

## Overlord 911

### Chapter 911: Scarlet Flame Monarch Released

When Scarlet Flame Monarch heard Xiang Shaoyun's words, his eyes shone, and he asked, "Master, h-have you regained your memories?"

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head, but he then nodded and said, "Some, but not all. Perhaps I really am the reincarnation of your master."

"No, you are him! Not some reincarnation!" declared Scarlet Flame Monarch firmly.

"Now is not the time to talk about this. The death of an elder will be a big deal to the academy. We need to leave as soon as possible," Xiang Shaoyun shifted the topic.

"You leave, Master. In my current condition, I won't be able to leave," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a sigh.

"You can leave as long as we break these chains," said Xiang Shaoyun as the Radiant Saint Sword appeared in his hand. The saint sword glowed with a brilliant aura and brightened the entire room.

Scarlet Flame Monarch's eyes rippled with excitement as he said, "This is a high-quality saint sword! We can give it a try!"

The nine massive chains around him were saint chains. Without being such high-grade chains, they wouldn't have been able to keep him locked here. Apart from the chains, there was also a formation here that would activate and destroy the basement alongside Scarlet Flame Monarch the moment the chains were destroyed.

Fortunately, after spending years in the basement, although he was losing his vitality, Scarlet Flame Monarch had also developed many tricks up his sleeve. He was able to forcefully destroy the formation. Thus, there wouldn't be any formation activating even after destroying the chains.

Xiang Shaoyun raised the saint sword and brought it against the saint chains.

Clank!

A crisp sound erupted, and an aftershock blasted Xiang Shaoyun into the wall. If he wasn't wearing the saint armor, he would have been seriously injured.

"So tough," lamented Xiang Shaoyun after getting back on his feet again. He had thought that the chains could be broken easily, but it seemed like that was just wishful thinking on his part.

"You're still too weak. Too bad my body is sealed, and I can't hold a sword. Otherwise, I will be able to cut through these chains," said Scarlet Flame Monarch gloomily.

He had only been able to kill Yu Yuchen earlier by a complete fluke as he was utilizing the saint chain. In truth, he was barely able to move. Although Xiang Shaoyun had a saint sword, he did not have the strength to properly wield it, and he wasn't able to unleash the sword's true power. Thus, he couldn't break the chains.

"I refuse to believe I can't deal with some chains," said Xiang Shaoyun indignantly. His black hair whipped about, and his aura rose as he pushed his strength to the maximum. He used the Dazzling Sky Sword Technique, releasing a gorgeous ray of light in his attempt to break the chains with one strike.

With yet another series of sparks, he was blasted away again. The saint chains were not broken, but a crack had appeared. It wasn't a deep cut, but it was obvious enough to see with the naked eye.

"Haha, a few more times, and I'll be able to break the chain," said Xiang Shaoyun as he laughed cheerily.

Scarlet Flame Monarch's expression also changed as excitement grew in his heart. Xiang Shaoyun attacked a few more times, and each swing of his sword was sharper than the swing before. After slashing the same spot over 100 times, the cut became deeper and deeper. However, Xiang Shaoyun had also been blasted away many times and had suffered some internal injuries.

"Master, you need to take a rest," persuaded Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"It's fine. I need to free you as quickly as possible. If someone notices this, trouble will come," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

He released the Nether Soul Domain, and his filthless soul flew out with the Nether Dragon Soul Headband on it. The soul took the Radiant Saint Sword from the main body and swung at the chains with its full strength.

Clank!

With a crisp sound, the chain was broken. This time, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't sent flying away. He was able to stabilize his footing after a few steps. This was the strength of his filthless soul, which was far stronger than his main body.

Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed. "Haha, if I knew this, I would've used my soul body from the start. I can now break all these chains."

The filthless soul started slashing at the other chains.

One, two, three...and finally, all nine saint chains were broken. Scarlet Flame Monarch had regained his freedom. Dragging the broken chains behind him, Scarlet Flame Monarch had the urge to charge outside and roar at the world to vent his feelings that had been repressed for many years.

But the years of imprisonment had also taught him to be more calm. Thus, he suppressed the desire and did not act on it. Otherwise, he would have only invited great trouble. After all, he had yet to recover his full strength.

With tears dripping down his cheeks, he knelt down before Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Thank you, Master, for freeing me."

Ten thousand years of imprisonment and loneliness had finally ended today. His heart was filled with excitement and joy. He wasn't crying for the torture he had suffered. Rather, he was crying tears of joy due to Xiang Shaoyun's growth. He was excited because he could once again stay by Xiang Shaoyun's side. These were the thoughts of a truly loyal follower.

"Stand up. After you regain your full strength, and after I reach the top once again, we will have our revenge," said Xiang Shaoyun murderously.

"Yes, Master. Let's leave now," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"There is no rush. If we charge out like this, we won't be able to escape. The academy has many experts. In your condition, escape is impossible," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"I am tired of this. Even if I have to fight to the death, I no longer want to stay at this damned place," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"Don't worry. Since I'm here, I naturally have a way of bringing you out. Calm down, and do not resist. I will take you inside my astral cosmos sea, and we can leave together," said Xiang Shaoyun.

His astral cosmos sea was akin to an independent world capable of supporting life. This was previously unseen, a secret nobody knew apart from Money, the three vicious birds, and Lady Shura. To save Scarlet Flame Monarch, he had exposed his secret without hesitation. It was evident how much he trusted Scarlet Flame Monarch.

"Master, are you serious?" Scarlet Flame Monarch was stunned.

He also had an astral cosmos sea, but it couldn't store any life. That was supposed to be how an astral cosmos sea naturally worked. If one absorbed a living being inside, one would die from the exhaustion of one's life force and energy. Thus, no astral cosmos sea could store life.

"I'm definitely in no mood to lie at this time. We're running out of time," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Scarlet Flame Monarch did not dare to tarry and immediately dispersed his divine sense, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to place control over his body.

## Chapter 912: Leaving the Academy

Xiang Shaoyun smoothly took Scarlet Flame Monarch into his astral cosmos sea without any mishaps. He could say that Scarlet Flame Monarch wasn't feeling any discomfort in it.

"Master, i-is this really your astral cosmos sea?" Scarlet Flame Monarch was speechless.

"Yes. You don't feel unwell, right?" said Xiang Shaoyun.

"No. But this feels like an actual star. Although it is tiny, and the energy in here is quite weak, it can sustain life without any trouble," said Scarlet Flame Monarch. Joy covered his face as he said,

"Master, you have indeed defied the heavens. This star is a world in itself, and further extension will basically make you a god of this world. You will develop even more heaven-defying abilities."

Who was Scarlet Flame Monarch? He was once a peak Heaven Battling Realm cultivator. He had great insight, and with one glance, he could see just how special Xiang Shaoyun's astral cosmos sea was. He also realized that his master would grow into an existence that was far stronger than the previous him.

Xiang Shaoyun hoped that Scarlet Flame Monarch was right, and he did not say anything else. He retrieved Yu Yuchen's corpse as well. This was the corpse of a Saint. Apart from his belongings, his body was a treasure itself. After all, a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator was strong enough to battle the heavens and had surpassed all things mundane. This was a combat body that was entirely different from a mortal body, and its flesh and bones could be used as materials for weapon forging or serve as a source of inspiration while comprehending the Heaven Battling Realm.

After retrieving the body, Xiang Shaoyun took out the chakram and slashed above him. The basement was still sealed, and he wasn't strong enough to break out of it. He could only borrow the chakram's ability to split space so he could return to the main hall.

He smoothly returned to the main hall, and after putting away the chakram, he rushed outside. At this time, the wolf guard reappeared beside him and escorted him as he left. The wolf guard did not see Xiang Shaoyun bringing anyone out, but he also couldn't sense Yu Yuchen anymore. Thus, he was rather bewildered.

