

I Am Overlord

Chapter 6: Ain't That the Damn Truth!

"Oh? So looking at cute girls is wrong? Is this part of Martial Hall Palace's rules?" Xiang Shaoyun sarcastically remarked as he glanced at the youth beside him.

"Looking at people isn't against the rules at all. However, if you look at somebody who you shouldn't be looking at, it'll be very easy to offend others. Wouldn't this then be a sin?" the youth proudly said, a know-it-all expression filling his face.

Xiang Shaoyun pondered a while before laughing, "Haha, you have a point there. How should I address you, brother?"

"Looks like you're very wise indeed. My name is Xia Liuhui," the youth replied.

"Obscene? A distinguished name indeed," Xiang Shaoyun applauded as he raised his thumb to show his approval.

"NO! It's the 'Xia' character of 'summer', the 'Liu' character of 'flowing water' and the 'Hui' character of 'waving Swords'," the youth unhappily emphasized.

"I understand, yes I do. There's not much difference there though; one glance at you and I see that you exemplify the word 'obscene'! You truly live up to your name!" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed as he patted the youth's shoulder like they were the best of friends.

"I can't be bothered to argue with you. I'm heading to the canteen for food now. Otherwise, all those wild beasts will have eaten it all," the youth replied as he dashed in a particular direction.

Xiang Shaoyun was not slow either and quickly caught up to him. "Will the canteen really not have food for us to eat?"

"There will be, but there's limited food! We have about a hundred people here. If half of us are able to fill our stomachs, then it's already considered good!" Xia Liuhui answered as he continued to pick up the pace. Just then, Xiang Shaoyun also noticed cultivating youths from all directions sprinting like locusts towards the canteen.

"What on earth is this? Are these hungry ghosts incarnate or something?" Xiang Shaoyun incredulously asked.

"Hehe, you'll become one of those hungry ghosts soon enough," Xia Liuhui, who was already far from Xiang Shaoyun, laughed and replied.

Xiang Shaoyun began feeling a little uneasy and likewise increased his pace. When he arrived at the canteen, he immediately understood everything that Xia Liuhui had told him. One could only see mountains upon rivers of cultivators madly fighting for food. Everybody was pushing up on each other, and some had even started fighting with one another—all this in order to be able to line up right at the front to get the food that the attendants were giving out.

“This spot is mine, quickly get lost.”

“Screw your mother, you dare to snatch my spot? Come, let’s fight!”

“Bastard, which motherf*cker wants to fight for my spot? I swear I will not let him off today!”

“I haven’t had my fill in a very long time. Please give me a portion of pity food!”

The place was filled with a cacophony of noise as if it were a battlefield. It did not give one the impression that this was a canteen within Martial Hall Palace at all. The attendants who were distributing food apathetically watched the whole scene unfold before them. They did not mind it at all; rather, they were already used to the scene of carnage before them.

Xiang Shaoyun was thoroughly astounded. A split second later, he regained his senses and charged straight into the sea of people.

Peng Peng!

“Ouch!”

Just as he had entered into the massive crowd, fists came flying at him from all sorts of directions. Helpless to resist, he was thrown out of the crowd almost at once. Both his eyes were swollen, and from his nose flowed fresh blood. Touching his face, the initially delicate and smooth skin had turned coarse and hideous.

“Go to hell! You guys dare touch my handsome face? All of you deserve to die!” After he finished speaking, he rushed into the crowd, looking for revenge on those who had hit him. Alas, what happened next was a repeat of the previous scene: being thrown out of the crowd. His fifth-stage Basic Realm cultivation was the lowest of the low here. Frankly speaking, it was impossible for him to get a queueing spot.

This was the first time Xiang Shaoyun found getting a meal difficult.

“A man once said that those who toil for meals will cherish every grain of rice. Ain’t that the damn truth!” The learned Xiang Shaoyun sighed deeply to himself.

“Young Master Wu is here, quickly get out of his way!” A sharp voice rippled through the crowd.

Upon hearing those words, the originally boisterous crowd quickly settled down. A tall and slender youth surrounded by several other youths made his way into the canteen. This young man could be considered to be handsome, but his arrogant disposition made it seem like he did not put anyone within his sight, casting displeasure in those looking at him.

A few female disciples, however, were throwing glances at this youth, their bodies seemingly about to go and stick to him. This was because apart from being extraordinary in terms of talent, he was a person with an enviable background.

He was Wu Mingliang, a disciple who was certain to enter the inner court. Although he was three months shy of fourteen, his cultivation was already at the ninth stage of the Basic Realm; his future could be said to be limitless. More importantly, he was the seventh child of the town head of Wu Town, adding an irresistible charm to him.

Other outer court disciples had to fight for their food. As for Wu Mingliang? Once he made his appearance, everybody would obediently make way for him, allowing him to get his meal first. This was the privilege of the mighty.

