

Overlord 941

Chapter 941: Saint Soul Tree

Ming Feng was the Sacred Deer Academy's number two disciple. He was as strong as Jiang Qi and was only ranked lower because of his lower popularity. Ming Feng himself was a sinister and ruthless person who wasn't exactly well-liked in the academy. Even so, there was no doubt that he was a prodigy, a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

He was a tall and slim young man. Clad in a black robe, he held a black cat in his arms, giving off a gentle and effeminate demeanor. He was the person using a commanding tone toward Xiang Shaoyun, as though he was speaking to his subordinate. He was viewing Xiang Shaoyun with complete disregard.

A few other youths were following behind him as well. None of them was a weakling, and their cultivation levels were around the sixth and seventh stage of the Dragon Ascension Realm. One of them was even an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

In fact, when they had arrived at Lonesoul Island, Ming Feng had already noticed Xiang Shaoyun. He could feel that Xiang Shaoyun had impressive combat strength, but Ming Feng was never one to submit to anyone. Thus, he wouldn't show any fear toward Xiang Shaoyun. In any case, he also had several powerful followers with him. He was confident Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't do something stupid in this situation.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Ming Feng's group. He pulled the banner out of the altar and started striding toward Ming Feng one step at a time.

"Young Master Feng, looks like that kid is quite smart after all," said the eighth-stage Emperor beside Ming Feng.

A different person agreed, "That's right. A real hero will always be able to recognize the situation he's in. Young Master Feng is the number one disciple of our academy. Even if this kid is blind, he will know what to do in this situation."

Ming Feng smiled proudly, and the people in his group laughed. In their eyes, Xiang Shaoyun was a clown. There was no doubt that he would submit before them. Little did they know, they were the clowns in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes.

A smirk formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face as he said, "You want the banner? Catch it."

Whoosh!

The banner unfurled amid the wind, and a ferocious and bloody killing intent spread out. This was the symbol of an undefeated army. A bloody aura and countless evil spirits instantly flooded forth toward Ming Feng and his group. Almost instantaneously, they all melted into a clump of waste. Their souls became one of the spirits inhabiting the banner. Henceforth, the human named Ming Feng ceased to exist.

This was a war banner that had never lost a battle. It had bathed in the blood of countless warriors, and it had devoured countless evil spirits. This combination had transformed the banner into a heaven-defying weapon in and of itself. It would stand tall so long as the person wielding it still stood.

Ming Feng and company were all genius cultivators, but they were nothing before a banner that had bathed in the blood of Saints. In fact, they didn't even realize what was happening even at the moment of their deaths.

Xiang Shaoyun lightly stroked the banner and muttered, "Since you're a banner that has bathed in the blood of countless warriors and has witnessed one victory after another in order to gather the souls of numerous warriors, I shall name you the Holy Spirit Banner."

The banner seemed to understand what Xiang Shaoyun was saying. It started fluttering even in the absence of wind as though responding to Xiang Shaoyun's words and agreeing to its new name.

Xiang Shaoyun kept the Holy Spirit Banner away before retrieving the corpse that was previously possessed by the evil spirit. Not even saint weapons could damage the corpse; it was a true indestructible body. Perhaps it hid even more secrets.

Xiang Shaoyun returned to the altar and searched through the pile of bones. He found several damaged weapons underneath the altar. They had lost their spirituality and luster. Even so, some useful materials could still be extracted from them, and they would all be saint-grade materials.

The materials would come in handy when he needed to reforge the Overlord Skyslaying Saber and return the saber to its past glory. After putting away all the damaged weapons, he went on the road again. This time, his target was the saint tree.

The saint tree seemed like it was an existence separate from the entire secret space. A saintly radiance surrounded its surroundings, and an aura of vigor spread around it, making its immediate vicinity look alive. No evil spirits could enter the tree's sphere of influence as there seemed to be some sort of power repelling them.

Many disciples noticed that the tree was bearing fruit. Thus, many of them were heading toward the tree. The Dragon Phoenix Academy's Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha were among them.

Gui Mochou wasn't supposed to be able to participate in the competition, but Shadowflash and Feng Huosuo could easily empty a spot for him. And here he was. The two were aware that Xiang Shaoyun was also in the secret space, so they had been trying to keep a low profile so as not to get into a conflict with Xiang Shaoyun. They knew well that his strength was too scary for them to deal with.

Naturally, there were other Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples near the tree as well. However, the disciples with the highest chance of getting whatever was at the tree were the three freaks from the True Martial Academy and the two freaks from the Nine Palace Academy.

They were now standing before the saint tree, finally getting a clear look at it. The tree was called the saint soul tree, and it bore a type of fruit called the saint soul fruit. This fruit could let any Sovereign's soul easily match the level of a Heaven Battling Realm cultivator's soul. With it, one could instantly forge a saintly soul, greatly shortening one's distance from the Heaven Battling Realm.

It wasn't surprising for a saint soul tree to grow here, with the numerous bones and evil spirits everywhere. This was the kind of unique environment that would grow a tree like this after a long period of time.

Nine saint soul fruits could be seen hanging from the tree branches. There were about 60 disciples gathered around the tree. The fruits were definitely not enough for all of them, and a bitter battle for the fruits was definitely coming.

Each fruit was the size of a fist and shone with captivating radiance. The fruit was shaped like the face of a baby, giving one a sense of disconnect when looking at it. Everyone gulped, wanting to be the first to gather up all the fruit.

A freak from the True Martial Academy declared, "These nine fruits are ours. None of you can touch them."

"Who do you think you are? These fruits are without an owner. They will belong to whoever is capable enough to get them," said someone else with a resentful voice. They even attacked in anger, triggering the start of the battle.

The dozens of disciples present started fighting each other for the saint soul fruits. Some did not engage in the battle. Instead, they made use of their speed and rushed the tree. But when they approached, their souls were struck heavily. With a wail, they were sent flying.

"Damn it! This tree is capable of soul attacks!" someone cried out in alarm.

Chapter 942: I'm Taking These

The saint soul tree was not classified as a devilish or demonic plant. It was known as a saint tree that was sentient. It was capable of determining that the humans around it were trying to take advantage of it, and it naturally wouldn't sit around doing nothing.

The saint soul tree emanated some sort of power that strongly suppressed one's soul. Even a Soul Foundation Realm expert would have a hard time withstanding this pressure and would return empty-handed.

When the disciples realized this, they stopped fighting each other. They took out their respective soul defense items and approached the tree. Some overconfident people thought they could withstand the pressure, so they strode forward with their helmets on, but they were only able to take a few steps before their helmets burst apart, and they died, their blood flowing out of their seven orifices.

The sight of their deaths stopped the others in their tracks. The pressure emanated by the saint soul tree was definitely at a level similar to a Saint. Without a defensive item at the saint-grade or higher, one would not be able to approach the tree.

A certain disciple from the True Martial Academy was confident in his abilities. Instead of being scared off, he put on an ancient helmet and stepped forward. The power of the saint soul tree churned and turned as a powerful soul power wrapped around the True Martial Academy disciple. Everyone thought he would suffer, but he actually continued stepping forward one step at a time.

A lot of them became anxious, but there was nothing they could do. There were only nine fruits, and with that disciple advancing toward the tree, at least one of the fruits would be his. If they didn't get to work, the fruits would all fall into the hands of others.