Right after Xiang Shaoyun and the wolf guard arrived back at the academy, several elders stopped them. One of them was even a high-level elder. This was quite an elite group.

"What is the meaning of this?" demanded the wolf guard unhappily.

"You're asking us? The soul lantern of the elder guarding the Castle of Darkness has been extinguished. Did you guys kill him?" questioned the high-level elder furiously.

"That has nothing to do with me!" denied the wolf guard with a tone that wasn't exactly polite.

"Elder Yu was killed after you entered the Castle of Darkness. How can you deny it?" said the high-level elder with a frown.

"You better investigate properly before throwing accusations at me, or I won't hold back against you!" replied the wolf guard unyieldingly.

The high-level elder hesitated somewhat before he said, "Fine. You better not leave the academy. I will uphold justice for you two if it turns out you're really not the killers. Look after them. Do not allow them to leave the academy."

He then left for the Castle of Darkness with two of his men. The wolf guard strode away, ignoring the people now following them. Xiang Shaoyun did the same. Nobody would have guessed that he was the culprit behind Yu Yuchen's death.

Looks like I need to leave immediately, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Although nobody would suspect him as the killer, he feared that the elder would search the basement and use a scene restoration technique. That would bring him serious trouble.

When Xiang Shaoyun and the wolf guard arrived at 1 Dragon Villa, the wolf guard handed him a jade plate and said, "Young master, Master told me to give this to you. When tempering yourself outside in the future, you will definitely encounter many dangers. When you encounter something you can't solve, crush this token, and it will save you. Remember, it will only work once, so don't waste it unless absolutely necessary."

Xiang Shaoyun knew that the jade plate was basically a protective talisman. He quickly took it and said, "Thank Master for me."

"Um. Time waits for no one. You need to leave quickly. They won't suspect you anyway," said the wolf guard.

He had not imagined that Yu Yuchen would actually be killed. It was proof of how terrifying the person locked in the basement was. But since he saw Xiang Shaoyun coming out alone, he suspected that Xiang Shaoyun was still too weak to free that person.

Regardless, so long as Xiang Shaoyun was safe, he did not care about anything else. Xiang Shaoyun nodded and called over the three vicious birds that he had been keeping in the villa. He also summoned Aikai, who had been in seclusion all this time.

After the tempering at the Desert of Despair, the three birds had grown to a point where they were decently powerful. Their wings could now send out yellow blade energies that were incredibly sharp.

They were now late-stage Kings. Their growth had been rapid. As for Aikai, he had smoothly entered the Sovereign Realm. This was the result of his long seclusion.

"With the growth of your strength, do you still intend to follow me?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Fire of ambition lit up in Aikai's eyes, but he could clearly sense a terrifyingly explosive power in Xiang Shaoyun's body. Xiang Shaoyun had also advanced by several stages since they last met, and he did not think himself to be Xiang Shaoyun's match even though he was already a Sovereign. He hurriedly nodded and answered, "I left with you, Master, so I can experience the interesting world outside. I will naturally continue following you."

"Not bad. I thought you would opt to leave, to be honest," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

After keeping the three birds in his astral cosmos sea, he started leaving with Aikai by his side. He did not intend to notify anyone of his departure as he hated the sorrow of separation. He only wanted to quietly leave.

However, not all things would happen as one wished. When leaving, it was unavoidable that other disciples would see him. Someone suddenly shouted, "The overlord is leaving the academy!"

With that one shout, Overlord Legion members flooded out in all directions. Some members of other factions also appeared. The Overlord Legion members stayed silent when they arrived and silently followed behind Xiang Shaoyun, seeing him off.

As for the members of other factions, out of respect for the strong, they also joined the farewell procession.

The elders observing the procession in the dark did not stop it. They only suspected the wolf guard to be involved in Yu Yuchen's death. After all, his strength was clear for all to see. Xiang Shaoyun was leaving alone, and that was proof that he had nothing to do with Yu Yuchen's death.

No matter how amazing an Emperor was, he wouldn't be able to kill a Saint. That was their conclusion, a conclusion anyone normal would make. Thus, they only observed silently and did not stop the departure. Little did they know, he was the actual culprit.

### Chapter 913: Primal Inception Energy

The Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was a natural barrier the academy relied on for protection. Numerous mountains joined into one another, towering ancient trees dotted the land, and uncountable beasts inhabited the area. With rich spiritual energy in the air, it was an excellent place for cultivating.

A heroic-looking youth was riding atop a big-winged vicious bird flanked by two other big-winged vicious birds. Ahead of them was a slithering one-horned draconic serpent that would occasionally wander off to hunt. Behind them was a feathered beastman. A group like this was rather peculiar and conspicuous.

They were none other than Xiang Shaoyun, the three vicious birds, Money, and Aikai, who had departed the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

After being expelled, Xiang Shaoyun could still use the academy's teleportation formation one last time to leave. However, he did not and had instead opted to personally leave and travel through the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range.

He planned to enter the depths of the mountain range to temper himself, but when he remembered what he made Liang Zhuangmin do for him, he thought that Devouring Ghost might be at Dragon Phoenix City already. Furthermore, Scarlet Flame Monarch also needed a place where he could rest and recover. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun needed to first pay the city a visit before leaving for the depths of the mountain range.

Yu Yuchen's death had caused the academy elders to be in a state of alert. Even Situ Mingyu, Mo Luo, Shadowflash, and Feng Huosuo, who were hostile toward Xiang Shaoyun, did not dare to act recklessly. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun was able to leave without any trouble.

Along the way, he tried to temper the three vicious birds as much as he could. They had once been nourished by the nine-colored fog in his astral cosmos sea, and their bloodline potential had been upgraded greatly. What they lacked now was combat experience.

The Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range had no lack of powerful demonic beasts. Everywhere they went, a large number of demonic beasts attacked them. So long as the beasts were not above the



Demon King realm, he would let the three vicious birds deal with them. Money and Aikai were in charge of dealing with beasts of other realms.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he fully relaxed his mental state and threw all his worries away, enjoying the feeling of freedom as he traversed the forest. He found that freed from the academy, he felt a weight had been lifted off his shoulders. It was as though he had completely opened himself up and could do anything he wished without thinking too much about it.

Along the way, his mind was busy digesting the vast knowledge he had accumulated in the Book Pavilion. When he was reading previously, he was only forcefully memorizing content. Only now did he get the time to rearrange all the information in his brain and truly understand them.

"The devil vine's blood heart can be used to form a true soul clone!" From the many pieces of information, Xiang Shaoyun figured out the true usage of the devil vine's blood heart. Its usage was recorded by someone from ancient times, and there were precedents of people using the blood heart to form a true soul clone.

Xiang Shaoyun planned to use the devil vine's blood heart to help Scarlet Flame Monarch recover his vitality, but Scarlet Flame Monarch rejected him firmly, claiming that it would be very useful for him. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun did not insist further and instead gave some vine roots and some other life-nourishing emperor medicines to Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Scarlet Flame Monarch did not reject the other gifts and devoured them all. Even so, his body still looked the same. It was obvious he still lacked a lot of replenishment. He also tried absorbing some of Xiang Shaoyun's nine-colored fog, and he instantly found that the fog was an incredible power. Unfortunately, there was too little of it, and it would ruin the ecosystem in the astral cosmos sea if he absorbed it all. Thus, he did not do so.

"Master, is this nine-colored energy a result of fusing nine energies?" asked Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Xiang Shaoyun answered, "Yes. This is the energy automatically created after gathering the energies from my nine stars into the astral cosmos sea. I named it the nine-colored fog."

"What nine-colored fog? This is obviously the primal chaos energy," declared Scarlet Flame Monarch confidently.

