

## Overlord 541

### Chapter 541: Heading to Dragon Phoenix Academy

Three days passed quickly, and soon, it was time for Xiang Shaoyun to head to the Dragon Phoenix Academy. The weather was calm, and the sky above the Bloodsin City was clear, as if the devilish energy and bloody aura enveloping the city had thinned considerably.

After taking a bath, Xiang Shaoyun brought the Han Clan sisters and Devouring Ghost to the Ghostface Sect. There, Lady Shura was waiting outside the sect entrance. She was still wearing her ghostface mask. The tight-fitting martial outfit she wore showcased her seductive figure, one that caused the Han Clan sisters to feel inferior.

In terms of looks, they might not lose out to Lady Shura. But in terms of figure, they were somewhat lacking compared to her. On top of that, she exuded a kind of wild beauty that could fill all men with a desire to conquer.

"Let's go," said Xiang Shaoyun with a faint smile.

Lady Shura nodded obediently. "Ok."

The hearts of the sisters skipped a beat. They had been imagining the day when they finally became Xiang Shaoyun's women, but now, he was holding the hand of a different woman before them. They could feel their hearts shattering.

Han Qianwei was still able to hold in her sadness, but Han Xuwei was already tearing up. Xiang Shaoyun saw, but he did not give any explanations. Instead, he brought Lady Shura to the front of the group.

Han Qianwei wanted to give Xiang Shaoyun a tongue-lashing, but she found that there really wasn't anything she could say about this. He had long made it known to their uncle that he was uninterested in them. He only wanted them as followers. In other words, even if he had a different woman, that had nothing to do with them. Instead, they had to comply with his wishes.

Xiang Shaoyun's actions were intentional. If the sisters didn't even have the resilience to face something like a heartbreak, they wouldn't be qualified to be his followers.

"Don't cry, little sister. That will only cause that scoundrel to look down on us. There are so many men in the world. Is he our only choice?" said Han Qianwei through voice transmission.

She was comforting both her sister and herself.

Han Xuewei wiped her tears and said, "Let's go. We're his followers, not his women. It is not our place to interfere with his personal life."

Han Qianwei looked at the heartbroken Han Xuewei and said, "If you really can't stand this, it is still not too late for us to leave."

Han Xuewei replied resolutely, "No, I refuse to remain a weakling. I can take this!"

Han Qianwei did not know what to say. She looked at the pair in front of her with mixed emotions. As for Lady Shura, she wasn't bothered about Xiang Shaoyun's relationship with the sisters. For her, as long as she occupied a place in his heart, it was enough.

Her thought process was completely different from that of an ordinary woman. Since young, she had undergone harsh training. She was nowhere as innocent as the sisters. This was a world where it was completely normal for a man to have more than one wife. Even if she was to find that Xiang Shaoyun actually had feelings for the sisters, she wouldn't be shocked.

Soon, they arrived at the city hall. Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhua were there waiting. As for Yan Shengqiu, he had departed ahead of time. That was because he did not wish to offend the Ye Clan for the sake of Xiang Shaoyun. After all, the Yan Clan was also based in the Yu Province, and nothing good would come out of offending the Ye Clan.

As for Ning Wenhua, she had less misgivings. In any case, she had feelings for Tang Longfei and would not be overly bothered about the Ye Clan. At this time, Tang Zhan and Yu Chenba walked out from the building. Tang Zhan smiled and said, "May all of you be successful in the test."

"Don't worry, Father. I won't disappoint you," said Tang Longfei.

Ning Chenba also said something to Ning Wenhua. When they were done, the group finally set off. Instead of flying, they would be using a teleportation formation within the city to arrive near the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

Other cities might not have a teleportation formation reaching the Dragon Phoenix Academy, but that was definitely not the case for this Bloodsin City. After all, the Bloodsin Cities were among the most important cities in the world. The Four Great Ancient Academies would even occasionally send their disciples to those cities for tempering.

Thus, such a formation was available in the city. It was located at an eastern corner of the city. Elders of the four academies were stationed there, and only members of the four academies were allowed to use it. Tang Longfei knew where the formation was, and he brought the group there straight away.

When the group arrived, they found that it was a rather concealed location that was hard to notice. However, a considerable number of youngsters were currently gathered in its vicinity. All of them were late-stage Kings. Each of them had a powerful mount, and currently, they were chatting in groups of three or four.

Xiang Shaoyun's group became the center of attention the moment they arrived. Tang Longfei was well-known and many people extended greetings to him when he arrived. Even those who did not personally know him would nod at him as a form of greeting. Tang Longfei responded to the greetings nonchalantly. He knew that they were all talented cultivators representing different organizations. Although he was a local tyrant, he did not wish to offend these many people.

"There are four teleportation formations here. That is the one heading to the Dragon Phoenix Academy," said Tang Longfei as he brought the group toward a certain direction.

There, a spirited old man was seated on the ground, checking the jade plates of the youngsters one by one. The jade plate would serve as both a proof of identity and a pass to use the formation.

Xiang Shaoyun took out his special-recruit jade plate and told the old man, "Both of them are with me."

The old man scanned Xiang Shaoyun curiously before a genial smile formed on his face, "A decent kid, but quite a playboy. At the academy, forget about romance. Focus on cultivation."

Xiang Shaoyun bowed. "This kid will remember that."

The old man did not say anything else and continued inspecting the others. Only after a certain number of people gathered would the formation be activated. After all, the distance between the city and the Dragon Phoenix Academy was quite far. Doing so would lessen the transportation expenses.

Everyone was here to partake in the entrance test, and when they found that Xiang Shaoyun was actually a special-recruit disciple, their gazes started burning. But when they saw that he already had his followers, they were filled with regret. Even so, many still greeted him in a hope to at least become familiar with him. That way, at the Dragon Phoenix Academy, perhaps this special-recruit genius would show them some care.

Both Xiang Shaoyun and Tang Longfei did not slight anyone who offered greetings, and they responded politely. After a while, enough people had gathered for one round of teleportation.

#### Chapter 542: Arriving at Dragon Phoenix City

The Dragon Phoenix Academy was located within the Dragon Phoenix Province, and the entirety of the province was the academy's territory. It was at the borders of the Eastern Pass and Southern Wasteland, an area not within the control of the two regions.

The province occupied an area with several hundred cities with population surpassing hundreds of millions. However, the area around the Dragon Phoenix Academy was sparsely populated, as it was mostly filled with forests and mountains. This place was also one of the most important locations for demons. Apart from demons, there were also a lot of other races that enjoyed staying in these thick forests.

As for the Dragon Phoenix Academy itself, it was located at the middle of the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. It was surrounded by mountains, with demons as neighbors. One could say the academy's location served as a form of natural defense.

Xiang Shaoyun's group was teleported to Dragon Phoenix City, which was located at the periphery of the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. A massive amount of high-grade spirit crystals had been exhausted to teleport them this far, sending them across the Western Desert.

The Dragon Phoenix City was one of the most flourishing cities in the world, and it was under direct rule of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. When the group arrived, they saw that the architecture was grand and majestic. A never ending stream of carriages dotted the roads of the bustling city.

Generations of Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples were gathered here. Apart from that, people from all over the world were also living in the city. No conflicts were allowed in the city. Anyone

who dared to create trouble in the city would suffer the punishment of the Dragon Phoenix Academy's enforcers, which completely unlike the situation in the Bloodsin City they had come from.

The moment Xiang Shaoyun's group arrived, a voice rang out, "Welcome, junior brothers and sisters. I am your senior brother, Xiu Yi, who joined during the previous recruitment. I will be in charge of bringing you to your prepared accommodations as you rest and await the test."