A different disciple from the True Martial Academy took out a saint shield. He raised the shield above his head, not giving the saint soul tree any chance to attack him. Like the person before him, he slowly advanced toward the tree.

A Nine Palace Academy disciple took out a circular slab and raised it above his head before he advanced toward the tree as well. The other disciples in the area also took out their respective treasures and started approaching the tree.

From the Dragon Phoenix Academy's side, Gui Mochou took out two puppets and sent them toward the tree. They weren't life puppets, so they did not fear the tree's soul pressure. And even if the tree could somehow destroy them, Gui Mochou would still be safe.

When the others saw his actions, more people took out their puppets and sent them toward the tree. And just like that, claims were laid on all nine of the saint soul fruits. But, of course, it was still unclear who would be the one to ultimately get them.

As for the disciples without any means to approach the tree, they were unwilling to leave. They stayed around and waited for someone to leave with the saint soul fruit since that would be their last chance at getting the fruit for themselves.

Disciples were heading toward the tree from nine different directions. When they neared the tree, the pressure became stronger. In turn, their march became increasingly difficult. Any carelessness would cause one to die from the destruction of one's soul. On the contrary, the puppets were completely unaffected, and the fruits were soon within their reach.

Feng Xiaosha smiled at Gui Mochou and said, "Senior brother is impressive as always. But we need to be careful and not allow others to steal from us."

"Anyone daring to provoke me will regret it," said Gui Mochou with a snort. Eight emperor-grade puppets appeared around him. They were enough to frighten the disciples near him.

"Haha, I'll congratulate you in advance for reaching the Heaven Battling Realm, senior brother," said Feng Xiaosha.

"It's only a matter of time before I reach that realm," said Gui Mochou with a calm smile. "Don't you worry, junior brother. One of these fruits will be yours."

"Thank you very much, senior brother!" said Feng Xiaosha, overjoyed.

The saint soul fruit was practically a ticket to the Soul Foundation Realm. How could Feng Xiaosha not be happy? At this moment, a figure suddenly rushed toward the tree in the direction of Gui Mochou's puppet.

"Audacious!" Gui Mochou roared.

"Who is that? Are you trying to die?" Feng Xiaosha snapped as well.

But when they saw who the newcomer was, their eyes widened in shock and indignation.

"I'll be taking these fruits," said the newcomer. He was walking beneath the saint soul fruit like he was taking a stroll in a park. He was completely unaffected by the soul pressure. Standing there with his head turned to face them, he had a provocative look on his face as he spoke to Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha.

The disciples in the area were astonished. One ought to know that even those with saint-grade items couldn't walk toward the tree as casually as this person. For him to completely disregard the pressure, was he using some kind of ultimate treasure, or was he simply insanely talented?

The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun, who had just come from the altar. Xiang Shaoyun had the Nether Soul Dragon Headband, one of the most valuable treasures of the Imperial Nether Clan. Its grade was above the saint grade, and naturally, it could easily withstand the saint soul tree's pressure.

Xiang Shaoyun was quite surprised to see a saint soul tree here. The saint soul tree was a top-tier tree that would only bloom once every 5,000 years and bear fruit after 50,000 years. Even a Saint would benefit greatly from consuming a saint soul fruit. Xiang Shaoyun would naturally not miss the chance to pocket some of its fruits.

As he happened to have a grudge against Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha, he could both profit and infuriate them by stealing the fruits from them. It was an excellent way for him to get a little revenge on them.

"Xiang Shaoyun, if you dare to lay your hands on my saint soul fruit, I will tear you apart," said Gui Mochou as he gnashed his teeth.

Feng Xiaosha also threatened, "Xiang Shaoyun, you should be aware that the two elders coming with us on this expedition are my uncle and martial uncle. With them, you won't be able to escape. You better make the right choice, and we might consider sparing you. Else, you will die, and your Overlord Legion members will all be expelled from the academy. Or they might even die alongside you."

Feng Xiaosha was sinister, threatening even the others for being related to Xiang Shaoyun. It was clear he wasn't about to let Xiang Shaoyun get away with the saint soul fruit. But Xiang Shaoyun did not say anything. His reply came in the form of his action. He pulled both his arms back before throwing his fists out to blast the two puppets apart. He then easily plucked two saint soul fruits for himself.

He smelled the fruits, and a bewitching expression covered his face. He said, "Worthy of being saint fruits. Their sweet scent went straight to the bottom of my heart, and I feel like my very soul is floating."

Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha were enraged.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I will not let this go!" Gui Mochou roared.

Feng Xiaosha also shouted murderously, "Bastard, if you don't hand the fruits over, you will regret being born. All 18 generations of your family will suffer alongside you."

"Hehe, you sure are loud. Since it has come to this, all of you might as well go on to the afterlife," said Xiang Shaoyun with his eyes narrowed. Then, he charged at them.

Chapter 943: Get Lost

There were nine saint soul fruits in total. Xiang Shaoyun wanted all of them, but he knew he couldn't be too greedy. Otherwise, he would turn into a public enemy. Obviously, he wasn't afraid of offending everyone, but it was always better to exercise moderation. He was not interested in also offending the organizations backing all these disciples since it would be unwise.

At the same time, he also wanted to get rid of both Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha as these two were the ones that would give him more trouble in the future.

"Let's go," said Gui Mochou. He did not dare to wait even a second longer when he noticed Xiang Shaoyun heading toward him. He quickly grabbed Feng Xiaosha and withdrew at top speed.

Gui Mochou was someone who had witnessed the might of Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain. Although they wanted to kill Xiang Shaoyun, they also knew they weren't capable enough right now. They would think of ways to deal with him after leaving the area. As the two retreated, the eight puppets charged Xiang Shaoyun, trying to buy time for the two to escape.

The eight emperor-grade puppets swarmed Xiang Shaoyun. Anyone else would have a hard time getting tangled with these puppets. But Xiang Shaoyun had an unrivaled speed and could completely disregard them. Like a slippery eel, he swam through the puppets before continuing after Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha.

"Don't even dream of escaping today," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He threw out two punches, sending two lightning fists flying toward Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha.

"Junior brother, use your Wind Boots," Gui Mochou shouted in alarm.

Feng Xiaosha did not hesitate, and a pair of extraordinary-looking boots appeared around his feet. His speed instantly multiplied, and the same happened to Gui Mochou. Both of them were wind cultivators, so speed had always been their strong suit. With the addition of the Wind Boots, they were far faster than regular Sovereigns.

With Xiang Shaoyun's speed, he could catch them easily if he wanted, but he stopped after some hesitation. Looking at their swiftly departing backs, he smiled and said, "Perhaps it's even better to make you two flee like rats whenever you see me. I'll kill you when it's almost time to leave this space."

He would not spare the two as they were as good as mortal enemies now. The only reason he wasn't giving chase was because he wanted to obtain more saint soul fruits. All nine fruits had been plucked. The True Martial Academy disciples had obtained three, the Nine Palace Academy disciples had obtained two, the Sacred Deer Academy disciples had obtained one, and Lei Bao, from the Dragon Phoenix Academy, had obtained one. Including the two in Xiang Shaoyun's hands, all nine had been accounted for.