The youth who announced Wu Mingliang’s arrival acted like a servant and gestured to Wu Mingliang, “Young Master Wu, if you please.”

“Yes,” Wu Mingliang said, satisfied. He started making his way toward the now-empty queue where everybody used to be.

After taking a few steps, he turned his eyes and saw Xiang Shaoyun lying flat on the ground. He showed a very curious expression and asked, “Eh, isn’t this the genius who had attracted the power of five stars? How on earth did you get into this state?”

Although it seemed like Wu Mingliang was genuinely concerned for Xiang Shaoyun on the surface, the mocking expression on his face was unquestionable. After he brought it up, the eyes of various outer court disciples fell on Xiang Shaoyun.

“Eh, it really is him! I thought he would’ve gotten special treatment from the Purple Lightning Marquis. Instead, he’s here to fight with us for food!”

“Haha, could it be that he was the person I beat up just now? Being able to thrash these kinds of so-called geniuses is what I live for.”

“He wants to fight with us for food at merely the third stage of the Basic Realm? He can dream on!”

“Looks like he’s doomed to starvation. I can’t imagine he’ll survive for more than three days. Will the Purple Lightning Marquis be sad if he dies?”

Various youths who were envious of Xiang Shaoyun’s talent sent scathing remarks one after another. Xiang Shaoyun’s face slowly darkened. He never imagined that being briefly mentioned would attract unending revile and sarcasm, a feeling that nobody would want.

“Mr. Genius, would you like to follow this young master? This young master will be sure to feed you, so you won’t go hungry,” Wu Mingliang let out an expression proud beyond belief.

“I’ll have to decline. This young master only knows how to take in slaves and has no experience in being one,” Xiang Shaoyun sarcastically rebutted.

“Insolence! Not showing Young Master Wu any respect! Quickly kneel down and apologize to Young Master Wu; otherwise, don’t ever dream of getting a single meal in the canteen ever again!” the “loyal dog” following Wu Mingliang shouted.

This loyal dog’s strength was not weaker than that of Xiang Shaoyun. On the contrary, it was higher than his by two stages at the seventh stage of the Basic Realm. His name was Gou Zi.

“Heheh, you speak as if this canteen was owned by your family,” Xiang Shaoyun dryly laughed.

“It may not be operated by my family, but not allowing you to have a meal isn’t hard at all,” Wu Mingliang said then faced the crowd of disciples and proclaimed, “From today onward, whoever dares to let this brat have a spot to fight for meals will be an enemy of me, Wu Mingliang!” After he finished speaking, he no longer looked at Xiang Shaoyun and went to get his meal.

“Bastard!” Xiang Shaoyun shouted, emitting killing intent.

“Daring to curse Young Master Wu? Beat him!” Gou Zi commanded.

Pow Pow!

1. Both summer flowing and obscene sound like Xia Liu in Chinese.

Chapter 7: Nine Stars Shake the Heavens!

At an isolated area in Martial Hall Palace’s outer court, there was a pitiful youth licking his own wounds.

Heheh. I used to be the glorious young master of a seventh-tier sect, and now I've fallen so low I'm beaten by a group of small fries. This is truly a fall from grace! the youth melancholically thought to himself.

Who else could this youth be but Xiang Shaoyun? In the canteen, by himself, he was utterly unable to withstand the pounding of the group of loyal dogs. In the end, he could only attempt to protect his handsome face and charge out, escaping to this isolated corner by himself.

If people could hear what Xiang Shaoyun was talking to himself about, they would be scared out of their wits! A seventh-tier sect! This was a formidable power! Each realm in the cultivation tree was split into nine stages. Similarly, the organizations in the Nine Gods Province also had nine different tiers of ranking. The higher one's rank, the more influence and backing one would naturally have.

Xiang Shaoyun actually called himself the young master of a seventh-tier sect! If others heard of this, it would be sure to cause waves. He had fallen to a point where he was forced to enter Martial Hall Palace, an unranked organization. Him once being a revered young master was something utterly unbelievable!

As for his whole story, only Xiang Shaoyun knew of the matter. Thinking back to those times, he was unfettered and free to do as he liked back at his home town. If he had nothing to do during the day, he would read various books and scrolls, expanding his knowledge of the Nine Gods Province as well as practicing the dao.

Otherwise, he would gather the demonic beasts for a spin, ordering the various servants to accompany him as well as the children of the elders to go visit the dwelling places of immortals, destroying the descendants of the demonic beasts, and unearthing spirit medicines. At night, he would be waited upon by pure, dainty female attendants who would attend to his every need. There was nothing he lacked—this was the grand freedom of a youth! It was a pity that such days were long gone.

"Father, I know that you definitely haven't died, but your son has had no choice but to give your property to that villian. Your son has failed you! However, your son swears to the heavens that I will definitely reclaim everything that belongs to our Xiang family! I remember telling you when I was five years old that I would allow those so-called geniuses to have ten years of glory; as of today, the ten year mark has passed! I, Xiang Shaoyun, will rise to the peak, destroying all barriers! Whoever dares to block me, I will trample! Whoever wants to kill me, I will utterly destroy!"

