in the academy. He had not gotten involved in any factional conflicts and had generally maintained a low profile. However, everyone knew that he had been accepted as the personal disciple of an elder. From that, it was obvious how talented he was.

His strength had been growing rapidly, and he was now an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He was strong enough to stand against any of the 10 freaks. His strength coupled with his Traceless Ghost Phantom Steps allowed him to easily approach the five jade cases.

Unfortunately for him, snatching the five jade cases wasn't an easy feat. He did not give up, however. A steel claw suddenly shot out of his hand and flew toward the jade cases. But when the steel claw was about to reach the jade cases, an incorporeal power rippled before the cases and stopped the claw.

"A sneaky thief dreams of getting the jade cases? Get lost!" Ouyang Chuanqi's voice rang out as he launched a fiery attack toward Gui Mochou with his flaming spear.

After half a year, Ouyang Chuanqi had reached ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. He had a valiant combat prowess, and few disciples were his match.

With his advantage in speed, Gui Mochou moved away from the attack, leaving a series of afterimages. He shouted with his hoarse voice, "Ouyang Chuanqi, I will remember you!"

Ouyang Chuanqi ignored Gui Mochou as he headed toward the jade cases. Right at that moment, Xiao Xie, Ye Linshan, and a few others joined the battlefield as well, stopping anyone from grabbing the jade cases easily.

The Devil Sovereign puppets were still madly attacking as usual, not allowing the disciples to touch the jade cases. The dragon and phoenix phantoms were the greatest combatants among the defenders, but as Yu Caidie and her phoenix appeared, a subtle change seemed to have occurred.

Her mount was an actual living phoenix whose aura was similar to the phoenix phantom's aura. Thus, the phoenix phantom had a sense of closeness toward the phoenix and therefore did not attack Yu Caidie.

When Yu Caidie arrived, she jumped off her phoenix while her phoenix started swallowing the phoenix phantom. Surprisingly, the phantom put up no resistance. Something similar seemed to be happening to the dragon phantom as well. The miniature version of Money had the aura of dragons on him, and it allowed him to form a resonance with the dragon phantom. If he could swallow the dragon phantom, or to be specific, the dragon-shaped battle aura, his strength would grow by leaps and bounds.

The disciples were completely dumbstruck, but they recovered quickly and resumed their charge toward the five jade cases.

Once again, an intense battle erupted between the disciples. Baili Yixiao's sword, Zhan Wushuang's fists, Lei Bao's hammers, Yu Ziyang's sword, and Huang Tianji's spear all clashed with each other, creating numerous shock waves that rippled outward and filled the cave. The entire gorge seemed to shake. If it wasn't protected by formations, it would have collapsed entirely.

Some disciples who had arrived late knew very well that the treasures at the middle weren't something they could fight for. They smartly decided to focus on the other treasures instead. However, the Devil Sovereign puppets weren't decorations. They stubbornly carried out their mission and attacked the disciples madly. The battlefield grew increasingly intense.

Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to give up on the five jade cases either, but he was forced to focus on protecting Money. He had to make sure nobody disturbed Money while he was swallowing the dragon-shaped battle aura.

Although Money had the aura of dragons, it wasn't pure. As he started devouring the dragon-shaped battle aura, it resisted. The dragon phantom was much stronger than Money, and it sent Money flying away before proceeding to devour Money.

"Help me, boss!" Money had no choice but to call for help.

Xiang Shaoyun knew that the dragon phantom was a thorny opponent. If he did not try something different, he wouldn't be able to do anything to it.

"Let me try absorbing this dragon-shaped battle aura." Xiang Shaoyun reached a brave decision after using his Light of Wisdom. He circulated his cultivation method and used the profundity of powers as he forcefully absorbed the dragon phantom into his body.

He was trying to do the same thing as Money. Perhaps by absorbing the dragon-shaped battle aura, his own draconic aura would grow, leading to an increase in his strength. And it actually worked. After being pulled into his body, the dragon phantom's energy started fusing with his draconic aura.

However, a terrifying vicious energy was also contained within the dragon phantom. A regular person would suffer from a backlash absorbing it, but Xiang Shaoyun was someone who had once soaked in the Sin Dragon Pond and the Blood Dragon Pool. He was an old hand at this. He quickly separated the vicious energy, allowing the pure draconic aura to enter his stars.

A comfortable sensation spread through his body, as if he had just taken some high-quality tonic. But as he absorbed the dragon phantom, it started attacking him. Instead of retreating, Xiang Shaoyun pounced on the dragon phantom. The sight was like a starving ghost pouncing on a feast, an extremely unnatural scene to witness.

One ought to know that the dragon phantom's energy was comparable to a peak Sovereign's energy. It was strong enough to kill Xiang Shaoyun with a single charge, but instead of running, he was actually rushing toward it. Had he gone mad?

That was not the case. Xiang Shaoyun knew very well what he was doing. He was protected by the saint armor he was wearing. Any strength below the level of the Saint Realm would not be able to harm him. He wouldn't have charged ahead so bravely otherwise.

As the dragon phantom and Xiang Shaoyun clashed, he took the opportunity to increase his absorption speed to the maximum, pulling a large amount of draconic aura into his body. At this time, Money joined in as well and started absorbing the draconic aura from the dragon phantom's tail.

Some newly arrived disciples were completely stunned when they saw what Xiang Shaoyun and Money were doing.

The eyes of one of them lit up as he muttered, "So we can actually directly absorb the dragon-shaped battle aura?"