Of course, they were not the ultimate owners of the fruits. The moment they attempted to leave, other disciples started trying to snatch the fruits from them. Naturally, some of them had their eyes set on Xiang Shaoyun. After all, he had two fruits on him. It wasn't surprising that he would attract some envious eyes.

"Brother, I'm Gu Feng from the True Martial Academy. I hope to trade for one of your saint soul fruits. I am willing to pay any price," offered a woman with bright red hair and a seductive outfit.

Not only was she dressed seductively, she also had a voluptuous figure that could infatuate anyone. Her enchanting face could charm any heart. Anyone seeing her would be inclined to agree that she was basically a walking temptation.

Gu Feng had great strength, and she was one of the top 18 disciples of the True Martial Academy. She was ranked seventh and was a late ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. She came from the main branch of an ancient clan.

Two men were following her around. They had similarly impressive strengths as well. One was a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, while the other was a peak eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. They were respectively known as Ling Zhiyan and Li Zhensheng.

They had their auras locked on Xiang Shaoyun. The moment he rejected the offer, they would attack.

Xiang Shaoyun glanced at Gu Feng and smiled before answering, "Sure. If you can offer a saint-grade item of similar value, I don't mind trading."

Saint-grade items were incredibly rare, and Xiang Shaoyun was interested in seeing a wider variety of them. If the other party really had some, he wouldn't mind trading. If not, he wouldn't waste any time on them.

"I don't have any saint-grade items on me for now, but I have a top-quality sovereign armor. If you want some sovereign techniques or materials, I can offer those up as well," said Gu Feng. Her tone might be polite, but her eyes contained an arrogance that would cause someone to feel uncomfortable.

"Kid, what are you waiting for? Take out the saint soul fruit. Oh, I'm buying your second saint soul fruit," demanded the ninth-stage Emperor beside Gu Feng.

As far as they were concerned, Xiang Shaoyun was only a peak seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He was nothing, even if he was the disciple of the so-called lord guardian.

Each person capable of entering the True Martial Academy was someone with a powerful backer. They naturally wouldn't fear anyone. It was undeniable that Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level was practically a big scam. If they knew his true combat strength, they wouldn't act so unbridled before him.

"Hehe, so this is your so-called trade," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. His entire bearing underwent a complete change as he roared, "Get lost!"

As he roared, his soul unleashed the pressure of a sixth-stage Sovereign. Gu Feng and her two attendants immediately felt as though they were facing a super expert, and they stepped back instinctively. An unnatural expression covered their faces.

Xiang Shaoyun then ignored them and charged toward a different direction. He was heading toward where a Sacred Deer Academy had just been forced to hand over a saint soul fruit. The disciple was an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator and had plucked the fruit using a puppet.

However, the strength of him and his companions wasn't enough to keep the fruit, and they were forced to hand it over. Between their lives and the fruit, they naturally chose the former. The saint soul fruit was tossed out in no specific direction.

Chaos ensued as True Martial Academy and Nine Palace Academy disciples started fighting over it. Numerous energies tossed the fruit up and down in the air, like a game of volleyball.

The disciples did not dare to use too much strength with their energies as they were afraid to accidentally damage the fruit. Finally, a True Martial Academy disciple famed for his speed appeared before the saint soul fruit like a gust of wind and reached for it.

Right that moment, a figure moving at an even faster speed came and snatched the fruit. Attacks flooded in from all directions toward that person. Each attack was as powerful as the attack of a peak Emperor. There were even a few attacks as powerful as a Sovereign's.

Chapter 944: Alone Against the Heroes of the World

The person who had snatched the saint soul fruit was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. His speed was unrivaled, and he was confident nobody here could match him in speed. The moment he obtained the fruit, he was attacked from all directions.

Their bombardment was not something he could resolve with speed alone; he could only erect his defenses. Six layers of Goldplates wrapped around his body, turning him into a bright golden statue that forcefully withstood the barrage. More than 10 Emperors attacked him at the same time. The combination of their attacks was powerful enough to kill even a Sovereign.

And yet Xiang Shaoyun was able to forcefully resist the attack. All six layers of his Goldplates were shattered, and his actual body suffered many attacks. However, his body had been tempered by flame and lightning and was incredibly tough. Thus, he did not suffer any heavy injuries. Without wasting any time, he used the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps to quickly move away after the attacks landed.

There were still many interesting locations to visit in the secret space. He had already gotten three saint soul fruits, so there was no need to try getting more. It was better to search other locations to see if he could get anything elsewhere. But before he could flee, a figure appeared before him like a gust of wind and attacked mercilessly.

Splitting the Heaven and Earth!

The ambusher attacked with all his might immediately, sending numerous blades of wind forward. The profundity of wind powered his technique, giving it a might seemingly capable of splitting the heaven and earth. In fact, his attack was as powerful as an attack from a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator.

This attacker was one of the True Martial Academy prodigies, Liu Yuanhao. He was someone with excellent wind manipulation skills, and he was also the person Xiang Shaoyun had stolen the fruit from. He was obviously not willing to let Xiang Shaoyun go and wanted to get the fruit back.

Apart from him, a few others rushed over and attacked as well. One of them attacked with an axe, sending domineering axe energies forward that blocked all possible escape routes. Another person stabbed with his sword repeatedly, sealing the space surrounding Xiang Shaoyun and getting ready to stab him the moment he attempted to escape.

They were each a giant among men and among the strongest in their generation. How would Xiang Shaoyun deal with them?

"All who get in my way will die!" Xiang Shaoyun unleashed the might of his Tiger's Roar. His voice resounded in the vicinity, and as his battle intent surged, he threw his fists out. A fearsome golden radiance shot out and transformed into a charging white tiger.

A large amount of vicious gold energy flooded out as numerous golden fists rained down like meteors, blasting the incoming attacks apart. Instead of fleeing, Xiang Shaoyun unleashed more attacks toward the person blocking his path. Each of his punches contained a supreme fist intent, and their torrential fist energies crashed forth and forced the person before him to retreat repeatedly.

The person blocking his path was fast, but Xiang Shaoyun was faster. The blocker didn't even have the chance to counterattack and could only focus on protecting himself. Luckily for him, Xiang Shaoyun was only utilizing a single star. Otherwise, he would have died by now.

But since Xiang Shaoyun was only using one star, the others quickly found the chance to form a new encirclement around him. They attacked with sovereign weapons, and if Xiang Shaoyun failed to avoid their attacks, he might be sliced into pieces.

As they ganged up on him, Xiang Shaoyun smirked. He unleashed his wind and lightning stars, instantly creating a storm around him.

Wind and Lightning!

A ferocious tornado lashed out like a mighty dragon, tearing the very air apart. The incoming attacks were all ripped apart, and numerous silver lightning bolts as thick as water buckets formed in the sky above them. Over 100 lightning bolts rained down, creating a terrifying sea of lightning. A calamity causing despair had descended upon them.

This terrifying attack had surpassed all their imaginations and was as strong as an attack from a fourth-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Even in this place where genius among geniuses gathered, few could gain such combat prowess.

With only two stars, Xiang Shaoyun was able to unleash such power. Instantly, three of his attackers were blasted away. Without their defensive armors, they would have been instantly killed by the storm.

The others weren't able to last long either. They fled the storm one after another. The attack was too terrifying, and it had a long duration. Not even these geniuses could stay too long inside the storm.