The pure white face of Xiang Shaoyun had become extremely distorted at this instance, and both of his fists clenched in front of his heart as he swore to himself. He then thought to himself, Wu Mingliang, you will be the first stepping stone in this young master's rise!

After sorting out his thoughts, Xiang Shaoyun did not bother treating his injuries. Rather, he once again sprinted to the outer court practice area, this time putting the 250-kilogram rock on his back as he sprinted away. In the Basic Realm, for every increase in stage, one's strength would increase by 50 kilograms; hence, a fifth stage cultivator could just nicely lift a 250-kilogram rock.

“AHHHHHHH!!!!”

Xiang Shaoyun yelled as if he had gone insane.

“Was that genius beaten stupid by Gou Zi's gang? He's wailing as if he's a ghost!”

“Heheh, from how he is behaving, he is probably intending to train hard. But how can someone who cannot even fill his belly ever become great? This genius is bound to stay at the bottom.”

“Indeed. Even though he might have the protection of the Purple Lightning Marquis, Wu Mingliang has the town chief as his backing. Even the palace master has to be respectful to him whenever they meet!”

“It really is a pity. We'll witness the fall of a great genius soon!”

When they saw him, various outer disciples revealed sympathetic glances as they lightly sighed. In their eyes, Xiang Shaoyun would have a very hard time trying to find his footing here, especially since they were currently in the physical training phase of their cultivation where food was extremely important. Not only would food ensure they had sufficient energy for training, it would also convert into bodily strength, allowing them to become physically stronger. For somebody who could not even have a meal, how could he even think about cultivating?

“Young Master Wu, that brat seems like he still has a lot of fight left in him.” At one corner, Gou Zi was speaking to Wu Mingliang.

“Geniuses are not easily broken. Keep pressuring them, and they'll break eventually. Keep a close eye on him. When I become an inner court disciple, I will definitely not mistreat you,” Wu Mingliang replied.

“Be at ease, Young Master Wu. He will not escape from my grasp,” Gou Zi happily replied.

As a fifth-stage Basic Realm practitioner, carrying the 250-kilogram rock was not an easy task. Xiang Shaoyun was out of breath despite having only sprinted with the rock for a short distance. One must know that it had only been a day since he entered the fifth stage of the Basic Realm, so he had no opportunity whatsoever to stabilize his foundation and consolidate his strength.

Xiang Shaoyun fervently wanted to get stronger, so he would not easily lose heart over things like this.

“Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. Maintain a tranquil heart, draw power from the stars, convert astral into qi.”

Within Xiang Shaoyun’s mind, an extremely mysterious mantra appeared. Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual was not the cultivation method that Zi Changhe had passed him. Rather, this was an ancient technique that he had long possessed.

The Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual was something that Xiang Shaoyun had acquired at a very young age. Riding a demonic beast king, he had accidentally stumbled upon a secret realm. Inside that realm, he had passed through an incredible, fantastical place before finally obtaining the mysterious scroll.

Thinking back to that time, the moment he obtained the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, rays of divine light seemed to seep into his head, rendering him unable to forget the mysteries of the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual.

It was just a pity that this ancient technique was only a third complete. However, the wondrous content within the incomplete technique surpassed even his family’s high-tier heirloom cultivation method.

Because of that, Xiang Shaoyun ultimately abandoned cultivating his family’s cultivation method and fully focused on cultivating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. He could not help but be amazed at the wondrousness of this ancient technique and hoped that he would, in the near future, be able to find the remaining parts of this manual, complete it, and unleash its full prowess!

However, there was one prerequisite before one could cultivate the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual—one had to possess a six-star physique, filling the halls with jade! Otherwise, one’s body would not be able to withstand the profoundness of the manual.

One’s natal chart could have up to nine stars. Being able to activate up to four stars was already considered decent. However, the five stars illuminating the sky phenomenon Xiang Shaoyun had caused was enough to send the entire upper echelon of Martial Hall Palace into a frenzy. Furthermore, one must remember that the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual had a prerequisite of having a six-star physique to cultivate! This ancient technique was most certainly not an ordinary one!

Seeing as Xiang Shaoyun dared to practice the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, one could easily deduce that a five-star physique was certainly not his limit! If one could peer inside Xiang Shaoyun and take a look at the stars within him, one would be able to discover that there were nine glittering spots of light throughout Xiang Shaoyun’s body, giving him a very mystical aura. The endless river of stars seemed to flow within him, making anybody who set their eyes on the river to easily get lost in it.

This was a true top-tier physique—nine stars shake the heavens! This level of physique was hard to find even once in every ten thousand years. If any of Martial Hall Palace's elders were to witness this scene, they would be scared out of their pants.

