

Overlord 651

Chapter 651: Honor the Young Sect Master

Xiang Shaoyun's interest was piqued, and he asked, "Where is the Sin Dragon Pond?"

"Young Master Xiang, you can't be thinking of going there, right?" Shang Jifeng asked anxiously.

"Hehe, I think so," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile.

"Young Master Xiang, I know you're strong. Not to mention the Sovereign Realm, you still have quite a distance from the peak Emperor Realm. Or are you thinking that you will be able to survive the Sin Dragon Pond with your nether prison devil puppet? I suggest you forget that. Not even Uncle Chen can easily survive that place," said Shang Jifeng.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought before saying, "I am not so arrogant to believe I can fight a Sovereign. But I have a way of hiding myself. Not even Sovereigns can detect me. That is why I wanted to go take a look. Even if I'm discovered, I will be able to escape unscathed. Just tell me the location."

Shang Jifeng had no choice but to tell Xiang Shaoyun the location.

"Young Master Xiang, you really shouldn't push yourself regarding this," Shang Jifeng advised again.

"Don't worry. I won't joke around with my life. You guys return to the academy first. Don't keep our brothers worried," said Xiang Shaoyun.

And thus, Shang Jifeng, Shang Yafang, and Lady Shura left. After all, the Sin Dragon Pond was a dangerous location. They wouldn't be much help, and it was impractical to use the Shang Clan's Sovereigns to help. It was a matter of principle. Because of that, they had no reason to remain.

Once the others left, Xiang Shaoyun summoned Winter Frost and Summer Flame. After a few days of recuperation, the two had recovered considerably. When they first sensed Xiang Shaoyun's summon, they ignored him. But the moment Xiang Shaoyun chanted the curse, they started rolling about in pain as if they had gone mad. It was a pain that their strength couldn't negate. Ultimately, they were forced to answer the summon obediently.

"Do you want to escape? Too bad that is no longer possible," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.

"I'll kill you!" roared Summer Flame, who had a rash temper. He attempted to quickly kill Xiang Shaoyun before he could muster a reaction.

But the moment the thought surfaced in his mind, something in his soul was triggered, putting him in the same immense suffering yet again.

By the side, Winter Frost, who saw everything, broke out in cold sweat and said, "Y-young sect master, please spare Old Summer. He won't dare harbor the same thought in the future."

"How about you? Will you harbor the same thought?" questioned Xiang Shaoyun.

Winter Frost quickly waved his hands. "No! I will definitely not harbor such thoughts! In the future, we will honor the young sect master!"

He knelt down on one knee, swearing fealty to Xiang Shaoyun. As for Summer Flame, the torture had destroyed all his anger. He quickly begged for forgiveness, "Young sect master, spare me, please! I won't dare to repeat my mistake!"

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun lift the torture. He said, "After both of you fell under my control, I am able to sense any thoughts you have. I can will for the destruction of your souls at any time."

He wasn't threatening them with lies, and they could also sense the intense murderous intent deep in their souls. The realization made them break out in cold sweat. They were both old geezers who had lived for over 2,000 years. After the many things they had experienced, they should possess a wit surpassing many other people.

And yet they had both fallen under the control of a young Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator like Xiang Shaoyun. The fact that they had no way of resisting caused their hearts to grow cold. This young man was already so heaven-defying at such an age. It simply signified that it was only a matter of time before he regained the Ziling Sect.

"Now tell me about the sect and Di Batian," said Xiang Shaoyun after sitting down. The two obeyed and told him everything they knew. As he listened to the changes within the sect all these years, his heart filled with bitterness.

Under Di Batian's lead, the internal disturbances of the sect had been eliminated. The entire sect was now firmly under Di Batian's control, while the senior members who refused to obey had either been executed or banished. The sect was now akin to his personal kingdom.

One could say that the present Ziling Sect was no longer the Ziling Sect of the past. In fact, Di Batian was even considering changing the sect's name.

Upon hearing that, Xiang Shaoyun raged, "Di Batian, you old dog! A day will come when I harvest your head and feed it to the dogs."

Growing up, Di Batian was the uncle he respected most. Only upon the betrayal did he realize that this uncle was a wolf in sheep's clothing. From then on, he had developed an utmost hatred toward this uncle.

Xiang Shaoyun also learned that Di Batian had recently gathered a large number of people for an expedition in the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. They were preparing to explore the recently discovered underground palace.

Originally, Winter Frost and Summer Flame were supposed to join them as well. A sneer formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face as he thought, Di Batian, I will ensure you suffer a great loss from this expedition.

Without any hesitation, he sent Winter Frost and Summer Flame to Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range so that they could gather more information for him. The two did not dare to disobey and did as told.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated whether he should go as well and observe what was going on before reacting accordingly. But after some thought, he decided to first pay the Sin Dragon Pond a visit since sin dragon energy could be found there. Sin dragon energy was, in truth, a kind of impure draconic energy. After purifying it, one would be able to grow one's draconic aura and improve one's strength.

Xiang Shaoyun's plan was to borrow the sin dragon energy and reach the second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm before doing anything else. His lightning and gold stars had reached perfection for his current level, whereas his other stars had never stopped working hard gathering energy. All his stars were now near perfection for his level, and it was time for him to break through.

Since a shortcut was possible, he naturally decided to take some risk and give it a try. The nether prison devil puppet wasn't the reason why he was so courageous. Rather, it was because of his trait of invisibility. His plan was to sneak into the Sin Dragon Pond and get what he needed undetected.

After making up his mind, Xiang Shaoyun headed toward the Sin Dragon Pond according to Shang Jifeng's directions.

Along the way, he exercised extreme caution and made use of the Nether Soul Domain to sense everything ahead of him. He only advanced when he was sure there was no danger awaiting him. Even so, some demonic beasts good at concealment still caught him by surprise, and they nearly inflicted heavy injuries on him.

Chapter 652: Sin Dragon Pond

Seven days passed in a flash. Xiang Shaoyun had spent the past seven days traveling within the Nisha Range, and apart from encountering some beast attacks, he had also gathered some herbs. He treated the trip as a tempering expedition.

Money had also been released to the outside world, preventing him from lazing about in the astral cosmos sea all day long. In fact, Money's realm was now above Xiang Shaoyun's, and he was capable of doing many things himself.

After traveling for seven days, Xiang Shaoyun finally arrived near the Sin Dragon Pond, and he started seeing the occasional sin dragons moving about. A lot of them were Demon Kings, while some were Demon Emperors.

Fortunately, they did not normally reside together. Otherwise, it wouldn't be easy for Xiang Shaoyun to sneak into their territory. There were two particular times when he and Money encountered the attacks of two powerful sin dragons. Both times, he was so frightened he immediately turned invisible while Money turned tiny again. That was how they had survived the sin dragons.

Near the Sin Dragon Pond, Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was walking on thin ice. Each step he took further increased the nervousness he was feeling.

Soon, he found a hidden location where he could hide. The smell on him completely vanished, and he even managed to get some sin dragon's smell on him. He had obtained the scent from the sin dragon he had killed earlier. By covering his smell, he prevented the sin dragons from smelling him while he was concealed.

It was a trick he had learned from an ancient text he had once read, and it was rather practical to use. And in such a manner, he was able to avoid detection. Often, the sin dragons were able to smell some faint sin dragon smell. They had assumed that the smell was something they had left behind, so none of them placed much thought into what they had just smelled.

Xiang Shaoyun had managed to make use of knowledge he had learned from a book, displaying the benefit of reading a lot of books.