As the saying goes, curiosity killed the cat.

The newcomer believed his conclusion and pounced at the dragon-shaped battle aura. But as the dragon phantom flailed about, the disciple was sent tumbling down into the midst of the Devil Sovereign puppets while spewing blood. He was ultimately slaughtered by the puppets.

When the others saw, they all erased any thought of stealing the dragon-shaped battle aura from their minds.

Chapter 865: Fight for the Jade Cases

As Xiang Shaoyun forced himself to withstand the dragon phantom's attacks, he wildly absorbed the draconic aura. As he did so, his strength started rising rapidly.

67 percent draconic aura...

67.5 percent draconic aura...

68 percent draconic aura...

The draconic aura from the dragon phantom was too pure. Absorbing it was akin to absorbing a large amount of dragon liquid, allowing his strength to grow madly. He felt like he had returned to the Blood Dragon Pool, or to be precise, he felt even better.

But due to excessive energy absorption, his meridians and flesh started aching. He wailed in pain, causing the hair of all onlookers to stand on end.

When the draconic aura accumulation reached a critical point, Xiang Shaoyun abruptly unleashed them, taking the opportunity to break through to the next stage. He shouted, "Break through!"

Instantly, the astonishing sight of a dragon soaring into the starry sky appeared. That was a 70 percent draconic aura, a level where the dragon had taken on an even more solid form, looking incredibly lifelike as it displayed the might of a late-stage Emperor.

Xiang Shaoyun's aura spread everywhere as a rich amount of spiritual energy converged around him. Even the many disciples in the gorge sensed what was happening.

"Xiang Shaoyun has actually broken through by absorbing the dragon-shaped battle aura? How is this possible?" shouted someone.

"Look, the dragon phantom is withering. It's not as powerful anymore. Let's try and see if we can absorb some as well," suggested someone else.

Among the disciples, the one most envious of Xiang Shaoyun was Huang Tianji. With his Royal War Aura, he was the most suited to absorb pure draconic aura like this. He gave up on fighting over the five jade cases and charged the dragon-shaped battle aura instead. As he circulated his cultivation method, he started absorbing the dragon phantom's draconic aura as well.

With Huang Tianji's actions, many more joined in. But upon absorbing the draconic aura, they found that they had no way of withstanding the vicious energy. All of them suffered a backlash, and wails started resounding in the air.

Unlike Xiang Shaoyun, Huang Tianji had no way of refining vicious energy. However, the energy he cultivated was capable of purifying the vicious energy, allowing him to benefit from the dragon phantom as well. As his strength started growing, he roared with laughter, "Don't think that this draconic aura can be easily absorbed. It is deadly fatal, hahaha!"

The others finally realized that the dragon-shaped battle aura couldn't be absorbed easily, but they were unwilling to miss such a good opportunity to increase their strength. Thus, they stubbornly kept trying.

The dragon phantom was no pushover. It kept flailing about, sending even Huang Tianji flying away. Even so, this level of damage was still acceptable for him.

Having stabilized his own condition, Xiang Shaoyun raked out with his palms, clawing several clumps of draconic aura from the dragon phantom before quickly sealing them away. He kept the clumps in his astral cosmos sea and proceeded to ignore the dragon phantom.

For him, the draconic aura might be precious, but it couldn't compare to the five jade cases. The restrictions surrounding the five cases had been smashed apart, and an intense battle was going on among the disciples as they fought over the treasures.

Baili Yixiao's sword was ethereal and unpredictable. After grabbing one of the jade cases, he quickly withdrew. He possessed unparalleled swordsmanship, but there was also no doubting that he had a kind heart. He decided to leave after grabbing only one jade case since he wanted to leave some for the others.

Zhan Wushuang charged in overbearingly and grabbed a jade case for himself as well. When he was about to grab his second chest, Lei Bao grabbed it before him. A fight broke out between them. The two had overbearing combat styles and never liked each other. They had been itching to fight and decide a victor between them.

As for Yu Ziyang, he relied on his unparalleled flame energy to burn his surroundings. Nobody dared to approach him, and he was able to smoothly grab a jade case for himself.

That left the final jade case that Ye Linshan nearly took but was eventually interrupted by Gui Mochou and Xiao Xie. The impact from their clashes sent the jade case flying into the midst of the Devil Sovereign puppets.

Ouyang Chuanqi and Han Chenfei ignored their surroundings and started charging toward the jade case, but Mo Xiaoqing of the local faction and another eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator intervened, foiling their attempts.

Eventually, the jade case landed near Long Shi. His gaze became burning as he reached out for it. Right this moment, an overbearing figure rushed over and grabbed the jade case before him. When Long Shi got a clear look at the newcomer, he cried out in fury, "Xiang Shaoyun, hand over the jade case!"

That's right. The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun, who had just entered the seventh stage. The jade case had been stowed into his astral cosmos sea.

"Come take it if you can," challenged Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed at Long Shi with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

Before this, Long Shi could still somehow match Xiang Shaoyun in a fight. But now, Xiang Shaoyun no longer viewed him as a worthy opponent.

"Fine. Taste my sword!" Long Shi roared and poured his astral energy into his sword. Instantly, a vicious and bloody aura erupted.

Demon Slaying Devil Disintegration Slash!

The slash was simple and unassuming, yet it exuded an overbearing sensation, as though it would advance unendingly and crush any devil and demon in its path. It was powerful enough to defeat a regular Sovereign.

