

## Overlord 881

### Chapter 881: Three Treasures

The higher the soul foundation's grade, the harder it would be to form it. That was an absolute and unchangeable fact.

However, many Emperors would still try to form a high-grade soul foundation for more strength. Unfortunately, of 1,000 Sovereigns, only perhaps one would have a mid-grade soul foundation. And of 10,000 Sovereigns, perhaps not even one high-grade soul foundation would appear. From that, it was clear how hard it was to gather the materials for a high-grade soul foundation.

After going through the soul foundation insights, Xiang Shaoyun lamented, "I had thought that forming a soul foundation only requires fusing my astral energy and soul power. But materials are actually required, and the materials actually determine the grade. This is troublesome."

"Overlord, it won't be hard to gather these materials. If you have enough contribution points, you will be able to purchase the materials for a mid-grade foundation from the academy," said Lady Shura.

"You're right. With the reaches of the academy, they will definitely have the mid- and higher-grade materials available. We don't have to worry about that," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod. "But what I want is to form a high-grade soul foundation."

Xiang Shaoyun had many advantages over other cultivators, but he had also selected the hardest path of cultivation. Even so, the many difficulties had not succeeded in impeding his path. Hence, it was understandable that he would select the best materials possible when forming his soul foundation to form a high-grade one.

Lady Shura could understand Xiang Shaoyun's reasoning, and she also agreed with his choice. In her eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was the strongest man among his peers. After memorizing the contents of the record, the two left and started hunting more devilish plants.

With Xiang Shaoyun's strength, he could easily run over any opposition in the battleground. Even if he encountered some extremely difficult devilish plants, he could rely on the many profundities he had comprehended to crush them.

Lady Shura had just broken through to the fifth stage. She was also capable of unleashing considerable combat prowess. To make up for her lost time after being kidnapped, she tried her best to hunt as many devilish plants as she could, and her contribution points rapidly grew.

About one month before the battleground ended, Xiang Shaoyun stopped hunting the devilish plants and allowed Lady Shura to train alone with Money nearby as backup. As for him, he started going through all the treasures he had obtained.

This time, he had obtained three items from the secret cave. One jade case, one iron case, and a scroll of beast hide. It was time to see just how valuable the three were.

"The contents of the jade case will certainly be the most valuable. I can keep the jade case for later. Let's take a look at this beast hide first," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself as he started unfurling the beast hide.

A sovereign-grade battle technique called the Raging Skyburn Palm, a fire elemental technique.

Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed. He did not know a lot of sovereign-grade techniques. He had pushed the Seven Scorching Sun Claws to its limits, but the technique was unable to keep up with his growth in cultivation. This Raging Skyburn Palm had arrived just in time. With it, he could unleash the true strength of his power of flame.

He quickly memorized the contents of the scroll and moved on to the iron case. He opened it, revealing a bracer. The bracer was decorated with precious stones and was light yellow in color with scale-shaped markings. At the two sides of the bracer were golden dragon-like runes, looking rather gorgeous and majestic.

Generally, armors were made to protect one's vitals, but rarely did the protection extend to one's limbs as well. This bracer would work well to extend the protection to his arm as well. However, Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling the bracer was more than it looked. Otherwise, it wouldn't be placed in the secret cave in the first place.

He took the bracer out of the case and put it on. It was then that he discovered an ancient book in the case, with "Dragonscale Arm" written on it. He picked the book up and muttered, "Is this not just a bracer but a weapon?"

He flipped open the book and found a battle technique inside. This was a rare technique encompassing offense and defense designed to be used with the bracer.

"The Dragonscale Arm is actually a set, consisting of the bracer and the battle technique. By combining one's draconic aura and astral energy, one can form a powerful battle aura, gaining the ability to sweep through armies with a single arm, destroying mountains and rivers with that same arm," Xiang Shaoyun read out loud.

Most battle techniques focused on the usage of fists, palms, feet, or weapons. But a technique focusing on an entire arm was rather rare. Moreover, it was a high-grade technique, so it was definitely worth cultivating. After all, he cultivated nine powers and was unafraid of having too many battle techniques. On the contrary, he actually lacked battle techniques.

He lightly waved his arm with the bracer on. It did not feel tight but rather felt incredibly light and comfortable. As he channeled energy into the bracer, draconic aura swirled around it, making it look rather overbearing.

Xiang Shaoyun was pleased, and instead of taking it off, he shifted his focus onto the jade case. He lifted it and said in excitement, "The five jade cases are the biggest treasures of them all. I believe this case won't disappoint."

He carefully opened the jade case and soon saw the contents inside. When the only thing he saw was a piece of some pitch-black item, his expression fell.

"Is this a joke? What is this?" he muttered as he lifted the black thing.

He carefully sized it up, and he found that it seemed to be a piece of rock, but at the same time, it did not seem so. It also seemed to be iron but did not seem so either. He was unable to determine what material it was. But when he looked at the middle of the item, he found that he seemed to be able to see through it. It was as though this piece of thing was actually a clump of flowing liquid. But he was obviously holding a solid object. How could it be a liquid?

"Is this perhaps the black tides mystic stone, a soul foundation material?" he exclaimed in shock.

There were many different soul foundation materials, and this black tides mystic stone was a high-grade material. Using it in tandem with some other materials would allow one to form a black tides soul foundation, which was extremely durable.

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that a high-grade material was contained in one of the cases. That was quite a harvest.

"Finally, forming my soul foundation seems hopeful now," muttered Xiang Shaoyun, who was extremely pleased. But after some thought, he muttered, "But I cultivate nine powers, so this black tides mystic stone is not enough. Maybe I need a soul foundation with nine powers as well. But that would push the difficulty to a much greater level. I need to think this through carefully."

#### Chapter 882: End of Fight and Rankings

Xiang Shaoyun had just reached the seventh stage and was still a distance away from the Soul Foundation Realm. He needed to properly plan his soul foundation forming and form the one most suited for him. Only then would he be able to fully unleash his strength.

After all, his path of cultivation was different from anyone else. Therefore, doing something completely different was required.

As time passed, the disciples started challenging the stronger devilish plants for more points. More and more were forced to withdraw from the battleground, but some also managed to stubbornly hang on. Only the ones surviving till the end with the top 100 points would be placed on the Dragon Phoenix List. Those who had withdrawn by crushing their protective jades were no longer in the competition.

During the final month, Xiang Shaoyun had stopped hunting. Rather, he focused on cultivating the Raging Skyburn Palm and Dragonscale Arm.

With his heaven-defying comprehension ability, he was able to grasp both techniques and reached a level where he could unleash 60 percent of these techniques' prowess. After some additional training, he would be able to unleash 70 percent of their power. And by the time he reached the Sovereign Realm, he would be able to unleash their full power.

The two were after all top quality sovereign-grade techniques. To display 60 percent of their power as an Emperor was already a commendable accomplishment. For any other person, just displaying 30 or 40 percent of their power would be a great achievement.

"The Raging Skyburn Palm is much stronger than the Seven Scorching Sun Claws, and it can fully showcase Yun Flame's might. As for the Dragonscale Arm, it needs to work with my draconic aura to stir the power of my gold star. I can then slam my entire arm around repeatedly like a rampaging

dragon and unleash a formidable power. These two techniques are more than enough to last me until the Soul Foundation Realm," said Xiang Shaoyun with satisfaction.

Right before the closure of the battleground, Xiang Shaoyun regrouped with Lady Shura and Money, preparing to leave together. And when the battleground period reached its end, everyone vanished from the battleground and reappeared outside the Forest of Antiquity.

The freaks appeared one after another, such as Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, Lei Bao, Yu Ziyang, and Huang Tianji.

"The overlord is here. Let's go," said someone from the Overlord Legion when he saw Xiang Shaoyun. The Overlord Legion people started heading his way.