The sin dragon aura is getting really thick here. So where is the pond exactly? thought Xiang Shaoyun as he spread out the senses of his Nether Soul Domain.

Everything in his surroundings appeared in his mind, allowing him to observe them with clear clarity. Soon, he sensed that above a nearby mountain was a lake exuding thick vicious energy. The energy was so dense it was hard to see the lake clearly. There were also numerous tiny sin dragons fighting each other around the lake.

Evidently, the lake was the so-called Sin Dragon Pond. About a dozen powerful sin dragons were hovering above the peak. Even the weakest of them was a peak Demon Emperor. The nearer a sin dragon was to the pond, the stronger it was. As for those nearest the pond, they were absolutely Demon Sovereigns. There were also a few spots where he couldn't sense properly, and there might be even stronger sin dragons at those spots.

Xiang Shaoyun was fearful as he thought, No wonder Jifeng was so serious when he was warning me. This is most definitely a place laden with danger. It won't take me long to rush over to the pond. The issue is how I can get some sin dragon energy and escape smoothly.

The sin dragon energy was impure due to the large amount of sin vicious energy within it. Purifying the energy wasn't so easy either. A lot of people had obtained the sin dragon energy but had gotten themselves killed after failing to purify it.

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun considered collecting a portion of sin dragon energy into his astral cosmos sea. But after some thought, he decided it was unfeasible. After separating from the Sin Dragon Pond, the sin dragon energy would start dissipating. The astral cosmos sea would not be able to keep it around for long. It was even more impossible to store the entire Sin Dragon Pond into his astral cosmos sea. He was not strong enough for that.

My only option is to stay in the pond for some time and absorb as much as I can, decided Xiang Shaoyun.

With his current strength, he could stay invisible for an hour. That was far from enough time to absorb a large amount of sin dragon energy and purify it. But he did not have too many options left. He had reached this place risking his life for the sake of the sin dragon energy. He definitely couldn't return empty handed.

Having made up his mind, Xiang Shaoyun turned invisible as Money hid on his skin to turn invisible as well. He then rushed straight toward the pond. He was quite far away, but with his speed, he was able to arrive quickly.

He could sense the sin dragon energy in the pond, and it gave him goosebumps. Fortunately, he had tempered his flesh greatly and could block the energy outside his body. Any other person would not be able to adapt to such an environment and would be forced to block the energy with their own astral energy.

Xiang Shaoyun scanned his surroundings, looking at the small sin dragons fighting each other around him. They displayed a ferocity far surpassing that of regular demonic beasts. Since sin dragons were hard to tame due to their ferocious nature, nobody bothered turning them into mounts.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to think too much. Just as he was about to dive into the pond, half a sin dragon head emerged from the pond. The sight turned his entire body cold.

The newly emerged sin dragon was staring right in his direction. From the complicated runes on its head, it was obvious this sin dragon was terrifyingly powerful. It could very well be a peak Demon Sovereign. A sin dragon at this level could probably kill him with a flick of its tongue. He had an urge to flee, but he stayed rooted, not daring to budge.

Please don't notice me! Please don't notice me! Xiang Shaoyun prayed inwardly.

Sure enough, the sin dragon had not noticed Xiang Shaoyun. Once again, the head submerged into the pond. At that, Xiang Shaoyun heaved a breath of relief and quickly moved to the other side of the pond, getting as far as possible from that sin dragon. He headed toward the other end of the pond, preparing to go enter from there. But there, he found numerous ferocious vines growing at the pond's shore. The vines were filled with thorns, and any carelessness would cause one to be pierced.

"Sin dragon vines!" Xiang Shaoyun was pleased.

These vines could only grow under the nourishment of a large amount of sin dragon energy. Consuming the vines would help one form sin dragon energy within one's body, and it would greatly tempter one's bones, meridians, and inner organs. Apart from that, the vines could also help one form their soul foundation. They were basically sovereign-grade herbs.

Chapter 653: Lucky Escape

To form a soul foundation, one needed to merge one's soul power, draconic aura, and astral energy into one, creating a foundation that guarded one's soul. The foundation would strengthen the soul, turn one's soul into a martial soul, allow one to form a connection with the natural world, and increase one's combat prowess to a brand new level.

The energy contained within the sin dragon vine was capable of strengthening one's soul and increasing the durability of one's soul foundation. The sight of a sovereign medicine like the sin dragon vines accelerated Xiang Shaoyun's heartbeat.

There were a considerable number of sin dragon vines growing at the pond's shore, and from their lengths, they were all of sufficient age as well. He had to suppress the urge in his heart as he thought, Let's first enter the Sin Dragon Pond.

He went over and plucked a tiny piece of leaf from a random sin dragon vine and placed it in his mouth. A tiny action like that was still not enough to attract the attention of the sin dragons in the area.

After the leaf entered his mouth, bitterness assaulted Xiang Shaoyun as if he had eaten a gallbladder, giving him an urge to spit it out. However, he suppressed the urge.

Although the leaf of a sin dragon vine did not possess much medical potency, it was capable of suppressing the sin dragon energy around the pond, reducing the harm Xiang Shaoyun would suffer. He slowly entered the pond, not daring to create any sort of sound.

Layer upon layer of sin dragon energy wrapped around him, causing him great discomfort with its corrosive power. His skin felt like it was going to rot away, and he had the urge to scratch the itch on his body. It was an extremely uncomfortable sensation.

At this time, the sin dragon vine leaf finally showed its worth. Strands of faint medicinal power nourished Xiang Shaoyun's flesh, slowly alleviating his discomfort. He heaved a long breath of relief and started circulating his cultivation method, absorbing the sin dragon energy around him.

The sin dragon energy was not classified as a type of astral energy. Instead, it was a type of unique natural energy. The energy contained the negative emotions and the corrosiveness of a sin dragon, and if a regular person absorbed it, they would be driven mad while their body rotted away.

Initially, Xiang Shaoyun could sense the consciousness of a sin dragon slowly reaching for his soul. It was filled with negative emotions, causing his eyes to turn red in madness. If the negative emotions managed to invade his soul, his filthless soul would become filthy and degrade.

He would turn mad, no longer capable of controlling himself, and start his path of self-destruction. Fortunately, his Nether Dragon Soul Headband blocked the negative emotions' invasion, protecting his soul from all harm. Slowly, his emotions stabilized.

As for the energy's corrosive attribute, it was a type of dark power that started coursing along Xiang Shaoyun's body, trying to corrode his organs. After regaining his clarity of mind, he quickly channeled the dark power into his dark star.

The dark star absorbed the dark power, and it started growing again, slowly reaching the peak he could reach at his cultivation realm. After dealing with the two powers, what remained were strands of thin draconic aura.

The strands of draconic aura sensed the draconic aura within Xiang Shaoyun's body. A resonance formed between them, and the external draconic aura started merging with his own draconic aura.

Although the two draconic auras were not exactly the same, they were similar enough to easily merge together. Originally, Xiang Shaoyun's draconic aura solidification had reached 19 percent. He was only a tiny bit away from reaching 20 percent.

The new draconic aura merged with his existing draconic aura, slowly pushing him to 20 percent. With the enhancement of his draconic aura, his nine stars also benefited, making breakthroughs much easier when he attempted them.

Such a change gave Xiang Shaoyun an urge to immediately make a breakthrough. Because of that, he failed to keep his presence concealed.

"Roar!"

Instantly, a sin dragon head shot out of the pond and roared loudly. It had smelled the scent of a human, and that human was actually within their pond. It was not something it would allow.

The roar shocked Xiang Shaoyun, messing up his energy circulation, nearly causing him to receive a backlash from energy disorder. Fortunately, he was able to suppress his presence in time before he was fully exposed.

