

# I Am Overlord

## #Chapter 21: I'll Defeat Him Again! - Read I Am Overlord Chapter 21: I'll Defeat Him Again!

*Chapter 21: I'll Defeat Him Again!*

Vomiting a fresh mouthful of blood, Wu Mingliang, like a cannonball, crashed heavily into the ground below the arena. The moment he was knocked off, the outer court disciples in the audience were all utterly shocked. This was completely different from the scene they'd envisioned!

They had thought that Wu Mingliang would defeat Xiang Shaoyun with ease, and yet Wu Mingliang, one of the top ten disciples, was defeated in just three moves. All this happened too quickly!

"Am...am I going blind? Wu Mingliang has actually been kicked off the platform!"

"It should be the case, I can also see it! Isn't this Wu Mingliang a bit too weak?"

"What do you know? The punch that Wu Mingliang used just now carried more than 500 kilograms of force behind it! Practically none of us can take Wu Mingliang's punch head on! We can only say that Xiang Shaoyun is too strong!"

"He indeed has a five-star physique! He's grown to such a terrifying point despite being here for around 10 days!"

The outer court disciples were thrown into a frenzy. Their cognition of Xiang Shaoyun also changed—no longer did they despise and look down upon him; they even had a trace of admiration in their eyes as they looked at him.

"I said I'd defeat you in three moves, and I did just that!" Xiang Shaoyun said in high spirits, looking down at Wu Mingliang from a distance.

"Impossible, impossible! How can I, Wu Mingliang, lose to a brat like you?! It's utterly impossible!" Wu Mingliang roared as he gnashed his teeth, unwilling to accept what had just happened. Staring daggers at Xiang Shaoyun, he rose into the air and drew the Wu Sword on his back, slashing furiously at him.

"Stop, you've already lost!" the martial officer, watching Wu Mingliang act against Xiang Shaoyun, shouted furiously.

"It doesn't matter. I've defeated him once, so I can defeat him again!" Xiang Shaoyun said as he calmly retreated.

"I was careless just now. However, the one who'll be losing this round will be you!" Wu Mingliang shrieked madly. The sword in his hand slashed through the air extremely quickly, sending multiple compact slashes rushing towards Xiang Shaoyun.

Tier-2 sword skill, Stone Crushing Slash. The Stone Crushing Slash lived up to its name; just a tiny bit of sword light would be enough to turn a 500-kilogram rock into dust. Wu Mingliang had practiced this particular sword skill since young. Thus, he was able to bring out about 50 percent of the skill's potential, giving him strength that was not attainable through a mere tier-1 skill.

Xiang Shaoyun was forced to actively dodge the slashes coming at him. There were even times where he got hit by the slashes, and they cut through his clothes and even drew fresh blood from his skin.

"They are indeed worthy of being a tier-2 sword and a tier-2 sword skill!" Xiang Shaoyun affirmed in his heart as he felt the sharpness of the blade.

Xiang Shaoyun was constantly forced onto his rear foot, and he found it hard to get a chance to retaliate.

"I'll see just how long you can last under this assault! Lose already!" Regaining his confidence, Wu Mingliang shrilly yelled, invigorating his strength, causing more and more sword lights to fly at Xiang Shaoyun. The constant barrage of slashes forced Xiang Shaoyun to the edge of the arena. Wu Mingliang wanted to force him off arena in one go.

At this very moment, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes focused to an extreme extent, allowing him to make out the trajectory of each and every one of Wu Mingliang's sword slashes. This was why he had been constantly retreating; he needed to grasp Wu Mingliang's movements before he could land a critical blow on Wu Mingliang.

Lowering his body, Xiang Shaoyun managed to dodge all of Wu Mingliang's attacks before sending a palm flying straight towards him. "Break for me!"

Tier-1 battle technique, Cloud Splitting Palm.

Among all the outer court's battle techniques from the Battle Technique Hall, Xiang Shaoyun had learned four of them, only neglecting to cultivate the only sword skill among them. The Cloud Splitting Palm contained even more raw force than the Rushing Qi Fist and the Gale Winds Kick. One palm to split the clouds—this was an extraordinarily powerful move that often caught its opponents off guard.

Peng!

"AHHH!"

Wu Mingliang was sent flying by Xiang Shaoyun. Furthermore, the area which Xiang Shaoyun had struck him was the same spot Xiang Shaoyun had kicked him, resulting in a double whammy.

Xiang Shaoyun furiously pressed the attack, rushing forward with his fastest possible speed. He sent a Gale Winds Kick at Wu Mingliang's sword hand, kicking the tier-2 sword from his hand before sending a second kick right at his face.

"This is for getting everybody to not let me fight for food!

"This is for letting your stupid lackeys bully me!

"This is for provoking me, and this is for being even more pretentious than I am!"