"Thank you for your time. I'll be taking my leave," said Xiang Shaoyun before leaving like a gust of wind, leaving behind nothing but a series of afterimages.

"Holy shit, that guy is so strong. Is he really only a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator? If someone tells me he's a peak Emperor, I would believe them," said someone.

"He lives up to his identity as the disciple of the lord guardian who even the elders need to respect. He is already this strong as a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He is probably comparable with that reckless kid from our academy," lamented someone.

"I really don't understand why the Dragon Phoenix Academy would expel a prodigy like him. They don't even want a disciple with such a high chance to become the ultimate winner of this competition? Have the Dragon Phoenix Academy elders gone blind?"

...

One could say that Xiang Shaoyun had won his fame in a single battle.

At a different area in the secret space was a lake. Something amazing had similarly been found there, but the treasures had been divided by the disciples that had headed there.

At the lake, a big battle had erupted between Baili Yixiao and the fourth-ranked disciple from the True Martial Academy. Ultimately, Baili Yixiao won and swaggered off with a treasure from the lake.

Baili Yixiao's name spread throughout the four academies, becoming one of the favorites to win the tournament.

At a different location, Zhan Wushuang had also spread his fame far and wide through his pair of fists. He alone delivered a crushing defeat to two geniuses from the Nine Palace Academy. He also ended up with the biggest gains at that location.

However, the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples were definitely not the strongest in the secret space. For example, Yu Ziyang had suffered a defeat under the True Martial Academy's Devil Concubine. If Yu Caidie hadn't arrived at the last moment to help him, he would have been killed. Devil Concubine was akin to a thorny rose.

Additionally, Ouyang Chuanqi and Han Chenfei had suffered a defeat under the hands of Little Overlord, Chen Xi. Fortunately, Ouyang Chuanqi was strong enough and Han Chenfei had reached the ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm not long ago. Thus, they were able to safely retreat with Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, and Yuan Xuefen.

At this phase of the competition, the True Martial Academy disciples had obtained an advantage over all the other academies.

Chapter 945: Golden Lake

It was becoming apparent that the secret space had a lot of good stuff in it. Some had obtained saint soul fruits, some had obtained goldblood stones, and some had obtained damaged saint equipment.

Of course, there were also some who had been killed by evil spirits and others who had perished from other dangers. From the initial 401 disciples that had come to the island, 376 of them had managed to enter the secret space. A small part of them had made some gains, and about 40 of them had died.

They were all genius cultivators from all corners of the world. Each of them had the potential to reach the Heaven Battling Realm. Each death was a great loss to the dominion. At this rate, in less than six months, it would be great if half of them were still alive.

But that was how cruel the competition was. Only those who could rise among all the geniuses present would be considered giants among men.

After obtaining three saint soul fruits, Xiang Shaoyun solicited a lot of envy and was now a public enemy. Everyone was trying to find him and snatch the saint soul fruits in his hands.

Xiang Shaoyun was only one person, and he wasn't part of the four academies. With Gui Mochou and Feng Xiaosha fanning the flame, it was natural that he was turned into a public enemy.

However, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have vanished after obtaining the three fruits. Nobody could find him, and some were even wondering if either he was hiding somewhere to consume the fruits or had left the secret space entirely.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't leave the secret space. Nor would he leave. He had merely turned invisible and started searching the space for treasures. This was an ancient battlefield. Many heroes had perished here. During the long passage of time, the place had also been intermittently conquered by some other people. Eventually, such a unique space came into existence.

Xiang Shaoyun started roaming the secret space, picking up the others' leftovers. He went through the places other disciples had gone through, and he managed to obtain some undiscovered treasures he found through his Nether Soul Domain senses.

Although these leftovers weren't as valuable as the saint soul fruits, they were still rare sovereign materials and could still be considered great gains. Among the leftovers he picked up, a certain damaged saint armor was the most valuable of them all. Perhaps it was badly damaged, but it was still good enough to protect him against top-quality sovereign weapons.

Money had also found some items he could devour. Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even recognize them, so he allowed Money to do as he wished to them.

A month passed. Apart from picking up leftovers, Xiang Shaoyun had constantly suppressed his cultivation base and purified his draconic aura. It had now reached 79.9 percent, and he could enter the eighth stage at any time, but Xiang Shaoyun decided to delay his breakthrough. He wanted to break through at a more opportune moment.

Xiang Shaoyun appeared before a golden lake. This was the same lake where someone had discovered some goldblood stones.

The goldblood stone was a high-tier sovereign stone. It could allow one to cultivate the goldblood battle aura that could easily increase one's battle strength by 50 percent. Such an increase in strength was fatally attractive to any cultivator.

Of course, the golden lake was also extremely dangerous because a gold-scaled dragon turtle resided in the lake. It was a peak Demon Sovereign, and many disciples had entered the lake without returning. Eventually, many of them no longer dared to enter.

The disciple that had obtained the goldblood stones had only obtained them due to luck. In fact, he didn't have the courage to enter the lake once more. Thus, the golden lake and its surroundings calmed down and became relatively tranquil. Xiang Shaoyun stopped his invisibility and stood beside the lake. Looking at the lake, he muttered, "Is there really a gold-scaled dragon turtle here? It's not a corpse under control of some evil spirit, right?"

The gold-scaled dragon turtle was a powerful demonic beast with a trace of dragon blood flowing in its veins. Not only did it have powerful defenses, its offensive prowess was also far higher than other demonic turtles.

Xiang Shaoyun was naturally not here because he wanted to pit himself against the gold-scaled dragon turtle. All he wanted was a piece of goldblood stone. Although he had formed the nine-colored fog, also known as the primal inception energy, from his nine energies, it did not mean that he was undefeated among his peers.

After all, he still didn't have an unending supply. He could only use the primal inception energy each time he accumulated a certain amount. He did not have near enough of the energy to use it as he wished. Furthermore, the little tree of life, the gold tree sapling, and the other plants in his astral cosmos sea also needed the nourishment of the nine-colored fog.

If he could obtain a piece of goldblood stone, he would be able to increase his combat strength by about 50 percent. For him, the stone was an absolute treasure, something worth taking the risk of making this trip.

According to the other disciples, the goldblood stones could only be found at the bottom of the lake. This signified that one would only be able to obtain some goldblood stones by diving to the bottom of the lake, the same place where the gold-scaled dragon turtle resided.

One could see just how risky it was to get to reach the lakebed. Xiang Shaoyun withdrew his presence and started studying the lake. The lake wasn't small, and some gold elemental plants were growing around it. However, their grades were low, so the disciples hadn't bothered to harvest any of them. Xiang Shaoyun didn't gather them either.

"Just what am I supposed to do to get myself some goldblood stones?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered as he rested his chin on his palm.

He could rely on his soul clone, the Radiant Saint Sword, and the chakram. However, he was far too weak compared to the gold-scaled dragon turtle. It did not seem possible that he could rely on equipment to take down the beast.

"Boss, you can use your gold lunar liquid here! Perhaps that old turtle likes this thing? You also have some saint gold crystals. That old turtle will definitely trade with you," Money suggested.

"True! Why didn't I think of that?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in realization.

The gold lunar liquid was no regular liquid. It wouldn't have been found beside the white tiger remains otherwise. Furthermore, it was extremely treasured by the goldmen. For them, the gold lunar liquid was a holy liquid, as the liquid could do more than increasing their strength. The liquid could also purify their bloodline. In fact, this liquid was loved by any gold elemental race.