Even after he managed to conceal his presence once again, the sin dragons did not give up searching for him. They started flailing about in the pond, sending about shockwaves. The shockwaves blasted Xiang Shaoyun toward the shore, and the impact even passed through his heavy armor, causing him to spit up a mouthful of blood.

Sphhlt!

A tinge of red appeared in the pond as a different smell spread amid the sin dragon energy in the area. The slight change was noticed by the sin dragon in the pond. It raised its head and spewed a clump of terrifying sin dragon energy in Xiang Shaoyun's direction.

It was a sin dragon energy powered by a sin dragon. The moment Xiang Shaoyun was hit, he would die even if he had nine lives. Without any hesitation, he summoned the nether prison devil puppet, and it immediately blocked in front of him.

Bang!

The block was successful, and the puppet was sent flying toward the shore, revealing the gap between the sin dragon and the nether prison devil puppet. Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to attempt anything else, and he quickly submerged into the pond. The sin dragon was rather simple-minded. It was completely distracted by the puppet, and it charged forth to battle it.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he absorbed even more sin dragon energy into his body before rushing toward the sin dragon vines without even bothering to refine the newly absorbed energy. After plucking three random vines, he quickly stowed them away.

Because the battle between the sin dragon and the nether prison devil puppet had caused a great commotion, his actions went unnoticed this time. He then escaped. He did not have much time left in his invisibility. If he couldn't escape before his time was up, things would turn very troublesome.

During the final moments, Xiang Shaoyun found that his energy was becoming more and more disorderly, and he almost failed to suppress his breakthrough.

Suppress! Xiang Shaoyun clenched his teeth and compressed his draconic aura, preventing himself from breaking through. The sin dragons near him sensed his action, and they started roaring and sniffing about repeatedly, trying to smell the intruder.

They had indeed smelled something different, but they couldn't see anyone and were thus confused. And just like that, Xiang Shaoyun managed to escape in an extremely lucky fashion. The exact moment he escaped, his invisibility ended.

Chapter 654: Devouring Phosphorus Poison

The moment Xiang Shaoyun's invisibility ended, he dove into a bush. A demonic beast abruptly charged out from a concealed position and pounced on him. The beast wasn't weak, and its timing was exceptional as well. Xiang Shaoyun's energy circulation was in complete disorder, and he had no way of resisting.

During the crucial moment, with the tiny bit of clarity he still had, he released Money. The moment Money appeared, it reduced in size before charging into the beast's mouth. The beast didn't even notice Money, and it only felt some foreign object suddenly appear in its mouth. Without any hesitation, it snapped its mouth shut.

However, a burst of silver lightning energy suddenly erupted, blasting its mouth apart. At the same time, Money enlarged his body and swallowed the beast. Without anything else to worry about, Xiang Shaoyun quickly focused and started refining the sin dragon energy within him.

As he refined the sin dragon energy, his draconic aura solidified to 20 percent, and his stars began to grow as well. His nine stars, along with his acupoints, shone brightly as his energy coursed through his meridians. His internal body seemed to transform into an extraordinary, divine river of stars.

A dragon projection hovered out from his body, and with that, his cultivation level reached the second stage. The compressed energy he had gained from the Purple Lightning Pool and Vicious Steel Mist also erupted, helping him perfect the consolidation of his new cultivation level as an early Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, pushing him one step closer to the mid stage.

Sphhlt!

Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun spat out a mouthful of blood. His entire person seemed to have waned, making him not look like someone who had freshly broken through at all. Even the energy within his body dimmed as a certain portion of his energy stirred, putting the energy circulation in his meridians in disorder. The backlash from the energy disorder impacted his internal organs, causing him to spit blood.

As for the reason for the backlash, it was because he had forcefully suppressed his breakthrough when it was the most optimal timing to do so. Coupled with the damage the sin dragon dealt to him, his body had suffered some damage.

Fortunately, the backlash wasn't too serious. His foundations were still safe, and he had only suffered some hidden damage. He only needed to remove the hidden damage, and he would be fine. Using a drop of lightning liquid, he started healing his injuries.

After a good while, he finally heaved a long breath and muttered, "That was close. If I was a tiny bit slower, I would have died."

A joyful smile then formed on his face as he continued, "Fortunately, I have still reaped some great harvest."

One ought to know that the sin dragon vine he had harvested was something even Sovereigns would covet. He no longer dared to spend more time near the Sin Dragon Pond and quickly left with Money. Along the way, he sighed inwardly, Too bad I have also paid a great price. The nether prison devil puppet is totally lost.

He could no longer sense the puppet. Without a doubt, the sin dragon had to have destroyed the puppet. One ought to remember that the puppet was at the sovereign grade and worth more than the sin dragon vine. It was understandable that he would feel the loss.

Of course, the loss was still worth it since he had advanced one step further in his cultivation. If he hadn't taken this risk, it would take him quite a while before he could reach the second stage.

While Xiang Shaoyun was heading back to the Dragon Phoenix Academy, several uninvited guests arrived at the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. They had disguised themselves as a hunting group, but they were in fact Ziling Sect members.

There were about 50 of them, with most of them being Emperors. A few were Sovereigns. The leader of the group was Di Lin's eighth brother, Di Shang. The group quietly arrived at the place with thick poisonous miasma.

The location was quite far from the academy, and even a Sovereign would take some time to reach it from the academy. However, the place was also filled with numerous powerful poisonous life forms. Because of that, people generally lacked the courage to approach anyway. This was the very location the map Di Lin had gotten from his father was pointing to.

"Eighth young master, are you sure this is the place?" asked the group's strongest Sovereign.

The Sovereign looked middle-aged, yet he had the strength of the eighth-stage Soul Foundation Realm, making him much stronger than Winter Frost and Summer Flame. His name was Ren Zhijiu, a new expert Di Batian had recruited in recent years.

Di Shang nodded. "Yes, this is the place."

"Only a Heaven Battling Realm Saint will have the courage to enter a place like this," said Ren Zhijiu with a sigh.

"That bad? Are you guys not enough?" Di Shang asked, somewhat speechless by what he heard.

"Eighth young master, you can't look down on the poisonous miasma here. The miasma is composed of the powerful devouring phosphorus poison. Even with my strength, I will barely last an hour in there. And even that is with the premise that I'm not disturbed or attacked by any poisonous life forms during that period of time. Otherwise, I will die," said Ren Zhijiu solemnly.

Only then did a look of fear appear on Di Shang's face. He had not imagined that the poison was actually that big of a deal.

"If the divine site is really underneath this poisonous miasma, it is no wonder that the Dragon Phoenix Academy has not done anything yet. This is not a place a regular person can discover, and it is perfect for hiding a secret. The sect master had given me a saint-grade armor for this mission. I can finally put it to use. I'll decide what to do after going into the miasma," said Ren Zhijiu as he put on a thin armor.

The armor gleamed with a fascinating luster, and one could tell it was an extraordinary treasure at a glance. It was a saint-grade armor, and it definitely had dreadful defensive prowess. This armor would let Ren Zhijiu enter the miasma safely.

The devouring phosphorus poison was a terrifying poison formed through the corrosion of some evil objects over a period of thousands, or even tens of thousands, of years. If one observed the miasma, one would notice that it seemed to be filled with scale-like particles.

Anything the poison touched would quickly corrode away. The devouring phosphorus bugs were a type of life form capable of surviving in this environment, an insect that was much scarier than the corpse poison worm. They were considered royalty among bugs.