Everyone looked over and saw a man who looked to be about 30 years old speaking to them. Xiang Shaoyun also swept his gaze over and found that he was completely incapable of seeing through Xiu Yi's strength. Evidently, this senior brother was not weak at all. The group quickly gave Xiu Yi their respects. Xiu Yi smiled and led the newcomers to their lodgings.

The Dragon Phoenix City was considered a city of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, and everything in the city belonged to the academy. Those wishing to stay or conduct business were required to pay a large amount of rent.

Only those who had contributed greatly to the academy were allowed to own a property in the city. Otherwise, one could only rent. In other words, any organization that had arrived would not be able to own any land in the city for a prolonged period of time. The only thing they could do was rent.

From that, it was obvious the academy had absolute control over the city. No outside organizations were allowed to spread their influence here. Xiang Shaoyun and the group of newcomers looked around curiously without stop as they followed Xiu Yi around.

Although they were all geniuses from various places, they were still filled with excitement when they saw a top-tier city like the Dragon Phoenix City. The city was filled with ancient and majestic buildings, and stores sold all sorts of items as pedestrians moved about in endless streams, displaying the grandeur of a top-tier city.

Soon, they arrived before a restaurant. The restaurant had a red cornice roof, pillars sculpted with dragons and phoenixes, and yellow walls and grated windows. The building constantly exuded a sense of majesty.

In front of the restaurant hung an eye-catching board with the words "Dragon Phoenix Restaurant" written with a flamboyant and bold calligraphy style that seemed to be filled with power.

Clearly, the restaurant was one of the academy's businesses in the city in addition to being a place of lodging for the new recruits. Xiu Yi led the newcomers as they entered the restaurant. When they entered, they found that the restaurant with a size of several thousand square meters was already filled with youngsters. Each of them was heroic and spirited, and all were late-stage Skysoar Realm cultivators. Without a doubt, these were also all the test candidates.

Xiu Yi led Xiang Shaoyun's group to an empty spot and had them all seated. He then said, "The restaurant will be responsible for your food and accommodation. You will receive your room numbers shortly. After three days when the others arrive as well, everyone will be gathered for the test. Let me first issue you a few reminders. Firstly, you are not allowed to create any trouble. Those found creating trouble will be immediately disqualified. If you really have an issue with someone, you may duel your enemy on the arena. Secondly, those who are not present during the start of the test will be considered to have withdrawn from the test..."

After telling them the rules, Xiu Yi left. Soon, the employees of the restaurant served them a large amount of delicacies. However, none of them seemed interested in the food. Instead, they started conversing with the people around them. They were doing so to make more friends and to get some assistance for the coming test.

"Shaoyun, do you want to take a stroll around the city?" Tang Longfei asked.

Xiang Shaoyun swept his gaze at the food served and said, "How about we wait? Let's eat first."

He then started eating. The moment the food entered his mouth, he felt strands of energy coursing through his meridians, filling his entire body with comfort. The food served was actually delicately prepared medicinal cuisine.

Others might not be able to realize this, but Xiang Shaoyun was one who had taken countless medicinal baths in childhood. Thus, he had some knowledge in terms of medicinal mixtures, and he was thus able to see the uniqueness of the food served.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun who was hungrily gorging down the food, Tang Longfei said, "Shaoyun, you can have mine as well."

He thought Xiang Shaoyun was starving so he offered the portion allocated to him. Xiang Shaoyun did not stand in ceremony and accepted the offer with a smile, "Don't regret it!"

Tang Longfei shrugged indifferently. On the other hand, when Ning Wenhua saw Xiang Shaoyun's behavior, she started eating as well. After the first bite, she sank into thought. She then took the second bite, and next, she started gorging the food like Xiang Shaoyun as well. Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters hesitated slightly before they started eating.

After he was done devouring all the food before him, Xiang Shaoyun patted his belly and said, "Not bad at all. I did not expect to be served with a medicinal cuisine capable of nourishing one's meridians and aura."

"Yeah. A meal like this brings one great benefit when frequently eaten," said Ning Wenhua.

An odd look appeared on Tang Longfei's face as he asked, "This is a medicinal cuisine?"

"Yes! I reckon a large amount of king medicines were used to cook this meal. Although the medicinal effect is diluted when cooked this way, the meal still has a nourishing effect," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Upon hearing that, Tang Longfei quickly called to the waiter, "Waiter, 10 sets of the same meal, please."

After he said that, the other people in the restaurant looked over at him like they were looking at some fool, their eyes filled with derision.

Unsurprisingly, the waiter replied calmly, "Only two sets of meals are supplied per day for each person. One in the afternoon and one in the evening. Also, this meal is not available for sale."

#### Chapter 543: Trouble Comes Knocking

Tang Longfei was left speechless. He had not expected that a medicinal cuisine was something unavailable for sale. What kind of restaurant would this be then? Of course, he did not dare to voice his thoughts. This was the Dragon Phoenix Academy, not the Bloodsin City he came from.

Xiang Shaoyun explained, "Since it is a medicinal cuisine, it requires a large amount of medicinal herbs. Also, the process of medicinal mixing is very troublesome. This is not the kind of meal you can have at demand. At least we get to have a few days of free meals here. After the test, I reckon we will need to pay a high price to get a meal like this."

"Since you knew it was a medicinal cuisine, why didn't you remind me? Spit out everything you ate!" Tang Longfei grumbled jokingly.

Xiang Shaoyun retched for a bit before saying, "Even if I can spit it out, would you dare to eat it?"

As they joked around, someone came issuing their room numbers. They would be staying at the rear part of the restaurant. After the meal, they headed toward the restaurant's rear court.

They found that the rear court was incredibly massive. It was akin to a village with a large number of buildings littered everywhere, and was the temporary place of residence for these geniuses. Only the rich and imposing Dragon Phoenix Academy could provide such luxurious lodging to their test candidates.

Of course, that was understandable. The test candidates were the young geniuses from all parts of the dominion. Any of them could grow into a powerful tyrant in the future. Thus, it wasn't weird for the Dragon Phoenix Academy to accord them decent treatment. That way, even those who fail to get through the test would still have a favorable impression of the academy.

After taking a look at their lodging, Xiang Shaoyun's group left to take a stroll around the city. The city looked like any other city, but it was filled with various stores selling everything a cultivator would ever need. The products sold were of a higher level than what was available at the Bloodsin City.

Looking at everything being sold, they were filled with the desire to shop. However, they held back and did not purchase anything. They would first get through the test before thinking of anything else. After spending about half a day to get a general idea of the situation within the city, they returned to the restaurant. The restaurant was packed with people waiting for dinner to be served.

With some difficulty, Xiang Shaoyun's group found some empty seats at a corner and sat down. But they were barely seated when someone shouted at them, "Scram. My young master has this place booked."

Xiang Shaoyun glanced over and saw that the newcomer was a black-clothed man of about 30 years old. He had a handsome appearance and was dressed in bright armor. With a ferocious look in his eyes, he glared at Xiang Shaoyun's group.

Behind him was a group of people. One of them looked younger, at an age of about 20 years old. He had a decently handsome angular face and was dressed in a gorgeous outfit, with several glossy jade



rings on his fingers. His eyes were filled with arrogance. Without a doubt, he was the leader of the group.

Tang Longfei snorted coldly, "We were here first. You guys should be the ones to scram."

"Hehe, we are doing you a favor asking for your seats. Do you know who my young master is?" said the man in black with a sneer.

"I am not interested in knowing. If you have the guts, feel free to create trouble here," said Tang Longfei provocatively.

"Very well...," said the man in black with fury on his face.

The gorgeously dressed young man behind him said indifferently, "Let's go. We will remember this for the future."

He then gave Tang Longfei a deep look before turning and leaving.