Xiang Shaoyun vented all his suppressed frustrations, landing blow after blow on Wu Mingliang's face without holding back. Wu Mingliang was quickly beaten into a pig's head. The audience present to witness the carnage were terrified beyond belief. If that flurry of attacks were to land on their own faces, they would be left in a very bad state.

This was especially true for Wu Mingliang's group of lackeys; they were all afraid Xiang Shaoyun would target them in the future. Within a distant building, two elders bore sight to all that happened in the Sparring Arena.

"Brother Changhe, the disciple you took in has a boundless future ahead of him!" the older person, sighing lightly, said to the younger person. These two people were Martial Hall Palace's fourteenth elder and the senior brother of Xiang Shaoyun, Zi Changhe.

Zi Changhe lightly chuckled and said, "I am not worthy of being his teacher. I am merely taking a disciple on behalf of teacher. However, this brat has indeed exceeded all my expectations; within ten days, he was actually able to jump two levels of cultivation and reach seventh-stage Basic Realm, living up to his talent."

The fourteenth elder enthusiastically praised Xiang Shaoyun, "He has done far more than just living up to his talent! He is simply a genius among geniuses, defeating someone with a cultivation two stages higher than his own with such ease! He might be even more amazing than the palace master's personal disciple!"

"They should be matched in strength at most," Zi Changhe replied, before saying shortly after, "Enough, let's go to the Hundred Beast Mountain Range at once. There has been some unrest there recently, possibly the appearance of a spirit item! We must protect these brats well."

"Are you not going to care about this junior brother of yours anymore?" the fourteenth elder exclaimed in astonishment.

"I'm making him stay in the outer court for half a year to dull his boastful personality. Half a year later, I'll pass him a few more things before taking him to Cloud Margin City to personally meet my revered master," Zi Changhe spoke of his plan.

"Yes, unrefined jade will not make useful tools. Your method of doing things is much more beneficial compared to the rest of the elders!" the fourteenth elder replied.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had finally stopped his barrage of attacks on Wu Mingliang. Wu Mingliang's face was covered with wounds, a state too horrific to look straight at.

"With this little bit of power, you dare to coerce all the outer court disciples into going against me? You'd better go back and cultivate in your mother's womb for another 100 years before coming out," Xiang Shaoyun said, his voice containing an unhidden lace of contempt.

Wu Mingliang's half-dead eyes glared at Xiang Shaoyun as he said with great difficulty, "You...you dare to hit me? My...my two older brothers won't let you off!"

He hadn't even finished speaking before he fainted. The crowd watching the scene could not believe their eyes. Xiang Shaoyun used so little effort during the fight that it seemed like pigs were flying.

The officiating martial officer hastily rushed over and placed a finger under Wu Mingliang's nose. Discovering that he was still breathing, the officer heaved a sigh of relief and declared, "The winner of this fight is Xiang Shaoyun!"

"Hahah! I knew boss would definitely win! You've won boss! In the future, you must take good care of me, okay?" Xia Liuhui was the most excited among the spectators, shouting and jumping around.

The disciples near him had black lines on their faces as they murmured in their hearts, "You shameless bastard! Wasn't it you who had told Xiang Shaoyun not to lose too badly?"

In another corner of the arena, Lu Xiaoqing's beautiful eyes sparkled with a unique glint.

*Chapter 22: Good Thing This Young Master Is Quick Witted!*

And so the curtain fell on the battle between Xiang Shaoyun and Wu Mingliang. Xiang Shaoyun's victory left everybody's eyes wide open, and it bolstered his already-large reputation. That being said, the secret of him having reached seventh-stage Basic Realm was also out of the bag. However, this did not affect others' perception of him whatsoever. Being able to defeat a ninth-stage cultivator at the seventh stage proved that he was more than sufficiently talented.

“Boss, you’re awesome! You once said that you’d take care of me! Now, I’ll forever be your man!” Xia Liuhui said as he held Xiang Shaoyun’s hand.

Xiang Shaoyun kicked Xia Liuhui to one side and loudly cursed, “F\*ck you, don’t get touchy with me! I’m not into that shit!”

Xia Liuhui wore an expression of being wronged as he meekly said, “I most definitely am straight, brother! I was just a little excited just now.”

At that moment, a clear and crisp voice cut through the air. “Congratulations on your victory, Xiang Shaoyun!”

Turning his head to take a look, Xiang Shaoyun saw the cute little Lu Xiaoqing standing close to him, her delicate face containing traces of pink. He laughingly replied, “Many thanks, but I was fighting mere small fry. It’s not worth a mention at all.”

Although his words were very humble, he did not bother to hide the prideful grin on his face. Being praised by a beauty was a wondrous thing indeed.

“Your skin really is extraordinarily thick, isn’t it?” Lu Xiaoqing lightly giggled.

“How can that be?” Xiang Shaoyun replied heartily before saying to her, “Follow me, pretty little girl. I’ll treat you to a meal at the restaurant!”