Not long after Ren Zhijiu entered the miasma, he ran out in a sorry state. Black scales were all over his body, and several bugs the size of a head were chasing after him. The bugs looked incredibly dreadful, with sharp fangs capable of ripping a head off a human easily.

After rushing out of the miasma, Ren Zhijiu swung his blade repeatedly, killing the bugs chasing him.

At the same time, he shouted, "Withdraw! There are a lot of devouring phosphorus bugs here!"

The moment he said that, the others panicked and quickly retreated from the area.

Chapter 655: Seeking Defeat

Dragon Phoenix Academy.

The Overlord Legion grew in a low-profile manner. During its founding, it only had about 20 members. But now, they had about 40 members. A small portion had joined due to Xiang Shaoyun's reputation, while the majority had only joined because of Yan Gang and Zhong Xia.

Yan Gang and Zhong Xia were respectively a crafter and an alchemist. Thus, they had a unique status in the academy, and that only improved after they entered the Dragon Ascension Realm and greatly expanded the list of items they could make.

Even with that many members, the Overlord Legion was still considered one of the weakest factions in the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Of course, with the likes of Li Haonan and Ma Qihao, who were Jiao Luan List experts, among their ranks made them a force not to be underestimated.

The Overlord Legion seemed to be growing fine, but due to the Di Alliance's sudden suppression, they seemed to be having a hard time. Li Haonan and Ma Qihao were the ones who had caused the suppression to happen.

In order to earn more glory for the Overlord Legion, they had challenged the Di Alliance members. Of course, they had done so due to their confidence in their strength.

Initially, the two had been able to obtain victory in their duels, causing their confidence to swell further. As a result, they continued challenging more Di Alliance members. Eventually, the Di Alliance deployed a person called Xia Qiuhua. He alone seriously injured Li Haonan and Ma Qihao.

Xia Qiuhua wasn't particularly famous in the academy. In fact, his previous rank was at the bottom of the Serpent Fowl List. And yet, he had displayed such remarkable combat prowess that made it entirely possible for him to enter the Dragon Phoenix List if he so wished.

Thus, his single brilliant feat spread his name far and wide within the academy and completely crushed the little momentum the Overlord Legion had gained since its establishment.

At that point, the Overlord Legion's butler, Zhuge Zhantian, no longer maintained a low profile. He challenged Xia Qiuhua and declared that he would regain the Overlord Legion's glory.

Zhuge Zhantian was quite an imposing name, with Zhantian meaning "Battling Heaven," but his appearance was that of a merchant's. Thus, when his actual person stood on the ring, he looked much less impressive than his name sounded.

On the other hand, Xia Qiuhua looked incredibly capable. His hair was straight, his face was steadfast, his martial attire was crude, and even the sword in his hand was makeshift. Everything about him looked crude and ordinary, yet he exuded an extraordinary temperament.

Many disciples were waiting around the ring, waiting to see if Zhuge Zhantian could really win glory for the Overlord Legion.

"You're not my match. Why, then, are you challenging me?" Xia Qiuhua asked expressionlessly.

Zhuge Zhantian smiled. "Since our overlord is not around, though I'm but a useless butler, I still can't allow our Overlord Legion to lose in spirit. Even when I'm not a match, I still don't fear any opponent. I believe our overlord will repay all our losses once he's back."

"Hehe, overlord, that is quite an imposing title. Unfortunately, his underlings really aren't anything special," said Xia Qiuhua with a contemptuous smile. He stepped forward, walking slowly even as a powerful pressure surrounded Zhuge Zhantian.

He was displaying the strength of a third-stage Emperor. As for Zhuge Zhantian, he was barely a second-stage Emperor. The gap between them was only one cultivation stage, yet the gap between their strengths was incredibly wide.

Zhuge Zhantian, with his intelligence, decided to attack before Xia Qiuhua could build up his momentum. Wielding a green feather fan, he channeled his energy into the fan and caused it to shine brightly. A green crane projection floated out of the fan, one that exuded an extraordinary presence.

The Crane Whistles Through the Nine Skies!

The lifelike crane soared to the sky, its cry reverberating far and wide as it charged toward Xia Qiuhua. The attack caused Xia Qiuhua to raise his brow. His hand flickered as he swung his sword, sending a swirling sword energy slashing toward the crane.

The attack contained a sensation of reducing complexity to simplicity, a concept that wasn't sword intent but was instead a concept surpassing sword intent. It was a concept of returning to one's true self.

One could say that Xia Qiuhua's attack not only displayed his understanding of the sword but also enhanced his battle technique. In theory, it was similar to the simplification of battle techniques Xiang Shaoyun had learned from the gravekeeper elder.

If Xia Qiuhua had learned that by himself without the guidance of a teacher, it would mean that he was someone with terrifying martial comprehension. The sword energy ripped through the air, separating the crane from its head.

Just when Xia Qiuhua was about to press on, Zhuge Zhantian retreated and shouted, "I surrender!"

Xia Qiuhua pointed at his opponent helplessly and said, "Y-you're too shameless!"

"What was I supposed to do? I am here to be defeated anyway. I'm only here to tell everyone that the Overlord Legion is not afraid of setbacks. We have the courage to face any opponent!" said Zhuge Zhantian, feeling no shame toward his defeat. Instead, he wore his loss like a badge of honor as he made a righteous declaration to the crowd around the ring.

It seemed to work, and some of the crowd raised their thumbs and praised, "Well said!"

Who never tasted failure before? Even the geniuses gathered around the ring had all suffered defeat before. To maintain courage in the face of defeat was a valuable mentality a martial cultivator should have. The words of Zhuge Zhantian seemed to have reintroduced the Overlord Legion to the people, even causing some of them to consider joining the legion.

From all that had transpired, one ought to admit that Zhuge Zhantian had a truly brilliant brain. Zhuge Zhantian then left the ring in a carefree manner. On the other hand, Xia Qiuhua was completely disgusted by the shamelessness and was prepared to leave as well.

"Hold on, your next opponent is me, Tang Longfei!" a loud voice rang out.

A golden figure flashed through the crowd before landing on the ring. The newcomer was high-spirited, and his battle intent was flaring. He was none other than Tang Longfei, who had just come out of the Vicious Steel Mist. He had reached third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, and one could say that with his current cultivation level, he was qualified to enter the Dragon Phoenix List as well.

When Xia Qiuhua sensed Tang Longfei's strength, excitement flickered in his eyes as he said, "Finally, a decent opponent has appeared. I accept your challenge."

"Haha, let's battle then!" Tang Longfei howled with laughter as he slammed a golden palm toward Xia Qiuhua.

The palm swept forth like a dragon, shining with a brilliant golden radiance. As for Xia Qiuhua, his sword slashes sliced through the air like a majestic rainbow. Thus, the two geniuses engaged in a spectacular battle, one that caused the blood of all spectators to boil with excitement.

"Since when has that Tang Longfei become so powerful? He seems to have reached third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm!"

"He has obviously stumbled upon a fortuitous encounter. How would he have grown so fast otherwise? What a lucky fellow."

"Looks like the Overlord Legion is not completely useless after all. With someone strong enough to enter the Dragon Phoenix List like Tang Longfei, the legion's strength can be elevated to a brand new level. But I wonder if their overlord, Xiang Shaoyun, can actually control his subordinates."

"Well, we will know when he finally reveals himself. For now, let's enjoy this match."

Chapter 656: Exquisite Young Woman

Ultimately, the fight between Tang Longfei and Xia Qiuhua ended in a draw. Neither had been able to fully defeat the other, and instead, they had both collapsed due to heavy injuries. For some reason, a connection seemed to have formed between the two during the fight. They thus announced unanimously that they would resume their fight at a different time.