He had barely moved when a different group stood up and said respectfully, "Young Master Feng, if you don't mind, you can have our seats."

However, the gorgeously dressed young man ignored them and left.

The man in black snorted at Tang Longfei before saying, "You are the one asking for it. Pray that you don't get through the test. Otherwise, you won't have a pleasant life in the academy."

After they left, the youngsters in the area started softly discussing among themselves.

"That man is the third young master of Southern Wasteland's Feng Clan, Feng Xiaosha. I heard he is a special-recruit disciple. Why is he here?"

"Southern Wasteland's Feng Clan? The same Feng Clan that had advanced into a tier-8 organization about 100 years ago? I think they have some of their people in the academy, right?"

"Those kids must be blind. After offending the third young master, it will be a miracle if they can actually enter the academy."

"They do not look strong at all. Why are they taking part in the test as well? What a joke!"

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The youngsters started stealing glances at Xiang Shaoyun's group, their eyes filled with pity.

When Tang Longfei heard the discussions around them, his expression shifted as he said, "Looks like things are getting troublesome. Why did we meet someone like this so soon?"

"What's the issue, Big Brother Tang?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in confusion. He had also heard the discussions, but he felt nothing. After all, he was a special-recruit disciple and he wouldn't have any issue entering the academy.

"Feng Xiaosha is a person comparable to Ye Linshan. Also, his clan seems to have some sort of relationship with the Dragon Phoenix Academy," Tang Longfei gave a simplified explanation.

Ye Linshan was a genius Ning Wenhuan and Yan Shengqiu spoke highly of. For this Feng Xiaosha to be compared to him, it could only mean that he was no pushover either. More importantly, the Feng Clan had some sort of relationship with the Dragon Phoenix Academy. That would be troublesome to deal with. If they decided to mess with the entrance test, it wouldn't be good for Tang Longfei and the others.

"Don't worry too much, Big Brother Tang. The Dragon Phoenix Academy has a strict recruiting process. I doubt the Feng Clan will be allowed to do as they wish," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Trickeries can appear at any place, but it won't be easy to step on me," said Tang Longfei confidently.

They then finished their meal before returning to their rooms gloomily. But on their way, the man in black appeared before them again.

"You have offended my young master. I will give you a chance to save yourself. Kowtow to my young master and become his follower. We will let your insolence slide," said the man in black. His arms were crossed in front of his chest, and he wore an expression of disdain.

He had ignored the others in Tang Longfei's group. In his eyes, although Ning Wenhua and Lady Shura looked like they were here for the test, Xiang Shaoyun and the Han Clan sisters seemed more like they were only here for fun. Thus, he had ignored all of them.

"What if I say no?" said Tang Longfei with his eyes narrowed.

"Sure. I, Da Zixuan, hereby challenge you for a battle on the arena. Do you dare accept my challenge?" asked Da Zixuan with a toying look.

"Why not?" Tang Longfei agreed without hesitation.

#### Chapter 544: Chance

"Good. I will be waiting for you at noon tomorrow. See you at the arena. If you don't show yourself, I promise you will become the biggest joke of the academy," said Da Zixuan with a sneer. He then prepared to leave.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Big Brother Tang, you don't need to bother yourself with a small fry like this. Let me deal with him."

Tang Longfei looked at Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment. He could see that Xiang Shaoyun wasn't joking, but he still refused, "No. Let me deal with this myself."

"That can't do, Big Brother Tang. You will be sullyng your identity dealing with him personally," said Xiang Shaoyun resolutely.

Da Zixuan was infuriated as he roared, "Bastard, you're courting death!"

"You're the one courting death. I will fight you. You are not worthy of fighting my Big Brother Tang," Xiang Shaoyun shouted back.

"Very well. Since you want to die, I will fulfill your wish. You will die a horrible death tomorrow," said Da Zixuan before he left.

After Da Zixuan left, Tang Longfei looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Shaoyun, is there a need for that? I know you're strong, but I'm no weakling. It won't be hard to defeat him."

"Big Brother Tang, if you agree to the fight, you will fall right into his trap," Xiang Shaoyun said. "The only reason he has challenged you is not to defeat you. Instead, he is trying to make it impossible for you to partake in the test."

Tang Longfei sank into thought before he was hit by a realization. "What a treacherous person. Fine, you have to watch out, and don't force yourself over your limits."

The purpose of the challenge was simple. On the arena, regardless of the final outcome of the battle, Da Zixuan only needed to inflict injuries on Tang Longfie severe enough that passing the test would be extremely hard. It would be different if it was Xiang Shaoyun accepting the challenge. Regardless of the result, he was already a special-recruit disciple.

Everyone returned to their rooms with mixed emotions. Xiang Shaoyun directly entered a state of meditation. The coming battle was one he couldn't be careless with, as he would use it to establish his reputation. It was not that he was vain, but he still needed to establish some dominance. Otherwise, everyone would think that they were weak and could be easily bullied.

Xiang Shaoyun had grown considerably in strength, but he had yet to reach the eighth stage of the Skysoar Realm. But he had already reached the peak of the seventh stage. It wouldn't be long before he could advance.

Prior to this, his second fusion with Yun Flame had caused his strength to skyrocket. In fact, he had had a chance to enter the eighth stage during the fusion, but he had forcefully suppressed it. As his stars had expanded in size, he would attempt advancement after accumulating more energy. In any case, further compressing his foundations would not bring him any harm. In the long term, this act would even bring him benefits. Strands of astral energy converged on him from the night sky at a speed more than five times faster than before. He had only noticed after a night of meditation.

So there is even an Astral Gathering Formation here? Looks like they are really treating us nicely!

In the morning, Xiang Shaoyun left the room and met up with Tang Longfei and the others before heading to the hall to have their meal. But when they arrived, they found that a lot of people were

looking at them with odd gazes. When they sat down, they overheard sounds of discussions. It seemed like the people present had found out about the battle between Da Zixuan and Xiang Shaoyun.

"Looks like they intend to thoroughly turn me into a laughing stock," said Tang Longfei furiously.

"We still don't know who will end up as the laughing stock yet," Xiang Shaoyun sneered.

"Regardless, you have to be careful, Young Master Xiang," said Ning Wenhuan solemnly.

"Um. I won't underestimate any opponent," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After finishing their meal, they were about to head to the arena when someone suddenly rushed over, "Young Master Xiang, I've finally found you. This is great!"

Xiang Shaoyun was astonished to see that the newcomers were people he was familiar with. They were Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin.

"You're here as well?" Xiang Shaoyun smiled.

Xiang Shaoyun had helped them before, but he hadn't kept it to heart. In any case, the three had long left by the time he had returned from the Devil Domain. Seeing people who used to be his comrade-in-arms at a foreign land filled his heart with warmth.

"How have you been, Young Master Xiang? I haven't gotten the chance to thank you for saving our lives back then!" said Jin Shui and Ling Lin gratefully.

"It's nothing. Don't worry about it," said Xiang Shaoyun with a wave of his hand.

Tang Longfei said, "You guys have selected the Dragon Phoenix Academy as well? I had assumed that you would select a different academy instead."

Of the Four Great Ancient Academies, the Dragon Phoenix Academy was ranked third. For many geniuses, the True Martial Academy or Nine Palace Academy would be the better choice.

"Haha, we only decided to come because we were sure Young Master Xiang would come," said Shou Xie.

He still couldn't forget the devil taming technique he thought Xiang Shaoyun possessed. If he knew that Xiang Shaoyun had no such technique at all, his reaction would be amusing.

"Alright, let's catch up at a different time. I have an appointment," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"An arena battle appointment?" Jin Shui asked.

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun replied.

"We should go cheer for Young Master Xiang!" Jin Shui proposed.

