

Overlord 921

Chapter 921: Gains

Xiang Shaoyun had only absorbed a tiny strand of the mystic earth essence energy. Thus, under his full suppression, he slowly defeated it and combined it with his astral energy. Eventually, the strand of energy became one with his astral energy, signifying that he had successfully fused them.

His earth star started growing, improving how much he could gain cultivating over several months or even an entire year. Like the gold star, the earth star also started exuding thick vicious energy, granting it a latent destructive prowess.

Xiang Shaoyun absorbed a few more strands of mystic earth essence energy, and after several rounds of suffering, his earth star finally reached the limit of his current cultivation realm. He could no longer compress the energy, and he stopped the absorption.

Of his nine stars, the earth, flame, and dark stars had reached their limits. The other stars had also reached the peak of his current cultivation level, only a tiny bit away from reaching their limits as well. He only needed to spend some time pushing the other stars to their limits before he could attempt an advancement into the eighth stage.

Since he had comprehended nine profundities, he absorbed energy faster than many cultivators. In his plan, he would require less than three months to push himself to the next stage.

He ended the cultivation session and muttered, "There are formations here that weren't set up by the strong-ape. Someone else must have been here before. Where is that person?"

He scanned his surroundings, but he couldn't find anyone, not even a corpse. It greatly confused him. His gaze then landed on the mystic earth essence energy again. His vision pierced through the clump of energy, and he saw the vague image of something hovering up and down, as though a figure was seated cross-legged.

"Don't tell me there's a corpse there?" Xiang Shaoyun was speechless.

Anything would be destroyed upon contact with the clump of energy. Only a Saint would perhaps not fear it. But a figure seemed to be in there. Was there really a super expert cultivating inside?

After thinking about it for a bit, Xiang Shaoyun started wondering if what he saw was an illusion. He only saw a vague image that soon vanished. His current focus should be thinking of a way to collect this mystic earth essence energy so he could use it to forge his soul foundation in the future.

He drew his Radiant Saint Sword and dug out the walls around the mystic earth essence energy. These walls were formed of high-grade spirit crystals, and one would be bedazzled just looking at them.

When Xiang Shaoyun was done digging out the surface walls around the mystic earth essence energy, he used his astral cosmos sea to pull the entire space inside, which was extremely dangerous. If his astral cosmos sea couldn't withstand the might of the mystic earth essence energy, it would rot away, and not only would his astral cosmos sea be ruined. His entire person would rot away as well.

One could say that this was a great benefit that went hand in hand with great risk. If he succeeded, the gains would be humongous, and if he failed, his life would be the price.

Ultimately, Xiang Shaoyun succeeded.

When the mystic earth essence energy entered his astral cosmos sea, it did not change. Like all his other stored energies, it remained still, and its rotting power converged around itself instead of spreading and causing havoc.

"Sure enough, the astral cosmos sea can contain everything. The mystic earth essence energy might be scary, but staying in the astral cosmos sea is the same for it as staying in the outside world. It won't harm me," said Xiang Shaoyun, satisfied.

He then called the strong-ape, Aikai, Money, and the three birds inside and had them mine the spirit crystals in the cave. He had decided to thoroughly clean the cave of the crystals, leaving nothing behind. The strong-ape was somewhat unwilling, but he was left with no choice but to obey.

While mining the spirit crystals, Xiang Shaoyun also discovered some earth elemental herbs growing in the cave. He had the three birds consume them, leaving only three sovereign-grade strength-enhancing grasses that he planted nearby the mystic earth essence energy in his astral cosmos sea.

The strength-enhancing grasses had grown alongside the strong-ape in the cave. If an earth cultivator consumed them, the cultivator's strength would greatly increase. However, the boost in

strength would only last for about an hour. Even so, in a situation of life and death, consuming one such herb could allow one to turn the situation around.

The entire vein of spirit crystals occupied an area of about 30 cubic meters, with each cubic meter containing about 1,000 spirit crystals. Altogether, they had obtained around 30,000 high-grade spirit crystals after mining the entire vein clean.

Thirty thousand might not seem like a large number, but a high-grade spirit crystal was more than 10 times the worth of a mid-grade spirit crystal. Thus, one could only imagine the worth of what they had mined from the cave.

Xiang Shaoyun had given nearly all his spirit crystals to Scarlet Flame Monarch. The 30,000 high-grade spirit crystals worked perfectly to replenish his supply of spirit crystals.

"Strong-ape, I have a mission for you. If you can complete it, you will regain your freedom. I will also give you an opportunity to grow strong. If you disobey, I will kill you right now," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The strong-ape was a decently helpful assistant, but for Xiang Shaoyun currently, the ape wasn't too important.

"What is the mission?" asked the strong-ape.

"Temper the three little fellows for me and help them grow as quickly as possible. I hope that the next time I see them, they will be Emperors or stronger," said Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed at the three birds.

"Boss, are you abandoning us?" asked the three birds anxiously.

"Fool. You are too weak, so you won't be able to temper yourself properly by staying at my side. The strong-ape is the local tyrant here and cultivates the same element as you three.

"With him guiding you, your growth will accelerate," said Xiang Shaoyun. He looked at the strong-ape and asked, "Do you agree?"

The strong-ape did not dare to disobey and answered, "I will do my best to teach them."

"Um. Do this task well, and you will be amply rewarded," said Xiang Shaoyun, happy with the answer.

He was in no rush to leave. In any case, the competition of the four academies was still about two months away. He decided to stay and cultivate his six remaining stars to perfection. By the time the competition began, he needed to be an eighth-stage Emperor. Only then would he have a chance at becoming the competition's champion, completing his master's task.

His main body stayed in the cave and started absorbing the natural energy of the world with the nine profundities. He occasionally summoned a massive volume of astral energy from the stars in the sky, enriching his inner stars over and over again.

Even so, he was still not satisfied with his progress. He summoned his clone out and had the clone practice the numerous battle techniques he knew outside the cave, further perfecting the might of his battle techniques.

With the main body and the clone working hard together, Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation base and combat strength grew rapidly. Time passed, and the four academies competition drew near.

Chapter 922: Rushing to the Lonesoul Island

The True Martial Academy, Nine Palace Academy, Dragon Phoenix Academy, and Sacred Deer Academy were collectively known as the Four Great Ancient Academies. They specialized in cultivating new generations of geniuses for the dominion. Any of their graduates would eventually become an existence capable of lording over large swathes of land.

The four academies periodically competed amongst each other to determine their rankings. The True Martial Academy consistently reigned at the top, while the Nine Palace Academy and the Dragon Phoenix Academy alternated between second and third place. The Sacred Deer Academy always occupied last place.

Nevertheless, the genius disciples from any of these academies were lofty and unyielding. None of them would be willing to remain inferior to anyone, so the competition between them was naturally intense. It was also during this competition that the strongest genius of all would be crowned among them.

As the competition approached, the genius disciples of the Dragon Phoenix Academy ended their seclusion one after another. They prepared their equipment and tools as they awaited the

competition. Xiang Shaoyun also ended his seclusion. He merged with his clone and sat silently, waiting for his master's summons.

"After the end of the competition, it will be time for me to return and end Di Batian," said Xiang Shaoyun with thick killing intent in his eyes.

He had been waiting to kill him for a very long time. The promised 10-year period was going to end soon, and it wouldn't be long before he could fulfill his vow. He was still not strong enough to fight Di Batian, but with his numerous fortuitous encounters over the years and the assistance of Scarlet Flame Monarch and Devouring Ghost, Di Batian would not be able to avoid death.

As he waited, the wolf guard showed himself again. Xiang Shaoyun was astonished, not understanding how the wolf guard had found him.