Clearly, Long Shi was intending to finish Xiang Shaoyun with a single hit. He wouldn't have any chance to snatch the jade case otherwise.

Xiang Shaoyun was strong enough to take Long Shi on with brute strength, but he did not intend to face someone on what the opponent was good at since he considered that a waste of time. Using the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, he avoided the slash. He reappeared beside Long Shi and launched a furious Lightning Bolt Fist forward.

The Lightning Bolt Fist was much stronger than before. Even without summoning any lightning bolts, the punch alone was enough to turn regular peak Emperors into mincemeat. Long Shi was clad in high-tier armor, but he was still sent flying away like an artillery shell.

It was now evident that Long Shi was no longer Xiang Shaoyun's match. With his speed superiority, Xiang Shaoyun held the absolute advantage. Long Shi stood no chance against him.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to keep pushing against Long Shi, but more Devil Sovereign puppets poured in to disturb him. At the same time, Mo Xiaoqing was also sneaking in an attack from behind him, trying to take advantage of the chaos.

"Xiang Shaoyun, die!" Mo Xiaoqing aimed his sword at the back of Xiang Shaoyun's head when he saw that Xiang Shaoyun was busy dealing with a Devil Sovereign puppet.

His sword was incomparably sharp, completely comparable to Long Shi's attack. Moreover, this particular stab was fast and came from a tricky angle.

Just as the sword was about to land, Xiang Shaoyun shifted away like a specter and dodged the attack as though he had a pair of eyes on the back of his head.

"Die!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he counterattacked, his killing intent soaring.

Chapter 866: Killing Mo Xiaoqing

Xiang Shaoyun arrived beside Mo Xiaoqing and lashed out with the Seven Scorching Sun Claws. Each of his claws contained the might to tear mountains. Yun Flame's power accompanied his claws as he raked through Mo Xiaoqing's arm, leaving wounds so deep even his bones were visible. His clothes were also ripped apart, revealing the green inner armor he wore beneath them.

With a miserable wail, Mo Xiaoqing madly stabbed his sword at Xiang Shaoyun. Each stab was aimed at a vital point, with an incomparably powerful force behind it.

As a freak from the local faction, he naturally had powerful tricks up his sleeve. Unfortunately, his opponent was Xiang Shaoyun, someone who had comprehended the profundities of nine powers. Mo Xiaoqing's attacks couldn't even harm Xiang Shaoyun in any way.

Six layers of Goldplates appeared around Xiang Shaoyun's body. Powered by the profundity of gold, his defenses were incredibly tough. Mo Xiaoqing's sword strikes only created crisp sounds when they struck, leaving no damage behind.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the sword strikes and responded by directly rushing Mo Xiaoqing. Xiang Shaoyun seemed to morph into an unstoppable barbaric dragon, giving Mo Xiaoqing quite a scare. Even so, Mo Xiaoqing was still an elite disciple, and he would not lose his fighting spirit so easily.

Drunken Windrider Sword!

Mo Xiaoqing's body started swaying left and right, as though he was drunk. He also danced about as though he had transformed into a gust of wind. He repeatedly stabbed with his sword, sending an unending barrage of sword attacks toward Xiang Shaoyun's Goldplates, and was finally able to leave some cracks on them.

Joy flickered in his eyes as he aimed his sword straight at Xiang Shaoyun's face, trying to finish the fight then and there.

Clank!

The sword pierced through the Goldplates and headed toward Xiang Shaoyun's face. Finally, it pierced through his head as well. Mo Xiaoqing was wild with joy, but then he realized that he had only struck an afterimage. A chill crept up his spine as he inwardly cried, Shit!

Mo Xiaoqing darted backward without any hesitation even as he pushed his defensive barrier to the maximum, bracing for Xiang Shaoyun's counterattack.

Bang!

A split second before his defensive barrier went up, a dreadful punch struck the back of his head. The strike disoriented him, and his body went blasting forward.

Xiang Shaoyun dashed forward at an incredible speed and thrust his elbow into Mo Xiaoqing's back, smashing Mo Xiaoqing into the embrace of a Devil Sovereign. Xiang Shaoyun did not stop at that. A sharp energy covered his finger as he sprinted toward Mo Xiaoqing's back. He then jabbed his finger into the back of Mo Xiaoqing's head.

"Die!"

Xiang Shaoyun skewered Mo Xiaoqing's head, and a pillar of blood spewed out. It was obvious Mo Xiaoqing was dead. After all, the brain was the most important part of a human, and the moment it was destroyed, there was basically no chance one would survive.

In any case, a Devil Sovereign puppet was busy ravaging Mo Xiaoqing's body, eventually tearing it apart. In fact, from an outside perspective, it looked like Xiang Shaoyun had only gotten into a conflict with Mo Xiaoqing while the Devil Sovereign was the one to finish him off.

Xiang Shaoyun took the opportunity to grab Mo Xiaoqing's storage ring. As an elite disciple from the local faction, he was definitely a wealthy individual. Xiang Shaoyun then rapidly retreated to avoid tangling with the Devil Sovereigns. At this time, Ouyang Chuanqi and Han Chenfei also started nearing him.

"Everyone has gotten something, right? Time to leave," said Han Chenfei.

There were not many treasures left. Unless they were planning to rob the other disciples, there was no point in staying.

Xiang Shaoyun sneered and said, "No rush. This is the perfect place to carry out certain actions."