"Primal chaos energy? That's not possible, right? I thought it could only be formed using the origin energies of the five elements," said Xiang Shaoyun with astonishment.

The primal chaos energy was the original form of energy, while gold, wood, water, flame, and earth were the result of splitting the primal chaos energy. The primal chaos energy was the original energy that had existed since the initial formation of the world.

Primal chaos energy had long completely split into the many elements, but there were legends saying that it could still be found in some unique origin lands. On normal lands, it no longer existed.

Scarlet Flame Monarch sank into slight thought before saying, "You're right. The primal chaos energy can only be formed by the five elements. Your new energy is formed with nine energies. Is this that legendary energy?"

"What legendary energy?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, his heart skipping a beat.

If he could figure out the nine-colored fog's origin, it would only benefit him. Scarlet Flame Monarch once stood at the peak of the dominion. He was experienced and knowledgeable, and perhaps he knew what it was.

"Inception energy," said Scarlet Flame Monarch solemnly.

"Inception energy? Primal inception energy?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in alarm.

He had read about the primal inception energy in an ancient text. The primal inception energy was the oldest and the most original energy, even older than the primal chaos energy. According to legend, it was an energy formed at the edge of the universe. Stars, suns, moons, primal chaos, and all life originated from the inception energy. As it came into existence during the Primal Era, it was known as the primal inception energy.

The record about the primal inception energy was short, consisting of only a few lines, but Xiang Shaoyun had kept it in his mind. Surprisingly, the energy he cultivated was that very energy.

"No, this isn't right. In the legends, the inception energy is colorless, an energy in the 'empty' state. But your energy is colored. It's different from the records," said Scarlet Flame Monarch in astonishment. Clearly, he had developed an intense curiosity over Xiang Shaoyun's energy.

"Yes, that's what the records say, but how many people have actually seen the actual primal inception energy? I feel like even if this is not the primal inception energy, there is definitely a relationship between the two," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

The nine-colored fog was capable of unleashing a destructive power that was no joke. It also contained a powerful life force, capable of nourishing all life in his astral cosmos sea. A regular energy definitely wouldn't have such attributes.

"You're right. That might be what the records say, but we can't be sure if it's right," Scarlet Flame Monarch agreed. "When you return to your previous strength, Master, you can then accumulate a massive amount of inception energy. With it, you will dominate the world. Nobody can hope to be your opponent."

"We'll talk about that in the future. For now, I'll get Money to hunt a couple of Demon Emperors so you can feast on them and recover more of your vitality," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Scarlet Flame Monarch said, "Blood at the Emperor Realm won't be too helpful for me. I need at least Sovereign blood for it to work. Since I'm not dying, we're in no rush. I'm more impatient to see Devouring Ghost."

"Don't worry. We'll see him soon," said Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 914: Reunion of Brothers

The outer fringe of the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was filled with demonic beasts, but few of them were Sovereigns. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun's group did not encounter many beasts capable of matching them in their journey.

After getting Money to hunt a few peak Demon Emperors, he had Money lead the three vicious birds to hunt around and train. They did not need to follow him to the Dragon Phoenix City.

"You three little fellows need to work hard and grow stronger. With your current strength, you are still too weak," Xiang Shaoyun reminded the birds.

"Don't worry, boss. We'll become the strongest vicious birds!" answered Vicious One.

"That's right. We are born mighty. Who dares to strive against us?" said Vicious Two.

Xiang Shaoyun slapped Vicious Two's head and said, "Just earlier, you were being chased by a crane to the point you pissed yourself. And now you're here bluffing?"

"Th-That was because I couldn't bear to harm her because she's so tiny," said Vicious Two gloomily.

Vicious Three was the youngest of the three, but he was the strongest. He said, "Boss, we won't disappoint you!"

"Um. Train yourself by fighting those in the same realm, and learn more offensive methods. I can't help you with that, but I believe you will definitely grow stronger," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Money, lead them properly. Don't help unless it's critical. Make sure they grow in the harshest environment possible."

"Hehe, don't worry, boss. I will make sure they wish they were dead," said Money with a grin.

From the look on his face, it was obvious he was planning to properly torture the three little brothers he had just gotten. After all, an unpolished jade wouldn't shine. If the three vicious birds wanted to grow, their innate viciousness needed to be stimulated. Only then would they be able to create their own path through slaughter.

Xiang Shaoyun left with Aikai, leaving Money and the three vicious birds to their own devices. At the Dragon Phoenix City, he headed straight for the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant, which was the location he told Liang Zhuangmin to have Devouring Ghost meet him.

The restaurant was as busy as usual, with customers entering and leaving continuously. Xiang Shaoyun entered and scanned the restaurant. Sure enough, a young man was seated at a corner of the restaurant. A look of joy surfaced on Xiang Shaoyun's face as he strode toward the young man.

Halfway there, the young man stood up and greeted respectfully, "Greetings, young master."

"Um. Let's drink as we talk," said Xiang Shaoyun joyfully.

The young man nodded and called a waiter over. He ordered two jars of liquor, and the two started drinking. They did not talk much, only focusing on drinking and eating some meat. They conversed

on idle topics and did not touch on anything special. When they were done, they left the restaurant and started leaving the city.

They moved quickly, and before long, they reached a spot in the forest with no other people.

"You're here alone?" asked Xiang Shaoyun.

"This is important, so we don't need anyone else here," answered the young man.

"Good. Isolate this place first. We'll talk after," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The young man nodded and used a technique to isolate the area from the outside world. Xiang Shaoyun also had Aikai stand guard to make sure nobody approached them.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun commanded, "Scarlet Flame Monarch, come out."

At that, Scarlet Flame Monarch appeared before him and laughed in excitement, "Haha, I, Scarlet Flame Monarch, am finally free!"

Not even the young man's restriction could block Scarlet Flame Monarch's excited voice. It went right through.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly stopped him. "Flame Monarch, stop shouting. Things will get troublesome if someone notices us."

Scarlet Flame Monarch was lost in his joy for a moment, but Xiang Shaoyun's reminder caused him to quickly shut his mouth. He apologized, "Sorry, Master. If I didn't vent that out, I would have gone crazy. I feel much better now."

Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything, but the young man facing him exclaimed in agitation, "Y-you're really Second Brother Scarlet Flame!"

Scarlet Flame Monarch looked at the foreign youth and frowned as he asked, "Who are you?"

Not many people addressed him as second brother, but each person who would was extremely intimate with him. However, Scarlet Flame Monarch was completely unfamiliar with the young man before him. Even so, the young man was probably trustworthy since he was someone Xiang Shaoyun brought here. Furthermore, the young man gave him a sense of closeness.

"Second brother, I'm Devouring Ghost!" said the emotional Devouring Ghost.

That's right. The young man was none other than Devouring Ghost. He only looked so young because he had taken over Linggu Haonan's body, gaining a new look.

Scarlet Flame Monarch shivered, and his eyes widened. He raised his brows and asked emotionally, "Y-You're really Devouring Ghost?"

Scarlet Flame Monarch had long heard from Xiang Shaoyun that Devouring Ghost had gained his freedom by taking over a new body. Thus, he was aware that Devouring Ghost had a new look. He already believed that this youth was Devouring Ghost, but he needed a final confirmation before he could fully trust it.

"Second brother, I'm really Devouring Ghost! Back then, the five of us were known as the strongest Heaven Battling generals. We accompanied our master and waged war across the lands, sweeping through the world. Who doesn't know us? Who doesn't recognize us?" replied Devouring Ghost with a heroic air.

"Fourth brother, it's really you!" Scarlet Flame Monarch's eyes flickered as he shouted emotionally before giving Devouring Ghost a big hug.