"Of course," Shou Xie and Ling Lin agreed.

And thus, the group headed toward the arena. Apart from them, a lot of people also followed them over from the restaurant. They wanted to personally witness the strength of the various geniuses. In a way, this was a method to collect more information.

A large arena could be found not far from the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant. Da Zixuan was standing on the arena, waiting. He was dressed in a different outfit this time. He had donned green armor, and he was standing straight with a green spear in hand, emanating a solemn and cold aura.

He was a peak King. As for the completion of his draconic aura, it would only be revealed during battle. However, Xiang Shaoyun could sense that he was not much weaker than Tang Longfei. It was obvious this person's young master, Feng Xiaosha, would be even more terrifying.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived, he found that there was already a large crowd there. All these people were here to partake in the bustle of a match. When Da Zixuan saw Xiang Shaoyun, he pointed his spear at Xiang Shaoyun and said coldly, "Little bastard, come and die."

"We don't know yet who will be the one to die," said Xiang Shaoyun as he leaped onto the arena.

He landed on the arena in a carefree manner, his disposition instantly dazzling the hearts of many maidens. He was an elegant and handsome youth emanating a temperament that gave one an urge to submit to him.

#### Chapter 545: First Battle at Dragon Phoenix City

"Who is this young man? He looks so handsome! He's making my heart beat faster!"

"I think he's called Xiang Shaoyun. Look, his name is written in front of the arena. Too bad he's quite weak. Otherwise, he will be a great option to be a lover."

"What a pity. He looks even younger than me. I reckon he will suffer on the arena. Oh, how my heart hurts for him!"

"The other person seems to be Da Zixuan, a follower of Young Master Feng? He is well known at the Eastern Pass! That Xiang Shaoyun actually dares to fight him? He's courting death!"

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A lot of young maidens were talking about Xiang Shaoyun, and there was also quite a number of men talking about him with envy. Xiang Shaoyun ignored all the discussions and looked at Da Zixuan coldly, "We can start."

"You're brave, but too bad you're brainless. Even if you're a King of Kings, you are still a bug before me," said Da Zixuan scornfully.

"I am not interested in having a conversation with a mad dog," said Xiang Shaoyun as he moved.

He wasn't moving slowly, but he was still much slower than his usual speed. That was because of the heavy armor he was wearing. After many days of adapting to the armor, it no longer felt so heavy. Even so, it still greatly affected his speed in battle. One ought to acknowledge his bravery for keeping it on even during a battle of life and death like this.

Lightning Bolt Fist!

Rushing like the wind, punching like the lightning!

Xiang Shaoyun punched without holding anything back, not planning to give Da Zixuan any chances whatsoever.

"Power of lightning? No wonder you're so gutsy. Too bad what you have is not enough," said Da Zixuan with a sneer. He then stabbed at the incoming fist repeatedly.

Spike Forest!

Da Zixuan's attack appeared even more extraordinary. Each stab was accompanied by a rush of green that created a wave of green spear energies. The wave crashed down upon Xiang Shaoyun, creating a rumbling explosion.

When the impact from the collision settled, Xiang Shaoyun's clothes were in rags. Evidently, his opponent was the one who had gotten the upper hand in the first exchange.

Da Zixuan became even more haughty as he said, "You came here with just that much strength? Are you dumb?"

He then attacked at a crazier pace than before. A forest of green spears covered the arena, completely suppressing Xiang Shaoyun's lightning power. He appeared completely helpless, looking as if he was attacked to the point he did not have a single piece of skin left whole.

Ning Wenhuan exclaimed in alarm, "Young Master Xiang seems to be in bad shape!"

She had never seen Xiang Shaoyun's true strength. Thus, when she saw him being suppressed from the start of the fight, she started losing confidence in him.

Inwardly, she wondered, Why is he a special-recruit with only this much strength? Is this some sort of joke?

On the other hand, Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and the others were relatively calm. They knew Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be defeated so easily. Perhaps he was only feigning weakness so as to lure the opponent in. After a series of mad attacks by Da Zixuan, the sky suddenly changed color. Dark clouds gathered and rumbling thunders sounded. At the same time, a massive gale started blowing, causing the arena to shake.



Wind and Lightning!

The attack was akin to a natural calamity, an overwhelmingly dreadful calamity. The people around the arena were filled with shock. The wind and lightning had arrived so suddenly Da Zixuan didn't even have the chance to pull away from Xiang Shaoyun.

"Damn it! You think you can defeat me just like this? Impossible!" Not wanting to be defeated so easily, Da Zixuan erupted with all his strength. A 75-percent-complete draconic aura surged out of him and formed a roaring green dragon.

Forest Pile!

All and Everything!

He instantly used two powerful techniques, one defensive and one offensive. A forest formed around him, protecting him from the wind and lightning, and an even larger forest formed before a myriad of demons, devils, spirits, and beasts shot out toward Xiang Shaoyun.

One ought to admit that Da Zixuan truly possessed the combat prowess of a War Emperor. Even with his draconic aura only 75 percent completed, he could put up a fight against a first-stage, or even a second-stage, Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

That was proof that his strength was almost on par with Tang Longfei's. The Wind and Lightning attack Xiang Shaoyun had used was powered by the unique elemental energies within him, enhancing the destructiveness of his attack to directly blast the forest around Da Zixuan apart.

"This is impossible! Block it!" Da Zixuan was overwhelmed with shock when he saw his defense failing him. He quickly used his trump card. He became one with his spear, instantly multiplying the strength of his spear energy blocking the incoming attack.

Human weapon unity!

Da Zixuan had actually reached this level in his spear cultivation. It was no wonder he was so confident and arrogant. Just his attack alone would put him on par with true second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators.

If Xiang Shaoyun had not further deepened his fusion with Yun Flame three days prior, even he would have had a hard time dealing with this attack. He now had no fear of the attack. Instead of using his weapon, he continued powering his attack of wind and lightning. However, that wasn't his main attack.

While Da Zixuan was busy dealing with the storm of wind and lightning, Xiang Shaoyun flickered and appeared at the Da Zixuan's flank before chopping forth with the side of his palm, unleashing a breathtaking saber energy.

Devil Severing Edge!

It was an attack he had comprehended from the devil edge grass, a true mid-emperor-grade technique. He powered the attack with his devil blood and yin devil wind, perfectly unleashing its prowess. The saber energy shot forth along with the wind, moving in a way that was impossible to guard against.

Since Xiang Shaoyun was attacking from Da Zixuan's blind spot, it seemed impossible that Da Zixuan would be able to block the attack. The attack struck, and Da Zixuan staggered and collapsed, coughing blood without stop. If it wasn't for the high-grade armor he wore, the attack would have been enough to slice him apart. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun pressed on without giving his opponent any chance of recovery. He used all his power and sent a finger beam toward his opponent.

Vicious Prison Finger!

The majestic beam swept forth with a torrential vicious energy that accurately shot toward Da Zixuan's forehead. When Da Zixuan saw the incoming beam, he wanted to move his head to the side. However, the beam had been fired too close to him and was moving too fast for him to be able to move away in time. With his eyes wide open, he watched on helplessly as the beam struck him.

Bang!

A massive explosion sounded as a head exploded like a watermelon, creating a disgusting rain of blood and brain matter.

Chapter 546: The Eight Great Freaks

The crowd sank into absolute silence. Everyone was blanking out as they stared at the arena, their hearts raging with shock at the sight of the blood, a chill creeping up their spines. They were all geniuses from all around the dominion, each possessing the combat prowess to battle someone of a higher cultivation level.

