

Overlord 771

Chapter 771: Beating The Sandpoison Scorpion Into Retreat

Demon Sovereign. The newcomer was most definitely a Demon Sovereign sandpoison scorpion. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to give off such a dangerous feeling. The attacks of these geniuses were not weak by any means, but before a Sovereign, they were still too weak.

"Superimposed Killing Formation!" Zhuge Zhantian continued to issue commands calmly, displaying his talent as a battle commander.

Xiang Shaoyun saw everything Zhuge Zhantian was doing, and he lamented inwardly, No wonder back when I recruited Zhantian, he was arrogant enough to demand access to my cultivation room. From what he is showing right now, he definitely has the right to be arrogant.

From what Zhuge Zhantian had displayed, his talent was most definitely comparable to even those on the Dragon Phoenix List. Xiang Shaoyun even started wondering if this butler should be promoted into an advisor instead.

His thoughts were interrupted by the shockwaves from the battle. After the sandpoison scorpion Sovereign appeared, an even larger number of sandpoison scorpion Emperors appeared as well. The Overlord Legion members were barely hanging on, and if this continued, they would soon suffer defeat.

"Brothers, attack at full power. Don't hold anything back against these beasts. Let me deal with the big scorpion," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Previously, only about 300 of them were fighting under Zhuge Zhantian's command. Even so, they had been able to somewhat stop the advance of the Demon Sovereign and the many scorpions. That was quite a remarkable performance.

Now that even more sandpoison scorpions had appeared, all of them had to act. With everyone joining the battle, a terrifying barrage of attacks started flying everywhere. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he set his sights on the scorpion Sovereign. Only by defeating that big guy would their victory be ensured. But before he could do so, Ouyang Chuanqi charged at the scorpion Sovereign.

Ouyang Chuanqi lived up to his status as one of the academy's top freaks. The moment he made a move, he alone withstood the scorpion Sovereign's attacks, greatly alleviating the pressure on the others.

This was the first time many of them were seeing Ouyang Chuanqi fight, and their attentions were caught by the grace he displayed while in combat. If it wasn't for the dangerous situation they were in, they would probably drop all they were doing to watch his fight.

"Fine, I'll allow you to hog the attention this time," said Xiang Shaoyun with a smile as he also charged into the midst of the sandpoison scorpions.

Instead of fighting the stronger sandpoison scorpions, he opted to help his companions that were having a hard time, killing their opponents. With his proficiency in the profundity of earth, he was able to deprive the sandpoison scorpions of their earth energy, greatly reducing the might of their attacks as he took the chance to deal them fatal damage.

His assistance greatly reduced the pressure his companions faced. Together, they killed more and more sandpoison scorpions. Many showed their extraordinary combat prowess in the battle, with the reputable ones living up to their names with outstanding battle strength.

As for Pan Yun, who was feeling guilty, he was eager to contribute and successfully displayed his strength as well. Who would have guessed that a peak second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator like Pan Yun could actually unleash a combat prowess matching a late-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator?

His performance greatly shocked those around him. In their eyes, Pan Yun had always been a shy kid that wasn't too talented. They had all assumed that his combat strength was nothing special either. But now, the strength this kid displayed had outshone all of them.

Although there were a large number of sandpoison scorpions, they had far fewer Emperors than the Overlord Legion. After the scorpion Sovereign received Ouyang Chuanqi's suppression, the scorpion army could no longer pose them any threat. Soon, over half of the scorpions were killed.

When the scorpion Sovereign saw that things weren't looking good, it shrieked then fled. It drilled into the sand, and not even Ouyang Chuanqi could kill it easily underground. The other scorpions also quickly fled.

Soon, only scorpion corpses were left. The Overlord Legion had suffered no casualties. Only a few of them were poisoned, but with their strong foundations, they would be able to survive.

As the battle ended, a few desert eagles that had been hovering above them started leaving. Xiang Shaoyun intended to capture the eagles, but they had escaped too quickly before he could do anything.

Vicious One, Two, and Three are still too young. Looks like I need to get that lazy Money to come out and do some work, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Vicious One, Two, and Three had stayed at low altitude under Xiang Shaoyun's command as he did not want them to get killed by the desert eagles. In fact, they had also participated in the battle earlier. However, they had only attacked some weak scorpions to recover some of the viciousness they should possess.