"Second brother!" Devouring Ghost couldn't repress the joy in his heart, and he teared up.

These two were truly tough guys and would rather bleed than shed tears, but they were actually crying loudly right now. It was obvious the separation of 10,000 years had not extinguished their feelings for each other. Rather, it had helped them show their true feelings. It was said that men would not cry easily, but that was only because they had yet to be pushed to the extremes.

Back then, they were iron generals who fought on numerous bloody battlefields, spreading their reputation far and wide. They were heroic and majestic, but time was merciless. Everything had changed, and they were no longer the same people from back then.

Looking at the two, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes grew misty. Scenes started flashing through his mind as some of his past memories started surfacing again.

In his memories, he was a purple-haired young man. Seated on a black horse, he wielded a saber and led five young men as they roamed the world. They had slaughtered the rulers of beasts, obliterated numerous powerful opponents, and rampaged through the territories of numerous ancient races. They had also suffered numerous injuries and encountered many hardships, but they had overcome it all together. Ultimately, they built a powerful army and waged wars across the world, aiming to be the best of the best.

They were frivolous young men with raging ambitions, fearing nothing in the world. With their fearlessness, they became feared all over the world. But because of that, calamity befell them. The many ancient races and rulers joined hands to defeat them, killing and imprisoning them.

#### Chapter 915: Farewell

In his memories, the six of them worked together and helped each other. They were inseparable; their deep feelings for each other left a deep impression on him. They were akin to brothers, but all of them saw the purple-haired youth as their leader. The purple-haired youth was the strongest and the most arrogant and domineering of them all. He was born with the majesty of dragons and phoenixes, and none of his peers dared to challenge him. He was most definitely someone who had obtained great success at a young age.

The memories were still hazy and incomplete, and Xiang Shaoyun could only see a portion of them. He had a feeling he was the purple-haired young man, but at the same time, it felt so foreign and distant to him, as though what had happened to him was more than a simple reincarnation.

He retreated not far away, giving some space for Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost to catch up. They had been separated for 10,000 years. They naturally had many things to say to each other.

Xiang Shaoyun sat down silently as he thought about the memory fragments he saw. Inwardly, he thought, If it is really reincarnation and anyone can awaken the memories from their past life, wouldn't this be an extremely terrifying matter?

At this time, Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost had finally calmed their emotions. They walked toward Xiang Shaoyun, the joy on their faces apparent. Experts who had gone through numerous situations of life and death like them would rarely reveal their emotions on their faces. But now, their feelings were fully worn on their faces. It was clear just how emotional they were at this moment.

"Thank you, Master, for allowing us to meet again," said Scarlet Flame Monarch respectfully.

"You are being too polite. Devouring Ghost is your brother, but am I not your brother as well?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Haha, that's right. You're our brother as well, young master. Back then, when the six of us rampaged over the world, which bastard dared not to kneel before us? Which young lady was not filled with admiration toward us? How great, carefree, and unrestrained that felt?" said Devouring Ghost with a tone of recollection.

"Yeah. If history can repeat, I can die without regrets," said Scarlet Flame Monarch with a sigh.

"Alright. Stop being all melancholic. We still have plenty of time to drink, feast, and fight together," said Xiang Shaoyun. "For now, we should focus on recovering Flame Monarch's strength."

"Master, you don't have to worry about me anymore. With my freedom regained, I will definitely recover so long as I have enough resources," said Scarlet Flame Monarch. He knew Xiang Shaoyun wasn't very wealthy himself, and even wasting a large number of spirit crystals on him wouldn't be useful. He might as well rely on himself to recover.

"Young master, let me handle matters concerning second brother. Green Ghost has quite a lot of treasures in his collection. I believe we have enough to help second brother recover," said Devouring Ghost.

It had been a few years, and Devouring Ghost had reached fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm. Of course, that was still far below his previous strength, but this wasn't his original body. Even after fully adapting to it, he still needed to cultivate from scratch.

"Um. Since that is the case, both you and Du Xuanhao should return to the Bloodsin City and recuperate," said Xiang Shaoyun. He then started asking Devouring Ghost about the city, but he was mainly concerned about Saber Emperor Du Xuanhao.

Devouring Ghost told Xiang Shaoyun all he knew. Xiang Shaoyun learned that Du Xuanhao had formed his soul foundation to become a Sovereign, and Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed. After all, Du Xuanhao was the first expert to follow him. Moreover, Du Xuanhao had helped him greatly in the past. Deep inside, he respected Du Xuanhao as an elder brother.



Originally, Devouring Ghost planned to bring Du Xuanhao to search for the Saber Devil's inheritance, but Du Xuanhao insisted on tempering himself for a few more years at the Bloodsin City. He wanted to further consolidate his cultivation before going off to search for the Saber Devil's inheritance with Devouring Ghost.

Devouring Ghost also told Xiang Shaoyun that the Ghostface Sect and Skeleton Gang had merged and were growing healthily. However, they focused on progressing in a low-profile manner and growing their strength. They were working on building a powerful army that would help Xiang Shaoyun retake the Ziling Sect in the future.

One more thing worth mentioning was that the first three levels of the Devil Domain had seen the appearances of high-level devils. It was a source of worry, and many experts had come to the Bloodsin City to help suppress the devils. They were afraid that a disturbance similar to what had happened during ancient times would repeat—where many devils attacked the surface world. Such an attack would only throw the entire world into chaos.

The news also caused some worry to rise within Xiang Shaoyun, as though he could picture the terrifying scene of a massive devil army invading the dominion. He shivered and said, "If the devils are really invading the dominion, can humans withstand their assault?"

"We won't," answered both Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost at the same time.

"You have so little confidence in humanity?" Xiang Shaoyun was astonished.

"Although we humans are prosperous right now, our physiques are innately weak. That is a fact. Few of us can reach the Saint Realm, and it is even harder for one of us to go beyond that realm. However, the Four Paramount Devil Clans have many individuals beyond the Devil Saint realm. We humans won't be their match. During the chaos in ancient times, the devils had only been beaten back through the cooperation of the demonic beasts and many other races. Even so, the Imperial Nether Clan had been able to settle on the surface world. At that time, only one of the Four Paramount Devil Clans had attacked. If all four of them had attacked, the surface world would definitely face destruction," said Scarlet Flame Monarch.

Devouring Ghost added, "However, it won't be easy for the devils to invade. The super experts of the human race had placed a supreme formation to suppress the devils. To break through it, they need to pay a high price. Such matters are still too distant for us. Right now, you should focus on cultivating in the Dragon Phoenix Academy. After recovering your strength, what can't we do, and where can't we go? Even if the devils are to invade then, they won't be able to do anything to you.

Back then, you managed to get your name on the Contribution Stele's top 10. Very few people are capable of being your match."

"You're right. Strength is everything," said Xiang Shaoyun with a firm look. He then asked about Liang Zhuangmin. Before this, he had given Liang Zhuangmin a command token to go look for Devouring Ghost. With Devouring Ghost here, it proved that Liang Zhuangmin had successfully met Devouring Ghost.

"That little fellow is quite ambitious. He went to the Devil Domain alone," said Devouring Ghost.

"It's worrying to hear about him entering the Devil Domain with his strength," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

"Don't worry, young master. I know he has a close relationship with you, so I have someone protecting him in the dark. No help will be given unless absolutely necessary, so he will still be able to temper himself," said Devouring Ghost.

"Um. You did well. To gain strength, one can only rely on oneself," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He understood why Liang Zhuangmin wanted to enter the Devil Domain: to catch up with Wu Zhijun. If he couldn't surpass her, how could he hope to have her as his woman?