This amazing physique had somehow dropped into their small and humble Martial Hall Palace. If some other powerful organizations knew about this, Martial Hall Palace would certainly be in a pickle over how to keep hold of such a genius!

As Xiang Shaoyun revolved his strength via the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual, he found that not only were his four limbs less tired, the pressure on his body had significantly lessened. Furthermore, the rate at which he was gaining strength had compounded several times over!

Physical training was meant to constantly accumulate astral energy so that one would reach the stage of converting astral energy into qi. Once one's converted qi was able to finally take shape, one would be considered to have reached the Astral Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun used the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual to activate the stars within him. With the nine stars working together to absorb astral energy, the rate at which he grew in strength was far beyond one's imagination.

Without realizing it, Xiang Shaoyun had been running for four hours! He found that although he was rapidly expending energy, fresh bursts of energy were constantly flowing out from deep within him, always keeping him at almost peak condition. Initially, he wanted to keep running for as long as he could. Alas, his stomach stopped him from doing so.

Gurgle! Gurgle!

Xiang Shaoyun felt his body gradually weaken, and he could not help but place the rock to one side.

"Dammit. People once said that a meal can defeat a hero. I, Xiang Shaoyun, am a heavenly genius among men. Am I bound to fall here too?" Xiang Shaoyun said, ironically tooting his own horn.

At this moment, a young girl's voice came from right beside him, "I have some food here for you."

Chapter 8: Challenging One's Limits!

Appearing right beside Xiang Shaoyun was precisely Lu Xiaoqing. Her face showed faint traces of pink, and her cute round eyes did not dare to look directly at Xiang Shaoyun, as if she was a bit shy. She was a compassionate girl, and she pitied Xiang Shaoyun.

Before Xiang Shaoyun even had the chance to speak, a mocking voice resounded through the air, “Oho, a five-star physique genius has fallen to the point where he needs a woman to feed him? How sad of you.”

Who else could have said this but Gou Zi? He had even appeared right beside Xiang Shaoyun with two other people. He gazed scornfully at Xiang Shaoyun, as if he wanted to swallow him whole.

Ignoring Gou Zi’s words, Xiang Shaoyun looked at Lu Xiaoqing and sincerely said, “Thank you, but I can’t accept this.”

Having said that, he stood up and looked at Gou Zi’s group of three and declared, “The three of you, remember this! You may mock me today, but I will make you pay me back ten times as much in the future!”

Laughing coldly, Gou Zi said, “The likes of you dare to spout this nonsense? In less than three days, you will starve to death! You really don’t know your place!”

Gou Zi and his men did not dare to personally take action against Xiang Shaoyun out in the open. This was part of Martial Hall Palace’s rules—apart from the canteen, personal duels were not permitted elsewhere. The only exception was if they were to fight in the arena.

“You’re taking your bullying too far!” Lu Xiaoqing unhappily cried out as she watched Gou Zi’s arrogant manner.

“Miss Lu, we have no intention of offending you, and we even ask you to stay away out of this. Otherwise, if Young Master Wu gets angry over this, you might suffer in the process,” Gou Zi warned Lu Xiaoqing.

“Good, very good! I will report this matter to the martial officer!” Lu Xiaoqing furiously yelled. The martial officer was basically the teacher in charge of mentoring the outer disciples.

“Heheh, go ahead, then,” Gou Zi indifferently replied.

“Getting angry over these dogs is of no use. I can feel your sincerity. I, Xiang Shaoyun, have not yet fallen to a point where I need to live off a woman to survive.” After he finished speaking, Xiang Shaoyun turned around and left.

“You ungrateful fellow!” Lu Xiaoqing lightly stomped the ground before she also proceeded to leave.

“Haha! I want a genius like you to get the hell out of Martial Hall Palace like a lowly dog!” Gou Zi madly laughed.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun was feeling extremely depressed, and he swore to himself to get his revenge! From afar, a figure riding on a wolf had taken note of what was happening to Xiang Shaoyun. He lightly sighed to himself, "An unpolished jade will never shine. If you can't even get past this small hurdle, then your five-star physique is indeed a waste."

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was strolling toward a martial officer. This officer was a middle-aged man who was able to utilize the power of the stars. He was coldly monitoring the movements of every single outer court disciple who was within his sight. When he saw Xiang Shaoyun coming over, he indifferently asked, "What?"

Xiang Shaoyun went straight to the point. "Martial officer, I wish to have a meal."

"Lunchtime is over. If you were unable to get a meal, you cannot blame others. Stay hungry first, then wait for dinner to fight again," the Martial Officer coldly replied.

"I just want to know if there are any other ways of getting a meal?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Outer court disciples are only allowed to have their meals in the canteen, inner court disciples are allowed to eat in our local restaurant or leave the Martial Hall Palace to get a meal, and personal disciples can have meals at their respective elder's abode. Is that clear?" explained the martial officer.