Xiang Shaoyun had a pool of such gold lunar liquid in his astral cosmos sea. It was currently being used to nourish the vicious tiger gold lotus, and he still had a lot. As for the saint gold crystals, he had obtained them by trading with the goldman prince.

He walked toward the lake and shouted, "The lord residing in the lake, please show yourself. This kid has something to discuss."

His voice spread across the calm lake.

Chapter 946: Transacting With the Goldmark Toad

The lake remained calm, showing no response whatsoever. Xiang Shaoyun shouted a few more times, leaving his voice reverberating in the area. But still, no response came.

"Boss, time to apply some force," said Money.

"Sure. Feel free to go into the lake and get that fellow out for me," Xiang Shaoyun agreed.

"Boss, that's not a good idea. I'm still too young. I'm not used to dealing with an old fellow like that," said Money timidly.

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and said, "What else can we do, then? Continue shouting. I believe that fellow will come out sooner or later."

After a while of shouting, Xiang Shaoyun took some gold lunar liquid out when he saw that the gold-scaled dragon turtle was still not responding. He said, "The lord in the lake, I have some gold lunar liquid here. This is a gift this kid has prepared for you. If you like it, please grant this kid an audience."

He then poured a few drops of the gold lunar liquid into the lake. The gold lunar liquid mixed with the lake, causing a spot on the lake to become more vibrant as though a golden lotus was blooming. It presented quite a dazzling sight.

Xiang Shaoyun stared at the lake, hoping for any sort of response. Unsurprisingly, a change appeared on the surface of the lake. A dreadful attraction force appeared and devoured a large amount of the lake water and all the gold lunar liquid that had dripped into the lake. In fact, the water level of the lake dropped somewhat by the time it finished.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly stepped back. He knew the gold-scaled dragon turtle was about to appear.

Whoosh!

A towering figure burst out of the lake, sprinkling the area with golden drops of lake water. Xiang Shaoyun's eyes widened as he stared at the enormous figure. With a look of disbelief, he said, "This is the so-called gold-scaled dragon turtle? Are you kidding me?"

The figure before him was not a gold-scaled dragon turtle. It was a goldmark toad covered in protrusions. Its body was the size of a small hill, and golden stripes akin to a mysterious formation lined its whole body. Its massive eyes stared down at Xiang Shaoyun, causing him to feel a chill creep up his spine.

"Human kid, hand over your gold lunar liquid, and I'll spare your life," said the goldmark toad.

The goldmark toad was an extremely rare demonic beast. Although it wasn't a species naturally born for battle, it could devour everything in existence. Thus, goldmark toads could wreak great destruction. More importantly, their blood was an extremely precious healing item that could save anyone on the verge of death with only a single drop.

Xiang Shaoyun recollected his thoughts and said, "Lord toad, this kid is interested in conducting a transaction with you. I need a piece of goldblood stone, and I'll give you some gold lunar liquid in return. What do you think?"

"Kid, you're quite gutsy to talk terms with me. Hand the liquid over, or I'll swallow you alive," threatened the goldmark toad as he sent his demonic aura forth toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense a strong pressure pushing down on him. He hurriedly stepped back and ran away without a second thought. He knew the goldmark toad was probably not planning to have a fair trade with him. If he still stayed, he would be stupid.

Xiang Shaoyun moved deftly and was one kilometer away in the blink of an eye. That far away, he finally felt safe. But the moment he thought of that, a fearsome attraction force started dragging him back toward the lake.

"Shit! Gravity field!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he utilized the profundity of earth. His entire body glowed with a brown radiance as layers of heavy energy wrapped around him. The air around him twisted as the gravity worked at stabilizing his footing.

Alas, the goldmark toad's devouring force was too terrifying. The gravity field instantly collapsed, and Xiang Shaoyun was pulled over like a weed pulled from its roots. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had a rich experience facing many powerful young experts. When he was about to get pulled into the goldmark toad's mouth, the Holy Spirit Banner appeared in his hand. He swung it at the toad.

The Holy Spirit Banner was a saint weapon that had come to form through a series of evolutions. It contained the resentment of countless evil spirits and the blood of numerous warriors, which was how the banner had turned into something more than a war banner and become a fatal weapon.

A torrential resentment surged forth toward the goldmark toad. The power behind the resentment was enough to turn any Emperor into ashes and destroy a Saint's soul foundation.

The goldmark toad finally felt fear. He stopped inhaling and started exhaling, pushing the power of resentment far away together with Xiang Shaoyun and his banner. Xiang Shaoyun cut a sorry figure as he was blown far away, and he was disoriented for a second.

He quickly calmed his mind and got back on his feet. His first thought was to flee because he wasn't confident the Holy Spirit Banner alone was enough to defeat the toad. But before he could, with a flash of gold, a figure landed before him.

"Hand over your gold lunar liquid, and I'll trade for it with a goldblood stone," said an incomparably ugly man with golden curly hair.

The middle-aged man was none other than the goldmark toad.

Tightly gripping the Holy Spirit Banner, Xiang Shaoyun asked, "For real?"

Right after he asked, a goldblood stone half the height of an adult thumped onto the ground. He jumped. The goldblood stone looked the same as goldsteel stone, but if one paid more attention, one would be able to see scarlet spots that looked like bloodstains on it. The golden stripes running all over it were incredibly dazzling.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely stunned when he saw the big piece of goldblood stone before him. He was overwhelmed with joy. A goldblood stone this big could totally be split into more than 10 smaller pieces, enough to increase the strength of over 10 cultivators. One ought to know that the goldblood stone found by the previous disciple in the lake was only the size of a fist. It was nothing compared with this piece before them.

"Kid, are you trading or not?" the goldmark toad snapped.

"Of course! Of course I'm trading!" Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly nodded his head.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun took out a jade bottle the size of a regular wine bottle. It was filled with gold lunar liquid. He handed the bottle over and said, "This bottle is filled with gold lunar liquid."

"Just this much?" the goldmark toad grumbled unhappily.

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and answered.

In truth, this bottle of gold lunar liquid was only a fraction of what he had. But he was confident the toad would not reject his offer. Just as the goldmark toad was about to take the bottle, a different voice rang out, "Kid, I have a bigger goldblood stone here. I'll trade for your gold lunar liquid."

Chapter 947: Gold-Scaled Dragon Turtle

Who would have guessed that someone was actually able to approach Xiang Shaoyun and the goldmark toad undetected? Before Xiang Shaoyun even knew what was happening, he heard a muffled sound as another goldblood stone landed on the ground before him. This piece of goldblood stone was about 50 percent bigger than what the goldmark toad offered.

Xiang Shaoyun burned with excitement. Just one of these two was valuable enough to purchase saint-grade items. But when he looked around, he couldn't find the speaker. He muttered in confusion, "Where is he?"

"Kid, are you blind? Can't you see that this lord is here?" the voice came out again.

Xiang Shaoyun searched his surroundings, and he even released the Nether Soul Domain's senses. Even so, he still couldn't find anyone. He answered timidly, "Lord, I really can't see you."

"So you are indeed blind. How can you not see this lord's heroic, handsome, imposing, and extraordinary body?" the same voice complained resentfully.