In the battle, they had performed well. They had also swallowed a decent number of scorpions, and they were steadily growing in strength. Xiang Shaoyun had been feeding them a considerable number of king medicines, hoping to help them grow as quickly as possible.

This expedition to the Desert of Despair would also serve as the first stage of their growth. After the battle, the Overlord Legion members stayed where they were and rested. While resting, Xiang Shaoyun asked for a way to either locate the bandits or lure them out.

This time, Lady Shura took the lead. "There is definitely more than one bandit group in a desert this big. Why insist on pursuing the same group of bandits? We might as well travel around and just kill any bandit we encounter."

"That's a good idea. I think it's feasible," Tang Longfei agreed.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought and said, "That would work. Ok, we'll be having a tour around the desert, then."

Xiang Shaoyun knew very well that as long as they remained in good condition, the same group of bandits would never dare appear before them again. Only after they suffered large casualties would that group of bandits show themselves.

"Overlord, I heard there are a lot of ruins buried in this desert. Why don't we take this chance to do some treasure hunting as well?" Shou Xie proposed.

"That won't be an issue. But remember that our contribution points are being deducted for each day we spend here. We can't enter the desert too deeply. Otherwise, if we lose our way for real and are stuck for more than three months, all of us will be deep in debt," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Ok. I'll get the treasure seeking mouse to search around. We'll only make a move if there is a discovery," said Shou Xie.

The treasure seeking mouse was an amazing tool that had helped Shou Xie locate many treasures. It was one of the beasts he relied on the most. But since this desert was filled with danger, Shou Xie did not dare to let the treasure seeking mouse roam too far away. If it was killed by some wild beast, it would be too big of a loss.

And thus, the Overlord Legion stopped trying to look for the same group of bandits. Rather, they picked a direction and started traveling randomly. Two days later, the treasure seeking mouse actually found something.

"Overlord, the treasure seeking mouse found something!" Shou Xie reported with excitement.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his brow. "We found something good?"

Chapter 772: The Bandit Commander Appears

"The treasure seeking mouse found a spirit crystal vein," said Shou Xie, excited.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up. "Well done! We're rich!"

"Let's dig out all the spirit crystals!" proposed Shou Xie.

"You have made a great contribution this time. After we dig up the spirit crystals, you will receive a large portion!" said Xiang Shaoyun as he patted Shou Xie's shoulder.

"I'll follow your arrangements, Overlord," Shou Xie did not reject the promised reward.

Xiang Shaoyun then announced to the others that Shou Xie had discovered a spirit crystal vein, and he gathered everyone to start mining the vein. The others cheered when they heard about the discovery.

Nobody would think that they had too many spirit crystals in their possession. Thus, this unexpected windfall had greatly boosted their morale. With the help of the treasure seeking mouse, they soon determined the vein's general position.

As everyone started digging, Xiang Shaoyun discovered a desert eagle hovering above them yet again. It stayed at a high altitude, and from the ground, one would only be able to see a tiny black dot in the sky.

Xiang Shaoyun initially wanted to send out Money to deal with the desert eagle, but after some thought, a plan formed in his mind. He spoke loudly, "Everyone, hurry up and dig out the spirit crystals. If those bandits come before we're done, we will have to leave empty handed."

He was intentionally raising his voice so the desert eagle would hear him as well. He believed the bandits would definitely be moved after hearing his words. Sure enough, the desert eagle quickly flew away and soon arrived beside Ge Mote. It informed him that Xiang Shaoyun's group had discovered a spirit crystal vein.

"Are you sure?" Ge Mote questioned as he held in his excitement.

"Master, I'm sure," said the eagle confidently.

"Good. Very good. We'll go back and inform the deputy commander. I must make up for my previous mistake with this," said Ge Mote joyfully.

He and the few bandits around him hopped onto their respective desert eagle and flew toward a certain direction. Before long, they found Yu Rongxin and the others.

"Greetings, deputy commander." Ge Mote kowtowed respectfully when he was brought before Yu Rongxin.