Before sending off Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost, Xiang Shaoyun gave Devouring Ghost some dark origin energy. He also handed over a considerable amount of light elemental sovereign medicines. These were his gains from the angels, and since Devouring Ghost was now cultivating the powers of light and darkness, these gifts would be helpful.

Devouring Ghost had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to have so many treasures in his possession. He accepted them all without hesitation. In his eyes, everything the overlord did was right.

## Chapter 916: Fusing the Noble Glazed Flame

Before leaving with Devouring Ghost, Scarlet Flame Monarch took out the Noble Glazed Flame and said, "Young master, this clump of flame is rather high level. I have absorbed most of its essence, but its source is still present. You can fuse it with your flame to create an even stronger flame. It won't be helpful for me anymore, so you should take it back."

Like Devouring Ghost, Scarlet Flame Monarch had changed the way he addressed Xiang Shaoyun under Xiang Shaoyun's request. Xiang Shaoyun wanted them to address each other as brothers, but they insisted on maintaining the relationship of master and followers. He couldn't do anything to change their mind.

He accepted the Noble Glazed Flame and had them leave immediately. He was worried that the Dragon Phoenix Academy would find out about Scarlet Flame Monarch's escape. At that time, things would get troublesome.

After Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost vanished, he turned and went into the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range.

Before the start of the competition between the four academies, he could not go too far from the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range because his master had requested him to join the competition as well. Of course, he would be representing himself, not the academy.

When Xiang Shaoyun returned to the mountain range, he found an excellent cultivation spot and went into seclusion. As he focused on fusing the Noble Glazed Flame, Aikai stood guard for him.

The Noble Glazed Flame was a high-level flame that was an even higher grade than Yun Flame. Yun Flame was originally a thousand-year flame, and after fusing with the devil flame seed, its grade increased, becoming a flame comparable with a four-thousand-year flame. The Noble Glazed Flame's grade was even higher and was at least a five-thousand-year flame. Only such a flame was powerful enough to pose a threat to Sovereigns.

In truth, the previous owner of the Noble Glazed Flame had only obtained the flame after braving many dangers. Scarlet Flame Monarch had absorbed most of its power, but its source remained. The flame could quickly recover as long as enough energy was supplied. Taking the advantage of its current weakness, Xiang Shaoyun started fusing it with Yun Flame.

Right after entering the cave he had dug, he directed Yun Flame to devour the Noble Glazed Flame. Although the Noble Glazed Flame was weakened, its grade was still higher. When it sensed the power of a similar element approaching, it naturally launched its counterattack.

Yun Flame was currently in its peak form, and an intense battle erupted between the two flames. Xiang Shaoyun's flame star started swelling, causing him great discomfort. The burning pain allowed him to once again experience a pain so horrible he wished he was dead.

The battle between the two flames would not end anytime soon, but Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to sit around waiting. Neither did he want any mishap to happen to Yun Flame. Thus, he circulated his cultivation method and used the profundity of flame to assist Yun Flame in the battle.

Xiang Shaoyun had long become one with Yun Flame, and Yun Flame was akin to an extension of his body. With him joining the fray, the two became one and started forcibly devouring the Noble Glazed Flame.

The Noble Glazed Flame started weakening as its blue flame shrank. The red flame started holding the upper hand, its flame spreading everywhere. Xiang Shaoyun's entire person turned almost illusory as tongues of flame covered his entire body, as though he was going to be evaporated alive.

After about half a month, Yun Flame finally fully fused with the Noble Glazed Flame. A mighty flame power erupted from the flame star.

Bang!

There was a limit to the size of the flame star, so some of the terrifying flame power still escaped and burst out like a volcano that had been accumulating power for over 10,000 years. If he couldn't put this power under control, his body would be destroyed in the eventual explosion. After all, the flame within him had advanced to a terrifyingly destructive flame.

"Withdraw!" Xiang Shaoyun was already prepared for this, so he was able to act immediately. He activated his astral cosmos sea and dragged the terrifying flame power inside it.

There was a lava pond in the astral cosmos sea, and growing on the pond was a blaze flower. It was an excellent location to hold all the excess flame power. The inclusion of the flame power caused the lava to boil, and the blaze flower began to look even more mesmerizing. It matured considerably, and before long, it would be fully ripe.

Additionally, two fresh sprouts grew out from the two sides of the blaze flower. They were newly grown blaze flowers, their growth induced by the powerful flame energy.

The nine-colored fog had also absorbed a considerable amount of the flame power and had grown thicker, but since there was no inclusion of other elements, Xiang Shaoyun was unable to form more draconic aura and increase his strength.

However, he did not feel that it was a pity. His flame star had been fully filled, and that alone had granted him a much richer amount of astral energy. The growth of his nine-colored fog was merely a bonus. He was very satisfied with the result.

The only thing that mattered was that Yun Flame had become even more terrifying. Even a regular Sovereign wouldn't be able to extinguish the flame once burned, and they would quickly turn into a pile of ash. Only some peak Sovereigns would stand a chance against this version of Yun Flame. If he could absorb another flame, turning Yun Flame into a 10,000-year flame, he could perhaps burn even Saints to death.

However, every single unique flame was extremely rare and hard to find. For now, Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to go looking for more. He could do so after the competition of the four academies was over. At that time, he would be able to burn Saints.

A clump of enchanting flame was flickering in his palm. It was mainly red with a tinge of blue and black, moving actively like it was alive. With a gentle wave of his hand, a tongue of flame lunged at a nearby boulder.

Thump!

Instantly, the boulder over 10-meter in diameter was reduced to ashes. Even after burning through the entire boulder, the flame continued burning the ground beneath. It would be able to burn through the entire mountain before long. With another wave of his hand, the flame was drawn back to his palm.

"It feels amazing to have such a powerful flame in possession," muttered Xiang Shaoyun in satisfaction.

Xiang Shaoyun did not end his seclusion at that. He entered the cave again and resumed his cultivation session. This time, he was going to refine the devil vine's blood heart to form a true soul body that could strengthen his soul power and life force.

It was commonly known that the devil vine's blood heart could awaken one's bloodline power, strengthen one's life force, prolong one's lifespan, and form a soul foundation. However, not many were aware that it could also be used to form a soul body. Of course, the premise of doing so was to have a powerful soul.

Xiang Shaoyun's soul had long been as strong as a fifth-stage Sovereign's. If it wasn't for his lagging cultivation base, he would have been able to form his soul foundation long ago. Thus, he was taking the chance to form a soul body before forming his soul foundation. That way, he would be even more formidable after forming the soul foundation.

"Devil vine's blood heart, you better not disappoint me," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he started refining the blood heart.

## Chapter 917: We Are Originally One

The devil vine's blood heart had only formed after years of accumulating energy. It contained the essence energy of the blood devil vine, and as Xiang Shaoyun split and refined the energy, he could see a blood devil vine swaying about. Giving off a wondrous sensation, it stretched and whipped its vines and elongated and withdrew as though a supreme expert was attacking.

Using the Nether Soul Domain, he recorded the sensation since he suspected that it would become a powerful battle technique once mastered. His bloodline stirred as his life force grew massively. His heart, which was once injured by Lady Shura, gathered a large chunk of the life force and fully healed itself, removing all lingering damage. It also grew more and more vigorous.

His heartbeat hastened, and his blood circulated more quickly. For regular people, this was a bad sign since the person would just die from organ failure. But for a cultivator, it was extremely beneficial. After all, the stronger a cultivator's heart, the greater their life force and the stronger their resulting physique.

As life force flooded Xiang Shaoyun's body, a powerful aura converged at his stars. The aura was the essence the blood devil vine had accumulated throughout its entire life of cultivation. The blood devil vine was a Sovereign Realm plant, and even a tiny part of its power could greatly benefit Xiang Shaoyun.