Xiang Shaoyun could not help but feel a bit disappointed. He was already hungry beyond compare, yet he had to wait another six hours before even getting the chance to fight for dinner. It was going to be rough trying to hold on.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was sadly walking away, the martial officer said, "However, if you have the guts to challenge your limits and complete a few tasks, an exception will be made and you will be rewarded appropriately. Food won't be an issue then."

"What tasks?" Xiang Shaoyun fervently asked.

"At the place called the Hall of Limits, thresholds have been designated for different cultivation levels. So long as you are able to surpass that threshold, you will be able to get special rewards! However, the limits are not easily broken. Only if you are the strongest among those your level will you be able to forcefully complete the task there," the martial officer said.

"I want to give it a try!" Xiang Shaoyun said with determination.

"Heheh, very good. Follow me, then," the martial officer replied with a smile on his face.

The martial officer proceeded to bring Xiang Shaoyun to the Hall of Limits. At the same time, he also informed Xiang Shaoyun about some matters regarding the Hall of Limits.

The so-called limits one needed to surpass referred to the upper thresholds of one's ability within the same cultivation realm. This would separate geniuses from others in the same realm, and every stage's limit would be different. There were different challenges available: facing off against strong experts, being tortured in illusionary worlds, or even other strange tasks that would test one's limits.

"Okay, this here is the Hall of Limits. I can only bring you here. If you're able to surpass the limits, wanting to have a meal is but a simple matter." After the martial officer finished speaking, he turned around and began to leave.

A five-star physique was worthy of this martial officer's care and attention. If this was any other outer court disciple, he would have merely pointed the way and let them find the place themselves. The Hall of Limits was an extremely old building. Built at the foot of a mountain, the building was suffused in some weird energy, making it difficult for others to see through the building.

"Disciple Xiang Shaoyun greets the revered overseer," Xiang Shaoyun politely greeted the old overseer seated in an old wooden armchair.

"You wish to challenge the limits?" the old overseer said, his cloudy eyes gazing at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Indeed. Please show me the way!" Xiang Shaoyun replied.

"Go straight. It is the first room. Enter yourself, and if you're able to walk out safely after an hour, it'll count as you passing," the old attendant said directly without beating about the bush.

After a slight bow, Xiang Shaoyun started making his way to the old building. Very quickly, he reached the entrance to the first level of the Hall of Limits. Without hesitating, he pushed open the doors and walked inside. Just as he had stepped inside, the doors automatically closed. Simultaneously, an invisible burst of energy filled the room, making Xiang Shaoyun feel as if he was lifting a rock weighing 500 kilograms, causing him to fall flat on the floor.

Pu!

Xiang Shaoyun spat out a mouthful of fresh blood.

"Gravity room!" Xiang Shaoyun cried out to himself in alarm.

Basic Realm cultivators focus on honing their physical strength, and the limit pertaining to this particular hall was precisely that. However, this was no ordinary gravity affecting him; it was artificially produced via a formation that resulted in it being formless. This made it practically impossible to resist. Only one who could withstand the pressure of the gravity constantly trampling them would be considered to have surpassed the limit!

Xiang Shaoyun's perception was extraordinary; the moment the unknown pressure assailed him, he knew that it was a test of limit pertaining to gravity.

The gravity in the room made him feel the weight of 500 kilograms. Xiang Shaoyun was a mere fifth-stage Basic Realm cultivator, meaning that his physical strength was only able to bear 250 kilograms. Making him endure pressure double that was no doubt his utmost limit.

What Xiang Shaoyun had to be thankful about was that even though he had neglected his training since young, his father had constantly tempered his body with various spirit medicines. This made his physical body unusually strong; otherwise, he would've long succumbed to the gravity!

"This room really does push the limits. However, I will make use of this to achieve a breakthrough in my Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual!" Crying out to himself, he began circulating the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual.

Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual was indeed an ancient technique, one full of various mysteries. The moment Xiang Shaoyun activated it, his body rapidly circulated qi while nine stars lit up throughout his body. As the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual circulated through him, the pressure he felt gradually decreased.

Chapter 9: This Brat Is Definitely a Masochist!!

Outside the Hall of Limits, the martial officer who brought Xiang Shaoyun over had returned. He spoke to the senior overseer, saying, "I say, brother, don't you think you're being a bit cruel here? Normally, only sixth-stage Basic Realm disciples are allowed in, and they're only required to remain there for a quarter of an hour. That brat from just now is only at the fifth stage...making him stay in there for half an hour is—"

The old overseer lazily waved his hand and said, "Don't worry. He possesses a five-star physique, so he must suffer a bit more than normal people. If he cannot even surpass the first limit, this proves that his heart is not in the right place, making it difficult for him to accomplish great things in the future."