The two were then brought away by their respective people. Through the battle, their names started spreading through the academy. In the academy, each and every disciple was constantly changing. Anyone who slacked could be overtaken by the others at any time.

None of these geniuses enjoyed being beneath others. Thus, it was natural that they would constantly cultivate hard in pursuit of strength. Furthermore, the rise of Tang Longfei and Xia Qiuhua, who both initially had bad rankings, had inspired many others with bad rankings.

With the duels of Zhuge Zhantian and Tang Longfei, the Overlord Legion had repaired their reputation somewhat, allowing them to stabilize the nerves of the other members. And with the return of Shang Jifeng and Lady Shura, finally, the Overlord Legion members calmed.

They only needed to await the return of their overlord, who would gain more glory for their Overlord Legion. At this time, Xiang Shaoyun quietly arrived at Dragon Phoenix City.

He initially planned to rush back to the academy immediately, but after some hesitation, he decided to recuperate for two days at the Dragon Phoenix City before returning. He visited the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant again and ordered a set of their medicinal cuisine.

The medicinal cuisine wasn't exactly cheap. It was priced at 5,000 contribution points. Xiang Shaoyun finally understood why they were ignored when they requested more sets of medicinal cuisine back when they had first arrived.

As a disciple of the academy, contribution points were required if he wished to order the medicinal cuisine. Halfway through his meal, he noticed someone beside him.

"Young master, isn't it boring eating all by yourself? Why don't you let me accompany you?" A coquettish voice traveled into his ears.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked over, an enchanting young woman entered his view. She was gazing at him with a pair of eyes glistening with tenderness. The young woman was dressed seductively, showcasing her fair and tender skin and her bountiful bosom that caused one's blood to boil. Her waist was also slim, while her rear was perky. Everything about her seemed perfect.

It would seem Xiang Shaoyun had encountered an exquisite young woman. He was also a hot-blooded young man, and when he faced such a woman, he felt his blood boil.

Looking at her tender half-revealed bosom, he swallowed and said, "Th-that w-won't be proper, right?"

His action was a contradiction of his words, however, as he moved aside and made space for the woman to sit down. The men in their surroundings all focused on the woman, some seemingly on the verge of getting a nosebleed. This was a mature woman that not many men could reject. She sat down beside Xiang Shaoyun, and immediately, a pleasant smell entered his nose, almost causing him to lose himself to lust then and there.

"Young master, what is your name? You are so handsome, causing my heart to beat when I lay eyes on you," asked the woman tenderly. Her pair of eyes seemed to radiate endless charm capable of ending kingdoms.

Blankly, Xiang Shaoyun answered, "I am Xiang Shaoyun, a Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple. What is your name, if I may ask?"

"Ohhh, amazing! Young Master Xiang is a disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy? I heard that only the best of geniuses could enter the academy," exclaimed the woman with a look of infatuation.

She then wrapped her hands around Xiang Shaoyun's arm, rubbing her ample bosom against his arm. The splendid sensation further poked at Xiang Shaoyun's mind, dragging him into a spiral of lust.

"Haha, no, that's nothing special at all," said Xiang Shaoyun with a hearty laugh.

"Young Master Xiang is such a humble person," said the woman. She then raised his glass and said, "A toast to you from your servant, Jiaojiao."

She then downed the liquor in the glass.

"Miss, you look to be a great drinker! Fine, today, we shall drink to our hearts' content!" said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Young Master Xiang, are you trying to get me drunk?" asked the woman.

"What do you think?" A perverted look flashed in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes.

"Fine, I will agree since I find you very pleasing to my eyes for some reason. Today, we shall drink to our hearts' content!" said the woman bashfully.

At this point, the people around them couldn't watch on anymore. They wanted nothing more than to replace Xiang Shaoyun. Inwardly, they all cursed, What's so special about that pretty boy? His looks are all he has!

They were filled with envy. Xiang Shaoyun and the woman weren't able to drink much before someone finally took action.

"Beauty, what's the point of drinking with a pretty boy like him? Come, drink with me!" said a sturdy male with a massive beard on his face.

The man had a rugged look, and several malevolent scars could be seen on his arms. He was obviously someone who risked his life on a regular basis. He sat down opposite the woman, staring straight at her plump bosom while swallowing repeatedly.

"You're so ugly. I don't like you," said the woman as she meekly hid behind Xiang Shaoyun.

"Hmph. You should never judge a book by its cover. In bed, this pretty boy is definitely trash. How can he compare with me?" said the man with a snort. He then glared at Xiang Shaoyun. "Kid, scram! Do you want me to throw you out personally?"

"Hehe, what do I have to fear? This is the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Oh? Are you planning to stay here your whole life?" the man asked disdainfully before standing up and walking out of the restaurant.

He stood at the entrance, waiting. He even had the time to provoke and give Xiang Shaoyun his middle finger.

"Young Master Xiang, what should we do?" asked the woman, looking pitiful. "Th-that person looks so scary."

"Don't worry. Since he wants to wait, we'll let him wait. I'm in no rush anyway," said Xiang Shaoyun in a carefree manner. His shameless words gave the impression that he was really afraid of the man.

At this, the others in the restaurant were filled with disdain. A pretty boy is indeed only good for his looks and nothing else.

"Hehe, great! I'll drink with you! At most, both of us will stay here together," said the woman with a sweet smile.

"Yes, yes, staying at the restaurant would be great," a voice Xiang Shaoyun was rather familiar with suddenly sounded outside the restaurant.

Chapter 657: Reunion with the Villains

Xiang Shaoyun shivered when he heard the new voice, and he immediately focused his gaze at the restaurant's entrance. A short, thin, ugly man appeared there. He was none other than Ugly Gambler of the Seven Villains.

"Where did this ugly man come from? The sight of him disgusts me," scolded the man waiting outside for Xiang Shaoyun.

"You talking about me?" Ugly Gambler looked over and asked.

The man fearlessly pointed at Ugly Gambler and scolded, "Who else if not you? It's not your fault for being born ugly, but your fault lies in the fact that you are actually roaming around, scaring others with your ugly face!"

The man had quite a sharp tongue, but he did not seem to understand that a loose tongue might cause a lot of trouble. Xiang Shaoyun looked at that man with pity as he thought, Truly courageous.

"Impressive. You actually have the guts to call me ugly right to my face," said Ugly Gambler, his eyes gleaming.

"Get out of my face right this moment, or I will slaughter you right where you stand," said the man as he brandished his scarred arms.

The words had barely left his mouth when Ugly Gambler's fingers appeared around his neck. The man didn't even see Ugly Gambler move, and a chill crept up his spine at that realization.

"Are you aware of how much your mouth stinks?" asked Ugly Gambler, murderous intent flashing in his eyes.

The man pleaded with great difficulty, "D-don't kill—"

Crack!

A crisp sound rang out before he could finish his words. And just like that, he was killed. The people in the restaurant saw the happenings, and their pupils shrank. They had not expected the ugly newcomer to be so ruthless, and his revealed strength seemed immeasurably deep.

One ought to know that the man killed was a fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Someone like that had been killed like he was a puppy.

Meanwhile, Ugly Gambler behaved as if he had done something completely insignificant, and he casually strode into the restaurant. Since he had technically committed murder outside the restaurant, the people of the restaurant couldn't find an excuse to do anything to him either.

Ugly Gambler walked straight to Xiang Shaoyun and the beauty. Everyone in the restaurant wondered if the beauty had caught his attention. If that was the case, that pretty boy was probably in trouble.