Even so, they were still filled with disbelief when they saw a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm youth kill a peak King with the combat prowess of a War Emperor. As for the youth on the arena, he behaved like he had done something negligible as he nonchalantly leaped off the arena. He then beckoned at his friends before heading back to the restaurant. Where he walked, the crowd split to open a path for him. Only when the youth and his friends vanished from the crowd's vision did a massive commotion erupt.

"Dead! Da Zixuan is dead! T-that Xiang Shaoyun is too scary!"

"With that strength, it is impossible he isn't a special-recruit!"

"Yet another freak has appeared! He is indeed worthy of being one of the geniuses here to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Just looking at him fills one with a sense of inferiority."

"That Da Zixuan is Feng Xiaosha's loyal follower. Feng Xiaosha will not let this matter rest. Looks like a massive conflict is about to erupt."

...

Many people present had suffered a blow to their confidence after witnessing that battle. Of course, there were also some who had secretly compared their strength with Xiang Shaoyun's and were still filled with confidence. Regardless, Xiang Shaoyun's name was starting to spread.

After all, he was only a seventh-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. Since he could kill a War Emperor with his cultivation level, it only served to prove that he was a Super War Emperor. Someone with his strength would attract attention anywhere.

Within a certain building in the city, when Feng Xiaosha heard what happened, his angular face turned gloomy. In his anger, wind energy spiraled out of his body and sliced everything in the room into powder.

"I will ensure they can't reach the academy's gates alive!" Feng Xiaosha declared coldly to his followers.

The followers nodded, thick murderous intent forming in their eyes. By the time Xiang Shaoyun's group returned to the restaurant, the gazes laced with mockery were gone, replaced by fear. As for Tang Longfei, he happily ordered some food and liquor from the waiter and started celebrating Xiang Shaoyun's victory. In the Dragon Phoenix Academy, apart from the medicinal cuisine, regular food and liquor were still available for sale.

"Come, come, Shaoyun, a toast to you!" said Tang Longfei as he poured himself a big bowl of liquor. He then downed it.

"You are too polite, Big Brother Tang. Since we arrived here together, it is natural that we need to help each other. In any case, I see you as my big brother!" said Xiang Shaoyun after downing a bowl of liquor as well.

"That's right. Working together, we will all be able to enter the academy," Ning Wenhua agreed with a smile. She finally recognized how dreadful Xiang Shaoyun's strength was and no longer doubted him.

"Young Master Xiang, I wonder if we still have the chance to join your faction?" said Shou Xie longingly.

"Yeah, we will follow Young Master Xiang from now on!" offered Jin Shui as if they had known each other forever.

"If Young Master Xiang does not mind, we are willing to be your follower," said Ling Lin.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into a short thought before saying, "Since everyone is so passionate about it, let's work hard together from now on!"

Joyful smiles bloomed on the faces of Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin. They then started feasting on the food and liquor served. Time passed, and soon, there was less than a day before the test. During the previous two days, Xiang Shaoyun's group had spent most of their time in the restaurant, listening to the rumors and news the various young geniuses were talking about.

There were a few freaks whose reputation had spread before the test had even started. Among them, eight particular freaks attracted the most attention, and all eight were acknowledged as the strongest special-recruit disciples this batch.

One of them was Baili Yixiao the Smiling Swordsman of Eastern Pass's Baili Clan, a true genius in swordsmanship. He had comprehended sword intent before 16 years old, killing nine powerful Kings with a single slash, stunning the world with his brilliance. He was currently in his early twenties, yet he had slain a number of Emperors. It was rumored that the Smiling Swordsman had a compassionate heart and those he killed were all criminals who deserved death.

One of them was Zhan Wushuang, a genius of a top organization from the Southern Wasteland, League of War. With his two fists, he fought numerous cultivators of the same cultivation level at the Southern Wasteland and had never suffered defeat. He was known as the Fist Emperor and was 25 years old this year, yet he was already a Dragon Ascension Realm expert. He was a person of dreadful talent.

There were also the two geniuses of the ancient Yu Clan from the Western Desert, Yu Ziyang and Yu Caidie. The former was the clan's Holy Son, and he was also an Emperor below 30 years old. The latter was the clan's Holy Maiden, and she possessed remarkable talent and was a true Super War Emperor. She was breathtakingly beautiful and was known as the prettiest disciple of this batch.

There was also Han Chenfei, the Holy Maiden of Northern Border's top organization Glacier Palace. She possessed a natural Icefrost Physique with extreme talent in cultivation. Her beauty was comparable to Yu Caidie's, and she was known as the number two beauty of this batch.

There was also Huang Tianji from the Central Region's Dusk Dynasty. He was born with an innate draconic aura and was heralded as the new generation's Imperial Son. Not much of his battles were known, but all the known opponents he had defeated were Dragon Ascension Realm experts.

Finally, there were ancient Ouyang Clan's Ouyang Chuanqi and Severing Saber Manor's young master, Xiao Xie. The former was near 30 years old and had been an Emperor for a few years. It was clear how great his talent was. The latter was a self-proclaimed descendant of the Saber Devil, a remarkable saber user no weaker than Baili Yixiao.

For now, the eight were not ranked in any particular order, but it was undeniable that each of them was an exceedingly outstanding talent in cultivation. Apart from them, the other well-known freaks were Ye Linshan the Green Youth, Feng Xiaosha the Squall, An Lulu the Lady Violence, Gui Mochou the Young Master Ghost, and so on.

These were all the freaks among the young geniuses here. Of course, there were also a lot of hidden freaks whose strength was still unknown. Nobody dared to proclaim the title of the strongest among these young freaks. Perhaps more would be known after the test.

Apart from all that information, Xiang Shaoyun had also heard that a lot of young geniuses had already started pursuing Yu Caidie, trying to become the Yu Clan's son-in-law. One could say that before he had even reunited with Yu Caidie, he had gotten himself a large number of love rivals. It gave him a sense of pressure.

Although he was confident he could capture Yu Caidie's heart, he was still worried that someone else would do it before him. No matter what, he had to distinguish himself as quickly as possible and do the deed with Yu Caidie so it would be too late for others who wanted her as well. Only then would he feel safe. If others found out he had such thoughts, he would most likely invite a massive amount of hatred.

The agreement between me and Caidie is for me to become a core disciple before I am qualified to be her man. Although I am a special-recruit now, that only guarantees my entry. It won't help me become a core disciple. Looks like I have to try my best during the test, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 547: Start of Test

In the blink of an eye, the day of the test arrived. Over 100,000 young geniuses had arrived in the city, filling the city with bustle and excitement. A majestic voice rang out, "Everyone that is here for the test, gather outside the north gate."

At that announcement, young geniuses flew out from everywhere in the city and started heading toward the north gate. The entire city was filled with youngsters flying or riding on powerful mounts. All of them were brimming with excitement, filled with hope that they could get through the test.

Soon, the geniuses arrived at an empty space outside the north gate. The originally empty land instantly became crowded with people. Xiang Shaoyun, Tang Longfei, and the others were naturally present as well, awaiting for the test to start.

In the sky above the young geniuses, a luxurious wagon dragged by eight demonic beasts appeared, with several figures standing within the wagon. Obviously, these were either the elders or the overseers of the Dragon Phoenix Academy responsible for the test.

"The Dragon Phoenix Academy will only open the door of recruitment once every 100 years. A total of 888 batches of recruitment have been held thus far, and some remarkably talented disciples have emerged from each batch. I hope this batch will not disappoint either," said a crudely dressed old man with a crew cut. He was on the luxurious wagon. "Most of you are still in the Skysoar Realm. To reach the Dragon Phoenix Academy from here, you will require seven days. Those who are able to reach the academy within seven days will be considered to have passed the first round of examinations. Special-recruits, step forth. The others, prepare yourself."