The wolf guard saw through his confusion and said, "Young master, you have the master's protective jade on you. He can easily locate you."

"I see." Xiang Shaoyun was hit by the realization. "Is the four academies competition starting soon?"

"Yes. It will be held in half a month on Eastern Pass's Lonesoul Island. You need to journey there starting now. I will be waiting there in half a month," said the wolfman before vanishing into thin air.

"Eastern Pass's Lonesoul Island? What place is that?" Xiang Shaoyun called out, but the wolf guard was no longer there. He was rather gloomy.

He could imagine that journeying there was also a test from his master. If he couldn't even reach the venue, then he should just forget about the competition. He gathered Money and Aikai before rushing toward Dragon Phoenix City. He had to figure out Lonesoul Island's location as soon as possible before starting on his journey.

At the city, he entered a grocery store and bought a map of the dominion. The numerous important cities and strategic locations of the dominion were marked on it. The so-called Lonesoul Island was a location picked by the Four Great Ancient Academies. Thus, it should be a known place as well.

Sure enough, he found Lonesoul Island on the map. He then rushed toward the teleportation formation connected to the Eastern Pass.

Lonesoul Island was located in the Eastern Sea of the Eastern Pass and was a rather well-known island. According to legend, the ghosts of those who had died unjustly would wail endlessly on the island, and people would frequently hear mournful wails there.

Thus, travelers generally did not dare to stay on the island for long. People who had stayed on the island would be met with numerous mishaps, such as death and madness. In short, Lonesoul Island was known to be inauspicious.

However, there were also rumors that the island hid great opportunities, and rarely seen treasures could be found. Once, someone had successfully escaped the island, and their cultivation had subsequently broken through in succession.

Later, someone claimed that rare treasures capable of helping one enter the Sovereign Realm, such as bloodsoul stones and divine congregation flowers, could be found on the island. Because of that, Emperors started exploring the island for fortuitous encounters, but very few actually left with gains.

In recent years, the island was occupied by powerful aquatic demonic beasts, and those without sufficient strength wouldn't even be able to reach the island. Thus, the island became a forbidden ground for regular cultivators.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of the circumstances surrounding the island. He spent several days hurrying through numerous teleportation formations and finally reached Eastern Sea City, which bordered the Eastern Sea. He then continued without rest and left the city.

When he arrived at the coast and asked about the route to Lonesoul Island, people avoided the topic, seemingly harboring intense fear for the island.

As Xiang Shaoyun was starting to get distressed, a crisp voice rang out, "Mister, are you heading toward Lonesoul Island?"

Xiang Shaoyun looked over and found a beauty looking at him. Evidently, she was the one who had spoken to him. She had bright purple hair, willow eyebrows, a tall nose, tender lips, and an hourglass figure. The blue muslin outfit she wore further accentuated her slim figure. She was seated atop a blue lion and possessed a heroic air.

Two women and five men were surrounding her. All of them looked to be in their twenties, and each was a heroic, good-looking Emperor. They were obviously a group of genius cultivators.

Xiang Shaoyun answered, "That's right. I'm heading to Lonesoul Island."

Before the woman could answer, a handsome youth in gold derided, "Lonesoul Island is not a place anyone can go. I advise that you stop asking about it. In any case, it's currently a special time."

The woman in blue smiled and added, "That's right. It's currently a special time, and Lonesoul Island has probably been placed on lockdown. Even if you go, it will be for nothing. Don't bother asking about it."

"Which academy are you from?" asked Xiang Shaoyun instead of replying.

The eight before him looked astonished, and the woman in blue leading the group answered, "We are disciples of the Sacred Deer Academy. I am Jiang Qi, and these are my fellow apprentice brothers and sisters. Are you a disciple of an ancient academy as well?"

Xiang Shaoyun sighed, "No, unfortunately. Can you take me along with you?"

"You know we are Sacred Deer Academy disciples, yet you dare to ask us to bring you along? You have quite the guts," said the young man in gold with a sinister look. He smiled at Jiang Qi and said, "Junior Sister Jiang, ignore him. We need to get going, or we'll be late."

"That's right. We're already late and missed the academy's ship. If we don't speed up, we won't be able to get there in time," said another man.

On the other hand, a different woman offered kindly, "Young man, you should return. Lonesoul Island is not a place you can go. It is dangerous. In any case, they won't allow any outsiders to enter for now anyway."

Xiang Shaoyun was now 24 years old, but he looked about 17 or 18. Thus, it wasn't weird that people called a young man.

"My apologies. I will stop bothering you, then," said Xiang Shaoyun with an apologetic look. Since they weren't willing to take him along, he would have to think of an alternative.

Chapter 923: Lie of Kindness

"Junior sister, why are you still looking at him? Are you really considering taking him alone because he's handsome?" asked the other woman beside Jiang Qi.

Jiang Qi shook her head and said, "He feels quite strong, so I thought that he was a disciple of some other academy. I must have guessed wrongly."

"He feels quite strong? In my opinion, he is probably some Skysoar Realm cultivator. For us, he's merely an ant," said the man in gold with contempt. "Alright. Let's pick up the pace. We are still quite far away from Lonesoul Island. We need at least seven days to arrive, and we might even encounter aquatic beasts on our way. We can't afford to wait any longer."

"We have only decided to travel this way so we can temper ourselves in the sea. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to get a decent result in the competition," said a different person.

"Um. Let's go," said Jiang Qi. Surprisingly, she was the group's leader. After voicing her agreement, she led them as they flew toward Lonesoul Island.

Not far away, Xiang Shaoyun watched the group depart. He wanted to follow them, but he was afraid that they would misunderstand his intentions, so he decided to ask some other people for directions instead.

At this time, he saw an old man working on a fishing boat. The fishing boat was old and shabby, but the old man still repaired it relentlessly. Beside him was a little girl helping him with the boat. The pair was evidently dependent on each other, and it seemed like they lived a hard life.

Xiang Shaoyun walked over and said, "Sir, this boat is already very old. No matter how you repair it, it is unlikely that it can still sail. I have some money here. Take it and buy yourself a new boat."

A smile bloomed on the old man's face, making the creases on his face seem even deeper. He said gratefully, "Thank you, young man. But we never accept undeserved rewards."

The rejection surprised Xiang Shaoyun. He did not give up and said, "This little fellow is still growing. You should take the money and buy some good food for her. Don't let the child starve."

The little girl looked at Xiang Shaoyun with a pair of bright eyes and said, "Thank you, big brother. But grandpa once said that we shouldn't accept things from strangers."

Her words placed Xiang Shaoyun in an awkward position. He wanted to perform some good deeds but was rejected so thoroughly. He even started feeling gloomy.

"Young man, are you looking for something?" asked the old man. He seemed like someone who had experienced many things in life, and he behaved as though he could see that something was troubling Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded and said, "Sir, do you know where Lonesoul Island is?"

"You're trying to go to Lonesoul Island, young man? I advise you not to go. That place is haunted," said the old man, a trace of fear surfacing on his face.

"Have you been there before, sir? Which direction is the island?" asked Xiang Shaoyun, automatically ignoring the latter part of what the old man said.

"I went there once when I was young. At that time, I was traveling with dozens of people. We encountered a storm and were sent to that island, so we decided to rest there. Since I was in charge of watching over the ship, I did not step onto the island. Almost all who left the ship died, with only a single survivor. But the survivor had turned mad. Even then, he died not long after he returned to the ship. Before his death, he had claimed that the island was haunted. It frightened me greatly, so I escaped alone. Even now, when I think back to that incident, I can still feel a chill creep up my back," the old man recollected with a fearful look.