“If you continue to call me that, I’ll be angry!” Lu Xiaoqing seemed rather dissatisfied with the way Xiang Shaoyun addressed her.

“Okay, okay. Lil Missy Xiaoqing, I’ll treat you to a meal, so give me some face, ok?” Xiang Shaoyun continued to poke fun at her.

Lu Xiaoqing’s cute little face flushed an even deeper shade of red as she angrily said, “Call me Lu Xiaoqing!”

“Boss, take me too! Take me too!” Xia Liuhui immediately jumped to his feet and pleaded Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun stared daggers at Xia Liuhui and silently cursed, “Can this jackass not read the situation?” He had wanted to use this opportunity to be alone with Lu Xiaoqing, but this bastard had to stick his nose in. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to leave for the restaurant with Lu Xiaoqing and Xia Liuhui, two more people spontaneously appeared before him.

“It’s Brother Mo Buhui and Sister Mei Lianhua!” Xia Liuhui tipped Xiang Shaoyun off.

“May I know what business the two of you have with me?” Xiang Shaoyun politely asked the duo. He had long known from Xia Liuhui that these two ranked second and third in the outer court respectively.

“Haha, I heard that Brother Xiang was handing out invitations for a meal, so we decided to butt in as well. I wonder if Brother Xiang would be so kind as to treat the two of us as well?” Mo Buhui cheerfully laughed.

“I believe that Brother Xiang is not a petty individual. I’m sure you won’t mind, right?” Mei Lianhua glanced seductively at Xiang Shaoyun. If the two of them had previously looked down upon Xiang Shaoyun, their current attitudes had done a full 180.

Not only was he now as famous as they were, he also possessed a five-star physique. His accomplishments were sure to eclipse theirs; hence, making friends with him served to do them much more good than harm.

Xiang Shaoyun was a friendly person by nature. Waving his hand, he proudly said, “No problem! Since the two of you are willing to join, I must naturally play the role of a good host!”

As such, Xiang Shaoyun and co headed for the restaurant. Xia Liuhui was completely bowled over by Mei Lianhua’s divine appearance, constantly casting his eyes on her as his face would occasionally flash red. He was simply a completely pure youth. Xiang Shaoyun noticed his useless figure and began to regret taking in such an underling. This was simply tainting his heroic reputation.

As they were halfway there, a thought suddenly hit Xiang Shaoyun, and he cried out, “Damn it!”

“What’s wrong?” Lu Xiaoqing asked, completely clueless about Xiang Shaoyun’s sudden outburst.

“Were you beaten stupid? Boss, don’t scare me!” Xia Liuhui hurriedly asked.

“Wait awhile for me, I’ve got something to do at the Hall of Limits. Once I finish it, I’ll treat you to all you can imagine at the restaurant, I promise!” Xiang Shaoyun said extremely confidently before sprinting headfirst to the Hall of Limits.

“F\*ck, I almost forgot I have no points left! Good thing this young master is quick witted!” Xiang Shaoyun sighed in relief. If they really had gone to the restaurant only to find out that he was completely broke, it would be a source of great embarrassment. He had to go to the Hall of Limits and challenge the second room for more points.

“Something to do at the Hall of Limits? He can’t be going to challenge the first room, right?” Mei Lianhua speculated.

“That should be the case! With his current strength, it should be just right for him to challenge the first room. Why don’t we go take a look?” Mo Buhui suggested to the group.

“Boss is definitely not going to challenge the first room. He should be going for the second room!” Xia Liuhui replied with absolute certainty.

“For real?!” Lu Xiaoqing asked, full of astonishment.

“Of course it’s real! Boss mentioned to me before that he had already cleared the first room!” Xia Liuhui proudly replied.

“Then all the more we should go and take a look! I’ve been wanting to challenge the second room for a while now!” Mo Buhui spiritedly said.

As such, the group of them followed closely behind. By the time they arrived at the Hall of Limits, Xiang Shaoyun had already entered the second room.

“Revered overseer, is Xiang Shaoyun challenging the second room?” Mei Lianhui asked the overseer in charge.

Nodding his head, the overseer replied, “Indeed. He just went in.”

“As I said, my boss was rushing for the second room!” Xia Liuhui exclaimed, slightly moved.

“I want to go in,” Mo Buhui said without hesitation.

“Are you sure?” the deacon asked.

“I’m sure,” Mo Buhui confidently replied.

“Okay then, enter as you like. If you can stay in there for an hour, it’ll be your success,” the overseer instructed.

“I also want to go in!” Lu Xiaoqing said as well.

“Since Sister Xiaoqing is so brave, I, Mei Lianhua, cannot fall behind!” Mei Lianhua added in turn.

“Very good, you’re all brave youngsters! No matter whether or not you clear the room, you’re all deserving of praise!” The overseer laughed. Looking at the Xia Liuhui standing to the side, he asked, “They’re all going in, what about you?”