At that, a number of figures moved forward. Since Xiang Shaoyun was also a special-recruit, he moved forth as well. To his surprise, Shou Xie moved forward as well, causing him to be astonished. Shou Xie was decently talented, but his combat prowess did not seem too impressive. Thus, him becoming a special-recruit was quite a surprise.

When Shou Xie sensed Xiang Shaoyun's gaze, he smiled and explained, "I'm not that good at fighting, but I'm good at dealing with demonic beasts. I have an innate closeness with them, and because of that, I was lucky enough to become a special-recruit as well."

His explanation hit Xiang Shaoyun with a sense of realization. Shou Xie was a special-recruit that possessed a talent unique only to him, one that set him apart from the other young geniuses. Of the over 100,000 youngsters present to take the test, about 1,000 of them were special-recruits.

That might seem like a large number, but in comparison to the test candidates numbering over 100,000, it was a pitifully small number. It was evident how harsh the requirements to be a special-recruit were.

"Excellent. Special-recruits do not need to take the test and can come straight to the academy with us. Of course, you can also opt to take the test. Those wishing to take the test may step back right now, while those wishing to come with us can stay," said the old man with a crew cut hair.

At that, Xiang Shaoyun stepped back. Apart from him, there were about 100 special-recruits who had similarly retreated. The rest remained where they stood. Those who had retreated naturally shared the same thoughts as Xiang Shaoyun. They wanted to validate their capabilities by going through the entrance test. As for those who had remained, they were the ones who wanted to join the academy without going through further hassle.

"Alright. Those who are here need to reach the academy in seven days or you will be disqualified, even if you're a special-recruit," said the crew-cut old man. "There might be some dangers during the test, so you will have to react accordingly. The test commences now."

At that announcement, the young geniuses started flying toward the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range ahead of them. Like a swarm of locusts, they flew forward, blanketing the sky with a massive cloud of people. Xiang Shaoyun's group was doing the same.

Beside him, Tang Longfei asked, "Shaoyun, why did you give up on entering the academy straight away?"

"Someone told me that going through the test will bring me some benefits, so I stayed," said Xiang Shaoyun. He had not expected that the academy would announce that the special-recruits who failed the test would be disqualified.

Inwardly, he cursed, This can't be a scam, right?

"Alright, you need to be careful then. Don't mess up, or it will be too much of a pity," said Tang Longfei.

"Don't worry, I know what to do," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Apart from him, only Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, Ning Wenhuan and the Han Clan sisters were left in their group. As for Jin Shui and Ling Lin, they had already followed Shou Xie to the academy with the identity of followers.

As for the Han Clan sisters, since Xiang Shaoyun was participating in the test, they had to do the same. Otherwise, they wouldn't have the chance to enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun had already summoned Money out. Money was no slower than an average late-stage Skysoar Realm cultivator. With him ferrying the Han Clan sisters, the group would be able to travel faster.

Money was now a peak fourth-stage Demon King and would be able to advance anytime soon and become a fifth-stage Demon King. None of the people there knew how Xiang Shaoyun had conjured Money out of thin air. Thus, they were all astonished to see Money's sudden appearance.

Xiang Shaoyun had to make an explanation, "This is Money. He has a demonic ability allowing him to perform invisible latching. Therefore, you won't be able to see him normally."



The others wore a look of realization after hearing his explanation. They were all aware that demonic beasts would have some unique abilities, so they did not think too much into it. Like everyone else, they started traveling at a rapid speed.

In the beginning, nothing special happened. But after about half a day, trouble finally started coming. A massive swarm of locusts flew out from the mountain range below them, forming an overwhelmingly dreadful sight. The bugs were as big as half an adult, and most of them were Demon Kings. Furthermore, at the middle of the swarm, there were dozens of Demon Emperors.

An ear-piercing screech resounded everywhere, causing the young geniuses to assume ghastly expressions. Without any hesitation, they unleashed their might and charged the swarm.

Rumble! Rumble!

Instantly, numerous explosions of varying colors erupted midair as the geniuses clashed with the swarm. The swarm of locusts spat a large amount of corrosive venom from their mouths. Anyone who as much as touched the venom had a bad time.

To make things worse, although the cultivation levels of these locusts were lower than the geniuses, there were too many of them. They greatly outnumbered the young geniuses. Thus, in the chaotic battle, apart from locusts, many unlucky young geniuses fell as well.

#### Chapter 548: Seven Golden Lotuses

With the massive number of locusts assaulting them, Xiang Shaoyun's group couldn't avoid the battle either. Tang Longfei, punching repeatedly, took the lead and opened a path of blood for the group. As for Lady Shura and Ning Wenhua, they took care of the flanks, helping the group advance. Xiang Shaoyun stayed with the Han Clan sisters and Money as they took care of the rear.

"Both of you, focus on defense. Money, focus on offense. I will open a path with Big Brother Tang," said Xiang Shaoyun after a while. He felt like he couldn't allow this to continue on. Thus, he flew forward and helped Tang Longfei to fight the locusts.

With the heavy armor on him, he could only move as fast as a regular peak King. However, that much speed was enough to deal with his current situation. He slammed out his palms everywhere, sending out numerous tongues of flame to burn all the locusts around them.

He attacked using the power of Yun Flame, which was a high level flame. Each locust was immediately ignited the moment the flame touched it. The large number of the locusts provided them both advantages and disadvantages. One of the disadvantages was that the moment they were burned, they started fleeing in disarray, spreading the flame to the other locusts. In a way, they would harm their own companions, allowing flame attacks to be even more destructive.

With Xiang Shaoyun's help, the pressure on the group reduced as they quickly carved a way through the locusts around them. At this moment, a Demon Emperor locust appeared before them and attacked. It spewed a massive clump of green venom that enveloped the group. It was a terrifying attack an ordinary person would not be able to resist.

"Big Brother Tang, bring them away first. I'll deal with it," said Xiang Shaoyun as he erupted with the power of flame, surrounding himself in a clump of raging fire.

At the same time, he clawed with both his hands and ripped the curtain of venom apart. Yun Flame was worthy of being a high-level unique flame, as its destructiveness had reached an exceedingly dreadful level. Instantly, the curtain of venom evaporated. Even the Demon Emperor locust did not dare to approach them.

A flame at that level was enough to threaten any Emperor. At that moment, Tang Longfei and the others quickly flew away. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he protected the rear before quickly leaving, not willing to waste too much time fighting the locust. As for the locust, it could sense that Xiang Shaoyun was a difficult opponent, so it did not give chase. Instead, it moved on to the other young geniuses in the area.

After about half a day of continuous battle, Xiang Shaoyun and company were finally free of the locusts. They were about to continue traveling when they noticed that the young geniuses ahead of them were suffering the attacks of other groups of demonic beasts, causing them to halt.

"Sure enough, this is not an easy test," Tang Longfei sighed.

"We shouldn't waste any time. Let's charge through, or we won't make it in time," said Ning Wenhuan anxiously.

"There's no rush. You guys should take a small break to recover your energy. I will scout ahead and see what we should do next," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, listen to Shaoyun," Tang Longfei said.

And thus, the group landed on the mountain range below them and took the chance to rest. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he extended the senses granted to him by his Nether Soul Domain and started scouting ahead, trying his very best to figure out the situations ahead of him so he could pick the most suitable path for their travel.

Soon, he discovered the direction with the lowest number of demonic beasts. Furthermore, the demonic beasts there were also the weakest compared to the other directions. Thus, he led the group in the direction he had discovered.

This time, they opted to travel on foot so as to prevent being discovered by more demonic beasts. Although their speed dropped as a result, it was much better than being constantly under the assault of demonic beasts.