There were about 200 Overlord Legion members present. They had just exited the battleground as well. That was evident from the thick bloodlust that they still exuded.

"Greetings, Overlord," they all greeted respectfully.

Their eyes were filled with reverence. Obviously, due to Xiang Shaoyun's draw with Zhan Wushuang, his position had been elevated to a paramount position in their hearts. Apart from the Overlord Legion members, some other disciples nearby were also filled with reverence for them. It was a natural reverence one had for the strong.

When Zhan Wushuang saw Xiang Shaoyun, his eyes turned gloomy as he yelled, "Xiang Shaoyun, come. We fight again!"

His battle intent erupted, looking very much like he wanted to have a big battle with Xiang Shaoyun right there. The people around him quickly moved away in panic.

Xiang Shaoyun's battle intent also burst out. With his hair whipping about, he replied loudly, "Bring it on. I am just itching for a fight!"

Just as the two were about to engage each other, the elder in charge of the event interrupted, "Get ready to return. Private battles are prohibited for now."

Neither Xiang Shaoyun nor Zhan Wushuang dared to disobey the elder. So they merely glared at each other before joining with the others on the return trip.

When they arrived at the academy, they found that those who had been eliminated previously were all gathered at the academy's training field. The academy was going to announce the final ranking, and attendance was mandatory.

This ranking would not only rank the recruited disciples of the academy. The local faction disciples would be included as well. Thus, competition for this ranking was extremely intense.

The many disciples handed their protective jades to the elder in charge so the final ranking could be determined. The principal and many elders had also appeared at the training field. Evidently, they attached great importance to the battleground's result.

When everyone was assembled, a miniature stone stele appeared in the principal's hand. He then fused all the protective jades with the stele. The stele quickly grew in size. Eventually, it was big enough to loom over the training field. It started pulsing with radiance, and before long, name after name started appearing on it.

First place, Baili Yixiao; second place, Zhan Wushuang; third place, Xiang Shaoyun; fourth place, Lei Bao; fifth place, Yu Caidie; sixth place, Yu Ziyang; seventh place, Ouyang Chuanqi; eighth place, Ye Linshan; ninth place, Xiao Xie; tenth place, Huang Tianji...

Upon seeing the ranking, Xiang Shaoyun himself was astonished and muttered, "I actually got into the top three?"

During the year in the battleground, he had indeed spent a lot of time killing devilish plants. But during the final month, he had basically stopped. He would be glad to just enter the top 100. In any case, the placings were just vanity for him. He did not care too much about it, and his sole focus was actual growth of strength. Thus, he was surprised to see that he actually had enough points to enter the top three.

In truth, he was unaware that most of his points were from obtaining the treasures in the secret cave and killing the blood devil vine. Those two activities had granted much more points than the other activities.

The top 10 had changed massively, with Xiang Shaoyun being the biggest dark horse. He had actually entered the top three directly, standing side by side with the likes of Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang.

Another surprise was Lei Bao of the local faction. His tyrannical rise raised many eyebrows, but they were also aware that, like Xiang Shaoyun, Lei Bao was also someone capable of pitting himself against Zhan Wushuang. Thus, he was worthy of ranking fourth.

As for Yu Caidie, her placement had not changed much, but as she had surpassed Yu Ziyang, her growth astonished many people. Apart from her, there was also Ye Linshan, who had reached the top eight when before he was only in the top twenty. He had surpassed Xiao Xie and Huang Tianji, proving his might to all.

The biggest letdown was Han Chenfei, who had remained in the top 10 all the while. She had fallen to the 13th place, ranking behind Long Shi and an expert from the local faction.

The top 100 as a whole had also undergone huge changes. For example, Wang Yufeng, Gui Mochou, and some other geniuses failed to get onto the list. Instead, some other disciples who were previously unknown were now on the top 100, such as Xuan Yuantian, Tang Longfei, and Yuan Xuefen from the Overlord Legion. They were respectively at the 87th, 93rd, and 98th places. Regrettably, no other Overlord Legion members managed to get into the top 100.

Apart from the points they had accumulated when acting together as a group, the main reason the three had gotten into the top 100 was because they had all worked hard to remain in the battleground until the very end.

## Chapter 883: The End and the New Beginning

"Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang really can't be moved from their positions, while the rest of the list has changed greatly. But isn't this way of ranking somewhat unfair?"

"I find this ranking perfectly acceptable. Sure, strength is everything and all, but luck is also important. If you are strong but were eliminated earlier, that can only mean that others have better luck than you. Without luck, it won't be easy for you to reach for the heavens in the future."

"The top 10 has changed too much. Xiang Shaoyun is actually in the top 3 now? They are over-glorifying him."

"Don't you know that he fought Zhan Wushuang to a draw? He is strong enough to sit at his current position."

"That's right. Xiang Shaoyun has already fused nine powers, showcasing his might. Nobody can stop him. Zhan Wushuang probably wouldn't be his match if the two have the same cultivation level."

"Has he really succeeded in creating the path of cultivating nine powers?"

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Everyone was talking about the new ranking, with Xiang Shaoyun being the talk of the town. After all, he was the greatest dark horse, and nobody could compare to him.

The principal coughed and said, "Everyone, silence. Now, we will be announcing the rewards for the top 10. All of them will get an entire month of free entry into the first three floors of the Book Pavilion. They can also enter the first three floors of the armory to pick a weapon each. Finally, they will be awarded 10 million contribution points each."

Everyone's eyes were burning after listening to the announcement. There were many books on the first three floors, including a lot of high-tier battle techniques. Staying inside for free for a month was basically giving out battle techniques for free.

Also, the armory also had many high-grade weapons. Picking one there would better equip them. As for the contribution points, they could purchase even more treasures from the academy. The three rewards were incredibly generous.

Those not on the Dragon Phoenix List were filled with envy, thinking that if time was to rewind, they would definitely try harder for the top 10. But were they really capable of that?

Next, the principal announced the rewards for the top 100. Each of them was allowed half a month of free entry into the first two floors of the Book Pavilion. They could also pick a weapon each from the first two floors of the armory. Also, each was rewarded five million contribution points.

As for the top 1,000, each was awarded one million contribution points. For everyone else, there were no rewards.



The assembly did not end with the reward announcement. The principal continued and made another important announcement, "The disciples on the top 100 list will represent the academy and enter an area with the disciples from the other three academies to temper themselves. Numerous fortuitous encounters are there waiting for you, and some might even help you easily enter the Soul Foundation Realm. Of course, for those entering that place, your life will be entirely dependent on fate. No protective jades will be provided. So those who wish to withdraw can still do it now."

That news shocked everyone.

"Is this going to be a fight for resources of the four great academies? That will be a grand occasion!"

"Right, I've heard that the four academies have always been competing to outrank each other, and the competition never ended. I reckon this is the start of another round of competition. It will be the true gathering of freaks."

"Our Dragon Phoenix Academy has always been ranked third behind the True Martial Academy and the Nine Palace Academy. The freaks of those two academies are definitely no weaker than Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang. If we really start a confrontation against them, our rank might even drop."

"Being able to compete against geniuses from all over the dominion is in itself a great glory. A cousin of mine is in the True Martial Academy. I heard from him that the freaks over there are incredibly scary. My cousin is a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, but he couldn't even get in the top 1,000."

"Are you exaggerating? You make it sound like our academy is filled with weaklings."

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The disciples were envious of those with a chance to partake in the confrontation of the four academies. That was the true stage of the dominion where they would get to meet more of their peers who were similarly as talented. Partaking in the confrontation would be beneficial for their growth, but unfortunately, many weren't even able to get into the top 100. Thus, they had no way of partaking in the grand event.