"Don't be afraid, sir. Perhaps some wild ghosts are creating trouble there. As a cultivator, I am naturally obliged to take care of such wild ghosts. Please tell me the direction of the island, sir. That is all I need," said Xiang Shaoyun, who was brimming with a heroic aura.

"Fine, fine. The young are always reckless. Lonesoul Island is northeast of here. It's very far. If I have to row my boat over, it will take me two or three months," said the old man as he pointed in a certain direction and sighed.

"Thank you, sir," said Xiang Shaoyun. He then tossed the money over to the old man before vanishing into thin air.

Playing with the money in his hand, the old man smiled before saying with a sigh, "Young man, you are in too much of a hurry. I don't know where Lonesoul Island is either. I only said that much so you would retreat out of fear. But you actually rewarded me so generously for my lie. I am ashamed."

"Grandpa, you're lying again!" complained the little girl with a pout.

"Ahh, Little Sprout, your grandpa wasn't lying. I was merely trying to talk him out of losing his life. Anyway, he was the one who had voluntarily given us the money. Someone so kind is rare nowadays," praised the old man earnestly.

"That big brother is a good guy. We shouldn't lie to someone like him!" said the little girl with her innocent voice.

"You're right. That's why your grandpa is ashamed. But Lonesoul Island is definitely a land of danger. By sending him in the wrong direction, I am saving his life. As the saying goes, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-floor pagoda. I do not feel any guilt at all," retorted the old man.

"Oh, I understand. That was a lie of kindness," said the little girl.

"Exactly, a lie of kindness," the old man hurriedly agreed.

"If that's the case, I played a role in that lie of kindness as well. Grandpa, shouldn't you share half the money with me?"

"Little Sprout, are you trying to rob me? This is your grandpa's retirement fund!"

"Don't worry. Little Sprout will save the money for your retirement, grandpa. I will only use a little bit of it."

"Eh..."

...

If Xiang Shaoyun had heard their conversation, he would probably spit blood in anger. He sympathized with the pair after seeing that they probably lived a hard life and that they weren't cultivators. But they had actually pointed him in the wrong direction, completely misleading him.

He was currently seated atop Money as they flew above the sea. Following behind him was Aikai. Together, the group flew at top speed. After flying continuously for three days, they reached the center of a boundless sea.

No signs of human activity could be seen around them, and no land was visible either. The only thing they saw was a boundless blue connecting the sky and the sea. The view was great, yet it also gave rise to a lonesome feeling.

"Something isn't right. We have been traveling at full speed for three days. If we were traveling in the right direction, we would have encountered the Sacred Deer Academy disciples by now. However, we haven't seen anyone. Is this direction...damn that old swindler!" With his intelligence, Xiang Shaoyun immediately realized that he had been cheated.

He stopped, anxiousness welling in his heart. If he couldn't reach Lonesoul Island in time, he would not be able to participate in the competition. At that time, his master might even sever their relationship.

"No, I need to think of something," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. His brain spun rapidly, and he soon thought of an idea. "Money, go capture some aquatic demons to ask for directions."

The sea had no lack of aquatic demons. He believed the aquatic demons would definitely know the island's location.

"Sure, boss. This happens to be something I'm good at," said Money as he roared.

"Roar!"

Chapter 924: It's Actually a Female Jiao?

Money's roar was akin to a dragon's roar. The sea churned and turned, his roar displaying the might of a true dragon. When the nearby aquatic demons sensed the powerful aura, they fled and scattered in fear. Of course, there was also a powerful aquatic demon that decided to poke its head up to see just what demonic beast was here disturbing them.

"Roar!"

A top-tier blue-scale jiao Demon Emperor shot out of the water, giving an unyielding reply. It did not seem any weaker than Money, its over 10-meter-long body filled with strength. Its shiny blue scales were extremely conspicuous, and its head was slightly similar to the shape of a dragon's head, making it look incredibly fearsome and majestic.

Without even bothering to talk, it pounced at Money. In its eyes, the dragon blood flowing in Money proved fatally attractive. If it could devour Money, it would be even closer to evolving into a dragon. Money naturally wasn't one to shrink from a fight. He roared fiercely as he engaged the blue-scale jiao in an intense battle.

Money was already a ninth-stage Demon Emperor. Furthermore, his strength never stopped growing. However, this blue-scale jiao wasn't a pushover either. It had long reached peak Demon Emperor realm and could punch above its class. After all, the jiao was a branch family of the dragons. They possessed a trace of dragon blood in their bloodline, and they were mighty combatants.

The two coiled around each other and tore at each other repeatedly. They clashed again and again while their demonic auras rippled outward, causing the sea to churn and turn. Above the sea, the blue-scale jiao held the upper hand. Its water manipulation allowed it to deal great damage to Money, whereas Money himself was unable to harm the jiao much.

At this time, Money finally grew furious. He roared and summoned a rain of silver lightning bolts, forming a sea of lightning to attack the blue-scale jiao. The blue-scale jiao was aware it couldn't face the attack head-on, so it dove back into the sea.

Rumble! Rumble!

The lightning bolts bombarded the sea, blasting it apart, creating numerous waves dozens of meters in height. The waves rippled everywhere. Money did not stop attacking. He dove into the sea as well, aiming only to capture the blue-scale jiao.

Looking at Money furiously fighting, Xiang Shaoyun smiled and said, "Money is already strong enough to hold his own. I wonder if he can beat this blue-scale jiao into submission. This jiao definitely knows Lonesoul Island's location. After all this is over, I need to visit the Hundred Beast Mountain Range. I wonder how Little White has been. Does he still remember his boss?"

Under the sea, the seawater continued churning as two powerful figures clashed repeatedly. The sea's surface was absolutely chaotic, a clue to the underwater battle's intensity. After an indeterminate amount of time, Money was forced out of the water. He hovered in the sky, his body covered with wounds. Blood endlessly dripped from them. Evidently, he had sustained heavy injuries.

A part of the sea had been dyed red. It was unknown if the blood belonged to Money or the blue-scale jiao.

"Stupid bitch, get up here if you have the guts! I'll tear you apart!" shouted Money.

It's actually a female jiao? Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

A jiao heat came out of the water. Staring at money, she replied unyieldingly, "Come down here if you have the guts. This princess will swallow you alive!"

"This is infuriating! I refuse to believe I won't be able to do anything to you, bitch!" Money was so furious he started trembling. He roared and dove right back into the water.

After yet another intense round of battle started, the fight lasted much longer than the previous round. Numerous lightning bolts rained down from the sky, but they were greatly weakened after entering the sea.

After all, Money specialized in lightning and not water. The sea was now his battle site, and he could display neither his full strength nor speed. Thus, he was completely helpless as the blue-scale jiao held the complete upper hand against him.

Unsurprisingly, Money flew out of the water again after a while. Many new wounds appeared on his body, and he had again failed to capture the blue-scale jiao.

"Money, you can't deal with her?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

He wasn't worried about Money's wounds. After all, that fellow had an insane recovery speed. In fact, Xiang Shaoyun was more than happy to see Money suffer some hardship since it would be beneficial for his growth.

After taking a short breather, Money dove into the sea for the third time. Alas, he still returned in defeat.

The blue-scale jiao floated to the surface of the sea and challenged smugly, "You dare create trouble on this princess's turf? You must be tired of living. If you annoy this princess, nowhere on this sea will be safe for you!"

The blue-scale jiao was quite arrogant, as though she ruled the entire sea.

Her words further provoked Money, and just as he was about to dive into the water again, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Princess, we only want to ask for directions. We didn't intend to offend you. My apologies."