“About that...overseer, I-I haven’t challenged the first room yet, so forget it.” Xia Liuhui tried to avoid the matter.



“Challenge the first room then! You’re already at the peak of seventh-stage Basic Realm, not too weak at all!” The overseer encouraged Xia Liuhui before subsequently adding, “If you’re able to last for half an hour, you’ll have passed. How about it? Do you want to give it a shot?”

Xia Liuhui’s expression turned troubled. However, the moment he caught sight of Mei Lianhua’s disdainful gaze, he gritted his teeth and loudly proclaimed, “I’ll give it a shot, then! I, Xia Liuhui, am not afraid of anything!”

As such, they each separately entered the Hall of Limits. Within the second room of the Hall of Limits, Xiang Shaoyun had already begun to experience the trials in the room.

This room actually contained a boulder formation. Numerous boulders each weighing 500 kilograms, a weight that was equal to a normal ninth-stage Basic Realm cultivator’s maximum output, were flying non-stop throughout the room. If one was careless for a single moment, one would immediately be pummeled by the various flying boulders, possibly leading to death.

Any ninth-stage Basic Realm cultivator would find it extremely difficult to stay in the room for a whole hour. The Hall of Limits challenged one to the very limits, and those who were able to successfully emerge would attain exceptional rewards.

#### *Chapter 23: Hall of Limits, Second Room!*

One could only see the 10 or more boulders flying haphazardly throughout the second room, leaving behind very little breathing space. If one wanted to remain in the room, not being able to dodge the boulders meant that one would be utterly crushed into a meat paste. Xiang Shaoyun was completely unprepared when he first walked in and was struck by numerous loose boulders, leaving him crying out in extreme pain.

“Damn it, was this boulder formation really prepared for Basic Realm cultivators? How many people can even withstand these things?” Xiang Shaoyun loudly cursed. He felt like he was simultaneously facing several, if not tens, of ninth-stage Basic Realm practitioners. He had no way of defending against this group attack.

“I must think of a way to hold on!” Xiang Shaoyun was not someone to easily give up. Adjusting his mentality, he began dodging to the left and the right. Luckily, he had already experienced the first room of the Hall of Limits. He was quick as a swallow, able to identify the empty spots he could dodge into.

However, just purely relying on dodging to stay within the room for a whole hour was not a viable solution. At this moment, Mo Buhui, Mei Lianhua, and Lu Xiaoqing entered the second room. The moment they entered, they immediately took out their weapons to defend themselves against the boulder formation.

Clink Clang Clink Clang!



Sparks flew as the boulders came into contact with their various weapons. Xiang Shaoyun was momentarily stunned before coming to a realization, exclaiming, "So you can use weapons to defend yourself!"

Using a weapon to hold off the boulders would make it much easier to cope. However, after considering the situation for a while, he decided to temporarily abstain from using his weapon. He wanted to raise his own combat ability in order to prepare for the future. Hence, he decided to rely on his own two hands to destroy all the boulders inside the room.

Thinking about his home, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes began to dim, and he began to revolve the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. Astral energy began to ripple within his body. He concentrated his strength into his two fists and yelled, "Break!"

His voice was like a sudden clap of thunder, his fists as hard as steel.

Peng!

Xiang Shaoyun's full-powered blow thoroughly decimated the oncoming boulder, but he had no time to rejoice. Another boulder was heading swiftly for his back. Startled, he twisted his body in an attempt to dodge, but he soon noticed yet another boulder speeding towards him. With no other choice, he forced out yet another punch.

This time, however, he was unable to gather his strength quickly enough, resulting in his fist bleeding after the impact. Not allowing him to rest for long, boulders from all around started rushing towards him one after another.

"Come at me! I'll destroy each and every one of you!" Xiang Shaoyun yelled, his fighting spirit reignited as he more quickly sent out fist after fist.

Pow Pow!

With the revolution of the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, along with Xiang Shaoyun's remarkable physique, his fists broke the boulders one after another, giving him much more breathing room.

This did not mean that there were no more issues, however. Xiang Shaoyun's body was covered in several wounds, and he had been knocked to the ground twice by the boulders, making it very hard for him to remain standing.

His body had also been pounded to the point of almost being unrecognizable, his character itself turning into that of a wild beast. Even if he was to face off against three Wu Mingliangs, it would not be as strenuous as right now.

The Hall of Limits, a place to push one to the very limits of possibility. It remained to be seen if he would be able to accomplish it.

Meanwhile, Mo Buhui, Mei Lianhua, and Lu Xiaoqing were not doing too well either. Their physical bodies could not compare to Xiang Shaoyun's, which had been tempered since young with various medicines. After being hit several times, they were finding it very hard to keep persisting.