His gaze then landed on Yu Ziyang and Huang Tianji. A fierce battle intent surged out of him. In the battleground, the Overlord Legion had suffered greatly in the hands of the Royal Army and the Flaming Sun. Although the Overlord Legion had struck back, it was not enough. Some grudges still needed to be settled.

Ouyang Chuanqi also had a raging battle intent as he said, "That's right. This is the best battlefield." He pointed at Yu Ziyang with his spear and declared, "Yu Ziyang is mine."

He then dashed toward Yu Ziyang, transforming into a fiery streak.

"Audacious. You come looking for me before I even have the chance to go look for you?" replied Yu Ziyang unyieldingly when he sensed Ouyang Chuanqi's provocation. With his flaming sword in hand, he faced Ouyang Chuanqi.

Both Ouyang Chuanqi and Yu Ziyang cultivated the power of flame, and both were ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. Their combat prowess had reached an unimaginable level among Emperors.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he focused on Huang Tianji and muttered, "I'll start with you." He then charged Huang Tianji.

At this moment, Huang Tianji was trying to enter the ninth stage after having absorbed a massive amount of draconic aura. Money was completely suppressed, not allowed to absorb more draconic

aura. If it wasn't for the disturbances by some other people who were similarly trying to absorb the draconic aura, Money would have been gravely injured.

"Haha, time to break through!" Huang Tianji was too engrossed in his body's rapid growth and momentarily forgot the dangers all around him. He tried to imitate Xiang Shaoyun and attempted to break through then and there.

And right as he was about to break through, he sensed a mighty power rushing toward him. It alarmed him, and his energy circulation was messed up. He forcefully suppressed his impending breakthrough and slammed out a palm.

Bang!

A palm met a fist, creating an intense impact.

The attacker was none other than Xiang Shaoyun.

"Huang Tianji, piss off or die," said Xiang Shaoyun as he started attacking madly.

This time, he held nothing back. He had just entered the seventh stage, and he needed a proper training session. Huang Tianji was the perfect sparring partner. Using the Lightning Bolt Fist, he unleashed a barrage of destructive punches toward Huang Tianji.

After breaking through, Xiang Shaoyun displayed a completely different strength. Each punch of his was beyond the level of a peak Emperor, comparable with a Sovereign's. Furthermore, he was astonishingly fast as well. His punches were practically uncatchable. How could one hope to stop him?

Chapter 867: Chaotic Battle of Freaks

Xiang Shaoyun had comprehended nine profundities. Each profundity would grant him a different effect when attacking, and his current attacks were displaying this property. Not only were his attacks erupting with lightning, but they were also being quickened by the power of wind, which was how he could attack so rapidly.

Huang Tianji had been on the verge of breaking through when Xiang Shaoyun had interrupted him. His aura was now in a mess, and he had a hard time withstanding Xiang Shaoyun's barrage.

Nevertheless, Huang Tianji was still a prince armed with powerful equipment such as the peak sovereign armor he was wearing. The armor could block Xiang Shaoyun's entire barrage.

Xiang Shaoyun also understood that as well, so he tried his best to aim for Huang Tianji's limbs or head. Huang Tianji was infuriated by the pain he was feeling in both his arms.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you're pushing this too far!" Huang Tianji roared and unleashed the draconic aura he was supposed to use for his breakthrough. He pushed his Royal War Aura to the maximum, and it was as though an actual dragon had burst out of his body and blasted Xiang Shaoyun away.

The Royal War Aura was a battle aura exclusive to the royal clan. It was extremely powerful, and regular Emperors would be gravely injured, if not killed, after being hit by it. However, Xiang Shaoyun seemed completely fine. With the sovereign armor he had on him, he remained unharmed.

Since Huang Tianji had failed in his breakthrough, he was extremely furious. His spear lashed out and transformed into numerous dragon phantoms that shot at Xiang Shaoyun. Each phantom contained enough power to instantly defeat an ordinary Sovereign.

"Xiang Shaoyun, only one of us will live past today!" Huang Tianji roared. He had always been an arrogant person. Nobody had disobeyed him before, let alone work against him. And yet Xiang Shaoyun had repeatedly caused him to suffer losses. His hatred for Xiang Shaoyun had risen to the maximum.

He was no longer holding anything back when attacking.

Xiang Shaoyun retreated rapidly while ingeniously dodging the Devil Sovereign coming from behind. As a result, Huang Tianji's spear attacks struck the Devil Sovereign instead, leaving over a dozen holes in the puppet. The puppet was killed on the spot, displaying the might of Huang Tianji's attack.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly drew his Overlord Skyslaying Saber and stirred his lightning energy and lightning bone. A rich amount of lightning energy coursed over his body, and his presence of dragon and tiger surged out. He swung his saber, unleashing a storm.

Rumble! Rumble!

The two freaks clashed, creating numerous energy eruptions all around them. The chaotic energy spread everywhere, scaring the weaker disciples into quickly retreating from the gorge.

One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun and Huang Tianji weren't the only ones fighting. Other battles were also going on, such as Zhan Wushuang and Lei Bao's, and Ouyang Chuanqi and Yu Ziyang's. Explosions were erupting everywhere, the intensity of the battlefield greatly surpassing the level of destruction an Emperor was supposed to be able to wreak.

Under such circumstances, those weaker than the combatants did not dare to stay. Even the Devil Sovereign puppets had been reduced into nothing but tools the combatants were using in their fight.