"Lord Gambler, you're here? Please, take a seat!" Xiang Shaoyun stood up and greeted him.

Back then, he had promised Ugly Gambler to locate the divine site within three years. The period was not up, and thus, Ugly Gambler's appearance was completely unexpected. A smile that was uglier than a crying face formed on Ugly Gambler's face as Ugly Gambler replied, "I thought you would have forgotten about me already."

"How can that be? Lord Gambler is my benefactor!" fawned Xiang Shaoyun.

"Haha, it's good that you know that. Today, I shall drink with you. After that, I will try my hand at the local gambling dens. I will definitely make some great profits here!" said Ugly Gambler as he sat down, the same smile still on his face. He then looked at the beauty and said, "Jiaojiao, look at how pretty you are today! Are you trying to gobble up my young brother here?"

The beauty was none other than Yao Jiaojiao, the Myriad Face Consort of the Seven Villains. She would change her appearance almost every time she appeared. Even Xiang Shaoyun, who had met her before, couldn't immediately recognize her. She wasn't known as the Myriad Face Consort for no reason.

"Hehe, a handsome young man like this truly causes my heart to flutter. But you, Ugly Gambler, have ruined the fun," said Yao Jiaojiao as she giggled, her hand over her mouth.

Only someone like Yao Jiaojiao would have the guts to address the Ugly Gambler by his full title.

"Hear that, Xiang Shaoyun? This woman is a ruthless vixen even scarier than the Man-eating Mouth. You need to watch out," said Ugly Gambler.

"Lords, please stop teasing this kid. Come, let us drink! Waiter, serve the liquor!" Xiang Shaoyun said, his voice filled with passion.

"How can a drinking session begin without me?" another voice rang out.

A bald monk strode through the door. The monk had a wide smile on his face, looking incredibly genial. His appearance was a lie, however. He was Yuan Xiao of the Seven Villains, also known as Smiling Monk. Three of the Seven Villains had shown themselves.

Some of the people in the restaurant had been at the Bloodsin City before, and thus, they finally recognized the three. The Seven Villains had an infamous reputation, and with their strength, they were existences that struck fear in one's heart.

Xiang Shaoyun grumbled inwardly, Do these fellows have the nose of a dog? The moment the divine site's clues appeared, they're all here.

"Monk, I heard your beloved disciple had joined the Dragon Phoenix Academy as well. Why are you here instead of looking for your disciple?" questioned Ugly Gambler unhappily.

"Hehe, my disciple is not as obedient as your young brother. Even as his master, I failed to summon him out of the academy," said Smiling Monk with a bitter smile as he took a seat beside Ugly Gambler.

At this time, the waiter served them more food and liquor, and Xiang Shaoyun quickly assumed the job of an attendant as he poured each of them a glass of liquor. He did not have the courage to act up in front of these three. It was much better for him to cower before them.

He toasted them repeatedly, and the three villains downed every glass of liquor offered. As they drank, they talked and laughed, painting a harmonious picture. The three did not look like they were part of the Seven Villains at all.

Finally, when they were done drinking, Ugly Gambler grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's hand and said, "Enough drinking. Time to go."

He then dragged Xiang Shaoyun off without offering other explanations. However, Yao Jiaojiao grabbed Xiang Shaoyun's other hand and smiled. "Ugly Gambler, what are you doing? He is now my little boyfriend. You have to be gentle with him!"

Ugly Gambler's hand was exuding a power Xiang Shaoyun couldn't resist, but Yao Jiaojiao was doing the same as well, pushing Ugly Gambler's power off him. He was hit by a realization that he could no longer control his own body.

Inwardly, he smiled bitterly, Please don't tear my weak body apart.

"Fine, you can have him. We need to go. This is not the place to talk," said Ugly Gambler, unwilling to force the matter. He stood up and walked out of the restaurant.

"Haha, let's go. Everyone is staring at us," said Smiling Monk as he rubbed his bald head before standing up and walking off as well.

As for Yao Jiaojiao, she pulled at Xiang Shaoyun's hand and said coquettishly, "Come on, my beloved Young Master Xiang."

"Lord, you can't tease me like this!" said Xiang Shaoyun helplessly.

"Oh, why are you being all distant now? I have truly taken a liking for you. Don't even dream of escaping me," Yao Jiaojiao protested with the same coquettish tone.

Her plump bosom pressed against Xiang Shaoyun's arm, assaulting him with a comfortable sense of tenderness. If it wasn't for the fact that this woman was one of the Seven Villains, he would have probably pounced on her that instant.

Chapter 658: The Three Villains Conspire

Xiang Shaoyun was brought to an inconspicuous private house in the city. The three villains each took a seat, and while Xiang Shaoyun initially didn't dare to sit, he was forced into a seat by Yao Jiaojiao.

"Are there any results with what I had tasked you to investigate?" Ugly Gambler went straight to the point.

Yao Jiaojiao and Smiling Monk both focused on Xiang Shaoyun as well, expectant looks on their faces. Xiang Shaoyun gave it a short thought before answering, "Yes, but I'm not too sure yet. The map you gave me is not complete!"

Joy covered the faces of the three Villains.

"Excellent. This time, I only came to take a quick look, but it turns out you're quite fast after all. Haha, I must say, I have good eyes. You guys are going to lose," said Ugly Gambler smugly.

"The location hasn't even been confirmed. We can't call you the winner yet," said Yao Jiaojiao unhappily.

"That's right. We should decide after getting this kid to bring us there," said Smiling Monk.

"Since that's the case, we'll let this kid lead us there," said Ugly Gambler.

"No rush, lords. Please listen to me first. The location is within the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range, or to be precise, amid an area with thick poisonous miasma. The environment is extremely vile, and not many people can even get there. Therefore, I have no clue what's inside the miasma. What I am sure, however, is that some other people have discovered the place and have their eyes set on it as well," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"What? Has the Dragon Phoenix Academy discovered it?" Ugly Gambler cried out in alarm.

"No, it's someone from the academy who had gotten his own organization to come over and split open the poisonous miasma before occupying the divine site for themselves," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun was telling the truth. As for why, naturally, it was because he wanted to see the three villains fight the Ziling Sect. In any case, he did not care if the place was the actual divine site. The moment something big happened, the academy would find out. Thus, he would have no say in who would ultimately benefit from the divine site.

"Damn it! Is someone actually trying to steal it right under our noses? What are we waiting for? Let's go and check if the divine site is really there!" said Ugly Gambler with a look of impatience.

"I agree. Let's go take a look first. It's not like we will suffer any losses doing so," Smiling Monk agreed.

"Ugly Gambler, don't be in too much of a rush. If those fellows from the Dragon Phoenix Academy find out, nothing will be left for us," reminded Yao Jiaojiao.

"No matter what, we need to first verify the location," said Ugly Gambler.

"Let's go, Little Brother Xiang," said Yao Jiaojiao as she once again wrapped her arms around Xiang Shaoyun's arm.

She had changed her way of addressing Xiang Shaoyun, making it sound even more intimate. Even Xiang Shaoyun was starting to find it unbearable. This woman seemed to be a natural-born vixen whose charm couldn't be rejected.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun grumbled, Just you wait until this overlord's strength surpasses you. I will definitely pounce on you. Let's see if you still have the guts to keep seducing me then.

And thus, Xiang Shaoyun led the three villains into the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range. Since the three were not members of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, they could only travel through the mountain route.

The Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was filled with demonic beasts, with many of them living in groups. It was something Xiang Shaoyun knew very well. He had personally suffered much from that during his entrance test.