"I can't hold on any longer; I'm retreating!" Mei Lianhua was the first one to buckle under the pressure, swiftly heading for the exit. Lu Xiaoqing held on a few more moments, but she was also incapable of holding on and ended up leaving as well.

As for Mo Buhui, he was definitely considerably stronger than the two. Gritting his teeth, he repeatedly stabbed out with the spear in his hand, knocking away as many boulders as he could manage. Some of the boulders, however, similarly hit him.

"Looks like I have to retreat too," Mo Buhui muttered quietly before rushing for the exit. As he left, he sneaked a glance at Xiang Shaoyun and was thoroughly astonished. However, he did not wish to stay in the room a moment longer, so he swiftly exited the second room.

"Damn it, I couldn't even last for half an hour!" The moment Mo Buhui came out of the room, he did not pay attention to the injuries on his body. He punched the wall in front of him hard, completely unsatisfied with his performance.

"Brother Mo, don't be too harsh on yourself. I believe you'll be able to clear this room once you reach ninth-stage perfection!" Mei Lianhua comforted him, equally beat up.

Mo Buhui shook his head and replied, "No, it'll be difficult to pass this room unless I train my body to utter perfection. Otherwise, I won't be able to last at all."

"The Basic Realm is for training one's physical strength. If your physical strength is at its peak, one fist will be able to shatter boulders and startle the heavens. How difficult can the second room be then?" the overseer reminded the despondent youths.

"Strength to shatter boulders and startle the heavens with one fist?" The trio pondered his words for a while before coming to a sudden realization.

The overseer was implying that their physical bodies had not yet been honed to perfection; naturally, they could not be pushed to the limits.

"I must train my physical strength even harder!" Lu Xiaoqing muttered to herself while clenching her fists.

Mo Buhui and Mei Lianhua also naturally understood this concept. However, they were even more clear how hard it would be to bridge that one gap. Even with the growth of their strength, they would still choose to condense their energy in their acupoints to awaken the stars within their bodies, raising their strength within the shortest amount of time. Why in the world should they spend time training their physical bodies?

When the half hour mark was reached, Xia Liuhui slowly crawled out from the first room of the Hall of Limits. Such a sight was thoroughly comical.

“Not bad, not bad indeed. You were able to stay in there for half an hour! You should’ve had some form of benefit from being able to stay in there,” the overseer laughed lightly upon seeing Xia Liuhui.

After exiting the first room, Xia Liuhui stumbled and fell onto the floor, muttering, “I-I’m going to die.”

“Quickly sit cross-legged and meditate! This is the time when your gains from inside the room are the most fresh! Whether you’ll be able to break through to eighth-stage Basic Realm will all depend on this moment!” The overseer’s admonishment struck Xia Liuhui like a lightning bolt.

Not daring to hesitate, Xia Liuhui immediately began calming his breath and meditating. An hour passed within the blink of an eye. Lu Xiaoqing began to worry and asked, “An hour has passed. Great overseer, why hasn’t Xiang Shaoyun come out yet?”

“Could he be grievously injured inside?” Mei Lianhua asked at the side.

“I believe that Xiang Shaoyun will definitely be able to come out,” Mo Buhui said with conviction in his voice.

Lu Xiaoqing and Mei Lianhua both flashed looks of astonishment at Mo Buhui. Neither of them could understand where he got his confidence. Just then, the overseer indifferently said, “That brat’s examination time isn’t over yet, he still has one more hour.”

“One more hour?! Won’t he have been in there for two hours then?” Lu Xiaoqing lightly gasped.

“Great overseer, wh-what is going on here? Did he request this himself?” Mei Lianhua found it extremely hard to fathom. Mo Buhui also awaited the overseer’s answer, confusion clouding his face.

Speaking as though it were completely normal, the overseer replied, “The time I gave you is the shortest possible time required to pass the second room. I don’t even know if he’ll come out at that point.”

The moment he finished speaking, the trio’s jaws dropped to the ground.

*Chapter 24: Breaking the Limits!*

Hall of Limits, second room.

Numerous boulders continuously flew without end. If somebody was to step inside the room, they would become the boulders' prime target of attack. What's even more crucial was that each of these boulders carried a force behind them of 500 kilograms, not a weight that most Basic Realm practitioners would be able to withstand.

Whoever was able to last in the room for an hour would definitely be regarded as extraordinary. Since the establishment of Martial Hall Palace, the number of people who had been able to last an hour in the second hall was scarce. Those who had managed to overcome it, however, all eventually became people renowned throughout Cloud Margin City, apart from a small number who prematurely met their demise.

This was also why the Hall of Limits would hand out jade plates to those who managed to successfully pass their limits—it was meant to be a form of encouragement. The logic behind this was that Martial Hall Palace was meant to be a place to nurture martial cultivators. If their disciples were strong, then it meant they had a deep foundation and considerable strength. This would bring more benefits to Martial Hall Palace as a whole.