As for those actually on the Dragon Phoenix List, they were filled with joy. Their eyes were filled with excitement, and they were extremely eager to start competing against the other academies.

Next, the principal ended the assembly. The primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground event formally ended, and a new battlefield awaited. Everyone left, making use of the final six months they had to properly rest and prepare themselves. At the same time, they would increase their strength as best as they could. After all, their time in the academy had yet to end, so they had to continue working hard. Nobody knew what the future entailed for them.

Xiang Shaoyun, Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, and the others headed toward 1 Dragon Villa. The captains of the Overlord Legion were also gathering there. As an influential faction, they naturally needed to gather more and increase their group cohesiveness.

There, Zhuge Zhantian started reporting about the details of their venture into the battleground. Many had died in the battleground. Some were killed by the plants, while some were killed by the other factions. These disciples were the ones who were killed before they could even crush their protective jades.

At this point, the deaths no longer fazed Xiang Shaoyun that much. After all, where there was conflict, there would be death. There was nothing to be said if one died in the midst of competing against others. After all, he himself was nearly assassinated by Gui Mochou.

After saying some words of encouragement, Xiang Shaoyun shifted the topic. He said, "When we were in the battleground, I announced that the ones that managed to get on the Dragon Phoenix List would be awarded that set of equipment. With the result out, the set now belongs to Xuan Yuantian."

He then took out the set of equipment from the ancient stele he had kept with him. When everyone saw the bright and dazzling equipment, their eyes became burning. When they looked at Xuan Yuantian, they were filled with envy. That was a set of sovereign-grade equipment!

Xuan Yuantian blanked out slightly before stepping forth and thanked happily, "Thank you, Overlord."

He had not expected to receive the set of equipment. After all, Tang Longfei and Yuan Xuefen had also entered the Dragon Phoenix List. Xiang Shaoyun should have rewarded the set to Tang Longfei instead. However, he did not do so. One could not deny that Xiang Shaoyun was a fair leader.

Someone close with Tang Longfei asked, "Overlord, Deputy Commander Tang is also on the Dragon Phoenix List. Why didn't you award him the set?"

Everyone focused on Xiang Shaoyun, waiting for his answer.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Deputy Commander Tang's rank is lower, so Xuan Yuantian is naturally prioritized. However, both he and Yuan Xuefen will still be rewarded."

#### Chapter 884: Women Are Trouble

Xuan Yuantian had extracted six strands of draconic aura from the dragon phantom in total. One of them had been given to Lady Shura, and he had five left. He took four out and gave them to Xuan Yuantian, Tang Longfei, Yuan Xuefen, and Zhuge Zhantian.

Although Zhuge Zhantian did not manage to get onto the Dragon Phoenix List, he had contributed a lot to the legion. Thus, he was worthy of this reward. The other Overlord Legion members were filled with envy.

They had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would be so generous, sharing even the draconic aura. After all, a cultivator could use it to quickly grow his own draconic aura, and it was something that was rarer than dragon liquid and almost impossible to encounter. Giving away a single strand was the same as giving away millions of mid-grade spirit crystals.

Yuan Xuefen was somewhat overwhelmed by the favor and quickly said, "Overlord, this reward is too precious."

"Take it. We are all brothers and sisters here. Those who have performed well should be rewarded. Only then will everyone continue working hard for our common purpose," said Xiang Shaoyun. "I still have a lot of blood devil vine roots as well. They are very helpful for growing your vitality. Those interested can trade me for them."

This was also a method Xiang Shaoyun commonly used to buy the hearts of his followers. He would prioritize them when trading his treasures, and he also used the trade to encourage additional internal trades between them. Trading was a way of improving everyone's relationship with each other. When all that was done, Xiang Shaoyun dismissed everyone.

Before leaving, Ouyang Chuanqi said, "In the coming six months, let's find a time to spar. Otherwise, I will no longer be your match when your cultivation level catches up."

"Sure, we'll find some time," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

"Just don't blame me for bullying you when the time comes," said Ouyang Chuanqi before turning and walking away.

At this time, Han Chenfei said, "Do you have any draconic aura left? I want it as well. You need to be fair!"

She spoke with the tone of a sullen child, and when she did that, she was oddly attractive. A regular man would be completely smitten if they saw her behaving this way.

However, Xiang Shaoyun turned a blind eye and said, "No. If you want, go find some yourself."

He then ignored her and left the villa like everyone else. He started heading toward the armory. Han Chenfei clearly had no intention of letting him go. She went along with him.

"Can you stop being a pest?" said Xiang Shaoyun, annoyed.

His sole intention of recruiting Han Chenfei was to grow the Overlord Legion, not having her sticking to him like this.

"I'm not a pest!" rebutted Han Chenfei. Her expression turned solemn as she continued, "Sorry."

Xiang Shaoyun stopped for a moment before speaking with an indifferent tone, "I have no idea what you're talking about."

He then picked up the pace to shake her off. However, she grabbed his hand before he could leave, and shouted, "I already apologized. As a man, you need to stop being petty!"

Since young, she had always been a lofty child favored by the heavens. She had never apologized to anyone. Even when she wronged someone, nobody would dare to demand an apology from her. But now, she was actually apologizing to Xiang Shaoyun on her own initiative. And Xiang Shaoyun was actually rejecting her apology. That made her feel terrible, and she was on the verge of tears.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at her misty eyes and said with a cold expression, "I have always been a petty person."

He then shook off her hand and sped off.

Han Chenfei was surprised to find that Xiang Shaoyun was completely unmoved, and she shouted helplessly, "You are a bastard with a heart of stone!"

When she saw that Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave her vision, she stomped angrily before chasing after him again.

Xiang Shaoyun did not expect Han Chenfei to continue following him. He sighed inwardly, Women are really troublesome.

He was now extremely sensitive to anything related to romance. He did not wish to have a repeat of what just happened. For now, he just wanted to peacefully grow his strength. As for romance, he would let everything happen naturally.

He allowed Han Chenfei to follow him all the way to the armory. After handing over their jade plates, they were allowed entry. Huang Tianji had arrived before them and was on his way out when he saw the two enter together. Instantly, his eyes flashed with a murderous glint.

Xiang Shaoyun looked over and noticed that Huang Tianji had actually reached the ninth stage. Even so, he still fearlessly provoked, "Dear prince, it has been a while. Have you been good?"

"I have been doing well. But that might not be the case for you soon," replied Huang Tianji unyieldingly.

"Soon? Why not now? Let's get on the ring and fight to the death. I have nothing under my name, so I will be honored to fight a noble prince like yourself," said Xiang Shaoyun shamelessly.

Huang Tianji fumed from the provocation. He looked at Han Chenfei and demanded, "Is this the kind of man you like? See how he admits to having nothing under his name? He is destined to be a coarse savage his entire life and will never be cultivated into the nobility."

Han Chenfei was unhappy to see Huang Tianji criticizing Xiang Shaoyun, so she replied protectively, "His coarseness is what I like about him. At least he is real, not fake."

Her reply further infuriated Huang Tianji. He snorted coldly before exiting the armory. He had already made his pick, so there was no need to stay and be frustrated with them.

"Hey, hey, hold on. What about our deathmatch?" Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

Huang Tianji replied, "When the competition of the four academies starts, your death will arrive."

He then left, not bothering to waste any more time with Xiang Shaoyun. But inwardly, he vowed, I will definitely reap your life during the competition!

Although Huang Tianji had broken through into the ninth stage, he still wasn't confident in facing Xiang Shaoyun. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was able to fight Zhan Wushuang, which proved he still couldn't threaten Xiang Shaoyun. He planned to use the next six months to increase his strength to the very peak of the Dragon Ascension Realm. It wouldn't be too late to stomp on Xiang Shaoyun then.