"Laughable! You are shouting and roaring on my turf, and you dare claim you didn't intend to offend me? You really think the jiao can be bullied easily?" berated the blue-scale jiao.

"Of course not. So long as you tell me the location of Lonesoul Island, we will leave. We will not disturb you a second longer. I will even offer you a gift," said Xiang Shaoyun courteously.

"Who cares about your gift? When my clan's army arrives, I will eat all of you!" said the blue-scale jiao proudly.

Money said unhappily, "You think I really can't do anything to you, bitch? Come, come into the air. See if I can make you sprawl on the ground."

"Come down here again if you're so great. I won't let you escape this time," replied the blue-scale jiao unyieldingly.

Money wanted to dive down, but Xiang Shaoyun stopped him and said, "Enough, we can't keep wasting time. The jiao army will be here soon. Things will be troublesome if we're still here. Aikai, finish this quickly."

"Yes, young master," replied Aikai before he streaked into the sea.

Aikai was already a Sovereign, so he should probably be strong enough to deal with the blue-scale jiao. However, Xiang Shaoyun had obviously underestimated the blue-scale jiao. When Aikai was diving down, a massive wave rose up and blocked his advance. The blue-scale jiao took the chance to swim away. Aikai was furious and attacked fiercely, sending a rain of feathers toward the sea, creating numerous massive waves.

The blue-scale jiao lived up to the jiao's reputation of being the overlords of water. Her strength was comparable to a Demon Sovereign. No matter how Aikai attacked, he could not harm her. In fact, he was endlessly furious due to her ceaseless provocations. However, he did not dare to enter the sea because he couldn't fully display his strength underwater.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun sensed a large jiao army in the distance. He had to finish this as soon as possible, or they would be further delayed.

"Move aside and watch. I'll deal with her," said Xiang Shaoyun as he finally decided to move personally.

Chapter 925: Capturing the Blue-Scale Jiao Princess

"Human, you won't cut it," jeered the blue-scale jiao.

"Is that so? Just wait until I catch you. I'll make you my brother's wife," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Boss, you can't do that to me. This bitch is too cruel. I reject her," Money hurriedly said.

"What a coward. Back then, the fiercer the tigress, the more Little White liked it," said Xiang Shaoyun as he found Money too soft. He then shot toward the sea like a bolt of lightning.

The blue-scale jiao could sense that he was an extraordinary human. He wouldn't have been able to make a powerful Demon Emperor and feathered beastman his followers otherwise. Without any hesitation, she dove deep into the water.

Instead of diving underwater, Xiang Shaoyun stopped at the surface and grabbed at the water. Two massive blue palms swept through the sea, causing the sea to split before a powerful force wrapped around the blue-scale jiao and fished her up.

"Roar! Roar!"

The blue-scale jiao roared furiously. She repeatedly struggled, trying to break free of Xiang Shaoyun's grasp, only to find that the force wrapped around her was too powerful. Apart from hardness, there was also a soft force around her. No matter how she struggled, she couldn't escape.

Xiang Shaoyun tossed the blue-scale jiao high into the sky. His clone walked out of his forehead, and a powerful Sovereign aura wrapped around the blue-scale jiao and fixed her in midair. She was completely helpless and felt greatly threatened. It was as though the human could erase her anytime he wanted.

Xiang Shaoyun had released his clone because he did not want to waste any time on the blue-scale jiao. Without the clone, he would need to waste some effort to make her yield. In any case, he had already decided to capture the blue-scale jiao and make her Money's wife.

The blue-scale jiao finally sensed how dreadful Xiang Shaoyun was. No matter how she struggled, she couldn't break free. Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun's killing intent seemed to be getting thicker, causing her to be even more fearful.

"Take me to Lonesoul Island, and you'll have your freedom back. Or you'll just die," said Xiang Shaoyun as his sixth-stage Sovereign aura wrapped around the blue-scale jiao threateningly.

The blue-scale jiao was not some animal with low intelligence. She was as intelligent as a human, and she knew that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't negotiating. If she dared to refuse, she would die immediately. Thus, she had no choice but to say, "I'll bring you there."

"Excellent. To show your sincerity in working with us, send your clan's army away," demanded Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense beings capable of threatening him within the army. He had to be careful. The completely helpless blue-scale jiao roared and communicated with the army using their exclusive language.

The army stopped advancing, but one of them transformed into a handsome middle-aged man. Walking on water, he strode forward, a heroic bearing about him.

"Release the princess, or you won't be able to leave this sea alive," said the middle-aged man. His voice was calm, but his sharp eyes were filled with a fierce glint. Evidently, he would start killing if Xiang Shaoyun refused.

Xiang Shaoyun met the middle-aged man's gaze and said, "We meant no harm and were only trying to get to Lonesoul Island. However, we had a misunderstanding with this princess, and we only need her to bring us there. This whole thing will end after that."

The middle-aged man was strong, but when Xiang Shaoyun learned that he had the blue-scale jiao princess as his hostage, his worry lessened. He was confident the other party wouldn't fight him to the death with his hostage.

"Uncle, swallow all of them!" shouted the princess eagerly.

"Before he swallows us, you will die," said Xiang Shaoyun as his clone focused completely on the princess. The moment the other party tried anything, he would kill.

The middle-aged man's pupils constricted before his figure swept forth like a gust of wind. He moved at an incredible speed that regular sixth-stage Sovereigns would be helpless against. However, Xiang Shaoyun's gift of instincts was working at full power. He saw the middle-aged man's movement clearly and moved away before the middle-aged man arrived. He then unleashed a powerful burst of force as he roared, "Kill!"

The endless killing intent leaking from Xiang Shaoyun indicated that he wasn't joking around. The blue-scale jiao princess could feel her entire body being crushed, tormenting her with an intense pain that caused her to wail.

The middle-aged man did not expect Xiang Shaoyun to be so fast. When he heard his niece wailing, he quickly said, "Stop! We'll take you to Lonesoul Island!"

He wouldn't care about any other blue-scale jiao, but this was his niece. He had no choice but to care about her.

"Swear an oath with your identity as a noble. Otherwise, I don't mind letting all hell break loose," demanded Xiang Shaoyun with his gaze locked on the middle-aged man.

"Ok. On my race, I vow to take you to Lonesoul Island. If I break my vow, may my bloodline be severed, and may I suffer the death of being devoured by 10,000 worms," swore the middle-aged man without hesitation.

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun released the princess and said apologetically, "My apologies, but I have no choice. I will give the princess a proper apology when all this is over."

"Hmph. I hope you're a man of your word," snapped the middle-aged man after pulling his niece behind him.

"Uncle, have your subordinates tear them apart," demanded the furious blue-scale jiao princess.

"Enough. This will end here. I will have my subordinate take you to Lonesoul Island. May you die on it," said the middle-aged man indifferently.

He then returned to the sea with the princess. A different blue-scale jiao was called over to show Xiang Shaoyun's group the way.

"Many thanks," said Xiang Shaoyun with his hands cupped together.

With a blue-scale jiao showing the way, Xiang Shaoyun's group started rushing toward Lonesoul Island.

Looking at the departing group, the princess gnashed her teeth and asked, "Uncle, are we really letting them go so easily?"

"What else can we do? I already swore on it," said the middle-aged man. A pampering look was apparent in his eyes when he looked at the princess.

"But others of our race have made no such vow! Let me bring a group over to swallow all of them!" said the princess. She was obviously someone who would hold a long grudge.

She had already assumed her human form. She was beautiful, tall, and charming. Clad in blue armor, she looked incredibly noble.