As for the phoenix phantom, it had been fully absorbed by Yu Caidie and her phoenix. She was unable to take part in the ongoing battle, so she swiftly began to depart with her phoenix. She was reluctant to leave, throwing him one last glance before departing.

As for Baili Yixiao, after getting the first jade case, he joined up with Long Shi and prepared to leave. He did not seem interested in fighting anyone there.

However, Zhan Wushuang had no intention of letting Baili Yixiao go. After breaking away from Long Shi, he rushed Baili Yixiao and released a terrifyingly destructive punch. His fist seemed capable of destroying everything in its way, as though a powerful Sovereign had personally attacked, unleashing an unstoppable attack.

Baili Yixiao had a kind heart, but that did not mean he did not enjoy battling. Facing Zhan Wushuang's challenge, he raised his brow before using his fingers as a sword to easily disperse the incoming punch.

"Baili Yixiao, today, I will wash clean the shame I had suffered before!" Zhan Wushuang declared as he charged Baili Yixiao like a barbaric dragon. His pair of fists exuded an endless battle intent and shone with a brilliant radiance that filled the entire gorge.

"Zhan Wushuang, I am your opponent!" shouted Lei Bao as he came from behind. Lightning swirled around him as though he was a god of lightning. He looked incredibly domineering and mighty as he brought his pair of hammers down at Zhan Wushuang, releasing numerous lightning tendrils at the same time.

A smile formed on Baili Yixiao's face as he said, "Why don't the both of you help sharpen my sword?"

And then, Baili Yixiao waved both his arms, forming two astonishingly powerful sword energies with his fingers. The sharp sword energies promptly sliced the fist and lightning energies into nothingness. Baili Yixiao looked like he hadn't even broken a sweat doing so.

Right after that, Zhan Wushuang and Lei Bao unleashed a barrage of even stronger attacks at him. A smile hung on Baili Yixiao's face. Even his sword started shaking as though it had turned incomparably excited.

"Finally, things are getting interesting," said Baili Yixiao as he finally drew his sword.

Thus, the three freaks engaged in an intense battle, filling the gorge with fatal shockwaves that forced even more disciples to flee. However, the fleeing disciples did not stop fighting after escaping. Rather, they continued fighting each other, targeting those who had gotten some treasures from the gorge.

As for Han Chenfei, she was one of the freak disciples. However, she discovered that a rather wide gap had formed between her and the top freaks, causing her to feel somewhat sullen. Inwardly, she thought, Looks like I haven't trained enough. Although I have improved decently, people are starting to catch up to me. If this continues, I will be left far behind them. I can't accept this! I need to catch up with them!

She then left without any hesitation, heading toward the blood devil vine. Most people only knew the blood devil vine as a devilish plant. Few were aware that the roots of this plant contained a rich life force. If one could dig out its roots, one would be able to greatly boost the power of one's bloodline. At the same time, one's cultivation talent would also greatly improve.

Han Chenfei knew of this. Thus, she decided to take the risk to try killing the blood devil vine. However, she was not the only one aware of its properties. Young Master Ghost Gui Mochou was also greatly interested in the vine.

Chapter 868: Defeating Huang Tianji

Xiang Shaoyun held the absolute upper hand in his battle against Huang Tianji. His Overlord Skyslaying Saber seemed to have become an extension of his body. Each slash was incomparably fierce, displaying a saber intent that was approaching the second stage.

Each time his saber looked like it was about to be thrown from his hand, it still remained in his grasp, as though it was a limb that could be used as he wished.

Human weapon unity, steering the saber!

Xiang Shaoyun had never focused much on cultivating saber intent. But after recovering some of his past life's memories, he had regained some of his past experience with the saber. The memories formed some sort of resonance with his body that allowed his saber skills to reach an extreme level.

This was the same Overlord Skyslaying Saber he had wielded in his previous life, the same saber that had accompanied him as he waged war all over the world. It had long become one with him. Thus, the resonance between him and the saber was merely him regaining what he had lost.

Huang Tianji was definitely not weak. He had a primary-grade nine-star physique. The power unleashed from his nine stars was exceptionally frightening. If Xiang Shaoyun hadn't relied on his speed to repeatedly avoid Huang Tianji's attacks, he would have long been taken down.

"Xiang Shaoyun, is this all you're capable of? Cowering like a turtle? If you are really that great, come face me head on!" Huang Tianji provoked.

"Hmph. I'm doing just that. You can talk big after you actually manage to touch me," said Xiang Shaoyun. His saber attacks intensified, making Huang Tianji even more miserable. Huang Tianji's armor had been scorched black by the repeated bombardments, and numerous bloody scars could be seen on his arms. Only his head remained unharmed.

"You really think you'll win for sure? Emperor's Dragon Transformation!" Huang Tianji was unwilling to be tormented to death. He roared and pushed his Royal War Aura to the limits. A white dragon with five claws burst out of his back before merging with his body. It was as though he himself had transformed into a true dragon as he proceeded to charge Xiang Shaoyun.

A dragon trailed through the air, seemingly splitting the gorge into two. Even with Xiang Shaoyun's speed, Xiang Shaoyun couldn't dodge the sudden attack, and he was struck on his chest.

Clank!

Huang Tianji had believed that he could end Xiang Shaoyun with this attack, but alas, his sovereign weapon had failed to penetrate Xiang Shaoyun's saint armor. The only thing he had done was send Xiang Shaoyun flying from the impact.