Xiang Shaoyun could guess Huang Tianji's plan, but he had no fear. With his strength and trump cards, he feared nobody.

When Xiang Shaoyun and Han Chenfei entered the armory, they saw rows upon rows of weapons. There were all sorts of weapons, such as swords, sabers, spears, hooks, and whips. Each one was a top-quality emperor weapon with extraordinary strength. Just looking at all these weapons would cause one to be dazzled.

"Truly worthy of being one of the Four Great Ancient Academies. Just looking at tens of thousands of emperor weapons at the same time is enough to shake anyone to their core," lamented Han Chenfei.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "That's right. Each weapon is exuding a powerful aura. The workmanship of these weapons is excellent. Any one of them can be auctioned for an extremely high price outside."

He wasted no time and headed to the second floor.

## Chapter 885: Shark Devourer Saber

Second floor of the armory.

This floor was similarly filled with numerous shiny weapons. The weapons here were even better than the weapons on the first floor, and almost all of them were peak emperor weapons. There were even some sovereign weapons here. The weapons were displayed in an orderly manner, and even without any astral energy applied to them, they were still shining with a dazzling luster.

Even Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help but stay and appreciate the weapons on the second floor. They looked incredibly impressive, giving one an urge to grab them all.

"Ten Directions Halberd, gold elemental peak emperor weapon, able to enhance one's offensive power by 30 percent."

"Crescent Moon Saber, water elemental peak emperor weapon, able to enhance one's offensive power by 30 percent."

"Bloodvein Sword, fire elemental peak emperor weapon, able to enhance one's offensive power by 35 percent."

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Each weapon had its name, elemental property, and enhancement rate recorded below it, displaying how extraordinary they were. Han Chenfei was extremely excited to see all the weapons. She picked up an ice elemental sword and lightly swung it about. Immediately, frost energy rippled out, instantly dropping the temperature around her.

"Don't mess around," Xiang Shaoyun warned her.

"I couldn't stop myself. The weapons here are indeed impressive. They are perfectly forged," lamented Han Chenfei as she placed the sword back. Evidently, this sword was still not enough to fully catch her eyes.

"Um. Take your time here. I'm going to the third floor," said Xiang Shaoyun as he started heading to the next floor.

Since Han Chenfei wasn't in the top 10, she couldn't enter the third floor. She could only indignantly say, "I had been too arrogant during the battleground. It won't be long before I get to the top again."

She had always been known as a top-10 freak on the Dragon Phoenix List, but in the first battleground, she had actually dropped to 13th place. She was not reconciled with the result. With her talent and capability, she believed that she deserved a better ranking. Thus, she vowed to prove herself once again.

When Xiang Shaoyun reached the third floor, he found that the number of weapons was much lower. Even so, there were still over 10,000 of them. They were all displayed in an orderly fashion. The room was filled with shiny and dazzling weapons, but as a whole, the atmosphere felt much more oppressive than on the previous two floors.

Each of the weapons on the third floor seemed to possess some sort of sentience and released pulses that gave off an illusion that they were actually alive. They were incredibly extraordinary.

After touring the entire floor and looking over all the weapons, Xiang Shaoyun found himself satisfied with every single one of them. He muttered, "All of them are sovereign weapons, and all of them will be useful to me. But I already have the Overlord Skyslaying Saber and Radiant Saint Sword. What weapon should I pick here?"

In the past, he only aimed to focus on saber techniques. But after obtaining the Light of Wisdom, he could learn anything easily. His comprehension capability was monstrous, and he would be able to quickly grasp any weapon he decided to use. Thus, he wouldn't give up on picking a weapon he felt was right for him, even if it wasn't a saber.

At this time, he recalled the Seven Overlapping Waves Slash that he had obtained from an ancient stele at the battleground. It was a water elemental saber technique. He decided that picking a water elemental saber would be the practical choice. It would still be a saber, but only with a different element. He could still make use of his saber intent with it.

Shortly after, he stopped before a blue saber. The saber had the design of an ordinary saber with a blue edge. Markings of aquatic demons were carved on the blade, while the hilt was shaped like a shark's head. A top-grade demonic core was embedded onto the hilt, exuding a wild sensation.



The saber was named Shark Devourer Saber. It was a top-tier sovereign weapon. Although it wasn't quite as shiny as the other weapons, the edge of its blade was as sharp as shark teeth. It was most certainly an excellent saber capable of cutting through most things.

"You it is," said Xiang Shaoyun as he grabbed the saber.

He returned to the second floor with the saber. At this time, Han Chenfei was done as well. She had picked a rhombus ice shield. It was obvious she wasn't quite interested in the selection on the second floor. After all, she was the young palace master of the Glacier Palace. She definitely had a better weapon already.

The two left the armory together and registered with the elder standing guard outside. Only by doing so would they be able to leave with their selected equipment.

"Shaoyun, there are six months left. Are you going to cultivate in seclusion, or are you going somewhere to continue tempering yourself?" asked Han Chenfei gently, as though their argument from before never happened.

Xiang Shaoyun replied indifferently, "Address me as Overlord. I'm not too used to having my name called. I'll be going to the Book Pavilion to read some books."

"I'm going as well!" Han Chenfei decided to stick with him.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to give her a response and started heading toward the Book Pavilion. It had been a while since he last read anything. Now would be the time for him to accumulate more knowledge to further enrich his mind. That way, he would be able to make the correct judgment if he was to encounter some weird opponents in the future.

Apart from that, he also needed to memorize more battle techniques so he could fully utilize his nine powers, increase his combat strength, and better prepare himself for the competition of the four academies. He was also preparing for his eventual return to the Ziling Sect.

The 10-year vow he made had arrived. Along their way to the Book Pavilion, many disciples saw them walking together. Because of that, their envy and hatred toward Xiang Shaoyun grew.

Han Chenfei was the number two beauty in the academy. Wherever she went, she would be the center of attention. In the past, she rarely moved around with men apart from Glacier Palace

members. But now, she was practically Xiang Shaoyun's tail, obediently following him. In fact, she even looked like she was trying very hard to flatter him. Many people were taken aback.

A lot of people had the urge to ask Xiang Shaoyun one question: "I thought you declared Yu Caidie your woman? Why are you nabbing Han Chenfei as well? Are you going to leave us anything at all?"

Unfortunately, none had the courage to say so to Xiang Shaoyun, who had the strength to fight Zhan Wushuang to a draw.

Soon, the two arrived at the Book Pavilion. After bowing slightly to the elder, Xiang Shaoyun said, "This disciple greets the elder."

The elder lazily raised his eyelids, and a sharp glint flickered in his eyes. He replied, "It has been a while since I last saw you here. Take this chance to properly accumulate more knowledge."

"Yes, elder," replied Xiang Shaoyun respectfully before stepping into the Book Pavilion.

He went straight to a certain corner, selected a few books that he had not read, and started skimming through them.

Han Chenfei was bored, and she asked, "I thought you were going to pick some battle techniques. Why are you reading these boring books on the first floor?"

"When did I say that I'm here to pick battle techniques? Stop bothering me," said Xiang Shaoyun before he resumed reading.

In the past, he had a photographic memory. And now, he was capable of reading 10 lines of words with a single glance. His reading speed had increased by at least 10 times.

## Chapter 886: Something Is Odd About These Ruined Pages

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to waste the free month he had at the Book Pavilion. He started hungrily going through the ancient records, including the books that nobody seemed interested in. It seemed like he wanted to read everything there.

Han Chenfei, who had arrived with him, was incomparably gloomy. Each time she wanted to talk with him, she stopped when she saw his serious reading expression. Eventually, she headed toward the second floor. At the very least, reading some books related to battle techniques would be a good use of her time.