With the senses of Nether Soul Domain, Xiang Shaoyun was able to clarify the situations ahead of them in advance. That granted him an advantage over many of the test participants. In this manner, the group traveled for three days straight.

Over the three days, they had suffered numerous demonic beast attacks as well, but they had encountered a relatively smaller number of demonic beasts. Moreover, they had not encountered a single Demon Emperor. Thus, they were able to take the lead among all the test participants. To be precise, they were among the fastest, even if they weren't the fastest.

That day, they had arrived at a certain lake. They had not discovered anything around them, but the silence had caused them to be extremely tense.

After all, this was a mountain range filled with beasts. For this place to be in such tranquility, it could only mean that a powerful fellow was hidden. And that was actually a powerful fellow Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even detect. It gave him a bad feeling.

"Look, there are seven golden lotuses here," exclaimed Ning Wenhua as she pointed at the middle of the lake.

The seven golden lotuses flickered with gold radiance, looking incredibly conspicuous. They also emanated a certain fragrance that filled the lake's periphery.

"Emperor medicine! These are definitely emperor medicines! They are treasures!" Tang Longfei exclaimed joyfully.

Although he had seen a fair share of treasures at the Bloodsin City he came from, personally discovering these treasures in the wild still brought him more excitement. More importantly, these golden lotuses were a match for the power he cultivated. They would greatly help him enter the Dragon Ascension Realm. In his excitement, he impatiently charged toward the lake. It was at that moment that the surface of the lake started rippling, and a massive head rose from it.

"Roar!"

A dreadful roar sounded and reverberated throughout the area. The demonic beasts in the vicinity quickly fled in panic. Tang Longfei suffered the direct impact of the roar and was jolted back. He coughed blood, and Xiang Shaoyun quickly rushed ahead and caught Tang Longfei before rapidly retreating.

"Leave immediately!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted at the women behind him.

The massive head that had come out of the lake was actually the head of a turtle. A pair of sinister eyes could be seen on its head, eyes that could strike fear in anyone's heart. It was most definitely a late-stage Demon Emperor turtle. Otherwise, its head wouldn't be that big, and it wouldn't be so dreadfully powerful.

Lady Shura, Ning Wenhuan, and the others quickly flew away. Unfortunately, the turtle emperor had been angered. It opened its mouth and attacked, spitting water at them. The water bullet was akin to a massive waterfall crashing down from the heavens, bringing with it a destructive might that these War Emperors would have no way of resisting.

With zero hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun tossed Tang Longfei to the side and released his Nether Soul Domain, enveloping everything in the area. The instant the Nether Soul Domain was released, its chains destroyed the water bullet.

At the same time, several chains whipped at the turtle emperor. Feeling threatened, the turtle quickly tried withdrawing into the lake. Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to grab the seven lotuses before quickly fleeing with his companions.

Chapter 549: Final Moment

Xiang Shaoyun's soul power had already reached a level comparable to a top Emperor's due to his bloodline awakening, his growth in strength, and the soul raising stone. Thus, it wouldn't be difficult for him to suppress the turtle emperor.

However, he still did not want to expose his Nether Soul Domain yet. Thus, after stopping the turtle and stealing the golden lotuses, he fled. If he really wanted to fight, he would even be able to kill the turtle emperor.

After losing the golden lotuses it was guarding, the turtle emperor started roaring madly in fury. It rushed out of the lake, revealing its dreadful body that was akin to a mountain. Unfortunately, before it could fly away, it was pressed back down into the lake by a certain incorporeal power. Naturally, that was a power originating from Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain. He had no intention to allow the turtle emperor to catch up with Tang Longfei and the others.

"Don't create trouble, or I'll take your life," threatened Xiang Shaoyun before he left toward Tang Longfei and the others.

The turtle head came out of the lake again, and its eyes were filled with confusion. Why would a King Realm human possess such a terrifying pressure? A short while later, Xiang Shaoyun caught up to Tang Longfei and company.

"Are you fine? That fellow sure is scary," said Tang Longfei. Earlier, he had been jolted to the point of coughing blood. Even now, his face was still ghastly and pale.

"I'm fine. It won't be chasing us any longer. Take some time to recover before we continue traveling," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Tang Longfei nodded and consumed some healing king medicines as he started recovering as quickly as possible. He did not want to delay everyone due to his injuries. He wouldn't be able to forgive himself if he caused others to fail the test. After he sat in meditation for less than an hour, he woke up. His face seemed to have regained some of its colors.

"This place is really laden with dangers. Looks like I can't get too greedy," said Tang Longfei, somewhat dispirited.

After he said that, seven golden lotuses appeared on Xiang Shaoyun's palm as he said, "I have them."

Everyone's eyes lit up, and Xiang Shaoyun's image became even more enigmatic in their hearts. Of course, if he wasn't that powerful, how would he have been able to steal from the turtle emperor?

Joy covered Tang Longfei's face as he said, "Nice one! What are you waiting for? Let's split the loot!"

Since Xiang Shaoyun had taken the lotuses out, it was clear he had no intention of keeping them for himself. He gave each of them one. Ning Wenhua felt somewhat embarrassed to receive her share, and she said, "Young Master Xiang, th-this is something you've gained alone. H-how can I take it?"

"Just accept it. Since we are taking the test together, we are friends. Each of us are entitled to the loot," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

Ning Wenhua glanced at Tang Longfei, and when she saw that he showed no response, she accepted the lotus. Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters also received their shares. Lady Shura cultivated the power of gold. Thus, the lotus was extremely beneficial to her.

On the contrary, the lotus wasn't that useful for the Han Clan sisters, but Xiang Shaoyun still insisted they receive their shares. In the future, they could use them to trade for emperor medicines that could aid them in cultivation. And thus, only two of the lotuses were left. Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun kept both for himself.

The group then set off again. Xiang Shaoyun displayed his scouting prowess as usual, allowing them to avoid many formidable demonic beasts. Gradually, they approached the academy. In that manner, they traveled for two days. Now, they were near their destination.

But at this point, they could no longer avoid getting into intensive battles with the powerful demonic beasts nearby. The area was filled with demonic beasts, including a large number of Demon Emperors. Fully avoiding them was no longer possible. This could be considered the final trial of the first round of the test. If they couldn't get through the demonic beasts, they would all be reduced to beast fodder.

Presently, they were facing about a dozen demonic lions. The strongest of the lions was a third-stage Demon Emperor. There were also three first-stage Demon Emperors, with the rest being peak Demon Kings. They surrounded Xiang Shaoyun's group and charged them repeatedly. It seemed like they would not stop before ripping the group apart.

At this point, Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and Lady Shura no longer held anything back and fought with all their strength. As for the Han Clan sisters and Money, they were temporarily unable to provide any help. Only now did they realize how generous it was for Xiang Shaoyun to bring them along during the test.

If they had joined the test independently like the other participants, they would have been eliminated when they encountered the swarm of locusts. Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was standing before them, providing them with protection. His saber exuded a sharp aura as he repeatedly slashed and engaged the strongest lion in an intense battle.

"Piss off if you don't want to die. Otherwise, your entire clan will die here," said Xiang Shaoyun as he erupted with his presence of dragon and tiger. His domineering aura swept over his surroundings, and combined with the might of his Overlord Skyslaying Saber, his opponent started having the thoughts of fleeing.

Since Xiang Shaoyun was still under the suppression of the heavy armor, he had yet to unleash his full power. Thus, he hadn't been able to harm this third-stage Demon Emperor lion.

"Roar! Repulsive human, don't even dream of getting through my clan's territory. Obediently become our food!" the lion roared, a sound wave rumbling out.