"That young human is rather special, so we can't try anything against him recklessly. In any case, heading to Lonesoul Island is the same as suicide. That place is now the territory of the furred claw crabs. The young human's group won't do well there. We don't have to waste any effort on them," said the middle-aged man with his eyes narrowed.

Chapter 926: Xiang Shaoyun's Arrival

Before Lonesoul Island were the massive ships of the four academies that had arrived from different directions. Each ship was filled to the brim with people. It was fortunate that these ships were large enough, each capable of carrying at least 200 passengers without issue. This was purely a competition between the new generation. Each academy would send its top 100 disciples, two elders, and several overseers.

The elders leading the Dragon Phoenix Academy's group were Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo. Shadowflash was a powerful high-level elder, while Feng Huosuo was an ordinary elder. His severed arm had regrown, a product of a flesh-growing saint medicine he had consumed.

Behind them were the geniuses of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, Yu Caidie, Ouyang Chuanqi, Yu Ziyang, Ye Linshan, Huang Tianji, Xiao Xie, and the others were all present.

Members of the Overlord Legion such as Han Chenfei, Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and Yuan Xuefen were present as well. Their cultivation levels had all grown, with the weakest of them being a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Xuan Yuantian had reached the seventh stage, and he had obviously grown quickly after consuming some spiritual treasures and the draconic aura Xiang Shaoyun had gifted him.

The two elders from the True Martial Academy's side looked much younger but didn't seem any weaker than Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo. In fact, they seemed even stronger. This was proof that the two had broken through into the Heaven Battling Realm at a much younger age than Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo, which was how they had maintained their youthful looks.

The two looked to be around 30, as though they were at the prime of their lives with plenty of room to still grow. Standing behind them were 100 young geniuses in high spirits. The men were extraordinary and handsome, while the women were charming and beautiful.

Their overall strength was incredibly shocking, as all of them had reached at least the sixth stage. Not one of them was a fifth-stage Dragon Phoenix Academy cultivator, and 18 of them had even reached the ninth stage. Their number of ninth-stage Emperors was definitely double what the Dragon Phoenix Academy had. The True Martial Academy lived up well to its reputation of being the first ranked academy among the four ancient academies.

The Nine Palace Academy also had a similar number of people present, but something about them stood out from the rest. Their men were all dressed in martial uniforms with nine palaces embroidered on their backs. The women weren't dressed uniformly, but they all had the emblem of nine palaces pinned to their chests. From this, one could conclude that the Nine Palace Academy had incredibly good unity.

As for the Sacred Deer Academy, the majority of them were women. In comparison with the other academies, they had far fewer male disciples. Each female disciple had outstanding looks, causing the male disciples of the other three academies to look at them with burning eyes. At this moment, they were filled with envy toward the Sacred Deer Academy's male disciples.

The disciples of the four academies were the best of the young throughout the dominion. Thus, the competition between them had naturally caught a lot of attention. The elders of all four academies flew to the air and started briefing the disciples about the competition. Basically, they had to rely on themselves to get through the furred claw crabs on the island and reach the island's center.

There, they would have to find a secret space that would serve as their final battleground. Numerous treasures awaited them in the final battleground, and the disciples would remain there for half a year. After six months, the disciples would leave the space, return to the island, and battle each other for the final rankings to determine the strongest disciple.

Anything could happen during the competition. The disciples had only themselves to rely on if they wanted to stay alive. No outside help would arrive.

"We've told you all you need to know. True Martial Academy disciples, ready yourself!" said the True Martial Academy elder.

"Nine Palace Academy disciples, ready yourself!"

"Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples, ready yourself!"

"Sacred Deer Academy disciples, ready yourself!"

The disciples' battle intent surged; each of them wanted nothing more than to be the first to charge to the island and reach the secret space. But just as they were about to set off, Xiang Shaoyun's group arrived.

"Who dares approach Lonesoul Island? This place has been placed under lockdown by the four ancient academies," snapped one of the elders.

The disciples also looked over, and the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples exclaimed in surprise when they saw who the newcomer was.

"Isn't that Xiang Shaoyun? I thought he had been expelled? Why is he here?" exclaimed a Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple.

With that exclamation, the disciples of the other academies also learned of Xiang Shaoyun's identity.

Someone said with derision, "So it's an abandoned disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy? What is he doing here? Is he here to stir trouble?"

Most of the disciples remained silent as they believed the Dragon Phoenix Academy elders would give them an explanation.

When Ouyang Chuanqi saw Xiang Shaoyun, an odd look covered his face as he muttered, "This fellow slipped off before fighting me. What is he doing here? Is he here to slap the academy's face?"

"Overlord!" Han Chenfei, Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and Yuan Xuefen cried out in excitement.

When the True Martial Academy disciples heard them, one of them said in a displeased manner, "Who dares to address himself as Overlord in front of our Little Overlord? Is he courting death?"

The overlord was an overbearing title that many powerful youths loved to have. Thus, it was unavoidable that many people would use it as their own title. A top-10 disciple of the True Martial Academy was also a self-proclaimed little overlord, and the disciple who had just spoken was his loyal attendant.

Tang Longfei replied unyieldingly, "Your leader is the Little Overlord, while our leader is the Overlord. From that, it is obvious your little overlord is only fit to be our overlord's little brother."

"Haha, you're right. I believe our overlord won't mind that," said Xuan Yuantian as he roared with laughter.

"You're courting death!" shouted the furious True Martial Academy disciple.

"There is no need to get all worked up over the Dragon Phoenix Academy's abandoned disciple," said a young man from the True Martial Academy indifferently.

"Bastard, what did you just say?" Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and Yuan Xuefen were infuriated.

At this time, the True Martial Academy elder said to Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo, "This is the internal affairs of your Dragon Phoenix Academy. Deal with it quickly. Don't waste everyone's time."

"Don't worry. Since this is an expelled disciple, he no longer has anything to do with us. All disciples may enter. If he dares to get on the island as well, you are free to kill without mercy," said Feng Huosuo.

Everyone understood what Feng Huosuo meant. Evidently, the newcomer was not welcomed by the elders of his own academy. In fact, they were hostile toward him. In that case, this became much easier to solve.

"I would like to see who has the guts to kill my master's disciple," a voice suddenly rang out.

Chapter 927: Guardian Token

Xiang Shaoyun had arrived riding on the waves, or to be precise, he was riding atop a blue-scale jiao. The blue-scale jiao was sticking close to the sea surface, making it look like he was stepping on water.

He was heroic and noble; his young face, combined with his slender and slim figure, made him look like the child of a god. He looked every part an extraordinary young man. He stood tall with his hands clasped behind him, and his calm eyes seemed to contain a sense of spirituality that one

couldn't describe with words. The female disciples were bedazzled by the sight of him, with some falling for him at first sight.

"What a handsome young man. How can the Dragon Phoenix Academy expel him? What a pity."

"Wouldn't it be great if he had joined our Sacred Deer Academy instead? I will definitely treat him with kindness."

"Maybe he only has looks without any talent? On top of that, he must have committed great crimes for the Dragon Phoenix Academy to expel him."

...

Most of the people speaking were Sacred Deer Academy disciples. After all, this was the academy with predominantly female disciples. They also had some good-looking male disciples in their ranks, but few of them were as extraordinary as Xiang Shaoyun.

Jiang Qi and her group also saw Xiang Shaoyun, and looks of astonishment flickered in their eyes. They had evidently not expected Xiang Shaoyun to really come. It turned out he was an abandoned disciple from the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

However, they had all heard what the Dragon Phoenix Academy elder had said. They felt that Xiang Shaoyun was unwise to come, but they were further surprised when a different expert came to defend Xiang Shaoyun. The newcomer was none other than the wolf guard. He had been waiting in hiding for Xiang Shaoyun's arrival before showing himself.