Half a month later, she found that Xiang Shaoyun was still on the first floor. She started wondering inwardly, All the books on the first floor are useless, yet he seems to enjoy reading them. What is he thinking?

As her free time was up, she had no choice but to interrupt Xiang Shaoyun's reading and said, "Shaoyun, I'm leaving first."

Xiang Shaoyun replied, "Um. Go, then."

He didn't even spare her a glance, causing her to stomp her foot in anger and curse, "An unromantic bastard!"

She turned to leave, but after a slight hesitation, she rushed to his side and planted a peck on his face before quickly leaving.

Her action caused Xiang Shaoyun to blank out. He smiled helplessly before shaking his head and shutting the book he was reading. For now, he was no longer in the mood to continue.

He stretched out lazily and muttered, "After reading through so many ancient texts, I have learned about many races and bizarre existences. I have also learned of the high-grade materials required to form a powerful soul foundation. This is the benefit of reading more."

The others thought that the books on the first floor were garbage, but for him, the books there were more useful than many battle techniques. After all, he was able to enrich his experience and widen his horizons just by reading on the first floor.

Instead of staying, he headed to the second floor. He still had half a month left, so it was now time to memorize more battle techniques in case he needed them. There were fewer books on the second floor, but they were mostly battle techniques and cultivation methods. There were also some secret techniques. They were all quality books.

After taking a walk around, Xiang Shaoyun picked a corner and started going through the battle techniques. He did not need long to quickly memorize a large number of battle techniques with his reading speed. Instead of trying to learn them now, he was only memorizing them. He would only train them when required. There was no helping it as he had the innate talent of photographic memory, and it gave him a huge advantage.

About five days later, Xiang Shaoyun had gone through no fewer than 100 battle techniques. This would shock anyone who found out about it. With that kind of speed, it was as though his brain was dedicated to nothing but storing knowledge.

Each academy disciple was a genius, but not a single one could read 10 lines with a single glance and possessed photographic memory at the same time. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun was a freak in this aspect.

Of course, if they knew he had the Light of Wisdom, they wouldn't be as surprised. The elder in charge had been focusing on Xiang Shaoyun all alone, and he lamented inwardly, This is truly a little freak.

If others saw how Xiang Shaoyun acted when reading, they would think that he was pretending. But the elder in charge was confident Xiang Shaoyun was really reading and was even memorizing everything he read.

After all, this elder had been in the academy for many years and had personally witnessed generations of geniuses. There were others who had done something similar before, but Xiang Shaoyun was still better than them all.

One day, Xiang Shaoyun found several ruined pages in an unremarkable corner of the floor. They contained some ancient text, and the ancient book did not even have a cover. The writings within were so ancient even Xiang Shaoyun couldn't understand them.

The text piqued his curiosity, and he sensed an ancient aura from the ruined pages, as though they were from a bygone age. After taking a quick look over the pages, he found that the old characters were rather messy, as though they were mismatched. No matter how he looked at them, it did not look like a battle technique or a secret technique.

"There is something odd about these ruined pages," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he gently unfurled the pages. He discovered that the pages were extremely durable, and he was even more certain that there was something special about them.

After thinking about it for a bit, he sent some energy into the pages. Sure enough, the characters on the pages started shining.

The ancient characters started throbbing, and an ancient aura surged out. The characters started swimming atop Xiang Shaoyun's palm, as though they had been granted life. The entire scene looked incredibly peculiar and sacred.

But that only lasted a short while before the ancient characters started vanishing. Even the pages were disintegrating. The shock pulled Xiang Shaoyun out of his reverie, and he quickly wrapped his consciousness around the ancient characters. The characters seemed to have sensed his attempt as they all poured right into his mind. The moment the characters entered his mind, he felt as if his head was going to burst apart.

"AHHH!"

Like raging lightning and flame, the ancient characters started wreaking havoc in his mind with an extremely dreadful might. Even with his filthless soul, he was barely hanging onto his life. Without the Nether Dragon Soul Headband's protection, he would already be dead.

The elder in charge instantly appeared before him and held him up before asking, "What's the matter?"

He had thought Xiang Shaoyun had triggered some unique power, but almost immediately after, Xiang Shaoyun's wail rang out. He rushed over immediately, completely confused as to what was happening with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun stabilized his footing and said, "I'm fine. I just need to meditate in silence for a bit."

He then sat down cross-legged, completely ignoring the elder and focused only on the threat the ancient characters were posing him. The power of the characters wasn't targeting him intentionally. Rather, the characters were too powerful and Xiang Shaoyun was too weak to accept them. But with the help of his Nether Dragon Soul Headband, he was able to somewhat keep things under control.

He felt like the world within his mind had transformed into a land of lightning and flame that constantly clashed with each other in a certain tempo. It was as though they were showcasing the laws of a certain power, but it also seemed like they were trying to showcase a unique battle

technique. The power demonstrated was simply nothing short of a calamity, seemingly capable of annihilating even stars.

After a while, the power gradually faded away. An ancient declaration echoed in his mind, "Lightning Calamity Fiery Star, destroyer of heavens. As the falling star transforms into flame, no demon or devil stands a chance against its divine might."

#### Chapter 887: Lightning Calamity Fiery Star

Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have witnessed the destruction of a star with his very own eyes. The lightning calamity and the star fire were filled with destructiveness. Nobody could hope to stop such a terrifying power, a power known as the Lightning Calamity Fiery Star.

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that a few ruined pages would contain such a terrifying and exceptional battle technique. It almost seemed like it was actually a god-grade technique. Was it truly a technique surpassing the saint grade?

To destroy an entire star with a single blast of energy, what could this be if not a god-grade technique? He recalled the sensation of witnessing that scene over and over again. He had seen a terrifying power created through the fusion of lightning and flame. Similar to his Wind and Lightning technique, it was a technique utilizing two different energies.

These pages had remained on the second floor undetected because they were waiting for a cultivator that cultivated both lightning and fire. Xiang Shaoyun, as someone who cultivated nine powers, naturally met the requirement. Hence, he had chanced upon a truly massive gain.

Of course, he had yet to realize just how much he had gained. He was too busy contemplating the powers of lightning and flame, trying to figure out the way of fusing the two. He believed that if he could somehow grasp the technique, it would serve him as well as the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist.

He visualized the scene about 10,000 times, gradually etching its sensation into his heart before he finally opened his eyes again. At that moment, one of his eyes had crackling lightning within it while the other had a raging flame. It was as though his pupils had turned into pupils of flame and lightning, looking incredibly oppressive.

The elder standing guard by his side exclaimed in astonishment, "This kid has actually cultivated an eye technique?"

After Xiang Shaoyun withdrew all his aura into his body, he stood up and bowed to the elder, saying, "Thank you, elder, for guarding this kid. I can't be grateful enough."

"Kid, what happened to you? Where are the ruined pages that were previously here?" asked the elder.

He had been guarding this place for over 1,000 years. He knew every single book in the collection, and he knew very well that there were several ruined pages on the shelf in front of Xiang Shaoyun. Now that the pages were missing, he suspected that Xiang Shaoyun had discovered the secret behind them.

Xiang Shaoyun knew how precious what he had just gotten was, and if he spoke the truth, his life might be in danger. Thus, he used a sullen tone and said, "Elder, you need to uphold justice for me! I have no idea what those shabby papers are. The moment I picked them up, a terrifying power invaded my mind. If it wasn't for my trump card, my soul would have been destroyed."

The elder raised his brow and asked, "Are you speaking the truth?"

"Every single word is true! Did someone set up a trap here to harm me? Even now, my head is in great pain. Without some soul recovery herbs or spring water, I'm afraid I will be left with a long-lasting injury. Elder, you need to uphold justice!" Xiang Shaoyun said pitifully, akin to a harmless little girl that had just been violated.