"Okay, then. I really hope nothing untoward happens; otherwise, if the nineteenth elder comes for me, I really will be in hot soup." Taking one more glance at the Hall of Limits, the martial officer left.

Still indifferent, the old overseer slowly shut his eyes and sunk deep into meditation. In the first room, Xiang Shaoyun was undergoing a torture of the utmost limit. Subjected to a gravity of 500 kilograms, every single second was unbearable, much less an entire hour.

Although Xiang Shaoyun was able to forcefully tap his astral energy via the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual and lessen the pain, as time went on, he felt his bones

being crushed and his mind being torn into pieces. This test not only tested one's physical endurance, but also one's willpower. If his willpower was not strong enough and he fainted, he would most certainly be crushed by the immense gravity.

"I must surpass this limit. Activate, Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual!" Xiang Shaoyun recalled all the moments he had been insulted by others, giving him a boost of adrenaline originating from his unwillingness to submit. The stars in his body began to light up brilliantly, with the nine stars turning into something akin to nine whirlpools that began to activate the hidden potential within his flesh, meridians, organs, and bones.

Buzz Buzz

Xiang Shaoyun's body began emitting a strange buzzing noise. A large wave of power flowed from his limbs and bones into the midst of the nine stars. Such immense power was definitely not something that a regular fifth-stage Basic Realm practitioner should possess, nor was it gained from withstanding 500 kilograms worth of gravity. The source of this power was from Xiang Shaoyun himself.

"Father, why are you bringing over such a large medicine jar? We are not even done boiling the existing medicine!"

"Father is using spirit medicine to reinforce your body. Although you have amazing talent, since you made a bet with others to not cultivate for 10 years, you're wasting 10 of your best years for cultivation! I am doing this to build up your foundation so that you will be able to rise up again after 10 years! Otherwise, once your star formation is formed, your accomplishments will be severely limited!"

"But but but...this cauldron of medicine is boiling, I will be roasted to death!"

"Don't worry. I've locked away your meridians and star formation, and I will also be freezing the spirit medicine with my hand seals. Be a good boy and trust me, ok? You won't feel any pain."

"You're a liar, Father! Didn't you say it wouldn't hurt?! It burns, it burns—ahhh—you cub-eating tiger!!"

Remembering what his father had done for him when he was five, Xiang Shaoyun began to smile. He said, "Father, all the hard work and effort you put in back then, your son is reaping the harvest right now. Rise!"

Xiang Shaoyun cried out loud, his palms flat on the ground, forcing himself to stand against the weight of 500 kilograms. The nine stars in his body shone brightly while energy constantly streamed into his star formation, powering the stars to even greater limits. Waves of refined energy, pulsing from his meridians, flowed throughout his body and resonated within his 365 acupoints, causing his internal energy to explosively increase. From his initial cultivation of fifth-stage Basic Realm, this explosive growth

pushed his cultivation to the late phase of the fifth stage before it reached the peak phase shortly after.

Boom!

Sixth-stage Basic Realm!

Xiang Shaoyun's energy raged like a god holding up the heavens and the earth. The 500-kilogram gravity continued to assail him and squeezed out the energy hidden within his body, which in turn fueled his nine stars. All this resulted in an ungodly increase in his cultivation!

Xiang Shaoyun's bodily reinforcement had begun when he was 5 years old and lasted all the way until he was 14 years old, a full 9 years! The result of this was that his body seemed to contain boundless energy; the pressure that he was undergoing from the Hall of Limits had unleashed just a tiny bit of it!

Filled with this energy, Xiang Shaoyun forgot about his hunger, even forgetting that the 500-kilogram weight was still pressing down upon him!

"I cannot afford to break through too fast. I must first consolidate this new strength and establish a firm foundation!" Although Xiang Shaoyun had yet to formally qualify as a cultivator, nobody understood better than him the essentials of cultivation.

With this train of thought, Xiang Shaoyun endlessly suppressed the unrestrained flow of energy, forcing it into his nine-star formation. Although the energy seemed boundless, once it came into contact with the nine stars, it disappeared without a trace. With the massive flow of energy into his nine stars, the pressure on his body gradually decreased, making it easier to withstand the gravity.

Simultaneously, the energy that was being squeezed out from him slowly decreased until it finally stopped. Was that all there was to the energy he had accumulated over nine years of bodily reinforcement? Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun understood that that was not the case. Rather, the limit of this particular room was no longer able to force out any more of the energy within his body.

Without realizing it, half an hour had already passed. When the old overseer came before the hall's gates, the entrance to the room, he found that Xiang Shaoyun was standing straight, as if the environment within the room felt completely normal to him! Upon seeing this, the overseer's eyes almost fell out of their sockets!

Ever since this overseer had taken up the position of overseer at the Hall of Limits, he had never seen anybody below the seventh stage of Basic Realm stand there so effortlessly, much less someone at the fifth stage!