As for those who had managed to last significantly longer than an hour, up till now, there had been none who had accomplished this task. Xiang Shaoyun had already passed the hour mark and was currently in the process of setting the longest time recorded in the second room.

Pow Pow!

Xiang Shaoyun's fists were covered in fresh blood, his whole body covered with wounds. Although he seemed to be heavily injured, not only was his breath not feeble and weak, it was even more vigorous than before. Piled up near him were bits and pieces of broken boulders, all destroyed with a single fist.

Rushing Qi Fist!

Cloud Splitting Palm!

Two tier-1 battle techniques were being used to the very epitome of perfection, destroying one boulder after the other. Xiang Shaoyun, however, had to pay a price: with his back left fully exposed, boulders had injured him to the point his flesh split.

"I can't hold on much longer! I have to use my weapon!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out in anguish, finally drawing his Heavy Cleave Saber.

Heavy Cleave Technique!

As the saber drew a beautiful arc like a rainbow, a boulder was destroyed at once. Xiang Shaoyun shuttled back and forth like a butterfly, dodging two consecutive boulders as he sent out two consecutive slashes. Although the slashes seemed rather

slow, the amount of strength behind each of the two was well over 500 kilograms. The two boulders were destroyed on the spot.

The main focus of the Heavy Cleave Technique is in its heaviness, every single slash requiring all my strength. Furthermore, I must hit every single time when I use this skill, or it'll be a sheer waste of a significant bit of my strength, Xiang Shaoyun silently thought to himself.

Xiang Shaoyun continuously grasped the key points of the Heavy Cleave Saber without fail, wielding the saber more proficiently each passing moment. As the number of broken rocks stacked up, the pressure he faced also decreased. As long as his strength could hold out just a bit longer, he could destroy every single boulder within the second room. Unfortunately, he was almost completely out of energy by this point.

If he continued to forcefully hold on, his losses would most certainly outweigh his gains. Not forcing the situation, Xiang Shaoyun retreated while fending off the final few flying boulders. He had finally cleared the second room.

"He's out! Boss is finally out!" Xia Liuhui was the first to cry out in sheer joy.

Mo Buhui and Mei Lianhua, as well as Lu Xiaoqing, immediately turned to look in the direction of the second limit room. One could only see Xiang Shaoyun completely covered in wounds, trudging over to them step by step.

Seeing this man thoroughly covered from head to toe with injuries, Lu Xiaoqing's eyes flashed for a moment as her heart began beating quickly all of a sudden. Mei Lianhua was similarly filled with utter astonishment and amazement. Xiang Shaoyun's wounds only seemed to add to his demeanour, giving him a boundless charm.

A youth who could stay inside the second room for more than an hour, coupled with immense combat prowess and a limitless future—which young lady wouldn't be moved? At this moment, the overseer suddenly moved. Appearing before Xiang Shaoyun, he flicked a single pill at him and said, "Take this recovery pill. Once you're somewhat healed, we'll talk about the rewards."

Xiang Shaoyun did not hesitate and swallowed the pill at once. The moment the pill entered his mouth, its medical efficacy began to show, flowing through his meridians as it slowly healed all his wounds, making him feel much better.

"Many thanks to the revered overseer!" Xiang Shaoyun spiritedly said to the overseer.

"Haha, you're welcome. This was prepared for you in the first place. Being able to stay in the second room for a whole extra hour is the longest recorded time in the history of Martial Hall Palace, and you're only at seventh-stage Basic Realm!" The overseer enthusiastically laughed.

Xiang Shaoyun gnashed his teeth as he said, "I'm merely lucky. Can I ask overseer to give me my points? I wish to go back and recuperate soon. It hurts so much—that damned boulder formation."

Seeing the state he was in, Lu Xiaoqing was pained and said, "Yes, quickly go back and recover!"

"Shaoyun, do you want me to accompany you back?" Mei Lianhua boldly said. Her way of addressing him had changed, as was painfully obvious to Xia Liuhui, even to Mo Buhui at the side. Through their eyes flashed very complicated emotions.

"Boss, didn't you say you were going to treat us to a feast at the restaurant?" Xia Liuhui asked. His comment, however, was rather ill timed.

"Do you not have a heart?! Xiang Shaoyun is already hurt to this point, and you still want him to go to the restaurant?" Lu Xiaoqing flared up and glared at Xia Liuhui.

"Indeed. You really have no tact," Mei Lianhua couldn't help but add.

Xia Liuhui immediately felt a deep sense of being wronged. He just spoke a tad bit too fast with no malice behind his words.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "This young master does indeed owe you a meal, but I'm afraid that if we go there now, the other customers will be scared out of their wits. I'll be sure to treat all of you within two days!" He then turned to the overseer to receive his points.

A pleased expression plastered to his face, and the overseer loudly declared, "Since you have broken the Hall of Limits' second room's record, you will be given twice the reward! The 2,000 points are all yours!"