Even in the midst of this, Xiang Shaoyun did not forget to form his soul body. He circulated his cultivation method and gathered a massive amount of the blood devil vine's energy into his head, fully enshrouding his soul with the energy.

A majestic amount of life force entered his head, and his soul started rapidly absorbing it to forge its body. Prior to this, his soul had already solidified, but it still looked illusory. In truth, it was a fake body, not a body of flesh and blood. With the blood devil vine, the soul could forge a true body. Once forged, it would be an incredible achievement.

According to the ancient records, a cultivator had to be at least at the Heaven Battling Realm before forming an actual soul body. Even then, one still needed many natural treasures for it. However, Xiang Shaoyun had a filthless soul, a soul that was basically without flaw. Thus, he could use the blood devil vine's power to form a true body for his soul at his current cultivation level.

The blood devil vine's energy blended with his soul incessantly, ultimately becoming a blood cocoon. All presence vanished from Xiang Shaoyun's body as though he was an accomplished monk that had died in a state of meditation. In truth, his entire body was brimming with life, containing boundless life force that made him anything but dead.

This meditation lasted three months. At the end of it, the blood cocoon finally cracked open. A body that was exactly the same as Xiang Shaoyun's appeared in his head. The body's skin was akin to the skin of an infant—sleek, fair, and flawless. Powerful soul power rippled out, demonstrating a strength far beyond a fourth-stage Sovereign. It rivaled the strength of a sixth-stage Sovereign, which was an incredibly powerful stage.

A connection formed between Xiang Shaoyun's main body and soul, and his aura started rising. His soul was forcibly enhancing the main body. Only by having a strong main body would he be able to properly adapt to his soul's new strength.

The energy leaking from his soul also nourished his nine stars, causing the stars to shine with a resplendent radiance. Astral energy was quickly converted into draconic aura, further perfecting Xiang Shaoyun's dragon spine, pushing his cultivation level to peak seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. He was now only a step away from the eighth stage.

The energy intended to further push him into the next stage, but he suppressed it to further purify the energy. He did not want to break through too quickly. As a brand new seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, he needed to strengthen and solidify his foundations.

Finally, the raging energy in Xiang Shaoyun's body calmed. He tried sending his soul body out of his main body, something only doable by Sovereigns. He had a feeling he could now do the same.

Sure enough, his soul floated out of his forehead and strode away. Immediately, a body of flesh formed around it. Two Xiang Shaoyuns could be seen standing together, as though they were a pair of twins.

Xiang Shaoyun also sensed that his clone had formed independent thoughts, as though it was another version of him that was capable of independent thought and cultivation. He was stunned.

"Is this my clone? Will it give birth to a different me?" Xiang Shaoyun questioned himself.

The clone answered, "I am you, and you are me. You will still be the dominant person, and everything I see and obtain will be yours. At the same time, everything of yours will also be mine. We were originally one."

The explanation cleared all the confusion in Xiang Shaoyun's mind. Although the clone had independent thoughts, the clone was also under his full control.

"Very good. Does this mean that I will be able to split my focus into two from now on? This will be very beneficial for my cultivation," Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in realization.

Nevertheless, he knew very well that a clone was still a clone and could never be his own person. Also, if the clone was destroyed, he would probably suffer as well. Fortunately, the Nether Dragon Soul Headband would probably protect his soul from destruction. Thus, he would not face the danger of dying after his clone was killed.

With the headband as an assurance, he sent his soul clone out to challenge some random beasts in the mountain range. Unfortunately, the demonic beasts there were too weak. He wasn't able to have a proper fight.

However, he still got to experience the amazing sensation of sending his soul out. Even without lifting a finger, he could fully experience all that his clone was experiencing. He could still focus on cultivation with his main body regardless of what his clone was doing. This was a perfect example of splitting his focus into two, something comparable to the ability of sages.

"Alright, time to look for Money and the others," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. Instead of pulling his soul back, both bodies moved at the same time, heading toward the same direction using different routes.

Xiang Shaoyun moved at full speed, while his soul clone found Money and the three birds first. They happened to have encountered something dangerous. Fighting Money was a powerful strong-ape. It was the size of a hill, and its entire body was brimming with strength. It was a fifth-stage Demon Sovereign, a strength that made it a tyrant of a large territory in the outer fringe of the mountain range.



The Demon Sovereign usually spent its time cultivating in seclusion and wouldn't move out easily. However, Money and the three birds were hunting in its territory, provoking it to come out and deal with them.

Money was a ninth-stage Demon Emperor, and with his bloodline talent, he could match a regular fourth-stage Demon Sovereign in battle. But it was still somewhat challenging for him to face a fifth-stage strong-ape.

The three birds shrieked repeatedly, but they weren't much help and could only watch on as Money was beaten up.

"Withdraw, Money. I'll deal with this big guy," Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out.

#### Chapter 918: Clone Versus Strong-Ape

The one who had arrived was Xiang Shaoyun's clone. With the Nether Dragon Soul Headband around his head, he wore an unassuming martial outfit that couldn't hide his heroic looks. He looked like a child of god, and he emanated boundless majesty, his august bearing capable of gripping the hearts of countless maidens.

"So strong, this big guy is too strong. It's hard to stop him. We better retreat for now," said Money.

He was sending numerous lightning bolts out as he clashed with the strong-ape repeatedly, but the ape was extraordinarily strong. The ape waved his arm around, smashing apart one lightning bolt after another while still attacking Money. His attack sent Money flying away. Fortunately, Money had an incredibly resilient body that was as tough as a mid-stage Sovereign. Thus, a late-stage Sovereign couldn't easily harm him.

"Withdraw," Xiang Shaoyun repeated.

Money knew Xiang Shaoyun had many tricks up his sleeve, so he streaked toward the three birds and retreated with them and said, "Boss, this big fellow is guarding some treasures. If you can defeat him, all the treasures will be ours."

"Don't worry. It's not my match," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

With his hands clasped behind his back, he stepped forth. His step was ethereal, akin to a child of god setting out on a long journey. When the strong-ape sensed Xiang Shaoyun's presence, he looked over. His sinister eyes were capable of causing one to shiver in fear, and he roared at Xiang Shaoyun, "A puny human dares to strut around in this Sovereign's territory? I'll tear you apart!"

Two terrifying beams shot out of the ape's eyes toward Xiang Shaoyun with unstoppable momentum, akin to two sharp blades. Instantly, the beams reached Xiang Shaoyun and pierced through him. However, they had only struck his afterimage before proceeding to hit the mountain behind him. With a world-shaking explosion, the mountain was leveled.

Still using the ethereal footwork, Xiang Shaoyun continued striding toward the strong-ape. The strong-ape saw the derision in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes and was instantly angered. In a fury, the strong-ape slammed the ground with his arms.

Numerous boulders were sent flying toward Xiang Shaoyun, and a massive gravity field covered the area, preventing flight in its active area. In fact, even standing would prove hard for some.

The gravity field was incredibly powerful and instantly caused Money and the three birds to drop from the sky. If it wasn't for the fact that they had fled quite far away, they would have probably remained stuck to the ground after falling.

Xiang Shaoyun felt as though several mountains were weighing down on his shoulders that were not exactly wide, causing his movements to turn somewhat sluggish. It was then that the boulders reached him.

His lips curled into a smile as his earth star stirred. A reverse gravity field burst out, and he lashed both his palms forward, smashing all the boulders into pieces.

Major Slab Palm!

Numerous massive slabs appeared and hovered in the air, crashing into the incoming boulders before crashing toward the strong-ape.

"Piss off!" The strong-ape lived up to his reputation as someone with boundless might. With each punch, a slab was destroyed.