But with the three villains traveling with him, the journey felt much more relaxed. Along the way, Yao Jiaojiao practically glued herself to him. The constant contact caused his blood to boil, incessantly tempering his willpower. In fact, his willpower was so strong now that even if a beauty was to strip in front of him, he would remain unmoved.

Xiang Shaoyun really didn't know if he should rejoice or feel sad over his experience with her. It was both an enjoyment and a torture. While traveling, he considered many matters as well. His main goal was to spark a conflict between the three villains and the Ziling Sect. Only then would he be able to fish in troubled waters.

A few days later, they finally arrived at the place with thick poisonous miasma. There, the three villains could sense many energy undulations ahead of them.

"Alright. We will scout around before deciding what to do," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"What is there to scout? Just slaughter our way through. I doubt those people will have the guts to mess around with us," said Ugly Gambler with a sneer.

"Ugly Gambler, if you don't mind the Dragon Phoenix Academy finding out about this place, go ahead and do so," said Yao Jiaojiao resentfully.

"What do you think we should do, then?" Ugly Gambler asked.

"First, we need to verify if this is the place we seek. Then, we need to find out who those people are. Finally, we need to get more information about this poisonous miasma. Only then can we make our move," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"Jiaojiao is right. We can't be too rash. If this is really the divine site, it won't be so easily taken over, anyway," said Smiling Monk.

"Fine, I'll sneak over and take a look," said Ugly Gambler.

"No, let me do that. Men are always bad at that," said Yao Jiaojiao.

She then went behind a tree. By the time she walked out, her appearance had changed completely. She was now a cold and elegant upper-class woman, exuding an imposing presence that made others not dare to meet her gaze.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun lamented, She is indeed worthy of her title, Myriad Face Consort. That was amazing.

Yao Jiaojiao shot Xiang Shaoyun a seductive look before striding ahead, not even bothering to hide.

"Who are you? What are you doing being all sneaky here?" Yao Jiaojiao shouted at the people near the miasma.

Those people were none other than Ren Zhijiu's group from the Ziling Sect. The devouring phosphorous bugs had scared them away a few days prior, and now they were back to figure out a different method of verifying if this was the place they sought. Yao Jiaojiao's appearance gave them a fright. Looking at the cold and haughty wealthy woman, they started wondering if she was an elder from the Dragon Phoenix Academy.

Ren Zhijiu stepped forth. "We are Berserk Blade Hunting Group members, here to hunt demonic beasts. What may we do for you, lord?"

"Hmph! Do you think I'm three years old? Is it possible that a group this strong will be here hunting?" Yao Jiaojiao snorted coldly.

"This is a private affair. We hope you respect it, madam," said Ren Zhijiu with a stern tone. This was too important for them. He did not want words about it to spread, or it would be much harder for them to continue exploring the miasma.

"Hehe, this is the territory of our Dragon Phoenix Academy. Here, outsiders like you are actually acting so smugly? Are you trying to make an enemy out of the Dragon Phoenix Academy?" Yao Jiaojiao sneered.

Chapter 659: I'll Put My Trust in You, Kid

Yao Jiaojiao pretending to be a Dragon Phoenix Academy elder gave the Ziling Sect people a fright. They lacked confidence, and even if some of them suggested taking Yao Jiaojiao down, Ren Zhijiu ignored the suggestion. Instead, he had everyone leave immediately.

He was very clear on how scary the devouring phosphorus poison was. Unless the academy sent their Heaven Battling Realm experts here, nobody would be able to fully explore this place.

Thus, his retreat was, in a way, a strategic step forward. He would first deal with Yao Jiaojiao and wait for the Ziling Sect reinforcements to arrive before deciding on his next course of action. With the departure of the Ziling Sect people, Yao Jiaojiao started observing her surroundings. Soon, she regrouped with Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk.

"Ahead of us is devouring phosphorus poison miasma. I'm afraid there are even more terrifying poisonous life forms inside as well. It won't be easy for us to search this place," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"Is this actually the place we are looking for? Is there a mistake?" Smiling Monk was doubtful.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly took out the incomplete map he had obtained from Ugly Gambler and said, "This location was found in accordance with this map. I am not sure if this is the actual place."

Ugly Gambler ignored him and said, "Let's go take a look together."

And thus, he took the lead and strode toward the poisonous miasma. At the edge of the miasma, he ignored the poison and walked right into it.

"Has Ugly Gambler gone mad?" Smiling Monk exclaimed in alarm.

They might be strong, but they were no Heaven Battling Realm cultivators. How could they step right into the devouring phosphorus poison miasma?

Yao Jiaojiao said, "This fellow is tight with Old Poison. Perhaps he got some nice treasures that can protect him in this poisonous miasma."

She was correct. In truth, Ugly Gambler had a pill capable of curing all sorts of poisons in his mouth, which was why he had shown no fear toward the poison around him. However, the massive number of devouring phosphorus bugs that had suddenly appeared was tricky even for him.

After two hours, he finally charged out of the miasma and shouted, "Apart from a bunch of bugs, I found nothing. Kid, are you messing with me?"

As he said that, he flashed toward Xiang Shaoyun and gripped his neck, choking him.

"Ugly Gambler, you can't harm my little boyfriend!" Yao Jiaojiao shouted as she sent her palm over. Ugly Gambler did not dare to fall out with Yao Jiaojiao, so he quickly released Xiang Shaoyun before dodging the palm.

"Yao Jiaojiao, don't tell me you have really taken a liking for this kid," grumbled Ugly Gambler.

"That's right. I have taken a liking to him. You can't rough him up as you wish!" answered Yao Jiaojiao.

"Fine, I won't touch him. But if he can't give me an explanation, I will make his life hard," said Ugly Gambler with a sneer.

"Jiaojiao, it's better we investigate this thoroughly. Who knows if this kid is playing a trick on us," advised Smiling Monk.

"I'm not lying. The place you seek is underground, right under the poisonous miasma," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

"How can you prove that?" Ugly Gambler asked.

"I sensed it after comprehending the profundity of earth," said Xiang Shaoyun. He couldn't say he had relied on a treasure seeking mouse, as that would create trouble for Shou Xie.

"Hehe, that's it?" Smiling Monk wore an odd smile on his face. It gave Xiang Shaoyun a feeling that all his secrets were exposed. However, he gritted his teeth and insisted, "Yes!"

Right after saying that, he calmed himself and circulated his earth energy, forming a connection with the power of earth beneath him and becoming one with the earth. An unending stream of earth energy poured into his body, and his entire being turned unmovable, as if he had become a boulder, a mountain.

He then vaguely sensed that something ahead of him was cutting off his senses, making it impossible for him to sense the power of earth ahead of him. The three Villains sensed Xiang Shaoyun's change, and astonishment appeared in their eyes.

Evidently, his current condition startled them all. They were all experts whose comprehension on the profundity of powers was no lower than his. In fact, they knew even more than him.

However, when they were his age, not only were they much weaker than him, they also hadn't comprehended the profundity of powers. Apart from that, they could sense that Xiang Shaoyun had a high affinity with the profundity of earth, comparable to their affinity to the profundity of their respective powers.

They couldn't even begin to imagine how it was possible. As a fresh Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, even if the kid could touch upon the concepts of profundity, he shouldn't be able to reach a level where he could become one with an entire patch of land. That was a feat that should only be possible for those in the Soul Foundation Realm.

They were unaware that in order to train his Havoc Dance, Xiang Shaoyun had gained a profound impression on all powers. And with the help of the Desolation mantra, his comprehension on the different powers had reached an even deeper level. His progress was something nobody could duplicate.