"Ge Mote, how are you dealing with those lambs?" Yu Rongxin asked.

"I brought them to a sandpoison scorpion territory with a Demon Sovereign, but they managed to push the scorpions back," Ge Mote said. "However, I received an important update. They have actually found a spirit crystal vein!"

"Is the information reliable? It better not be another trap," said Yu Rongxin, who was visibly moved after hearing about the vein.

The Desert of Despair might look barren, but a considerable number of spirit crystal veins existed here. These veins were extremely hard to find, and most people could only find one through luck. If the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples had truly discovered a vein, he would definitely make a move on them.

"I am absolutely sure," said Ge Mote as he called the desert eagle over to brief Yu Rongxin.

"It doesn't matter if this is true or not. I already contacted the commander and the others. They will arrive soon. At that time, those disciples will not be able to escape," said Yu Rongxin.

"They are coming over? That's great!" Ge Mote cried out in joy.

In less than an hour, a big group of people appeared on the horizon. From far away, they looked incredibly terrifying. As they galloped across the desert, a sandstorm seemed to form behind them with thick clouds of sand. Wolf howls filled the air.

There were at least 2,000 of them, each of them a valiant combatant. When Yu Rongxin saw them, he quickly stepped out to offer his greetings.

"Greetings, commander and madam," greeted Yu Rongxin and the others respectfully.

The two people in the lead were each mounted on a powerful wolf. The man wasn't tall, but he was extremely strong. His sleeveless shirt revealed muscular arms that were trailing with veins, and his arms were also scar-ridden. He was carrying a massive hammer, presenting a domineering sight.

Beside him was an alluring woman with charming eyes. She was dressed in an extremely revealing fashion, displaying the fair and tender lumps on her chest that greatly conflicted the bandits who wanted to stare but dared not to.

These two were the leaders of the Desert Shadow Wolves, Sima Tian and Zhang Baolu. Both were Soul Foundation Realm cultivators, with the former being at the second stage and the latter at the first stage.

Their commands were akin to imperial edicts among the bandits. Nobody dared to disobey them. Alongside them was a deputy commander called Tao Zhiyu, someone who had just advanced into the Soul Foundation Realm.

"Rise. We are all brothers. There is no need to be too courteous," said Sima Tian with a heroic laugh. Looking at Yu Rongxin, he said, "Brother Yu, why did you call me over so urgently? Have some fat lambs appeared?"

"Boss, we have indeed found some fat lambs," said Yu Rongxin as he briefed them about the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples, and he also emphasized the discovery of a spirit crystal vein.

"A spirit crystal vein has actually been found?" Sima Tian was visibly moved.

He was aware that any spirit crystal vein found in the desert would produce a rich amount of high-grade spirit crystals. This new vein was definitely an undiscovered treasure trove.

"I am absolutely sure about that!" Yu Rongxin guaranteed with a slap to his chest.

"Good. Let's charge over," said Sima Tian. He looked at Tao Zhiyu and said, "Zhiyu, you are the best person to be the vanguard. Go and exhaust those lambs first."

With a cold look in his eyes, Tao Zhiyu said, "Don't worry. Maybe I can even eliminate all of them alone."

After saying that, he rode out with about 100 other bandits and headed toward Xiang Shaoyun's group. Naturally, they were not stupid enough to think that they would be able to eliminate the Overlord Legion with just these people. But Tao Zhiyu was someone with a unique ability to control poisonous beasts.

Sima Tian, Zhang Baolu, Yu Rongxin, and the others followed behind them from a distance. Meanwhile, the Overlord Legion had indeed discovered a massive high-grade spirit crystal vein. They were all wild with joy.

"We're rich! This vein is enough to sponsor us until the Soul Foundation Realm!" said Shou Xie as he waved his arms around in excitement.

"You made the greatest contribution, so half the vein will be yours. Everyone else will share the other half. What do you think?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"No, no, that's too much for me. Just share it equally," Shou Xie quickly rejected.

"That's not possible. You need to accept at least one-third of the vein. Otherwise, others might no longer be willing to share their discoveries in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

While everyone was busy digging out the spirit crystals, an odd sound rang out, causing everyone's hair to stand on end.