At this time, the goldmark toad snorted coldly and said with his head lowered, "Old turtle, are you really going to fight over this gold lunar liquid with me?"

Xiang Shaoyun followed his gaze and saw a golden turtle the size of a fist. It was unknown when this turtle had arrived. This little golden turtle can't be the one talking to me, right? Xiang Shaoyun wondered inwardly.

"Get lost, stupid toad," berated the turtle. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "What is that look in your eyes, kid? Are you looking down on this lord? Do you want to be swallowed alive?"

Finally, Xiang Shaoyun confirmed that this little turtle was the one speaking. When he heard the kind of tone the turtle used when speaking to the toad, Xiang Shaoyun quickly waved his hands and said, "How would I dare to look down on you, lord? You are handsome, carefree, majestic, and mighty. This kid's respect for you is as boundless as the unceasing torrents of a flooding river."

Xiang Shaoyun continued singing the turtle praises using 10 different terms without repeating a single one. This wasn't an easy thing to do.

"You're quite smart, with all things considered," said the turtle smugly. "Come, hand your gold lunar liquid to this lord."

"Kid, you dare? Hand it over here!" shouted the furious goldmark toad as he reached for the bottle in Xiang Shaoyun's hand.

The toad was too fast for Xiang Shaoyun to react. Before he knew it, the bottle was gone from his hand. However, the turtle abruptly shot up from the ground and bit the toad's hand. The toad instantly released the bottle as though he had suffered an electric shock. The turtle took the chance to quickly catch the bottle with his mouth.

The toad naturally wouldn't let this rest. He slammed his palm down at the turtle. His palm glowed brilliantly, and the energy eruption sent Xiang Shaoyun flying far away and slammed him into the ground. Without the damaged saint armor he was wearing, he would have died or been heavily injured.

I'm suffering for nothing! I haven't even gotten the chance to get the goldblood stone! Xiang Shaoyun grumbled inwardly.

He did not dare to approach and collect the goldblood stone. He was afraid that a random aftershock would kill him. It wasn't worth losing his life like that. He hurriedly fled farther from the battle, intending to collect the goldblood stone after the two were done fighting.

I need to get both the stones! These are great treasures to increase my combat strength, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his palms.

At this moment, the goldmark toad was completely enraged. He sent repeated palm attacks at the little golden turtle. The entire area was covered in a terrifying gold radiance. In the blink of an eye, numerous craters riddled the ground.

The little turtle hopped about repeatedly as he roared, "Toad, are you trying to challenge me? Do you want me to turn your nest upside down?"

"Old bastard, give up all the gold lunar liquid, or I won't stop until you're dead!" shouted the furious goldmark toad.

He was a peak Demon Sovereign. His combat strength was terrifying, and if he really decided to fight the turtle for real, the entire area would probably be flattened.

The little turtle said proudly, "Impossible. This lord is stronger than you. What can you do to me? Do you want to get kicked out of the lake?"

"Fine. Today, I'll fight you to the death!" answered the goldmark toad. Golden lines suddenly appeared on his forehead. They crisscrossed and formed a sharp radiance that seemed incredibly threatening. It was apparent his attack would be a terrifyingly destructive technique once unleashed.

"Bring it on! You think I'm a pushover? Today, I'll show you who's better between us. We will determine the true master of the lake today!" said the turtle. He stopped holding back, and his body instantly enlarged. His golden shell became as large as a mountain, and on the shell were numerous golden lines.

The lines seemed to represent a different power from the ones on the goldmark toad. His head gained some resemblance to a dragon's head and emanated the same sort of pressure that made it clear he was not a regular demonic beast.

"Gold-scaled dragon turtle!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in shock.

He was aware there was a gold-scaled dragon turtle in the lake, but when the goldmark toad appeared, he thought that the disciples were mistaken. Surprisingly, there really was a gold-scaled dragon turtle.

The gold-scaled dragon turtle was no weaker than the goldmark toad. In fact, he was slightly stronger. His massive body moved like a moving mountain as he threw a punch out with a shout, "Witness my Overlord Fist!"

A golden fist crushed forth in the form of a terrifying clump of energy, leaving a deep trench in its path as it advanced. At the same time, the golden energy on the toad's forehead shot forward. The lines crisscrossed to form a golden net before clashing with the incoming fist energy.

A massive golden explosion erupted, causing the earth to quake and the mountains to shake. Xiang Shaoyun scampered off in a panic. In his attempt to escape, he reached the lake again. In fact, he nearly fell inside.

"My goldblood stones!" Xiang Shaoyun wailed as the goldblood stones were no longer anywhere to be seen. The explosion must have engulfed them, and it was very like that both stones had been destroyed. He could feel his heart bleeding with a sense of loss.

No, no, I can't give up like this! I already handed over my gold lunar liquid, so I must be compensated! yelled Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. He spun around and looked at the lake. After clenching his teeth, he jumped inside.

Since the goldblood stones came from the bottom of the lake, there should be more down in the lakebed.

Chapter 948: Unusual Lake Water

There was something unusual about the golden lake's water. The moment Xiang Shaoyun jumped inside, a stinging sensation tormented his entire body as though the lake was made of needles. A regular person would probably wail in pain the moment they jumped into the lake.

Xiang Shaoyun was already a late-stage Emperor, and his physique was amazing as well. This much pain was still bearable.

Something is weird about this water, thought Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He stopped hesitating and dove toward the lakebed. He planned to get his hands on some goldblood stone as soon as possible. The lake was deep, and the water was bone piercing. The stinging sensation grew increasingly uncomfortable. The deeper he dove, the stronger the pain. Even someone like Xiang Shaoyun was forced to protect himself with a protective barrier.

Is there something special about this lake? Xiang Shaoyun wondered inwardly.

The moment he had that thought, he had the urge to figure out its secret. He quickly suppressed his desire and shifted his focus back to his search for the goldblood stones.

The golden water was incredibly bright, making it hard for one to see underwater. Of course, that wasn't much of an issue for Xiang Shaoyun as his vision was far superior to an average person's.

When he was several hundred meters underwater, his discomfort reached an intense level. It was as though he was swimming amid needles, not water. Not even his defensive barrier could protect him, and the stinging sensation assaulted every inch of his skin.

What kind of water is this? This is strong enough to kill even a King, and a regular Emperor will suffer greatly here, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

He started looking around for the goldblood stones, trying to find them as quickly as possible. There was actually a lot of junk at the bottom of the lake. Many preserved corpses could be found as well. There were also some damaged weapons and corpses of mounts. Occasionally, evil spirits would appear out of nowhere, giving one a fright.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't a timid person, and he also had the ghostrunes in his Nether Soul Domain. When the evil spirits tried entering his head, he had the ghostrunes eliminate every single one of them.

He ignored the damaged weapons. Although he could make some gains by searching through them, he was focusing on the goldblood stones because they were much more valuable.

Unfortunately, the goldblood stones weren't everywhere in the lakebed. It was possible that they could only be found at specific spots. Thus, he needed to put some effort into looking for the stones.

Soon, he selected a certain direction to focus in. A blinding golden radiance was also shining in that direction, and the location was emanating an unusual life force. When he sensed it, he hastened his speed.

The water resistance was quite strong in the lake, but for someone who had comprehended the profundity of water like him, the resistance wasn't that big of an issue. As he swam toward his target, the stinging sensation intensified. It seemed like the power causing his discomfort originated from that direction.