"Who are you?" questioned the elder of a different academy.

Unightly expressions covered the faces of Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo. They had not expected to see the wolf guard here.

The wolf guard ignored everyone and landed before Xiang Shaoyun. He said respectfully, "Young master, congratulations on your arrival. Next, you will have to get through the furred claw crabs and arrive at the secret space on the island. You will enter and fight for what you need. Lastly, you will take part in the competition of the four academies and fight for first rank."

"Ok, got it," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

When the others heard what the wolf guard said, they had clear expressions of displeasure. An elder from the Nine Palace Academy said, "Are you trying to spoil the competition between the four academies?"

"What's the point of wasting time talking with him? Just kick them away," said an annoyed True Martial Academy elder.

"Elders of Dragon Phoenix Academy, this is your internal affair. You guys should deal with it," said a gorgeously dressed female elder from the Sacred Deer Academy.

Shadowflash nodded and looked at the wolf guard with a sinister glint in his eyes. He said, "Elder wolf guard, what is the meaning of this? Are you creating trouble for our academy? Get him away already."

When the others heard Shadowflash addressing the wolf guard as an elder, they were stunned. An abandoned disciple and an elder. What was going on here?

The wolf guard looked at Shadowflash with disdain before sweeping his eyes over the elders from the other academies. A token appeared in his hand as he said, "This is my master's token. He is entitled to a quota in the competition of the four academies. My young master will represent my master alone instead of any of the academies."

The token was not a Dragon Phoenix Academy token. Rather, it was an ancient token exuding a primordial aura. It abruptly shone and formed an ancient symbol in the sky. A majestic aura rippled outward, reaching everywhere as it gave everyone the urge to kneel down in worship of the symbol. It was as though an ancient powerhouse had descended upon them, and the pressure emanating from the symbol was incredibly dreadful.

The elders of all four academies exclaimed in alarm, "Guardian token!"

"Are you not showing your respects before the guardian token?" snapped the wolf guard coldly.

The many elders hurriedly saluted and said, "Greetings, lord guardian."

The overseers and disciples were completely confused, but they followed suit when they saw their elders paying respects. Inwardly, they wondered, Who is this lord guardian? Why is he such a big deal that all the elders are showing him such respect?

"Do you have an issue with my young master getting a spot in this competition?" questioned the wolf guard haughtily.

"No, we have no issues," the elders hurriedly replied.

"Good. My master said that the young master is here to temper himself. You don't have to restrict your disciples and do not need to give him any special treatment. Anyone capable of defeating or robbing him may do so. My master will not retaliate. Of course, that is on the premise that you old guys don't get involved," said the wolf guard.

The smile on Xiang Shaoyun's face collapsed when he heard the wolf guard's words. He was still feeling all proud of his master's status, but the feeling did not last long, as he suddenly became all the disciples' target. Being their target was definitely not good news for him.

"We obey the lord guardian," answered the elders uniformly.

"Very well. You may start now," said the wolf guard as he put the token away. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Young master, I hope you don't disappoint the master."

Without waiting for a reply, the wolf guard vanished into thin air. With his departure, everyone looked at Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment. Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun seemed much more mysterious to them, and they couldn't see through him at all.

"It is a surprise that your academy still has a lord guardian. That has been disrespectful of us," lamented a True Martial Academy elder.

The so-called lord guardians were also known as the guardians. They were the strongest of the dominion and had once contributed greatly to the dominion's peace, which was how they had come to earn their titles. Someone like that commanded respect and reverence wherever they went. As the disciple of one such guardian, it was more than acceptable for Xiang Shaoyun to be granted a spot in the competition.

Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo were speechless, their emotions complicated. One ought to know that they were the ones who had personally expelled Xiang Shaoyun from the academy. But now, Xiang Shaoyun's new identity was bearing down upon them to the point it was suffocating.

"Alright, stop wasting time. The lord guardian only requires a slot. This is not an issue at all," said a Nine Palace Academy elder.

"That's right. It is obvious what the lord guardian wants. Disciples, do not hold back and fight with all your strength for what you want," said a Sacred Deer Academy elder.

Just as everyone was about to set off toward the island, someone from the Sacred Deer Academy suddenly shouted, "Boss, you're absolutely amazing. You are indeed worthy of being my best friend! Haha!"

Chapter 928: Meeting Xia Liuhui Again

Xiang Shaoyun was stunned when he heard the voice. He spun around and looked over. A smile of pure joy bloomed on his face as he said, "Xia Liuhui, why are you here, kid?"

The voice belonged to a disciple from the Sacred Deer Academy, and that disciple was none other than Xia Liuhui, Xiang Shaoyun's good friend during his time at Martial Hall Palace. Many years ago, the two went their separate ways and had promised to meet at Xia Hamlet in seven years.

The period of seven years was going to end soon, so Xiang Shaoyun had planned to visit Xia Hamlet after the competition. But surprisingly, he met Xia Liuhui here instead, and it was completely unexpected.

Xiang Shaoyun was not the only one surprised—Xia Liuhui was just as surprised. Neither had expected that they would reunite in such a manner. Xia Liuhui charged from the Sacred Deer Academy's ship, and Xiang Shaoyun also rushed forward to meet him. The two stopped before each other and delivered the other party a punch. They still looked as close as ever.

"Not bad, kid. You actually got yourself into an ancient academy. Not bad at all," praised Xiang Shaoyun with heartfelt sincerity.

A few years ago, Xia Liuhui was a fresh Transformation Realm cultivator. At the time, Xiang Shaoyun was already a King. And now, Xia Liuhui had actually caught up with him and was already a fifth-stage Emperor, which was quite a remarkable advancement speed.

One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun had reached his current cultivation level of seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm after numerous fortuitous encounters. Comparatively, Xia Liuhui's growth hadn't been any slower.

Many years ago, Xiang Shaoyun had placed Xia Liuhui under Duo Ji's care. So how had Xia Liuhui entered the Sacred Deer Academy?

"You're doing very well yourself, boss. I had thought that I could surpass you and give you a big surprise. Looks like I'm still far from reaching your level," lamented Xia Liuhui.

He still looked almost the same as in the past. With the face of a scoundrel and a slightly chubby body, he did not look like an expert cultivator at all.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to speak, the gorgeously dressed elder from the Sacred Deer Academy said, "Alright, if you're done catching up, we need to get going. Xia Liuhui, you may invite your friend to set off with us."

"Yes, elder," Xia Liuhui answered in excitement before pulling Xiang Shaoyun toward the Sacred Deer Academy group.

At this time, a few people from the Dragon Phoenix Academy flew over and shouted, "Overlord!"

They were none other than Ouyang Chuanqi, Han Chenfei, Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and Yuan Xuefen.

"We'll talk on the island. We shouldn't hold everyone up," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples, advance!" Shadowflash's voice rang out.

At his command, the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples flew off the ship and started advancing toward Lonesoul Island.

The disciples of the other academies did the same. They were all young Emperors, and one could say they were the new generation of pillars that would prop up the dominion. Now was the time when they were brimming with vigor, having countless possibilities ahead of them.

Xiang Shaoyun followed Xia Liuhui to the Sacred Deer Academy's side. At this time, a few female disciples intentionally slowed down and gazed at him with looks of adoration. However, Xia Liuhui was the one to loftily say, "Senior and junior sisters, please don't look at me like that. I know I'm handsome, but I'm a shy person."

They collectively gave him their middle fingers. One of them said to Xiang Shaoyun, "Handsome, are you interested in becoming this big sister's partner? I'll take good care of you."