The elder frowned and said, "Kid, let me take a look for you."

The elder's palm landed on Xiang Shaoyun's head before he could even react.

Shit! Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

He had thought that he could use deception to deal with this elder and scam some valuable herbs while he was at it. Not only had he failed, the elder even started checking his body. He was filled with regret and could only pray inwardly that the elder wouldn't find anything.

The elder did not dare to directly search Xiang Shaoyun's soul. He was afraid that doing so would really cripple Xiang Shaoyun, which would make things very troublesome. Thus, he was relying on his senses to figure out the current condition within Xiang Shaoyun's mind. Soon, he freed Xiang Shaoyun.

"Kid, your soul is somewhat weakened right now, but its original form is extraordinarily powerful. Also, there seems to be an entire world inside your mind. Is that caused by the missing pages?" said the elder doubtfully.

"I wish I knew," said Xiang Shaoyun with the same pitiful tone.

The elder sank into a short silence as he contemplated. His face turned solemn, and he asked, "Kid, are you willing to be my disciple?"

His question caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise. He was dazed momentarily, clearly not expecting the elder to suddenly decide on taking him as a disciple. Just as the elder was asking that question, some other people arrived outside. When they heard the conversation, they were stunned.

The Book Pavilion elder might seem unassuming, but elders like him were usually the ones with the most senior qualifications in the academy, and they had been elders over several generations. They were super experts comparable to the grand elders in status. He wouldn't have been trusted to guard the Book Pavilion otherwise.

"Who is it that the Book Pavilion elder is recruiting? What a lucky person," lamented an overseer.

"We will know soon. Perhaps that person is one of the outstanding geniuses on the Dragon Phoenix List," replied a different person.

The elder pressed on, "Why? Are you unwilling?"

Xiang Shaoyun quickly waved his hands and said, "Of course not! But this kid already has a master, so it wouldn't be proper to take another master. My apologies, elder."

"You already have a master? Why am I not aware? Are you lying?" asked the elder doubtfully.

"Why would I lie? The principal and the grand elders know this as well!" Xiang Shaoyun answered truthfully.

"Sigh. If that is the case, forget it," said the elder gloomily.



He then vanished into thin air.

Xiang Shaoyun started shouting, "Elder, you still haven't upheld justice for me! My soul was injured, and I need some compensation!"

"Kid, just be content that you have benefited from a supposed disaster, and be happy that I didn't even punish you for damaging an ancient record," the elder's voice rang out.

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had been slapped on his face. He felt greatly wronged, and he howled with grief inwardly, Are the heavens fair? Why do I need to suffer when I am just reading?

If others knew what he was thinking, they would probably demand him for a duel to the death. He had obtained such a massive benefit and was still discontent. What an ungrateful fellow!

When the overseer outside saw that Xiang Shaoyun was the one who had caught the elder's eyes, he lamented inwardly, This kid really doesn't know what's good for him. He actually rejected the pavilion elder's good intentions? This elder is much more impressive than the regular previous generation elders.

Soon, news of Xiang Shaoyun's rejection spread from the overseer, and it created waves in the academy.

"Have you heard, the pavilion elder tried to recruit Xiang Shaoyun as his disciple but was rejected!"

"That can't be true, right? Is Xiang Shaoyun stupid? Why did he reject something like that? That is an elder! If he accepted, he would be able to do as he wishes in the academy!"

"What do you know? Xiang Shaoyun claimed to already have a master. But nobody knows who his master is. Can he be lying to the elder?"

"Maybe his master is Elder Xiao Wei? I heard that Elder Xiao Wei had visited 1 Dragon Villa before."

"From what I heard, Xiang Shaoyun's master is an incredible person, someone at a level no lower than the grand elders!"

#### Chapter 888: Arresting You for Elder Shadowflash

In a certain elder's villa, Gui Mochou was standing respectfully before two elders. By his side was Feng Xiaosha, who had entered the top 30 of the Dragon Phoenix List.

One of the elders was Feng Huosuo, Feng Xiaosha's uncle, while the other was Feng Huosuo's senior brother, someone known as Shadowflash. Since the two had the same master, they had an extremely good relationship.

"Junior brother, do you think Xiang Shaoyun's master is Xiao Wei?" Shadowflash asked.

Feng Huosuo answered, "Very likely."

"Hmph. If that is the case, then he really doesn't know what's good for him by rejecting the pavilion elder," said Shadowflash coldly. He then laughed and said, "But that is good. If he is only backed by Xiao Wei, things will be much simpler for us."

"Have you came up with a good way to get rid of that kid, senior brother?" Feng Huosuo asked.

"According to Mochou's description, Xiang Shaoyun had forced him to withdraw using the Nether Soul Domain. He has devil blood in him. That alone is enough to expel him from the academy," said Shadowflash with a sinister look on his face.

"Will that really work?" Feng Huosuo was doubtful.

"Hehe, those not of our race can never be trusted," said Shadowflash with a sneer. He then commanded Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha, "You two start spreading this information around. Soon, we will arrest him and question him about this."

"Yes, master (martial uncle)," answered Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha at the same time.

Gui Mochou asked, "Master, what should we do about the quota for the competition of the four academies?"

"You don't have to worry about that. I'll just get a disciple to hand over his spot to you. In any case, you have the strength worthy of a spot," said Shadowflash calmly.

Feng Xiaosha said, "Martial uncle, let me deal with senior brother's matter. A brother of mine is in the top 100. I can get him to voluntarily hand over his spot."

"Haha, that would be for the best. We won't mistreat him for his contribution," said Shadowflash as he roared with laughter.

...

Soon, news of Xiang Shaoyun having devil blood spread throughout the academy. Some claimed that people were intentionally sullyng him because he rejected the pavilion elder's offer. Some claimed that they had witnessed Xiang Shaoyun using the abilities of the devils before, so they were sure he was a devil, not a human. Some mentioned the event where Xiang Shaoyun was subjected to the purification punishment at the City of Light and his devil blood had already been cleansed...

In short, all sorts of rumors started flying around, making Xiang Shaoyun the center of attention. Gui Mochou personally stood out as the witness, claiming that he had seen Xiang Shaoyun use the Nether Soul Domain when they had clashed in the battleground. He swore he was speaking the truth, and he hoped that the academy would take a closer look into this matter.

His words made even more people curious about whether Xiang Shaoyun truly had devil blood in him. Even the Overlord Legion members were wavering upon hearing the many rumors. If it wasn't for Ouyang Chuanqi personally stepping up to control the situation, some of them would be demanding an answer from Xiang Shaoyun by now.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was completely unaware of what was going on outside. He was still focused on reading. He was currently on the third floor, with the majority of the books there being battle techniques. There were also some handwritten notes left behind by some Sovereigns, which were invaluable experiences from past experts.

Xiang Shaoyun was greedily absorbing the knowledge from the first book he found on the third floor. He was searching for a way to form the strongest soul foundation. He was also looking for battle techniques suited for all nine of his powers. Overall, he had gained a lot from his stay at the Book Pavilion.

During the final three days, he picked up an alchemy book. He wasn't trying to be an alchemist, but he only wanted to learn some simple concoctions that might be useful in the future.

After all, he was someone who had been soaked in medicinal liquid growing up. He knew very well how beneficial proper usage of herbs would be for a cultivator. After finishing the alchemy book, he selected a crafting book. Similarly, he memorized everything in it, his sole goal being to restore the Overlord Skyslaying Saber.

The Overlord Skyslaying Saber was his weapon from his previous life. Not only did it hold a special meaning in his heart, but it was also the weapon he was most familiar with. Unfortunately, with its current quality, it was unable to keep up with his growth. Reforging was necessary.