Chapter 773: Shaking the Sovereign

Wuuu—

The sound was somewhat similar to the sound of a horn being blown, but it also sounded like the wail of a monster. In short, it sounded rather unnatural.

Ouyang Chuanqi looked ahead and muttered, "What will come, will come."

"What are they going to do this time?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered doubtfully.

A heavy look covered Shou Xie's face as he said, "This is the sound of a beast controlling horn. Overlord, gather everyone. I'm afraid a beast tide is coming for us."

Sure enough, the sand around them started stirring. Evidently, the beasts and poisonous bugs were preparing to strike.

"I thought this was your specialty? Can't you deal with it?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I'll give it a try, but I don't know how good the other party is," said Shou Xie with the expression of someone eager to try.

A short flute appeared in his hand, and as he raised it toward his lips, he blew it. Shou Xie's flute sounded much more pleasant than the horn. It was melodious, its tune placating. The beasts and poisonous bugs calmed as they heard it. Even their encirclement stopped.

Xiang Shaoyun grabbed the opportunity and commanded, "Everyone, go and face the enemy!"

The disciples who were busy digging now realized there were incoming enemies, and they all shot out from the ground.

"Attack together!" Xiang Shaoyun commanded.

He could sense that there were powerful experts among the newcomers. There were probably Sovereigns among them, and he could not afford to allow the disciples to fight alone.

Wuuu—

The sounds of the horn grew frantic, and once again, the beasts and poisonous bugs grew mad as they charged Xiang Shaoyun's group. The instant the beasts and bugs began their charge, the disciples sallied forth and sent a barrage of attacks toward them.

Rumble! Rumble!

Sounds of explosions reverberated in the air while sand splashed everywhere. There were a large number of incoming beasts and bugs. It did not seem possible that the disciples would be able to defeat them in a short period of time.

"Overlord, go kill or disturb the person blowing the horn. I will then be able to make these beasts and bugs retreat," said Shou Xie through voice transmission.

"Ok," answered Xiang Shaoyun as he rushed in the direction where the sound was coming from.

When Tang Longfei saw that, he commanded, "Men, split and follow the overlord. Kill the enemies!"

At that command, about 300 people followed Tang Longfei as they went after Xiang Shaoyun. With his unrivaled speed, Xiang Shaoyun was able to reach the bandits before anyone else.

With one glance, he found the person blowing the horn and attacked unhesitatingly. However, before he could even touch him, two people charged out and blocked his advance.

They were respectively a seventh-stage and an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and they were considered rather powerful. The sword wielder at the left stabbed at Xiang Shaoyun's abdomen while the saber wielder at the right swung at Xiang Shaoyun's head. Two different energies enveloped Xiang Shaoyun.

Instead of clashing with them, Xiang Shaoyun dodged both attacks before jabbing his finger twice at Tao Zhiyu, sending two beams over.

Swish! Swish!

Ignoring the incoming beams, Tao Zhiyu continued blowing the horn. An incorporeal power appeared before Tao Zhiyu and dispersed the two beams.

Xiang Shaoyun's pupils constricted as he exclaimed in alarm, "The presence of a Sovereign!"

Only then did he sense that Tao Zhiyu was not an ordinary individual. The two behind him came attacking again while more bandits approached from his front, pincering him. He was surrounded by attacks.

Dark Sky Engulfing Imprint!

With ingenious footwork, Xiang Shaoyun dodged the attacks and used a dark elemental attack unhesitatingly. The moment he used the Dark Sky Engulfing Imprint, the area one kilometer around him became enveloped in darkness.

The bandits' visibility was affected, and they couldn't even see where Xiang Shaoyun was anymore. Meanwhile, his palm attack was heading toward Tao Zhiyu. Tao Zhiyu, who had been calm all along, was disturbed as well. He could not see his surroundings, and he was forced to erect the strongest defense he was capable of. Staying alive was his priority.

At the same time, with the sharp senses of a Sovereign, he sensed the direction Xiang Shaoyun was attacking from. Without a second thought, he slammed out a palm. Their two palms collided, creating a massive shockwave.

Sphhlt!

Blood sprayed, its owner being Xiang Shaoyun. Although he was strong enough to fight any Emperors, he was still somewhat lacking against a Sovereign.