She was tall, slim, and seductive, with a charming mole below her lips. She was a beauty through and through.

"Senior Sister Wei, you can't hog him for yourself. We agreed to share him!" teased a different woman.

Another woman who was similarly alluring said with a sweet voice, "That's right. I am interested in this handsome boy as well. We should all share him."

When Xia Liuhui heard their words, he howled, "Heavens, strike me with a bolt of lightning already. I'm tired of living."

"Thank you for your good intentions, but shouldn't we focus on reaching Lonesoul Island first?" said Xiang Shaoyun.

At this time, terrifying sounds of explosions could be heard ahead of them. Evidently, the battle had started. The female disciples stopped messing around and charged ahead, working with their companions to attack the furred claw crabs.

There were many furred claw crabs on the island. Each was as large as a boulder, and together they seemed to fill the entire island. Their eight furry legs looked more like sickles that radiated a wild power than legs. Their pincers were incredibly sharp, capable of causing blood to flow the moment they latched on to someone.

It was unknown what had attracted them to the island, but they had fully occupied the island. To reach the center, the disciples would have to get through the crabs. When the 400 disciples neared the island, tens of thousands of crabs attacked together. Unlike other beasts that would battle separately, the crabs battled with great teamwork, and their coordination was quite surprising to see.

Streams of water shot out of their mouths and became thousands upon thousands of arrows flying toward the disciples. Their attacks couldn't be underestimated. Although many of the crabs were Demon Kings or of lower realms, there were still a considerable number of Demon Emperors among them. Attacks they launched with teamwork couldn't be easily stopped.

The numerous disciples displayed their strength and bombarded the crabs with powerful killing techniques.

Rumble! Rumble!

Sounds of explosions reverberated throughout the island, and the surrounding sea churned and turned. The disciples from the four academies worked with tacit understanding and attacked from different directions.

Of course, there were still some who had decided to work independently. Those without enough strength were seriously injured, but at the same time, the disciples killed many furred claw crabs.

"Brother, we finally have a chance to battle side by side again," said Xia Liuhui.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. As he stood atop Money, the Shark Devourer Saber appeared in his hand. Then, as he braced himself for battle, he roared, "Kill!"

Since they were above the sea, Xiang Shaoyun had opted to use the Shark Devourer Saber. Using the power of water in his current environment would greatly boost his combat strength. He swung his saber several times in a row; each swing carried with it the power to smash through armies.

When Xia Liuhui saw how powerful Xiang Shaoyun was, he took a deep breath, and a pair of swords appeared in his hands. One was long while the other was short. One was blue, and one was red. The powers of water and flame swirled around him, and as he crossed both swords in front of him, the blue and red sword energies combined to form a single powerful sword strike that zoomed through the air.

Chapter 929: Gathering of Prodigies

Xia Liuhui only had a four-star physique, and he was once the Sacred Deer Academy's laughing stock. But now, no one dared to laugh at him anymore. His dual cultivation of water and flame had granted him a combat strength no weaker than any of their other prodigies. It was unknown how he was able to overcome the disadvantage of his physique, but it was obvious he had had a massive fortuitous encounter that had allowed him to grow to the point of becoming one of the academy's top 100 disciples.

In the Sacred Deer Academy, Xia Liuhui called himself the Sun Moon Sword Emperor. And he was currently displaying a strength worthy of that moniker. The nearby Xiang Shaoyun could sense Xia Liuhui's strength. He was no longer the same weak and cowardly fatty of the Martial Hall Palace and Cloud Margin Pavilion.

Looks like Duo Ji had taught him well, lamented Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He did not stand around in contemplation. With the Shark Devourer Saber in hand, he started slashing as he advanced. His sole goal was to enter the secret space as soon as possible and snatch the fortuitous opportunities waiting inside.

The furred claw crabs were no pushovers. With their sheer numbers, they launched wave after wave of attacks toward the disciples. The disciples started hurting from the relentless assault, and even Xiang Shaoyun was forced into a defensive position to avoid further injuries.

The disciples all lived up to their names as prodigies. They started using their respective trump cards and blasted through the crabs' defensive perimeter. Of the disciples, the True Martial Academy disciples looked the most valiant. The furred claw crabs facing them were incapable of stopping their advance, and their defensive perimeter was the first to break as the True Martial Academy disciples blasted open a path of blood to the island.

The Nine Palace Academy disciples were the second group to break through, while the Dragon Phoenix Academy and the Sacred Deer Academy lagged behind. Just from this, one could see the true strength of the four academies.

"Looks like our disciples are still braver and better at fighting," said a True Martial Academy overseer smugly.

"Our Nine Palace Academy will catch up soon," replied a Nine Palace Academy overseer.

Meanwhile, the Dragon Phoenix Academy and the Sacred Deer Academy overseers were too embarrassed to say anything. In their opinion, competing against the top two academies was simply too hard. Suddenly, something changed.

The Sacred Deer Academy disciples suddenly erupted with a mighty strength and blasted open their own path as well. Before long, they caught up with the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples. From their momentum, it even seemed like they were going to overtake the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples soon.

The elders and overseers saw their advance, and their expressions changed. Their gazes all landed on a certain youth none other than Xiang Shaoyun. He was fighting in an optimal state.

As he used the Seven Overlapping Waves Slash, each of his slashes was stronger than the slash before, and he was borrowing the water energy from his surroundings to further enhance his slashes. The furred claw crabs were utterly helpless against him. Beside him, Money was also attacking relentlessly with numerous lightning bolts, sending many furred claw crabs fleeing.

The human and beast pair was too strong. One could say that they were demonstrating a top-level strength among all the disciples present. The Sacred Deer Academy disciples were encouraged by Xiang Shaoyun's valor and started fighting even harder.

Jiang Qi was the Sacred Deer Academy's strongest disciple. She might look like a sweet little girl, but both she and her blue lion mount were displaying stunning combat strength. She seemed capable enough to even match a fourth-stage Sovereign in battle.

She was similarly a user of water profundity, and she could even weaken the crabs' water attacks and reduce the pressure her fellow disciples faced.

In the midst of battle, she noticed the strength of the abandoned Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple, and she was surprised by his valiance. She remembered how she had even persuaded him not to come not long ago.

However, she did not have the leisure to sit down and think about it. For now, she had to focus on weakening the furred claw crabs' attacks to allow the youth at the very front of their group to deal as much damage as he could to the crabs.

Of course, Jiang Qi was not the only genius among the Sacred Deer Academy disciples. There were a few other remarkable freaks as well. Together, they tore through the furred claw crabs, advancing with great momentum.

The Dragon Phoenix Academy naturally wouldn't allow themselves to be overtaken so easily. Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, and the other freaks unleashed their strength and accelerated their advance.

Baili Yixiao's sword of kindness was unrivaled. With a smile on his face and a sword in hand, he sent his sword energy running amok, leaving corpses everywhere. The furred claw crabs were utterly helpless against his sword.

Zhan Wushuang's battle intent surged to the sky, his spirit unrivaled as his fists reduced numerous furred claw crabs into the souls of the deceased. These two were always the center of attention wherever they went. Before them, even the likes of Lei Bao seemed minor.

However, there were a few disciples from the True Martial Academy who were actually comparable. The True Martial Academy's strongest disciple was an unassuming man. He wasn't handsome like Xiang Shaoyun or tall or sturdy.

However, he emanated an incredibly oppressive aura that caused people around him to not dare to look at him. It was as though he was a true dragon. He fought in a coarse manner, his every move momentous. As a whole, he was extremely dreadful.