Xiang Shaoyun swiftly grabbed Huang Tianji's spear and borrowed the impact of the hit to pull in Huang Tianji. He then used his other hand and swung his saber at Huang Tianji's head.

The ruthless counterattack gave Huang Tianji a scare. He lowered his head in panic, and his crown was sent flying away. His hair cascaded down his head, making him look even more miserable.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to intensify his attacks, Huang Tianji's battle aura enveloping his spear shook, numbing Xiang Shaoyun's hand. He was forced to release the spear, creating an opening that Huang Tianji swiftly took advantage of. Huang Tianji swept his spear toward Xiang Shaoyun, forcing him to retreat as he took the chance to quickly retreat outside of the gorge.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I will definitely slay you after I finish breaking through," said Huang Tianji as he fled the gorge.

Xiang Shaoyun was unwilling to let Huang Tianji slip away. After all, he was much faster. But as soon as he left the gorge, Pan Yun's voice rang out, causing him to stop. "Overlord, Lady Shura is here!"

When Xiang Shaoyun looked over, he saw Pan Yun guarding the unconscious Lady Shura at a corner.

He frowned and dashed over, giving up on Huang Tianji. He asked, "What's going on?"

They hadn't been able to find Lady Shura before this. He had thought that she had withdrawn from the battleground.

Pan Yun heaved a sigh of relief and said, "I have no idea. I only saw Young Master Ghost bringing her here. When I chased after him and demanded that he release her, he did so because he seemed much more interested in the treasures. But whatever I tried, I haven't been able to wake her."

Xiang Shaoyun's heart tightened as he scanned Lady Shura's aura. When he saw that she did not seem injured, his worry lessened.

"I think she's fine. We'll talk about taking you out of this place. It's too dangerous here," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He then lifted Lady Shura with one hand and dragged Pan Yun with the other. They then flew away. With his current strength, charging out of the perimeter formed by the immortal dead tree and blood devil vine was not an issue. In any case, the two plants had been greatly weakened by the joint attack of many disciples.

While flying away with Pan Yun and Lady Shura, Xiang Shaoyun caught a glimpse of the battle between Han Chenfei and Gui Mochou. Killing intent flickered in his eyes as he muttered, "With a glance, it is obvious enough that he is nothing good. He must have done something to Lady Shura."

Xiang Shaoyun decided to capture Young Master Ghost and interrogate him.

His body flickered about as he broke through the perimeter of vines and branches. After leaving the perimeter, he handed Lady Shura to Pan Yun and said, "Regroup with the legion and take good care of her. I'll come back soon."

He then dove into the gorge once again. Although his target was Gui Mochou, he was also targeting the blood devil vine and the immortal dead tree. He was well-read and had once read about the value of the two plants from an ancient text. He naturally wouldn't let go of the plants after encountering them. Equipped with a saint sword, he was totally capable of uprooting them entirely.

In a flash, Xiang Shaoyun arrived near Han Chenfei and Gui Mochou. As he observed their fight, he found that Han Chenfei was actually suppressed by Gui Mochou.

Han Chenfei's absolute frost energy might be powerful, but the blood devil vine was proving to be too big of a disturbance. Thus, Gui Mochou held the upper hand with his movement technique. If this continued, it would only be a matter of time before Han Chenfei was defeated.

"Hehehe, Han Chenfei, you're nothing special," said Gui Mochou as he let loose a sinister laugh. His laughter sounded incredibly spooky, as though it could disturb one's mindset. As a result, Han Chenfei's mental stability was disturbed, and her attacks began to weaken, allowing Gui Mochou's attacks to claw her more and more.

If Han Chenfei wasn't protected by her ice armor, she would have been ripped into shreds.

"Where does this piece of garbage come from? You dare bully a member of the Overlord Legion?" roared Xiang Shaoyun when he couldn't take it anymore. He charged over and stomped his foot at Gui Mochou's head.

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps!

Chapter 869: Devil Vine's Blood Heart

When Gui Mochou turned his head to see that Xiang Shaoyun was the newcomer, the eyes behind his mask lit up with an indescribable splendor. He roared, "Xiang Shaoyun!"

Alas, he wasn't given any time to think as he could immediately feel an immense pressure crushing down at him, as though a mountain was collapsing on him, causing him to feel extremely unwell.

Xiang Shaoyun took his second step, sending numerous lightning tendrils downward. The immense power of the step made Gui Mochou feel as if someone had stepped right on his heart. His aura dropped, and he immediately retreated, not giving Xiang Shaoyun a chance to harm him.

However, Xiang Shaoyun's speed was way too astonishing. It was as though he could cross the world with a single step. With a flicker, he reappeared in the air above Gui Mochou.

Rumble! Rumble!

The lightning power below his foot reached an unparalleled level, and the pressure his step exuded had reached a level that was completely unbearable for Gui Mochou.

Body Substitution Technique!

Suddenly, a puppet appeared before Gui Mochou and took on Xiang Shaoyun's stomp on his behalf.

Bang!

The pressure of Xiang Shaoyun's step directly crushed the puppet to smithereens. Gui Mochou took the chance to slip away, transforming into numerous afterimages.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to give chase, but the blood devil vine interrupted him as a large amount of poisonous gas surrounded him. He was forced to dodge to the side, and he could only watch as Gui Mochou fled.

From far away, Gui Mochou sneered inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun, you will become my substitute puppet soon as well. Just you wait. Haha!