At this point, Xiang Shaoyun arrived beside him. A total of 108 palm attacks were sent out in succession. With the profundity of earth, boundless earth energy converged around him, giving him an endless supply of energy. His palm attacks were enhanced, and the 108 palms were akin to 108 mountains that forcefully smashed the strong-ape into the ground.

"Roar! Roar!"

The strong-ape roared and erupted with all his strength. His body enlarged as he used his body transformation technique, which could trigger his hidden potential and unleash an even stronger combat prowess.

Using his technique, the strong-ape obtained the combat strength of a sixth-stage Demon Sovereign. With his unparalleled might, he could challenge even a seventh-stage Sovereign in a fight. Each punch of his now seemed capable of tearing the sky apart. He rained down punches at Xiang Shaoyun, smashing through Xiang Shaoyun's attacks with an overbearing power that made it hard for Xiang Shaoyun to harm him.

"That big guy is really scary. Looks like I need to reach the Sovereign Realm as soon as possible," said Money with a sigh.

"When we're at his level, we can easily tear him apart," said Vicious Three with a sinister glint in his eyes.

"That's right. He has been cultivating for over 1,000 years. How many years have we cultivated?" said Vicious Two.

"Give us 100 years, and we will be able to kill him!" said Vicious One.

"Our boss has been cultivating for less than 10 years, and he is already strong enough to deal with the ape. We can't keep holding the boss down," said Money.

Back on the battlefield, the fight between Xiang Shaoyun and the strong-ape was intensifying. About a dozen nearby mountains had already been leveled, and all demonic beasts in the area had fled far away.

Xiang Shaoyun's clone had the combat strength of a sixth-stage Sovereign, and combined with his ability to punch above his weight, he did not fear even eighth-stage Sovereigns.

With the profundity of earth, he summoned a boundless earth power which he used to face the strong-ape's punches.

The strong-ape had an astonishingly powerful fist technique that was powered by dreadful vicious earth energy. His combat prowess was dreadful, and if measured in terms of pure strength, Xiang Shaoyun would be somewhat weaker. If it wasn't for the higher realm of his soul, he wouldn't be able to match the strong-ape with only a single star.

"I cultivate nine powers, and I know the profundity of each power I cultivate. I can unleash the maximum potential of each power even with only a single star. Borrowing the unending energy of nature, I can fight the strongest among my peers." Xiang Shaoyun's confidence grew as the battle went on. His profundity of earth spread everywhere, forming numerous terrifying meteors in the sky. They rained down unendingly with a might nobody could hope to block.

The meteors pounded the strong-ape. He looked incredibly pitiful, his blood spraying everywhere. However, the ape still remained unyielding. He sent his eye beams out again and spat out a clump of terrifying vicious earth energy from his mouth, forcing Xiang Shaoyun to repeatedly dodge the barrage of attacks.

After some time, the strong-ape's transformation finally reached its limit, and his aura dropped. On the other hand, Xiang Shaoyun was still filled with strength. It was now obvious which of the two was stronger.

If Xiang Shaoyun had used his other powers as well, the strong-ape would have suffered a much earlier defeat. He was merely using the battle to get used to fighting using his soul clone.

Upon exhaustion, the strong-ape no longer wanted to fight. He turned and started fleeing toward his cave.

## Chapter 919: I Am Willing to Submit

The strong-ape's lair was located in a sturdy cave. Within the cave was an entirely different world. Numerous treasures were kept within. To survive, the strong-ape only needed to guard the entrance and prevent Xiang Shaoyun's entry.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived before the cave, he found that a bright formation had appeared around it. The formation kept the cave hidden and prevented Xiang Shaoyun from entering.

A look of astonishment flickered in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes as he said, "The strong-ape is actually capable of laying down its own formation? What an amazing beast."

He hurled his fist forward, unleashing a domineering punch in his attempt to smash the formation apart. But when his fist energy struck the formation, it was dissolved into nothingness.

"How is this possible?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in shock.

His punch was incredibly overbearing, but it was completely useless before the formation. Its failure completely surpassed his expectations. He punched a few more times, but the result was the same. His punches weren't able to do anything.

But instead of getting anxious, a smile formed on his face. "There must be a secret here. Otherwise, with the strong-ape's intelligence, he won't be able to lay out a formation."

He stood ramrod and unleashed his profundity of earth, sending his senses creeping all over the formation. Previously in the Holy Earth Hall, he had similarly relied on the profundity of earth to detect the weak point of their formation. He believed he could do the same here.

With his gift of instincts fully active, he searched dozens of formation eyes, seeing clearly each rune of the formation. He exclaimed, "This is a peak sovereign energy-neutralizing formation. Looks like a peak Sovereign once resided in this cave."

Xiang Shaoyun was a well-read person, and he had naturally read books on formations before. Although he wasn't exactly an expert at formations, he knew enough to recognize some formations. The energy-neutralizing formation before him was capable of turning all attacks into nothingness, making it almost impossible to break.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know formations well, but he could rely on his talent to see each formation rune with clarity. Thus, he could easily find a weak point that would make it much easier to break the formation. He stepped forth, sending out a pulse of wood profundity. A formation eye buried underground exploded.

Bang!

The formation eye's destruction weakened the other formation eyes, and the energy powering the formation grew disordered. Xiang Shaoyun repeated his actions, destroying dozens of formation eyes in succession. Finally, the formation dissipated and could no longer block his path.

The strong-ape, who had hidden at the depths of the cave, saw what happened. Thick indignation flickered in his eyes.

Instead of forcing his way in, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Strong-ape, I will give you an opportunity. Do one thing for me, and I'll spare you."

The strong-ape replied, "This sovereign will never surrender. Come fight me to the death if you dare."

"You're really not coming out?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"No. Come in if you can," challenged the strong-ape.

"Sure. Don't blame me for burning your cave to the ground," said Xiang Shaoyun as he sent Yun Flame out, sweeping the cave with the flame.

Bang! Bang!

The raging flame burned within the cave, raising the temperature to an uncomfortable level. The strong-ape was powerful enough, but it still suffered a great deal under the torture of Yun Flame, who was now a high-level flame. The raging flame pushed his defenses to the verge of collapse.

"Roar! Roar!"

He repeatedly roared as he tried to extinguish the flame, but his struggles were for nothing. With the profundity of flame, Xiang Shaoyun could allow the flame to burn for an eternity. Nothing could stop his flame. Waves of flame swept forth one after another, destroying the strong-ape's defensive barrier, forcing him to escape deeper into the cave.

When Xiang Shaoyun found that the ape was actually retreating deeper, he concluded that there definitely was something good within the cave. He opened his mouth and took a deep inhalation, pulling the flame back inside him before dashing into the cave's depths.

The flame energy within the cave had reached an intense level, but Xiang Shaoyun was immune to it. His clone was actually stronger than his main body, and in any case, the flame energy here was a product of Yun Flame in the first place.

Moving at his fastest speed, Xiang Shaoyun advanced into the cave. He found that the cave was incredibly deep, and he still couldn't see the end of it even with traveling at his speed. Suddenly, he saw the strong-ape standing still, not daring to go any deeper.

Xiang Shaoyun also stopped as he could sense an odd aura ahead of him. He narrowed his eyes and focused his vision. He found that the cave wall beside the strong-ape was decorated with a large number of high-grade spirit crystals.

The spirit crystals were not the source of his biggest shock, as in front of the strong-ape were strands of pure yellow energy floating about. There weren't many, but they contained an incredibly dense vicious energy that made advancing an exceptionally fearful prospect.

Xiang Shaoyun also noticed that the strands of energy were not pure vicious energy as some pure earth energy was mixed within as well. He could see some similarities between the energy here with the dark origin energy he had absorbed before.

The strong-ape was extraordinarily powerful, but not even he dared to approach the vicious energy since the energy was too powerful. It could dissolve even Sovereigns, and the strong-ape would have no way of absorbing it.