The group of Mo Buhui, Xia Liuhui, Mei Lianhua, and Lu Xiaoqing were all visibly moved upon hearing the number of points rewarded. In the outer court especially, 2,000 points was quite a hefty sum. Even the inner court disciples would rarely see such a large pie given to them all at once!

Clearing the Hall of Limits was undoubtedly the fastest way to accumulate points.

"Two thousand points! This was worth it!" Xiang Shaoyun laughed happily before waving goodbye to the bunch of people, heading straight back for his living premises. Although he had taken the healing pill, he lost too much blood in the room and was in a very bad state. If he neglected to heal himself just a bit longer, there would be hidden scars from the ordeal, which would have lasting repercussions for his cultivation.

Most importantly, after experiencing an all-out battle, more of the hidden energy within his body had been forced out. Not wanting to waste even a single bit of it, he had to consolidate all that strength.

Upon returning to his compound, Xiang Shaoyun immediately began and sat cross-legged, spreading the medicinal properties of the pill through his body, from his limbs and bones to his internal organs and viscera. After he finished refining the pill, his injuries all calmed down and stabilized, a sign that he was on a good path to recovery. It was obvious that this was no ordinary pill. It was at the very least a tier-2 pill, if not a tier-3 one. Tier-1 pills would not have such great efficacy.

Xiang Shaoyun sat in silent meditation for a whole day and night, the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual constantly gathering astral energy within his body. This caused a wave of pure power to rush into the midst of his nine stars. This pure power was in fact squeezed out from Xiang Shaoyun's body. Nine years of using various solutions and medicines finally showed their worth in this form.

After this round of forcing out his strength, not only did his strength rise to that of peak seventh-stage Basic Realm, his body also became as sturdy as a peak tier-1 weapon, making it extremely difficult for normal weapons to injure him.

#### *Chapter 25: He Is My Prince Charming!*

Two days after clearing the Hall of Limits, the injuries on Xiang Shaoyun's body had mostly healed. He had no problems when it came to moving normally. This was all attributed to his absolutely amazing physique.

"I've gained quite a few benefits this time around. I should train in the second room whenever I have the time," Xiang Shaoyun mused to himself.

The challenges one would face in each room within the Hall of Limits were different. The first room focused on one's physical prowess, forcing one to go even further beyond one's potential, granting one exceptional strength. The second room contained a rock formation, one which was closely compacted and contained very little breathing room. Ordinary people would find it extremely difficult to last for too long. This environment focused on training one's reaction and combat ability.

Avoiding the boulders required both keen senses as well as adept footwork, and breaking the boulders entirely required explosive strength and force. No matter which method one chose with which to face the room, the room would raise their overall combat power. For somebody such as Xiang Shaoyun who wanted to raise their combat ability as quickly as possible, the boulder formation was undoubtedly the best place to train.

The current Xiang Shaoyun, however, did not intend to go back into the second room just yet. He still had to fulfil his promise of treating his friends to a meal. Upon his arrival



at the outer courtyard, numerous cultivating outer court disciples turned to look at him with sparkles in their eyes. Some even showed a hint of admiration.

Being able to easily defeat Wu Mingliang, Xiang Shaoyun was now worthy of the title of one of the top 10 outer court disciples. These disciples couldn't help admiring him. The female disciples all called out to him with "Brother Xiang!"; some of the bolder ones even cast him seductive glances. This left Xiang Shaoyun proud beyond compare.

"This kind of feeling is great! It's like the feeling when I was at home!" Xiang Shaoyun happily said to himself. Once he had this thought, however, his expression began to cloud. The place he had once called home was now the home of somebody else, making him a stray dog with no place to call home.

"Boss, are your injuries fully healed?" Xia Liuhui shouted at the top of his lungs, seemingly afraid that others would not know Xiang Shaoyun was his boss.

Regaining his wits, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "How can I possibly heal so fast? But I feel much better now." Pausing for a while, he then added, "Go and call Lu Xiaoqing, Mo Buhui, and Mei Lianhua. I promised to treat you guys to a feast! I won't go back on my word."

"I knew boss's words were as good as gold!" Xia Liuhui gleefully said as he raised his right thumb. He then added, "They're over there! Let me go get them!"

Mo Buhui and Mei Lianhua, as well as Lu Xiaoqing, had all been motivated by Xiang Shaoyun and had been madly cultivating their physical strength. All of them strove to quickly clear the second room, not wanting to lag too far behind Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shaoyun, are your wounds fully healed?" Mei Lianhua asked the moment she saw Xiang Shaoyun, full of concern. This caused the equally concerned Lu Xiaoqing to come to an awkward halt, biting back the words she had meant to say.

Xia Liuhui's expression became exceedingly gloomy, his heart filled with sorrow. He had a crush on Mei Lianhua. However, not only did she not even look in his direction, her heart was set firmly on his boss.