Xiang Shaoyun was naturally unaware of Gui Mochou's plan. He said to Han Chenfei, "You won't be able to take on the blood devil vine alone. Let me help you with it."

"Sure. With the size of this blood devil vine, it definitely has a lot of roots. We can share it equally," Han Chenfei gladly agreed.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and didn't say anything else. He started heading toward the base of the blood devil vine.

The base was filled with vines and poisonous gas. An Emperor would directly be strangled or poisoned to death the moment they entered. It was incredibly hard to actually approach the blood devil vine's roots.

Xiang Shaoyun shrouded his body with flame and burned the poisonous gas into nothingness, leaving him to focus on all the vines.

Even with the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, he wouldn't be able to harm them. He had to use the Radiant Saint Sword if he wished to do something. Without any hesitation, he drew the Radiant Saint Sword and used it to easily sever the vines before keeping the vines into his astral cosmos sea.

As for Han Chenfei, she blocked the poisonous gas with the ice armor she had formed with her absolute frost energy. She also wielded a high-tier sovereign sword capable of severing the vines, but she wasn't able to cut them as effortlessly as Xiang Shaoyun.

She wasn't nimble enough to travel in the midst of so many vines. Many times, she found herself nearly trapped.

If I can't even overcome something like this, how can I hope to stand side by side with the others? Break, all of you! thought Han Chenfei as a stubborn look covered her face. The energy she was releasing intensified, greatly decreasing the temperature of her surroundings. Snowflakes started falling around her as ice crystals started rippling out of her sword. In her current form, she could freeze everything in her path with a single slash.

The vines were completely frozen, allowing her to continue traveling downward.

Xiang Shaoyun was the first to reach the blood devil vine's base. He found that the roots were wrapped around a massive blood cocoon. It looked like a heart, with half of it buried in the soil. Around him was a thick concentration of poisonous gas and vines. If it wasn't for his powerful vision that could see through the dense poisonous gas, he wouldn't have been able to notice the blood cocoon or identify the blood devil vine's life source so quickly.

"Devil vine's blood heart!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm. He had not imagined that something like this had actually grown here. A blood heart was something that would only grow through the nourishment of a massive amount of blood materials. Furthermore, it would take more than 10,000 years for a single blood heart to form.

Since this blood devil vine actually had a blood heart, it had definitely reached the level of a top-tier sovereign medicine.

If he could refine and absorb this blood heart, he would be able to greatly improve his bloodline power and gain a large amount of energy, pushing him to a higher realm of cultivation. The blood heart would be especially helpful for a peak Emperor. With the help of a blood heart, one would be able to easily form a soul foundation.

"The five jade cases are not the only great treasures beyond the secret door. This blood heart is one of them!" muttered Xiang Shaoyun as excitement covered his eyes.

He then raised his Radiant Saint Sword and charged toward the blood heart. The poisonous gas around it was too dense and strong. Xiang Shaoyun was only able to withstand the poison after using the profundity of flame, but doing so for an extended period of time would exhaust too much of his energy.

Moreover, the vines were coming at him relentlessly, whipping him again and again. If it wasn't for the protection his saint armor provided, he would have been whipped to death.

Xiang Shaoyun swung his saint sword repeatedly without even attempting to apply any sort of technique to his swings. In any case, wherever his sword reached, vines would be cut. Not a single vine could survive the saint sword in his hand.

Han Chenfei was following behind him, and she was having a hard time penetrating deeper. She was barely hanging on at the outer perimeter, but she had also been able to get several tiny pieces of roots from the devil vine. At the very least, she had at least gained something from this.

She wouldn't be able to keep resisting the poisonous gas and the countless vines around her. When Xiang Shaoyun was no longer visible, she exclaimed in astonishment, "Without me realizing it, he has actually grown to such a level. It is only a matter of time before he takes the number one spot on the Dragon Phoenix List."

Han Chenfei had always been a proud and arrogant individual. Few people could earn her respect. Even someone as outstanding as Huang Tianji was nothing to her. In her opinion, he had only reached such height with the help of his father. On the other hand, Xiang Shaoyun came from the grassroots and rose from nothing. His rise was much more captivating compared to the other freaks.

Without realizing it, an odd feeling surfaced in her heart. It distracted her momentarily, nearly causing her to be killed by the vines. She quickly retreated in panic.

Some other disciples were also trying to target the blood devil vine. They hadn't bothered earlier because they had all been attracted to the treasures. Now that they had gotten some time to think, they had naturally shifted their focus to the two plants that were treasures in their own right.

If they could kill the two plants, they would be able to reap great harvests. After all, even the severed vines and branches would grant them points. The more valuable parts of the two plants were also extremely useful for cultivators. It was clear how much one could earn from slaying them.

Near the immortal dead tree, a green figure was swiftly moving amid the branches, and it seemed like that person was about to be the one to harvest the most valuable part of the immortal dead tree.

Chapter 870: Harvesting the Devil Vine's Blood Heart

Xiang Shaoyun was still unaware of what was happening outside. Although the blood heart looked near, it was actually still quite far from him. Furthermore, there were many obstructions. He had to go through a lot of effort before he was able to reach the blood heart.

Looking at the blood heart that was the size of a regular stone, he noted that it was surrounded by numerous roots that looked more like the meridians of a human body. The red blood heart throbbed every now and then, and its immediate surroundings were filled with life force. It gave rise to an urge within Xiang Shaoyun to immediately refine it.

With a burning look in his eyes, Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed, "The Soul Foundation Realm does not seem that far away anymore."