In a flash, three days passed. When he saw the elder lying lazily on the rocking chair before the pavilion, he bowed slightly before proceeding to leave. But at this time, the elder suddenly asked, "Are you really unwilling to be my disciple?"

"Elder, this kid really does not have the good fortune to be your disciple," Xiang Shaoyun rejected tactfully.

"Then you need to take care of yourself," said the elder.

Xiang Shaoyun was confused, and he quickly headed for 1 Dragon Villa. But before he could go far, someone blocked his path and demanded, "Xiang Shaoyun, take a walk with us."

Four overseers in total had come for him. Each was a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. From how aggressive they seemed, something bad must be waiting for him.

He asked with confusion, "I wonder what is the intention of this, lords?"

"We are arresting you under Elder Shadowflash's order," replied one of them coldly.

He then grabbed for Xiang Shaoyun, not giving Xiang Shaoyun the chance to flee.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and dodged backward before saying, "You are trying to arrest me without a justified reason? Audacious! You are overseers, but I am an overseer as well. The only way you can

arrest me is with the written order of an enforcement elder. Otherwise, there is no way I will go with you."

"Impudent! You dare disobey Elder Shadowflash?" berated one of them.

"What's the point of saying this much to an evil devil like him? Just capture him," said a different person.

One of them reached for Xiang Shaoyun again, sending a golden dragon claw forward. This person was a second-stage Soul Foundation Realm expert. With his strength, capturing a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator should be an extremely simple affair.

Relying on his gift of instincts, Xiang Shaoyun saw through the attack before it even came. Once again, he avoided the attack. He warned, "If you continue being disrespectful, don't blame me for showing no mercy!"

Although he was just an ordinary overseer, other elders could only challenge him on a ring if they really wanted to do something to him without breaking any rules. Private battles outside the ring were prohibited. This was the academy's rule. The rules were much stricter for overseers than disciples. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't sit still while the overseers were trying to capture him without a justifiable reason.

"You dare resist arrest? The first thing I will do after capturing you is break your legs," roared the Sovereign unhappily. He attacked with both hands, sending a pair of fast and sharp hands clawing at Xiang Shaoyun. At the same time, his presence also surged outward, not giving Xiang Shaoyun any chance to keep dodging.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun realized that they had no intention to let this end amicably. His anger surged as he roared, "Breaking my legs? Let me break your arms first!"

Using the gift of instincts, he found an opening and dashed through it before slamming his palm forward. A powerful Raging Skyburn Palm was launched out, and the profundity of flame greatly enhanced the might of his attack.

Chapter 889: I'm Breaking All Your Arms Today

The academy's overseers were all one-in-ten-thousand experts. They were not all disciples from previous batches, as some were actually the followers the elders had recruited during their trips outside.

These four were recruited as followers by Elder Shadowflash and were able to enter the academy as overseers. But like Xiang Shaoyun, they were merely regular overseers. Sure, they still had above-average strength, but they definitely weren't as strong as the geniuses that could actually fight people several stages above them.

The second-stage Sovereign facing Xiang Shaoyun was a mid second-stage Sovereign, but he could display the strength of a peak second-stage. That was actually quite impressive among cultivators.

Earlier, he had failed to capture Xiang Shaoyun, so he was using 80 percent of his strength now. He vowed to take Xiang Shaoyun down this time. He knew well that a genius like Xiang Shaoyun definitely had the strength to contend against a Sovereign. But he was still confident he could easily capture this Emperor.

Alas, he overestimated himself and underestimated Xiang Shaoyun. Rather than capturing Xiang Shaoyun, he gave Xiang Shaoyun a chance to counterattack. The moment Xiang Shaoyun attacked, he used his full strength, sending out numerous terrifying flaming palms. A sea of flame crashed forth toward the second-stage Sovereign.

The flaming palms were powered by the profundity of flame. Thus, the barrage was extremely scary, and even a mountain would turn into a pile of ash once hit. The second-stage Sovereign was no weakling. He reacted quickly and sent out several palms himself, trying to stop Xiang Shaoyun's attacks.

The second-stage Sovereign wasn't to be underestimated. Although Xiang Shaoyun had an impressive technique, his attacks were blocked.

"So what if you're a genius? So long as you're not a Sovereign, you're nothing!" said the Sovereign smugly. He unleashed a series of attacks toward Xiang Shaoyun, aiming to capture Xiang Shaoyun before doing anything else.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes gleamed with a sharp glint. Instantly, his figure vanished, causing the Sovereign's attacks to hit only his afterimage.

"Shit!" the Sovereign immediately sensed that things were getting bad for him.

He immediately entered a defensive mode, but Xiang Shaoyun had already appeared beside him and attacked mercilessly.

Dragonscale Arm!

Both his arms lashed out like a pair of dragons. The arms shone with a brilliant gold radiance, exuding thick vicious energy. Dragon roars rumbled on and on as his arms smashed into the Sovereign's waist.

The Sovereign was able to put up his defenses quick enough, but his defensive barrier was smashed apart by the Dragonscale Arm technique. He himself was sent flying away, blood spewing out of his mouth.

"Impudent!" the other three Sovereigns shouted in alarm. They were now attacking together.

The three Sovereigns weren't to be underestimated either. One of them was even at the fourth stage, while the other two were at the second and third stages respectively. If they worked together against Xiang Shaoyun, he would only stand a chance if he used the Nether Soul Domain.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was not ready to use the Nether Soul Domain yet. He wanted to defeat his opponents fair and square in order to establish some dominance and deter some of those who kept setting their sights on him.

The Radiant Saint Sword appeared in his hand, and a sinister look covered his face as he roared, "Whoever your master is, since you dare to make a move against me, I'm breaking all your arms today. Otherwise, you will all think I'm a pushover!"

Not waiting for the Sovereigns to use their soul foundations, Xiang Shaoyun pushed his speed to the maximum. A white flash streaked over as he swung his sword repeatedly.

Dazzling Sky Sword Technique, third stance, Sword Light and Blood Shadow!

Xiang Shaoyun fully unleashed his light star, sending out a torrent of bright radiance with each swing of his sword as he slashed at the Sovereigns. Instantly, the torrential light streaked past them.

They had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to have a saint weapon, and they also hadn't expected him to use full power at the get-go. His speed was so fast they couldn't even react. Only the fourth-stage Sovereign was able to quickly move aside. As for the other Sovereigns, a sharp pain assaulted their arms as two bloody arms flew into the sky.

"Ahhhh!"

Their wails reverberated throughout the area, attracting even more attention.

"How is this possible?" the fourth-stage Sovereign paled from fright. He was filled with disbelief. The second-stage Sovereign who was facing Xiang Shaoyun earlier also felt a chill creep up his spine. He was feeling lucky that Xiang Shaoyun had not used such a scary technique on him earlier, or he would have definitely been killed on the spot.

"Quick, quick, suppress him with your soul foundation!" shouted one of the injured Sovereign to the fourth-stage Sovereign.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the one-armed Sovereign and said, "Keep talking and I'll behead you." He pointed at the fourth-stage Sovereign and said, "Go back and tell your master to feel free to inform the academy of whatever crime I have committed. The academy can punish me. As for your master, he is not qualified to capture me as he wishes."

This whole incident had come out of nowhere for Xiang Shaoyun. He didn't even know who Elder Shadowflash was, but this person had actually come after him out of the blue. He couldn't just take it lying.

"Kid, you have devil blood in you. You're not a human, so you can't cultivate in the academy. Come with me to see Elder Shadowflash and await your punishment, or today is the day you die!" shouted the fourth-stage Sovereign as he released all four of his soul foundations, sending a crushing pressure toward Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hmph. Even if I really have devil blood, the likes of you are unqualified to judge me. If you want my life, come get it. Let's see who will die first," replied Xiang Shaoyun unyieldingly, exuding a thick killing intent.