"Thanks for your concern, I'm almost fully healed. I'm here to treat all of you to a feast! Let's get going!" Xiang Shaoyun smilingly replied.

"Great! I was just becoming a bit hungry." Mei Lianhua lightly giggled as she drew closer to Xiang Shaoyun.

This one action of hers made even Mo Buhui's expression turn frigid, his eyes full of unhappiness. Before Xiang Shaoyun appeared, Mei Lianhua belonged to him and him alone. Although they appeared very close, she had never interacted with him the way

that she was with Xiang Shaoyun right now. This created a very unstable feeling within him.

Although he was unhappy, Mo Buhui quickly calmed himself down and said, "Since Brother Xiang is so generous, we'd be glad to oblige."

"What are we waiting for then? Let's go and eat our hearts out!" Xiang Shaoyun jovially laughed.

With 2,000 points, one would be able to be as lavish as their hearts desired at the restaurant. When they reached the restaurant, Xiang Shaoyun immediately ordered various dishes and wines, extravagantly ordering dish after dish. This made the already enraptured Mei Lianhua even more thrilled than before.

Shaoyun is definitely my destined prince charming! Mei Lianhua thought to herself as she lovingly gazed at Xiang Shaoyun.

Sitting to one side, Lu Xiaoqing had a complicated expression plastered all over her face. Her heart was in disarray as she pondered, Why am I so bothered seeing Senior Mei so close to Xiang Shaoyun? Have I fallen for him too?! Impossible!

"Come come! Today, we'll drink 'til we're merry!" Xiang Shaoyun proclaimed as he raised his cup.

"May you condense your astral energy and awaken all five of your stars soon!" Mei Lianhua hastened to speak first.

Likewise, the others also raised a toast before downing the cup in one go. Perhaps because of the wine, the atmosphere at the table became much more boisterous than before.

"Shaoyun, we have something to share with you. Perhaps it can help you break through to the Astral Realm quicker!" Mei Lianhua said, her beautiful eyes casting furtive glances at him.

"Lianhua!" Mo Buhui sternly spoke up.

"What's the matter? Didn't we come here today to speak with Shaoyun about this? So what if Xia Liuhui and Lu Xiaoqing are here as well? We need more manpower anyway!" Mei Lianhua replied, refusing to give way.

Seeing Mei Lianhua contradict him in public, Mo Buhui's expression sank even further. He said, "I just wanted to remind you that we are in the restaurant, which is a far from ideal location to discuss this matter."

Realizing her folly, Mei Lianhua apologized and said, "I was a bit too hasty in this matter. Let's quickly finish our food and find somewhere else to discuss this then!"

Xiang Shaoyun managed to garner some information from their conversation. He pondered to himself, Something that will have me break through to the Astral Realm quicker? It seems like they have some info on the birth of some spirit item!

Not long after, the five of them cleaned each and every dish spotless, not leaving a single speck of food save the bones. Xiang Shaoyun then went to settle the bill before the group of them left the restaurant.

"Shaoyun, let's go over there and speak! Once you hear of this, you're sure to be as excited as I am!" Mei Lianhua coyly said, her body sticking close to Xiang Shaoyun.

Although Mei Lianhua did not have the pure, cute look of Lu Xiaoqing, she won in terms of her body's explosive proportions, rendering most male disciples unable to resist her womanly charms. That being said, Xiang Shaoyun was of uncommon birth; thus, he'd seen too many beauties back at his home. He did not place someone at the level of Mei Lianhua in his eyes at all. This was why he was able to remain extraordinarily calm even as Mei Lianhua practically plastered herself to him.

"This news belongs to Brother Mo and yourself, how about we forget about it?" Xiang Shaoyun replied. He could infer that Mo Buhui was extremely unwilling to share this piece of information. Perhaps to anyone else, the prospect of being able to springleap into the Astral Realm was a great one.

However, it didn't pose that much of an attraction to Xiang Shaoyun. He had already reached the point of being able to release his astral energy externally. As long as he was able to gather sufficient strength, taking the next step into the Astral Realm would not be a difficult one at all. He did not wish to get on others' bad side just for this small shortcut.

Astonished beyond belief, Mei Lianhua asked, "Shaoyun, this is related to the Astral Realm! This will allow you to break through in a short amount of time! Do you not wish to—"

Before she could finish speaking, Xiang Shaoyun cut her short and bluntly asked, "Do you think that reaching the Astral Realm will pose any problems for me?"

Mei Lianhua could only stand there speechless. Indeed, with Xiang Shaoyun's five-star physique, getting into the Astral Realm wouldn't pose a challenge for him at all. Especially since he was the madman who had broken the Hall of Limits' records.

"After hearing Brother Xiang's words, I, Mo Buhui, am now willing to share this information with you!" Mo Buhui spoke up.