By obtaining the blood heart, he could rely on it to easily enter the Soul Foundation Realm upon reaching peak Emperor Realm. He was now a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and his soul had grown to an unimaginable level. If it wasn't for the fact that his flesh was lagging behind, he could have already started forming his soul foundation.

Now was not the time to consider all that. Swinging the saint sword around, he cut off the vines around the blood heart before finally aiming at the roots. The moment he harvested the blood heart, the blood devil vine would die.

The blood devil vine knew this very well. It had already formed a low-level sentience and had the desire to survive. When it felt threatened, it started pulling back all its vines. At the same time, a massive amount of poisonous gas swept inward, not giving Xiang Shaoyun any chance to kill it.

The people at the outer perimeter were greatly puzzled when they saw that the vines were withdrawing instead of attacking them. As for Han Chenfei, the massive amount of retreating poisonous gas and vines forced her to retreat.

An unsightly expression covered her face as she muttered, "The devil vine is going to use its full power against the overlord."

She erupted with her full strength and started attacking the retreating vines. At the same time, she yelled to the others, "What are you waiting for? Work together and slay this devil vine!"

The crowd seemed to show her a great deal of respect and started attacking the vines en masse. Their motivation for doing so was for the sake of earning more points by cutting off more vines. That way, they would look better with a better ranking upon leaving the battleground.

However, with all the vines gathered together, their defensive prowess increased greatly. All the attacks were blocked, and the disciples failed to harm the vines no matter what they did. Only attacks at the Sovereign level could damage the vines.

However, the elite disciples with the combat prowess of a Sovereign weren't interested in getting involved. Some of the disciples were also distracted by the immortal dead tree as someone had leaked the rumor that one would obtain an energy called the immortal energy if one refined the tree's dead trunk. This proved fatally attractive, especially to the wood cultivators.

As the rumor spread, more and more disciples targeted the immortal dead tree, leaving Han Chenfei with no choice but to seek help from the Overlord Legion members.

Prior to this, Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and the others were brought into the gorge by Xiang Shaoyun. However, they were unable to resist the Devil Sovereign puppets and had long withdrawn from the gorge. Some of them were forced to leave the battleground during their struggle with the vines, but fortunately, a decent number of them still remained. They came together and started attacking the vines.

Rumble! Rumble!

Attack after attack landed on the blood devil vine's defensive barrier, the barrage reaching a level beyond the barrier's endurance. More importantly, Xiang Shaoyun was right beside its blood heart and had severed many of its roots. It relied on its roots to live, and their destruction played a part in the weakening of its defensive barrier.

Of course, Xiang Shaoyun was constantly attacked by the vines and poisonous gas, and he had several close calls with death. He was eventually forced to wear the halo he had received from the angels, protecting himself from the numerous vines' sneak attacks.

With the halo, he finally no longer needed to watch his back. He utilized the Dazzling Sky Sword Technique and cut through a large number of roots. With the Overlord Legion members attacking at the same time from the outside, the barrier started shrinking.

Finally, the blood heart was within Xiang Shaoyun's reach. He cleaned the roots around it before plucking the heart and putting it into his astral cosmos sea. The instant the heart was plucked, the plant rapidly lost strength. Its many vines weakened and could no longer deal much damage.

Xiang Shaoyun then swiftly harvested even more of the roots around him before spreading his senses outward. When he noticed the Overlord Legion members madly attacking, he cried out, "Brothers and sisters, stop. I'm coming out!"

The Overlord Legion members hurriedly stopped attacking, giving Xiang Shaoyun a chance to blast a path out. By the time Xiang Shaoyun reappeared outside, the blood devil vine had died.

After all, the essence of its life was concentrated in the blood heart. It could still survive without the heart, but with its roots cut off as well, it had no hope of surviving. Perhaps a new blood devil vine would grow here again after an extended period of time.

However, Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to give the blood devil vine a second chance at life. He commanded the Overlord Legion members, "There are still a lot of roots down there. Go harvest them all, but watch out for the poison."

The Overlord Legion members were overjoyed, and they started splitting the blood devil vine. The few remaining roots were also shared among them, and not a single vine was left behind. After all, the vines were also precious materials. It would be a waste to leave them behind.

Just like that, the pitiful blood devil vine was cleanly harvested, leaving nothing behind.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to go take a look at the immortal dead tree as well, but he found that the tree was also under assault by numerous disciples. The essence of the tree, the dead trunk, had also been harvested by none other than Ye Linshan the Green Youth. After obtaining the trunk, he quickly vanished from everyone's vision.

At this time, a loud rumble sounded from the cave under the gorge. It turned out that the intense battle inside had actually destroyed the entire cave. Before the shockwaves had even dispersed, a terrifying concentration of lightning bolts started raining down from the sky.

At first, Xiang Shaoyun thought they were lightning bolts summoned by Lei Bao. But he soon found that they were actually silver lightning bolts. Only then did he recall that Money was still inside the cave. He was probably attempting a breakthrough.

"Damnable snake. You're actually breaking through now? I'll kill you!" roared Zhan Wushuang, who was furious after his battle was interrupted. He then launched a punch at Money, who was in the midst of a breakthrough.

The powerful fist rumbled forward like a torrent of pure unstoppable power. As Money was in the midst of a breakthrough, he had no way of stopping the punch. He was heavily struck and was sent flying away.

"Bastard! You dare harm my brother? Die!" Xiang Shaoyun roared in fury.