"Strong-ape, submit or die," demanded Xiang Shaoyun murderously as he knew that the strong-ape was left with no other options.

Naturally, the strong-ape was not someone to be so easily subdued. With a roar, he spun around and attacked. A massive club had appeared in his hand. This was a weapon he had personally forged, and he was using it in his last-ditch effort to escape.

Unfortunately for him, the cave was too small, and it restricted his movements. Of course, Xiang Shaoyun was similarly restricted as well. However, he was still stronger than the strong-ape. Using his full strength, he suppressed the ape.

Eventually, the strong-ape was defeated. Blood sprayed everywhere as Xiang Shaoyun pounded him with numerous Major Slab Palms. The ape nearly crashed into a strand of vicious energy, and he was so frightened he could feel his soul leaving his body.

"I am willing to submit! I am willing to submit!" shouted the strong-ape unhesitatingly.

Xiang Shaoyun was surprised to see how much the strong-ape feared the vicious energy. He stopped attacking.

"You wouldn't have suffered this much if you had surrendered earlier," said Xiang Shaoyun. He pointed forward and asked, "What's with the vicious energy here?"

"I don't know, but I know it's very scary. It's more than just a regular vicious energy. I once threw some sovereign materials to it, and even they were directly reduced to nothingness," said the strong-ape honestly.

"This is your turf, yet you know nothing?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, displeased.

The strong-ape was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would attack again, so he hurriedly explained, "This might be the mystic earth essence energy."

## Chapter 920: Mystic Earth Essence Energy

Mystic earth essence energy.

This was an extremely rare energy. Although it was not a type of origin energy, it was comparable to one. As an essence energy that had formed over 10,000 years of slumbering underground, it was an existence at the level of a 10,000-year flame. It wasn't a vicious energy, yet it contained the attributes of vicious energy, granting it the ability to decay everything.

It was incredibly useful, and if one could refine it into one's body, not only would one's combat prowess grow, one's offensive power would also increase. Furthermore, the mystic earth essence energy was also an excellent material for forming one's soul foundation, and it was much more valuable than the black tides mystic stone that Xiang Shaoyun had obtained not long ago.

If the mystic earth essence energy continued to evolve, it would eventually become earthly mother energy, the most primordial of earth energies. It was extremely rare, and even the mystic earth



essence energy was rare enough to be coveted by Saints, to say nothing of the earthly mother energy.

Who would have imagined that something this rare would appear at the outer fringe of the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range and remain hidden all this while? The strong-ape was originally a Demon Emperor. After discovering this clump of mystic earth essence energy, he borrowed the thick energy to cultivate and quickly grow into a Demon Sovereign.

But even now, he still didn't dare to touch the mystic earth essence energy, and it was clear just how destructive the mystic earth essence energy was.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard that he was looking at a clump of mystic earth essence energy, joy covered his face, and he exclaimed, "I actually found a mystic earth essence energy here? I'm rich! I'm rich! Hahahaha!"

Ever since he found out about the requirements of entering the Soul Foundation Realm, he had been paying close attention to numerous top-tier materials. He aimed to find the best of materials to forge his soul foundation, and now, one had appeared before him. One could only imagine how happy he was currently.

"Don't be too happy. This mystic earth essence energy can't be harvested so easily. Perhaps only Saints can do it. Anyone else will die upon touching it," said the strong-ape.

Xiang Shaoyun calmed down upon hearing the ape's words. The strong-ape is right. This is tricky.

"Stand guard outside. I'll try to absorb it," said Xiang Shaoyun after giving it a thought.

The strong-ape did not disobey and left immediately. In fact, he hoped to see Xiang Shaoyun die in his attempt to absorb the mystic earth essence energy. When the strong-ape was leaving, Xiang Shaoyun transmitted to Money that he no longer needed to fight the strong-ape, and he had Money stand guard alongside the strong-ape. He needed enough time to study the mystic earth essence energy.

The strong-ape left, and Xiang Shaoyun started approaching the mystic earth essence energy. He observed the clump of energy and found that it was quite a small clump. It only occupied about two cubic meters of space. The surging energy around it was incredibly oppressive, and the rich earth energy it exuded nourished its surroundings, giving birth to numerous high-grade spirit crystals that were worth a lot altogether.

Instead of touching the mystic earth essence energy himself, Xiang Shaoyun took out a random emperor weapon and tossed it over.

Tsssss!

The instant the weapon touched the mystic earth essence energy, it was corroded. It stood no chance against the clump of energy.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and sighed, "What a terrifying corrosive power. And the essence energy contains the corrosive power of vicious earth energy. How am I supposed to absorb it?"

He was confident that not even sovereign weapons could do anything to the clump. He did not have tools of higher grades, so it would be hard for him to collect the clump of energy.

After contemplating for a while, he decided that his main body needed to be present if he wanted to collect the mystic earth essence energy. After all, his main body was equipped with an astral cosmos sea that could store life.

There were already several different energies stored in his astral cosmos sea. Taking even the entire cave alongside the mystic earth essence energy into his astral cosmos sea wouldn't be an issue. So long as he avoided direct contact with the mystic earth essence energy, everything should be fine.

At that thought, his main body picked up speed. While the main body was on the way, the clone tried attracting a strand of mystic earth essence energy to see if he could absorb it. The moment he touched the strand, his entire body jolted as though he was hit by an electric shock. A rotting pain assaulted his body, causing him to quickly move away and cease all thoughts of experimenting with the energy.

"This is a pain that reaches one's heart," lamented Xiang Shaoyun. "A clone is still a clone, after all. It is different from the main body. Although it can also make use of numerous combat techniques and powers like the main body, it does not have any stars that can absorb the exhausted energies. Thus, the clone is fated to serve only as a tool to strengthen my soul power."

He did not attract the strand of mystic earth essence energy to only absorb it. He also tried to figure out the differences between his main body and his clone. He had learned something from his attempt.

The clone was inherently different from the main body. The clone was not necessarily capable of everything the main body could do. However, the clone could use all the battle techniques and powers available to the main body. Moreover, his clone, in particular, was stronger than his main body. Soon, his main body arrived with Aikai. Both Money and the strong-ape were stunned.

"Who are you? Why do you look so much like my boss?" Money asked blankly.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "You bastard, even after spending all that time staying in my astral cosmos sea to absorb the nine-colored fog, you still can't recognize me?"

"If you're my boss, who's the guy inside?" asked Vicious One in confusion.

"That's my clone. Alright, get out of the way. I need to go collect the mystic earth essence energy. We'll talk later," said Xiang Shaoyun before rushing into the cave.

Money and the strong-ape did not stop him. The two were still in a state of confusion. Soon, the main body arrived and merged with the clone. Once again, he pulled a strand of mystic earth essence energy toward him and activated his earth star and earth profundity. He then absorbed the strand of mystic earth essence energy into his earth star.

The moment it entered his body, he felt his body start to collapse due to its corrosive power. Intense pain assaulted him, a pain much more terrible than what he'd suffered when he was tempering his body with fire and lightning. The pain was mainly due to the energy's overwhelming power and high grade. With his current strength, absorbing it would result in such pain. If he was a peak Sovereign or even a Saint, he wouldn't suffer such discomfort.

Even so, with his astonishing willpower, he resisted the pain. He used the Secret Reversal Technique and quickly healed his rotten meridians and internal organs before forcing the strand of mystic earth essence energy to enter his earth star.

Even after entering the earth star, the mystic earth essence energy was still rebellious as it attempted to dissolve even the star, as though nothing in the world could hope to restrain it.

"Refine!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and circulated his cultivation method as he split the mystic earth essence energy into numerous portions. He suppressed it again and again as he attempted to fully refine it and fuse it with his own energy.