The old overseer trembled as he cried out in surprise, "Impossible! This...this brat has broken through to the peak of the sixth-stage Basic Realm? H-how is this even possible?" While the old overseer stared in disbelief, Xiang Shaoyun turned and noticed him standing there.

Laughing, Xiang Shaoyun then asked, "Revered overseer, may I stay here for a little bit longer?"

"Eh? This...yeah, sure," the old attendant replied, completely dumbfounded.

"In that case, many thanks!" Xiang Shaoyun cheerfully answered.

Leaving the front of the first room, the old attendant's face was one of utter shock. In the end, all the attendant could do was silently curse, "F*ck, this brat is definitely a masochist!"

If Xiang Shaoyun had heard his words, he would have fallen face flat onto the ground. How could he be a masochist?! All he wanted to do was to further adapt himself to the gravity in the room and see how much longer he'd be able to last!

After a full four hours, Xiang Shaoyun finally came out of the hall. The moment he stepped out, he immediately felt the pressure on his body disappear. In fact, his body felt weightless now!

Extremely satisfied, Xiang Shaoyun laughed to himself, "Haha! Testing my limits feels great!"

By the time Xiang Shaoyun stepped out of the compound, the old overseer had been waiting for a long while.

"Brat, you're not bad at all," the old overseer praised Xiang Shaoyun without holding back.

"Many thanks for the revered overseer's praise," Xiang Shaoyun humbly replied, not letting what had just happened go to his head.

"Alright. Since your challenge is a success, you'll get 1,000 points as a reward!" the elder spoke as a matter of fact.

"What in the world is 1,000 points? I want food!" Xiang Shaoyun complained, as if he was a hungry ghost.

Chapter 10: If You Don't Let Me Eat, You Die!

"A brat like you really doesn't know how to appreciate good things. The 1,000 points will allow you to fill your stomach for an entire year!" The old overseer was slightly speechless after hearing Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated then said, "Eh, what do you mean? This disciple has just joined the Martial Hall Palace yesterday! My heartless senior brother Zi Changhe didn't tell me any of this at all!"

Upon hearing Xiang Shaoyun directly call Zi Changhe by name, the old overseer couldn't help but tremble. Each and every one of the Martial Hall Palace elders was mighty; which disciple would dare to speak their names directly?

"Points are given out by the Martial Hall Palace as rewards. They're a form of currency that can be used for exchange, but we keep track of them with jade plates, not physical notes or coins. Here in Martial Hall Palace, you can use these points to not only buy food but also weapons, martial skills, and cultivation methods! What this means is that the more points you have, the more things you'll be able to do! Do you understand?" slowly explained the old overseer.

"You should've said so earlier!" Xiang Shaoyun scoffed, taking hold of the jade plate. He then began heading in the direction of the canteen, hungry beyond compare.

"Why the rush? This jade plate needs a drop of your blood as identification before it can be used. Furthermore, this jade plate will be closely related to you from now on, so be sure to take good care of it!" the old overseer sternly warned.

By the time he finished speaking, Xiang Shaoyun was already long gone. Shaking his head, the old overseer bitterly laughed, "What an impatient brat!"

Xiang Shaoyun dashed right to the area outside the canteen. Biting furiously onto his finger, he dripped blood onto the jade plate. When the jade plate came into contact with the blood, the number 1,000 appeared.

"This seems like a cheap knockoff of a recording crystal," Xiang Shaoyun mused to himself. Without thinking much, he handed the jade plate to the canteen overseer and asked for food.

However, the canteen overseer told him that the canteen was public and only provided free food, not food purchasable with points. Only Martial Hall Palace's restaurant was able to exchange food for points.

"The hell?! Is it that hard to find just a little food?!" Xiang Shaoyun was on the brink of going mad with hunger. For low-end cultivators such as himself, what one needed the most was food for energy, especially for today after he had madly consumed such a

large amount of energy. It had been almost a whole day since his last meal, making it increasingly hard to bear. Just as he was about to make his way to the restaurant, three human figures showed up in front of him, blocking his path.

“You guys really like sticking to me like ghosts, don’t ya?” Xiang Shaoyun said while licking his lips. At this moment, whoever tried stopping him from getting his meal would be very unlucky.

“Heheh, are you hungry to the point of going crazy? Going to the canteen to find food?” Gou Zi mockingly laughed.

“I’ll count to three. If the lot of you don’t get lost by then, watch how I’ll take care of you!” Xiang Shaoyun was thoroughly enraged.

“Sure, show me! How are you going to beat me up? The outer court rules state that apart from mealtimes, the only times disciples are allowed to fight are when they’re in the arena!” Gou Zi said, full of confidence.

Whoever dared to break the rules would face the punishment of Martial Hall Palace.

“Three!” Xiang Shaoyun bellowed.

“I’m waiting for you to hit me, you piece of trash!” Gou Zi stuck out his head, leering at Xiang Shaoyun.

All of a sudden, Xiang Shaoyun struck out.