He lowered his speed and started advancing slowly. His gift of instincts was fully activated, but his eyes were suffering great pain from the stinging sensation. He even felt like he was about to be stabbed blind. Fortunately, after all the torment, he found some goldblood stones.

Instead of charging over immediately, he shut his eyes and gave his eyes some time to recover. Inwardly, he thought, That can't be the toad's lair, right? Whatever, I'll leave the moment I get the goldblood stone.

He pushed his defenses to the maximum and resumed his advance, but the stinging sensation kept growing. Xiang Shaoyun could only brace himself and continue onward as his defenses were already pushed to his limits.

His destination looked near, but he still spent a long time approaching. There, several goldblood stones could be seen scattered in several different spots. At the very middle of the stones was a clump of golden radiance as bright as a sun. It was quite a mystical sight to behold.

He narrowed his eyes and studied the clump of radiance. He found that the radiance was actually coming from an underwater cave. The goldblood stones were located to the left and right of its entrance, and it felt like they were all a hand's reach from the cave.

Withstanding the great pressure, Xiang Shaoyun approached one goldblood stone. Ever since he arrived, the stinging sensation had grown considerably. Not even his defenses could withstand it, and blood was seeping from his skin.

One ought to know that he was an Emperor as strong as a Sovereign. If even someone like him was injured in the lake, one could only imagine the might of the stinging power. Furthermore, Xiang Shaoyun had a body tempered by flame and lightning. His body was as tough as a sovereign weapon, yet even such a body was injured. Something was definitely weird about the lake water.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped moving and muttered, "Just what kind of water power is this for it to have such a weird effect? Or is this stinging sensation some sort of unique energy coming from the golden radiance?"

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and tossed the thought out of his mind. He continued advancing as the Nether Soul Dragon Headband manifested around his head to protect it against the stinging power.

The nearer he got, the stronger the stinging sensation became. It was now stabbing into his bone marrows, tormenting him with great pain. He gritted his teeth and said, "I must get the goldblood stone!"

With renewed determination, he ignored the pain and increased his speed. His skin, meridians, organs, and bones were all tormented with insane pain. He gnashed his teeth and persevered. Ultimately, he reached the goldblood stone. He hugged it and tried pulling it off the ground.

At this point, he had already forgotten his pain. He only had the goldblood stone in his eyes. Blood continued seeping out of his skin and flowed toward the golden radiance in the cave. Even after using all his strength, he couldn't move the stone. In his desperation, he drew his Radiant Saint

Sword, trying to slice the stone off the ground. Suddenly, the golden radiance intensified. An indescribable power flowed out and wrapped around Xiang Shaoyun.

The power felt like it was formed of countless needles. Blood instantly dyed Xiang Shaoyun red, and his pain reached an even greater level. The stinging sensation even invaded his soul. Without the Nether Soul Dragon Headband's protection, his head would have been turned into a pincushion.

His flesh seemed to be entirely destroyed, and his bones were revealed. He currently presented an overwhelming sight. He felt like he was actually going to die from the pain. A thick aura of death gripped his heart.

"I don't want to die! I have yet to carry on my family line! I'm still a virgin! Refine!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as powerful willpower erupted from within him. He circulated his cultivation method and started refining the stinging energy tormenting him.

Chapter 949: Sarira

The Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual Xiang Shaoyun cultivated was an incredibly powerful cultivation method and was the cultivation that had brought him to the peak of the dominion during his previous life. It had made him the tyrant of swathes of land and had ultimately earned him the moniker Overlord.

As he circulated the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual at full speed, the golden stinging energy was redirected to his gold star. This gold energy was unique, an energy that Xiang Shaoyun still couldn't figure out. He did know, however, that if he couldn't refine the energy assaulting him, he would die.

As Xiang Shaoyun absorbed the energy, he felt as though countless needles were flowing through his meridians. An intense pain coursed through his body, putting him in so much pain he started groaning.

Fortunately, he was somewhat relieved when the energy entered his gold star. The star grew rapidly without suffering too much damage. It seemed this gold energy only damaged things that were corporeal as opposed to inner stars, which were incorporeal energy storage spaces.

This was good news for Xiang Shaoyun as he could now last longer and direct more of the energy into his gold star. The stinging pain constantly tormented him, and every inch of his body was in pain. He even started thinking that death would be a better alternative. However, it also felt like this

was the type of pain that would persist even in death, and it caused an extreme suffering no word could describe.

Before long, Xiang Shaoyun's gold star was completely full. If he wanted to store more, he would have to break through and increase his stars' capacities. Otherwise, the stinging energy would start attacking his body again.

Xiang Shaoyun wasn't given the chance to properly think this out. He had been at the very peak of the seventh stage for a while. It wouldn't be hard for him to break through now despite his pain. However, as his body was in a terrible condition, it wouldn't be beneficial to break through now.

Left with no choice, Xiang Shaoyun could only turn his attention to his astral cosmos sea. He roared, "Go!"

His astral cosmos sea was boundless and capable of holding everything in existence. Unsurprisingly, the entire clump of the golden energy was successfully pulled inside.

The next moment, a clump of powerful gold energy appeared at a certain corner of his astral cosmos sea. The clump wasn't causing any harm, and Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief. He lay limp on the ground and was too tired to even use his Secret Reversal Technique. He only used several drops of silver lightning liquid to heal his injuries.

Afterward, he felt better. He then hastened his body's digestion of the healing energy. While doing so, he recalled the gold-scaled dragon turtle and the goldmark toad fighting outside the lake.

He had no idea when they would return. In his rush, he hurriedly took out the Radiant Saint Sword and swung it around, leaving behind only the bottom part of the stones that were stuck to the ground.

"These are goldblood stones I risked my life to get!" said Xiang Shaoyun with a satisfied smile.

He was able to obtain six pieces of goldblood stones in total. Each of them was of a decent size. A tiny piece sliced off them would be good enough to increase one's strength by 50 percent. If others knew he alone had gotten so many stones, many trade offers would come knocking, and some people would even come robbing.

After putting the stones away, he prepared to leave. But when he looked at the underwater cave, he thought of the possible secret hidden inside. He had a sudden urge to rush inside and uncover it.

"With the clump of energy inside my body, there shouldn't be any other dangers inside. Might as well go take a look," he muttered before rushing over.

The cave wasn't big, and neither was it deep. Before long, Xiang Shaoyun reached the end where there was a golden skeleton. A Buddhist robe was wrapped around it, and the skeleton was obviously the remains of a monk who had passed away in meditation. A hole could be seen within his chest, evidently the cause of his death.

From the golden skeleton's condition, this monk was definitely a Saint when alive. Otherwise, his remains wouldn't be so well-preserved, and the bones wouldn't look so sleek and glossy.

For a super expert like this to be killed, it was obvious just how strong his enemy was. Xiang Shaoyun also noticed that atop the skull of the skeleton was a shiny golden bead. The bead was dazzling and emanated an auspicious and serene aura, giving one a sense of closeness.

He stared at it for a bit and swallowed before muttering, "A-Are these the sarira of the Buddhists?"