He looked at the three and said, "Beneath the poisonous miasma, I can sense a severance of power. There is really something down there. Coupled with what the map indicates, is it hard to believe that this is the location you seek?"

"Haha, I trust you," said the Ugly Gambler with a smile.

"Let's not wait. We should dig our way through," said Smiling Monk with a look of excitement.

"Were you not listening? There is a severance of power. It is definitely isolated from the world. With our strength, can we really penetrate the isolation? Furthermore, we are not the only ones who have discovered this place. We need to plan this through," said Yao Jiaojiao.

"What do you think we should do, then?" asked the Ugly Gambler.

"We need to get Boss Li and the others here as well. Only then will we stand a chance," proposed Yao Jiaojiao.

"No!" rejected both Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk at the same time.

Ugly Gambler said, "If Boss Li is here, there won't be anything left for us."

"That's right. We should first try. If we fail, we can then consider other alternatives," said Smiling Monk.

"Fine, since you want to try, go ahead. I will temporarily withdraw," said Yao Jiaojiao decisively.

"Jiaojiao, you won't be going to find Boss Li, right?" asked Smiling Monk, his eyes narrowed.

"Hehe, can't you trust me?" said Yao Jiaojiao with a sneer. "Even if you can't trust me and I really am going to look for Boss Li, I won't be able to return that fast, anyway. You still have enough time to do whatever you want here."

"Since that is the case, Yao Jiaojiao, you watch our backs and keep the other group away. I'll give it a try with Smiling Monk. If we really manage to get anything, you will get your share," said Ugly Gambler.

Chapter 660: These Fellows Are Too Shrewd

"Sure, I can help you with that. But you need to be careful and not create too big of a scene. Otherwise, there won't be anything left for us once the academy finds out," said Yao Jiaojiao.

She then dragged Xiang Shaoyun far away from the two. Ugly Gambler wanted to keep Xiang Shaoyun behind, but he couldn't be bothered anymore. His priority was to investigate the miasma. And then, both he and Smiling Monk worked together to explore the miasma.

Xiang Shaoyun had exhausted all his uses. Thus, he asked Yao Jiaojiao softly, "Big Sister Jiaojiao, can I return to the academy now?"

"Hehe, what's the rush? Are you afraid that your big sister will eat you up?" Yao Jiaojiao smiled, caressed his face, and continued, "Don't worry. Your big sister likes you so much she wouldn't bear to harm you!"

With a bashful look, Xiang Shaoyun replied, "Big sister, you're so kind to me."

"Um. It's good that you know it. Stay obedient, and your big sister won't mistreat you," said Yao Jiaojiao as she shot him a coquettish look before continuing, "Be honest. How had you discovered this place?"

"I have already explained it," Xiang Shaoyun answered.

"Do you think you can lie to me? Although your grasp on the profundity of powers is decent, you have yet to reach a level where you can actually sense that place," said Yao Jiaojiao with a shrewd look in her eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly before saying, "If I say I had found out about it from that group of people you saw earlier, would you believe me?"

"What do you think?" asked Yao Jiaojiao as she winked her eyes, an innocent look on her face.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into a short silence before a sorrowful look covered his face as he said, "Big Sister Jiaojiao, you don't know this, but I'm mortal enemies with that group."

He then told her his past, and he even exaggerated the story to make it sound even more sorrowful. He was trying to make her believe that he had been paying close attention to the Ziling Sect people all along, looking for a chance of revenge. Surprisingly, the Ziling Sect people had discovered this place, and with the assistance of the incomplete map, he had noticed that this was the place Ugly Gambler was looking for as well.

This version of the explanation was much more believable. Yao Jiaojiao had been looking straight into his eyes all along, before a look of sympathy covered her face as she said, "Little Brother Shaoyun, you are really pitiful. Don't worry. Your big sister will help you with revenge."

She might seem like she had accepted his explanation, but she only trusted half of it. The only thing she was sure of was the fact that this was probably the place they were looking for.

Meanwhile, Ren Zhijiu's group had concealed themselves not far away. They were unwilling to give up and leave just like that.

"Old Winter, Old Summer, what do you think?" Ren Zhijiu asked.

Here, Old Winter and Old Summer were the sect master's oldest and most trusted aides. Thus, even Ren Zhijiu had to show them respect.

"This is the Dragon Phoenix Academy's territory. The moment anything big happens, they will find out. We need to have a proper plan," said Winter Frost.

Ren Zhijiu cursed inwardly, It's like you didn't say anything.

Summer Flame said, "We won't be able to do anything if we return to the miasma anyway. We need to wait for the experts sent by the sect master. After that, we need to find that place as soon as possible. But if we do that, the sect master will probably lose confidence in us."

The final sentence hit Ren Zhijiu hard. Even before coming, Ren Zhijiu had planned to perform well so he could earn Di Batian's trust. But now, one single Dragon Phoenix Academy member had scared all of them away. If others really discovered that place, how should he face Di Batian?

"Old Summer is right. Also, that Dragon Phoenix Academy elder seems suspicious. If she is really an elder, would she have spared us so easily?" Winter Frost questioned.

"Old Winter, are you saying we have been tricked?" Ren Zhijiu's face sank.

"It's merely a feeling," said Winter Frost with a shrug.

Ren Zhijiu sank into thought before he said, "Let's go back and take another look. We can't let others locate that place before us."

And thus, they headed back to the poisonous miasma. Before long, Yao Jiaojiao sensed their approach. She immediately transmitted a message to Ugly Gambler and Smiling Monk, getting them to leave. Both of them were currently digging a tunnel, trying to locate the divine site through that method.

However, they found that even the ground contained a large amount of devouring phosphorus poison. Furthermore, a lot of devouring phosphorus bugs were living in the ground as well. With the bugs constantly disturbing them, it was hard for them to make any progress. Thus, they retreated the moment they received Yao Jiaojiao's message.

"They are probably returning. Should we leave?" Yao Jiaojiao asked.

"We are already digging, so is leaving even an option? Just kill them all," suggested Ugly Gambler ruthlessly.

"No, I think we can leave first and let them finish digging while we fish in troubled waters," said Smiling Monk with a sneer.

"Smiling Monk is right. Let's go," Yao Jiaojiao agreed as she dragged Xiang Shaoyun away. Smiling Monk followed them, leaving Ugly Gambler with no choice but to go with them.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun sighed, These fellows are too shrewd.

In truth, he had ordered Winter Frost and Summer Flame to make Ren Zhijiu's group return so they would get into a conflict with the three villains. That was the only way he would be able to find a chance to escape.

Alas, the three villains had decided to leave, causing his plan to fail. The failure depressed him. When Ren Zhijiu's group arrived and saw the tunnel, they realized that they wouldn't be able to keep the place a secret for long. They hastily held a discussion, trying to find a solution.

"Place a fire formation down and start digging," Summer Flame proposed.

Winter Frost voiced his support, which left Ren Zhijiu with no choice but to comply. Summer Flame was good at controlling flames, and coupled with the other flame cultivators in the group, they took out a bunch of rare flame-elemental materials, intending to defeat the poison through fire.

They were met with tragedy.

Their flame attacks managed to reduce the poison, but it seemed they had poked a hornet's nest. A large number of devouring phosphorus bugs flew out, instantly killing some of the group's weaker members.

The Soul Foundation Realm experts initially wanted to clear out the bugs, but there were too many bugs, and their poison was too powerful. Even two Soul Foundation Realm experts were killed on the spot.

It shocked them greatly, causing them to flee as far as they could. The swarm of devouring phosphorus bugs caused a calamity, and soon, news of the situation started spreading.