The lion pounced forward and attacked with sharp claws. His demonic aura spread out, turning everything in his surroundings into fine powder. Xiang Shaoyun had long activated his gift of instincts. Thus, he was aware of the lion's attack trajectory. Even so, due to his slow movement speed, the attack still managed to strike him.

Cling! Clank!

The claws landed, creating a series of sparks on his armor. The attack had failed to deal any damage! One ought to know that this was an attack capable of ripping even emperor armors apart. The broken armor Xiang Shaoyun wore was still completely fine and had suffered zero damage. After landing on the ground, Xiang Shaoyun erupted with the power from his lightning bone and lightning star before swinging his saber, sending out a dreadful lightning ray.

On top of that, 49 silver lightning bolts formed in the sky above and rained down, submerging the lion in a storm of lightning. The silver lightning bolts bombarded the lion emperor relentlessly, causing him to repeatedly roar in pain. However, the attack was not enough to kill him.

Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to jump into the air before using the second stance of the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique, Changing Weathers, and he slaughtered his opponent.

Although the lion emperor had a tough body, the Overlord Skyslaying Saber had been restored to the level of peak emperor weapon. It didn't have any problem slicing the lion apart.

After killing the third-stage Demon Emperor lion, Xiang Shaoyun had exhausted about 70 percent of his energy. The remaining 30 percent was barely able to sustain his exhaustion while wearing the armor. He landed heavily on the ground to catch his breath. As he rested, Tang Longfei and company assaulted the remaining lions and made them retreat. At this time, a different group of people suddenly charged toward them.

#### Chapter 550: None of You Can Escape

In the thick forest, seven humans mounted on their respective mounts noiselessly landed near Xiang Shaoyun's group. Each of them exuded a powerful aura. They were all peak Kings, and from the fact that they could reach this far, it meant that they were comparable to War Emperors in terms of combat prowess. The two leaders of the group were Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. They were respectively Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin.

Mu Qingyu was mounted on an ardent blood tiger and was dressed in green and red armor. He wielded a sword and a saber, while green and red radiance swirled around his body at all times, making him look rather impressive. Cultivators wielding two different weapons were very rare, and Mu Qingyu was one of them.

Wang Xin had a mediocre appearance, with a gold band on his head and gold armor on his body. He wielded a gold hammer, and his sturdy body seemed to be filled with power and explosiveness. As for the others, there were three men and two women. Each of them similarly possessed extraordinary combat prowess. Xiang Shaoyun and company grew tense when they saw the group of newcomers.

"You can even kill a third-stage Demon Emperor lion? What a remarkable talent. If you are allowed to advance by two more stages, you will probably be able to stand up to Boss Feng. Looks like we have no choice but to eliminate you in advance!" said Mu Qingyu with a toying look on his face.

He could sense Xiang Shaoyun's exhaustion, and he could also see that the others weren't in too good of a shape either. This was the perfect opportunity to get rid of them.



Before they could attack, Tang Longfei recognized them and said, "You're Feng Xiaosha's people!"

"It's good that you're aware. At least you won't die clueless," said Mu Qingyu with a sneer. "Finish them off quickly. We still need to get going to the academy."

At his command, the six people behind him attacked.

"Let me have the head of this kid who had actually dared to kill Da Zixuan. I'll avenge him!" Wang Xin's gaze landed on Xiang Shaoyun as he roared and charged toward Xiang Shaoyun like a massive bear.

Xiang Shaoyun spoke to Tang Longfei through voice transmission, "Big Brother Tang, bring the others away. I'll deal with these people."

After saying that, he unleashed the power of yin devil wind within his body, causing the pressure his body was suffering from the armor's weight to drop greatly. At the same time, he unleashed the power of the lightning bone, releasing a combination of wind and lightning around him.

Instantly, numerous hurricanes and over 100 silver lightning bolts formed before swarming Wang Xin and company. Xiang Shaoyun was actually intending to take on all seven opponents by himself, not giving anyone the chance to deal with Tang Longfei and the others.

Although Tang Longfei, Ning Wenhua, and Lady Shura did not fear a battle with these opponents, Xiang Shaoyun had no intention of letting them waste too much time here. Their priority should be getting through the first round of the test.

In any case, there were two Emperors among their opponents and were most likely Emperors of Emperors capable of punching above their weight. To fight them all head on would waste a lot of time.

Furthermore, they had also exhausted a large amount of energy during the previous battle. A prolonged battle would not benefit them. The best solution was to use the Nether Soul Domain and end the battle as quickly as possible.

For now, Xiang Shaoyun had no intention to reveal his Nether Soul Domain. Thus, he made Tang Longfei and company leave. The storm of wind and lightning kept Mu Qingyu and company busy, but that only lasted a while. However, that was enough time for Tang Longfei and the others to flee.

Tang Longfei did not delay, "Go! Don't disturb Shaoyun's fight!"

He was not worried about Xiang Shaoyun as he knew about the nether prison devil puppet. With the puppet, dealing with these opponents wouldn't be a problem. Xiang Shaoyun had most likely told them to leave so he did not need to divert his attention to take care of them.

Lady Shura and the Han Clan sisters wanted to stay and help, but they also knew that Xiang Shaoyun was a person with numerous means at his disposal. Thus, they did not delay and retreated with Tang Longfei.

At this time, Mu Qingyi's group was finally able to scatter the storm Xiang Shaoyun created. In fact, the impact of their combined attack had even blasted Xiang Shaoyun away, causing him to crash through several trees before he came to a stop. However, Xiang Shaoyun was still alive. His armor had blocked the fatal attack.

"How tenacious. Wang Xin, finish him off. I'll chase after the others," Mu Qingyu commanded. He then prepared to head after Tang Longfei and company.

"None of you can leave," said Xiang Shaoyun as he wiped the blood off the corner of his lips, his voice murderous.

It was at this time that the Nether Soul Domain swept out and enveloped Mu Qingyu, Wang Xin, and their companions. They were trapped within the darkness before they had even realized what was happening.

"This is bad! We need to break free immediately!" Mu Qingyu exclaimed in alarm. He did not know what had happened, but he was clear that this was definitely Xiang Shaoyun's trump card. They started attacking their surroundings, trying to blast a way out.

"It's too late. None of you can escape," Xiang Shaoyun's cold voice rang out. Numerous chains then shot out and wrapped around the seven humans and their mounts.

They resisted with all their might, displaying the strength of War Emperors. Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin performed particularly well, erupting with prowess comparable to third-stage Emperors'. Alas, they were not strong enough to break free of Xiang Shaoyun's chains.

"It's a pity," Xiang Shaoyun sighed as he tightened the chains around them, squeezing them to death.

He initially wanted to subdue all of them to turn them into his servants, but he recalled that they were Feng Xiaosha's followers. If they were allowed to return, some trouble might come of it. Killing them was the safest solution. However, he found that only the five Kings and the mounts were killed. Both Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin were still alive. It seemed like the top-tier armors they wore couldn't be broken so easily.

"Th-this is the Nether Soul Domain! Y-you're a devil from the Imperial Nether Clan!" Mi Qingyu finally recognized the space and cried out in alarm. Fear covered Wang Xin's face as his heart turned cold.

"Hehe, if I'm a devil, why am I joining the Dragon Phoenix Academy? Then again, you're right. This is the Nether Soul Domain. So what other trump cards do you have left? If you don't have anything else, I'll be sending you to the afterlife," said Xiang Shaoyun in an unruffled manner. He was the overlord of this domain. Only those with soul power surpassing his could break free of his prison. Anyone else would die.

"Haha! Sure, open your eyes wide and see if I can escape! Burn!" Mu Qingyu laughed as a thick green flame erupted from his body, igniting the chains around him.

"Huh? A unique flame?" Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed in astonishment. Only unique flames with the power of extreme yang could ignite the chains in his prison.