The so-called sarira was the essence of a Buddhist high monk's cultivation. Not only did it contain a monk's life cultivation, but it also contained the enlightenment of the monk. Any monk could reach the level of a high monk in the shortest time possible after obtaining one. This was basically the inheritance of a high monk.

This discovery was something Xiang Shaoyun had never imagined. He was naturally overjoyed. But just as he reached out for the sarira, a phantom flew out. He quickly withdrew his hand in fear.

An incomparably handsome monk appeared before him. The monk looked to be about 30 years old, but he had a pair of ancient and profound eyes. His handsome face and righteous bearing gave everyone around him a comfortable sensation, and Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help feeling intimate toward this person even if he was well aware that this was a man.

Bah, how can this Overlord fall for a man? cursed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

"Amitabha. Greetings, young benefactor," greeted the phantom.

Xiang Shaoyun knew that this handsome monk was probably the skeleton's true appearance. He probably existed in the form of a soul, which was a different form of existence than an evil spirit. Evil spirits were formed of resentment, while the monk did not seem to contain any sort of malice. Just that point alone made him feel much safer.

Xiang Shaoyun cupped his hands and greeted, "Greetings, master."

"Young benefactor, since you are able to tame my flux goldthorn energy and reach this place, it proves that we are fated to meet. My final remaining power will be gone soon. I have a request for you, and I will compensate you generously for the request," said the handsome monk.

Xiang Shaoyun became aware that this monk was leaving his will, so he nodded without hesitation. "Just say it, master. I'll do my best to help."

Chapter 950: Flux Finger Sword Technique and Limit Stimulation Technique

Zang Yuan was a disciple of a mysterious ancient Buddhist temple. The temple was called the Righteous Buddhist Sect. It wasn't the oldest Buddhist sect in existence, but it was a branch of the oldest Buddhist sect. The oldest sect had now sealed itself in seclusion, effectively making the Righteous Buddhist Sect the oldest active Buddhist sect. It was now the biggest and strongest Buddhist organization.

Zang Yuan was a high monk from a different era. In fact, it had been almost 10,000 years since he died. He was not this secret space's master. Rather, he was merely someone who had entered by accident while fleeing with heavy injuries. He ultimately hid at the bottom of the lake to heal himself, but his injuries were too heavy. He eventually passed away in meditation.

The golden stinging energy Xiang Shaoyun absorbed was the special energy Zang Yuan cultivated while alive. Although it had weakened considerably after the continuous corrosion in the lake, it was still extremely powerful. One could say that this energy was the reason for the lake to be gold.

Zang Yuan's final wish was to have his sarira delivered back to the Righteous Buddhist Sect. His wish was to be returned to his roots.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately agreed to the request as he said, "Don't worry, master. I will definitely bring your sarira back to the Righteous Buddhist Sect."

Zang Yuan had a grateful look as he thanked, "Thank you, young benefactor. Allow me to teach you a unique battle technique, the Flux Finger Sword Technique. This is the only battle technique capable of fully utilizing the flux goldthorn energy. I will also teach you a body refining technique, the Limit Stimulation Technique. This is an ancient secret technique, capable of tempering your body to perfection. Doing so, one would be able to stimulate one's potential and increase one's combat strength. Unfortunately, I only have half of the technique's mantra. Even that much was enough to forge me an extreme physique that made me almost undefeatable among my peers."

When Xiang Shaoyun learned that, he immediately realized that both were amazing techniques. His eyes burned with passion. He quickly regained his calm and asked, "Lord, are you not worried that you would mistrust a person with your final wish? Don't forget that few people can resist the urge to pocket the sarira for themselves."

Zang Yuan replied solemnly, "I am confident in my judgment. I am also confident in your character. If I really am entrusting this to the wrong person, it must be the will of fate that I can't return to my roots, and it would be proof that I have not earned Lord Buddha's recognition. If so, I might as well scatter with the wind. This stubbornness of mine is in itself a violation of the teachings of Buddha. Where in this world can't I rest? My heart is always with Buddha, the merciful Buddha. Amitabha."

A look of respect covered Xiang Shaoyun's face as he listened. He said, "Don't worry, master. I, Xiang Shaoyun, may not be a good person, but I am one to always keep my words."

"Good. The sarira might be valuable, but one without the Buddhist aura and the Buddhist root will not be able to inherit it. In fact, if one tries to inherit it forcefully, one will suffer the backlash for it," said Zang Yuan.

Xiang Shaoyun felt a chill creep up his spine. He thought, Good thing I wasn't aiming for this thing at all, or I would've suffered.

Zang Yuan then passed on the two techniques' mantras to Xiang Shaoyun. By the time he was done, his figure had turned incredibly transparent, and he was slowly fading away from existence.

At his last moments, he gave a warning, "Do not disturb the slumbering lord at the massive palace."

"Do not disturb the slumbering lord at the massive palace?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered blankly.

When he first entered the secret space, he heard something similar about some lord from the evil spirit possessing the corpse of a whitebone snake. With the high monk saying the same thing, it was obvious there was a powerful big shot residing there.

"Forget it. It's pointless to think too much about it. For now, I need to cultivate the Limit Stimulation Technique and Flux Finger Sword Technique. Also, I need to refine a piece of goldblood stone," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself. He decided to start cultivating his newly gained techniques.

Unfortunately, after putting Zang Yuan's sarira and remains away, he saw a massive shadow heading toward the cave. Clearly, either the gold-scaled dragon turtle or the goldmark toad was returning.

He paled as he exclaimed, "Shit! If they find me here, I'm dead!"

It was a good thing Xiang Shaoyun had many tricks up his sleeve. He turned invisible and completely vanished from view. He then stayed still, trying not to make any sort of sound. Soon, the gold-scaled dragon turtle's head appeared at the cave entrance. The head peeked into the cave, scanning the cave with a pair of massive eyes.

"Weird, why has the flux goldthorn energy gone missing? I can still smell that kid. He should still be here," muttered the gold-scaled dragon turtle doubtfully. His body turned small, and he swam into the cave.

Xiang Shaoyun was feeling great pressure. The gold-scaled dragon turtle was a top-tier Demon Sovereign. A random breath from this turtle was enough to kill him. He hadn't even recovered from his injuries.

He prayed inwardly, Please don't notice me.

Although he was confident in his invisibility, nobody knew if the gold-scaled dragon turtle had a special ability capable of detecting him. Fortunately, after taking a casual look around, the turtle left the cave. Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief.

Suddenly, the turtle returned. His crafty eyes were filled with doubt as though he was having a hard time believing there was nobody in the cave.

"How weird. I can obviously still smell that kid. No movement in this lake can be hidden from me. How can I not detect him? Something is not right," muttered the gold-scaled dragon turtle.

He then decided not to leave and started absorbing the remnant flux goldthorn energy in the surroundings. Xiang Shaoyun's mood sank. He was far stronger than before, and his trait of invisibility had also grown in duration. But if the gold-scaled dragon turtle insisted on staying here, he would be exposed sooner or later. What should he do now?

Numerous thoughts went past Xiang Shaoyun's brain. He had the urge to sneak near the gold-scaled dragon turtle before unleashing a bombardment of flux goldthorn energy on the turtle. He was confident the energy was powerful enough to kill him.

But he erased the thought as fast as it came. Attacking with the energy would be his last option. If he tried it and failed, he himself would be in great danger. Fortunately, the goldmark toad soon showed up.