Just as they were about to clash, the enforcers arrived. The group's leader was none other than Chu Yuan, a disciple of Xiao Wei. There were five behind him, and each was a late-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. They were far stronger than the group of four overseers.



"You dare use force within the academy? Impudent!" berated Chu Yuan as he pointed at the four Sovereigns.

Chu Yuan was a high-level overseer, and his status in the academy was far above the four Sovereigns. Furthermore, as the captain of the enforcers, he had the strength to back his arrogance.

The four Sovereigns quickly replied, "We are here on orders of Elder Shadowflash. We need to arrest Xiang Shaoyun. He is a devil from the Imperial Nether Clan!"

"That's the truth just because Elder Shadowflash says so? The academy has yet to give the enforcers any orders, yet you people are already acting in private? You are simply looking down on the enforcers! All of you, come with me! Let's talk about this in front of the principal. Let's see who's at fault here!" said Chu Yuan. He was obviously siding with Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly added, "Lord enforcer, you have arrived just in time! They are obviously trying to assassinate me! If it wasn't for the fact that I have a tiny bit of strength I can use to protect myself, I would be dead by now. They are simply disregarding the academy's rules! Lord, please uphold justice!"

One ought to admit that Xiang Shaoyun was truly shameless. He had obviously gotten the upper hand in the clash, but he was not satisfied and was even adding salt to the wound.

#### Chapter 890: Xiang Shaoyun Taken

"That's right. Assassinating a disciple is a major crime. Even if we bring this to the principal, he will judge this crime punishable with death," said Chu Yuan coldly.

He was once a disciple of the academy. Now that he was a high-level overseer, his status was naturally higher than the overseers who got in as followers. Thus, he did not need to show them any courtesy.

The two Sovereigns with one arm paled. They had not imagined that this would be the result. They had thought that they would be able to easily capture Xiang Shaoyun and complete the mission, but things weren't looking very good for them right now.

"We were only acting on orders!" the fourth-stage Sovereign answered with a frown.

"Do you have an elder token with you?" asked Chu Yuan.

Generally, when an elder summoned a disciple, only a verbal command was required. But since the overseers were actually arresting someone, they needed an elder token. After all, each disciple of the academy was a genius. A super genius like Xiang Shaoyun was a big deal. How could someone like him be arrested casually?

The four overseers were out of words. They were here on a verbal command and had no elder token with them. It was also at this moment that they realized something. It seemed like they were being used as cannon fodder.

In any case, Xiang Shaoyun having devil blood flowing in him was still a rumor. Even with Gui Mochou standing witness, not many people believed the rumor. On the other hand, what they did here was definitely something that the academy would pay attention to if Xiang Shaoyun blew it out of proportion.

Although they were nominally Elder Shadowflash's subordinates, they did not have an elder token for this operation. In other words, this was an unsanctioned operation. What else could they be if not cannon fodder? At that realization, their expressions turned ghastly. They were completely out of words.

When Chu Yuan saw that they had nothing to say, he sneered and said, "Now you know your mistakes? Come with me to the Enforcement Hall and await your verdict."

He waved his hand, and the people behind him arrested the four overseers before taking them away. Chu Yuan did not leave afterward. Rather, he said to Xiang Shaoyun, "Young Master Xiang, you need to look for my master immediately. Elder Shadowflash has his sights set on you, so we won't be able to protect you for long. You need my master's shelter."

After giving Xiang Shaoyun an address, he left in a rush.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and muttered, "Who is that Elder Shadowflash? Why is he acting against me? Di Lin's master is Elder Situ, while Mo Xiaoqing is backed by the Mo Clan. Is Elder Shadowflash someone from one of the two factions?"

He went through all whom he had offended, but he failed to guess that this was actually the work of Gui Mochou's backer. In fact, he never knew why Gui Mochou had moved against him in the first place. But if he knew that Gui Mochou was Feng Xiaosha's senior brother, he would understand everything.

Xiang Shaoyun did not go looking for Xiao Wei straight away. He knew Xiao Wei would protect him, but he wanted to see how far this matter would go. His master was the gravekeeper elder. Even the grand elders had to show his master respect. Anyone daring to go overboard against him would suffer.

He went straight back to 1 Dragon Villa. Along the way, many people looked at him with odd gazes, evidently suspecting his identity. He did not care. So what if he had devil blood flowing in him? Not even the angels were able to purify him, and he had instead earned their acknowledgment. Just that alone was enough for him to be fearless about his devil blood. But before he could return to his villa, he was stopped by another group.

This group came with an elder token. Brandishing the token, they said, "We are here under Elder Mo Luo's order. You need to come with us for questioning."

The moment Xiang Shaoyun heard the surname Mo, he knew that someone from Mo Xiaoqing's side was making a move against him. This time, he couldn't disobey. Otherwise, he would get himself expelled from the academy.

He hesitated for a bit but eventually decided to go with them. He wanted to see just what they were going to do to him, and he also wanted to see how the academy would react.

Instantly, news of Xiang Shaoyun being brought away spread throughout the academy. He was one of the top three geniuses on the Dragon Phoenix List and was soon going to represent the academy in the competition of the four academies. If he was punished due to his questionable origin, the academy's strength during that competition would drop sharply. After all, he was a freak comparable with Zhan Wushuang.

Had the academy confirmed that Xiang Shaoyun was a devil? Everyone was talking about it.

"Xiang Shaoyun is truly ballsy. He actually broke the arms of several overseers. After offending the elders, he has been arrested for questioning."

"Even if he has devil blood in him, that does not necessarily mean he is a devil. After all, he is someone who had entered the Devil Domain. Isn't it normal for him to have absorbed some devil blood before?"

"I feel like he has merely offended someone by being too arrogant."

"After killing Di Lin, he went ahead to wreak havoc at the villa of Squall's leader. He has also killed some disciples of the local faction at the battleground. He has way too many enemies. I reckon an elder has decided to make a move against him."

"We will soon know if Xiang Shaoyun actually has a backer."

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"You're telling me Xiang Shaoyun was taken by Elder Mo Luo's overseers?" asked Xiao Wei. He was alarmed after hearing Chu Yuan's report.

Chu Yuan nodded. "Yes, master. Not long after I arrested Elder Shadowflash's overseers, a different group arrested Xiang Shaoyun with Elder Shadowflash's token.

"What did Xiang Shaoyun do to provoke even Mo Luo? Things are getting troublesome now," said Xiao Wei as he rubbed the space between his eyebrows in frustration. "No, I need to personally ask about this. I can't allow anything to happen to that kid. Take my token to the principal and report this to him as well."

He handed his token to Chu Yuan before flying away in a certain direction. Soon, Xiao Wei arrived at Mo Luo's villa. This villa was much more expansive and luxurious than Xiao Wei's, proof that Mo Luo's status was also higher than his.

"Xiao Wei requests a meeting with Elder Mo Luo," said Xiao Wei outside the villa.

His voice wasn't loud, but he was confident the people inside the villa could hear him.

Soon, someone came out. A middle-aged butler bowed slightly and said, "Greetings, Elder Xiao. My master is in seclusion, so he won't be taking any guests. You may leave a message with me, lord. I will definitely pass it on to my master after he leaves seclusion."

"Elder Mo Luo is in seclusion? Who was the one who had arrested one of the top three disciples with his elder token earlier? Did someone issue a fake command on behalf of an elder?" Xiao Wei questioned, his voice grave.

"I have no idea. Perhaps it's a misunderstanding?" the middle-aged man answered calmly.

"I see. Please be sure to tell Elder Mo Luo that I will be reporting all this to the principal," said Xiao Wei. He knew that he was not getting inside, so after leaving a message that wasn't exactly a threat but did not sound too friendly either, he walked away.