Pa!

“AHHH!”

A crisp noise resounded through the canteen, followed shortly by cries of pain.

“I’ve seen many kinds of scoundrels, but this is the first time I’ve seen scoundrels like you, asking others to hit them!” Xiang Shaoyun mercilessly shouted.

Gou Zi’s face had gained a handprint the shade of light pink. Furthermore, blood trickled from the corner of his lips; one could see that Xiang Shaoyun hit hadn’t been light at all.

“Bastard, you dare to hit me! Go beat him up!” Gou Zi furiously shouted. Before he had even finished speaking, the two sixth-stage Basic Realm people with him had already started moving toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Although their movements were swift and concise, Xiang Shaoyun was even quicker than them! However, he did not raise his fists against them, but rather retreated. He had no intention of running at all. Rather, he picked up a loose brick lying on the ground.

It was also at this moment that the two youths sent their attacks toward Xiang Shaoyun. As outer court disciples of the Martial Hall Palace, they had both learned some battle techniques. Although they were the most basic of battle techniques, they enabled the two youths to have some form of combat ability. One of them chose to send a fist straight toward Xiang Shaoyun's face while the other attacked his lower leg.

"If you don't let me eat, you die!" Xiang Shaoyun bellowed at the top of his lungs, his body dodging their attacks with the nimbleness of a sparrow. As he stopped before one of the youths, the brick in his hand turned into a peerless weapon, smashing straight down onto the youth's head!

Pa!

The unfortunate youth suffered a direct blow to his head. Blood began gushing out as his eyes rolled. He fainted on the spot, and his comrade suffered a severe fright but did not back down, sending a leg flying toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The power behind this kick was quite formidable indeed, sending out ripples of wind. If this was before Xiang Shaoyun had broken through to the sixth stage of Basic Realm, he would only have been able to avoid this powerful kick. Right now, however, he chose to directly counter this kick with his own kick!

Crack!

When their kicks connected, the crisp sound of bone being broken could be heard. Staggering back from the engagement with Xiang Shaoyun, the youth found that he could no longer stand steadily on both feet, and he cried out in pain, "My leg! My leg is broken!"

Having partially tapped into his body's potential in the Hall of Limits, Xiang Shaoyun was starting to show the results of nine years of physical reinforcement from soaking in medicine. In terms of physical strength alone, Xiang Shaoyun was completely unmatched in the Basic Realm.

For this youth, going head-to-head with Xiang Shaoyun was seeking his own demise. Swiftly closing the gap between the two of them, Xiang Shaoyun once again took hold of the brick and struck towards the youth. The same fate that befell the other youth fell upon this youth as well.

Within mere moments, Xiang Shaoyun had finished off two opponents of the same level as him. One could only admit his "brick martial techniques" were both fiery yet beautiful to watch. Thinking back to when he was a powerful figure in his own home, he would often use a brick to discipline disobedient servants.

Gou Zi was stunned speechless. He had never thought that his two companions would be taken care of so easily. Looking at the approaching Xiang Shaoyun, Gou Zi sinisterly

laughed, “Do you think that because you were able to knock them out with luck that you’ll be able to take on me, a peak seventh-stage Basic Realm cultivator? Too naive!”

Rushing Wind Punch!

Gathering the force of air around one’s fist, just one punch would be enough to break rocks and startle the heavens! This punch of Gou Zi’s comprised all his physical strength and was more than sufficient to completely obliterate a rock weighing 500 kilograms.

Taking a deep breath, Xiang Shaoyun sent a punch of his own in retaliation. Trying to compete with him in terms of physical strength was asking for trouble.

“Ahhh!”

When the two fists collided, a sharp cry of pain immediately rang out. Needless to say, the cry belonged to none other than Gou Zi.

However, Gou Zi managed to retract his hand just in time, avoiding the full force of Xiang Shaoyun’s fist. It was due to this timely move that he was able to escape the tragic fate of having his bones broken like his two companions. Nonetheless, his hand was shaking with so much pain that it was hard to lift it.

“You damn lackeys want to target me time and again, right? This time, I’ll thoroughly beat all of you into dogs!” Xiang Shaoyun shouted, the brick in his other hand already ruthlessly planting itself into Gou Zi’s face.

Gou Zi cried out in anguish, and blood gushed out of his nose in columns. Xiang Shaoyun did not let up, raining blow after blow on Gou Zi’s face and head.

Crack!

The brick ended up breaking after smacking his head time after time.

“It seems that your head is rather stiff; the brick actually broke!” Xiang Shaoyun finally let up, looking scornfully at the pitiful Gou Zi.

“Y-you...Young Master Wu won’t let you off! Waaaaaahhh!” Gou Zi cried through tears of pain.

Getting on his feet, Xiang Shaoyun threw the broken brick aside and tyrannically declared, “Even if it’s the king of heavens trying to stop me from eating, I will smack him to death!”