Even among the True Martial Academy disciples, few dared to approach him. His loneliness and his search for a taste of defeat was something nobody understood. His name was Gudu Qiubai, a true martial lunatic. In addition to martial lunatic, he was also known as a martial addict and a martial demon. One could imagine how much of a freak he was.

It was as though he was born for the sake of martial cultivation. He could quickly master any martial technique and release its full power. In fact, a technique in his hands would even surpass its supposedly maximum power. Until today, few opponents had caught his eyes.

The number two expert of True Martial Academy was a beauty. A mask covered half her face, showing only half of her enchanting face. Looking at her, it was as though she was half a devil and half an angel. Her voluptuous figure was endlessly alluring, a perfect match for her flawless and fair skin. Nobody knew her name, so she was known as Devil Concubine.

She had many supporters. In the academy, half the male disciples were her supporters, and there was even a saying that Devil Concubine's words held more authority than an elder's. From that, one could see just how illustrious her status in the academy was.

The third strongest disciple was the self-proclaimed Little Overlord. He claimed to be the reincarnation of the ancient Overlord. He was similarly dreadfully powerful with numerous followers. However, he was still weaker than Dugu Qiubai in terms of combat prowess, and he had less rallying power than Devil Concubine. Thus, he occupied the third rank in the academy.

Even so, he was undoubtedly strong. Since joining the True Martial Academy, he had never suffered defeat. He had also hunted a lot of Sovereign Realm devils and demons. He was a purple-haired youth, and he had handsome looks. In the True Martial Academy, he was loved by many female disciples, yet he only had Devil Concubine in his eyes.

Chapter 930: Nascent Transformation Stone

Gudu Qiubai, Devil Concubine, and Little Overlord weren't the only notable disciples from the True Martial Academy. There were also a few who had gained their fame at a young age. Each of them was as strong as Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang. From that, one could see just how freakish the True Martial Academy recruits were.

After all, the academy had ranked first for many years. Thus, the allure of joining the True Martial Academy was much greater than the other academies. Many geniuses preferred joining the True Martial Academy, and it was said that the True Martial Academy's cultivation resources equaled the total sum of what the other three academies offered. However, only the True Martial Academy disciples would know if it was true.

The Nine Palace Academy also had no lack of freaks. Among them, Jiu Tian, the principal's grandson, had the greatest popularity. It was said that during his birth, he had formed a resonance with the Nine Palace Sword Formation, the academy's oldest sword formation. The formation was known as the unrivaled sword formation, and it was created by their first principal.

Jiu Tian had formed a resonance with the formation at his birth, and he had even slowly mastered the formation growing up. He could form the complete formation alone, granting him the ability to harvest any head within a range of 5,000 kilometers. He could also kill those many stages above him, and he seemed unstoppable.

Apart from Jiu Tian, the academy also had a few other extraordinary freaks hailing from different powerful organizations in the dominion. Comparatively, the Sacred Deer Academy's lineup seemed

weaker. They only had four ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators, with Jiang Qi being the strongest.

She had a primary-grade nine-star physique, and she also had an Innate Water Physique. Thus, she was born with an affinity to the water element. She had comprehended the profundity of water long ago and was the Sacred Deer Academy's strongest goddess.

The other three weren't exactly weak, but they were only comparable to the likes of Yu Ziyang, Ouyang Chuanqi, and Huang Tianji, or they might even be slightly weaker than them.

Apart from these freaks, the other disciples from the four academies weren't pushovers either. They were all prodigies who had distinguished themselves from thousands, or even tens of thousands, of their peers. Everyone had different trump cards, and a low-level Emperor could very well kill a Sovereign out of nowhere. Thus, one couldn't look down on any of the disciples.

At this time, the disciples had mostly arrived near the island's center. The experts among the furred claw crabs finally showed themselves. These Demon Emperors started fighting the disciples at close range, and even Demon Sovereigns appeared. Their legs were akin to sickles, and their pincers were even more terrifying. Some disciples were snapped in half the moment the pincers caught them, dying the island red with blood.

Xiang Shaoyun was fighting at the very front of the Sacred Deer Academy group. He had blocked a lot of dangers for them, causing the Sacred Deer Academy disciples to feel somewhat guilty. But even more of them felt gratitude. A majority of them were female, and their opinion of him improved rapidly as he, a handsome youth, braved danger after danger for them.

Meanwhile, Xia Liuhui was as shameless as ever. He shouted incessantly, "Kill! If a god comes, we slay the god! If a crab comes, we slay the crab! I, Xia Liuhui, am undefeated!"

He had decent combat strength, but he wasn't very good in prolonged combat. Thus, he was now hiding behind Xiang Shaoyun, yet his mouth never stopped shouting. From the way he was shouting, one would think that he was the one killing all the crabs. His face was truly incredibly thick.

At this time, three peak Emperor crabs appeared and charged toward Xiang Shaoyun. They swept their scythe-like legs at him, leaving a trail behind their legs as they sliced through the air. These crabs were akin to exceptional experts, and their legs contained the power of the great dao and possessed the hardness of an emperor weapon. They were strong enough to easily cut through regular Emperors.

Instead of retreating, Xiang Shaoyun charged the three crabs. With the Shark Devourer Saber in hand, he pounced on them like a massive shark. His sword was akin to a shark's sharp teeth, ruthlessly severing their legs before slicing the crabs themselves into two. There wasn't any suspense in his victory.

Then, Xiang Shaoyun swept his senses over them and pulled the three corpses into his astral cosmos sea. Their corpses were rather valuable. His gaze landed on a certain spot below where a group of crabs was protecting a certain stone. Sensing that the stone was different from regular stones, he activated his gift of instincts and scanned it.

It was as though the stone was furry, with numerous pores. It looked more like a disgusting skin tumor than a stone, and it was incredibly odd. Because the crabs shielded the stone and it shared their same color, nobody else had noticed it.

"Nascent transformation stone!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed.

He then dove down without hesitation. The nascent transformation stone was essentially a concentration of the furred claw crabs' essence. Their eggs could also be found on the stone, and they used it as their breeding ground. After being exposed to the furred claw crabs for an extended period of time, a stone would change from a regular stone into a nascent transformation stone.

Others might not know how important the nascent transformation stone was, but Xiang Shaoyun was well-read and knew its value well. One could use it for breeding a large number of furred claw crabs and foster a private crab army. Secondly, the stone itself was unique and could hatch the eggs of demonic beasts that had remained unhatched for thousands, or even tens of thousands, of years.

After all, many powerful demonic beasts had trouble breeding and could easily die young. Many of them even had difficulty hatching their eggs, but this stone, in particular, could smoothly hatch their eggs.

Perhaps many people would look down on these functions, but Xiang Shaoyun knew very well that many ancient clans would have some high-level demonic eggs in store. After many years of suppression, the eggs might lack vitality and no longer be hatchable. Under such circumstances, the nascent transformation stone was extremely useful.

That was why Xiang Shaoyun attached a high level of importance to the stone. He had not expected that a nascent transformation stone would appear here. If others also noticed it, he probably

wouldn't have a chance to get it. Therefore, he had to get his hands on the stone first. He was confident that if he auctioned the stone, he would be able to sell it for a high price. After all, it was an extremely rare stone.

However, the ones guarding the stone were the experts among the furred claw crab. There were more than 10 Emperors and 2 Sovereigns. The disciples were unwilling to provoke the powerful group, yet Xiang Shaoyun actually split off from the Sacred Deer Academy disciples and charged toward them alone. The Sacred Deer Academy disciples were bewildered by his action.

"Don't provoke them!" Jiang Qi's voice rang out behind him.

In her eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was already a part of the Sacred Deer Academy's vanguard. However, Xiang Shaoyun completely ignored her and continued toward the stone.