"A kid that overestimates his capabilities," said Tao Zhiyu with contempt as he prepared to attack again.

It was at that moment that a sharp flame attack shot toward him. Tao Zhiyu's expression changed as he was forced to block the incoming attack. The new attacker was none other than Ouyang Chuanqi. Of the many disciples present, only he could fight Sovereigns.

Tao Zhiyu could sense how dangerous Ouyang Chuanqi was. Not daring to be careless, he quickly put his horn away to meet his opponent. He shouted, "Let me witness how special the so-called geniuses from the Dragon Phoenix Academy are."

"Be sure to open your eyes wide," said Ouyang Chuanqi as he unleashed an even stronger attack with his weapon.

At this time, Tang Longfei and the others arrived as well. They clashed with the bandits as Tang Longfei shouted, "Kill them!"

With that, a chaotic battle began. Making use of the buffer, Xiang Shaoyun quickly used a drop of lightning liquid to heal the injuries he had suffered.

Looks like I am still quite far away from a Sovereign, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Instead of joining in the fight, he looked in a certain direction. There, a sandstorm was approaching. But upon closer look, it was actually a massive group of bandits.

"What a large number of bandits! They are enough for us to complete the mission!" said Xiang Shaoyun as his eyes lit up.

Anyone else would be frightened at the sight of so many bandits. On the other hand, Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed. One could only say that with strength comes courage.

Xiang Shaoyun did not waste any time and shouted at his subordinates, "End the battle as soon as possible. A large number of bandits are approaching."

He then charged into the battlefield as well, helping Tang Longfei kill this group of bandits.

"Little lambs, Grandpa Sima is here. Surrender or die!" Sima Tian's voice arrived before his figure appeared.

Chapter 774: Sovereign Killing

Sima Tian and Zhang Baolu had been bandit leaders for many years. After years of plundering, the Desert Shadow Wolves finally grew into its current size.

The Overlord Legion was a faction of geniuses from the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Even if the Dragon Phoenix Academy was not taken into consideration, just the organizations these disciples came from were terrifying enough.

However, Sima Tian and the bandits did not seem to care. The only thing they wanted was to rob everything in the disciples' storage rings and take over the newly discovered spirit crystal vein.

They had the desert as their natural protection and could hide anytime and anywhere. Outside organizations would have a hard time even finding them. Sima Tian charged forward and released his presence as a Sovereign, hoping to shock all the disciples.

The disciples immediately felt an immense pressure, their movements turning sluggish. That was the suppression of a second-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, not a brand new Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Emperors were nothing before him.

Even with the extraordinary willpower these disciples possessed, they still felt somewhat fearful facing this opponent.

Zhuge Zhantian forced himself to remain calm and shouted, "Presence Formation!"

At his command, half the disciples moved together and unleashed their respective presences, creating a massive presence of Emperors that forcefully resisted Sima Tian's pressure.

"Pointed Thorn Formation!" Zhuge Zhantian gave another command.

The disciples attacked with no hesitation, sending a massive barrage of attacks toward Sima Tian and the bandits. The disciples did not have the numeric superiority, as the bandits were probably twice their size.

However, only about one-third of the bandits had reached the Emperor Realm or higher. As for the rest, they were Kings and were comparatively less threatening. The biggest threats were Sima Tian and Zhang Baolu.

As for Tao Zhiyu, he wouldn't be a cause of worry since even now, Ouyang Chuanqi was suppressing him greatly. It was only a matter of time before Ouyang Chuanqi killed him. Unfortunately, just as Ouyang Chuanqi was about to deal Tao Zhiyu the finishing blow, Sima Tian attacked. It was a good thing Ouyang Chuanqi was able to react promptly, or his brain would have been blown out.

"You're the only decent disciple that came this time? If so, all of you can die now!" said Sima Tian coldly.

"Speak after you actually kill me," said Ouyang Chuanqi, his battle intent surging.

He started sweeping his fiery spear at Sima Tian repeatedly. His attacks were fierce and overbearing, his combat prowess reaching the level of a second-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator.

He had also comprehended the profundity of flame. With the high-tier flame he possessed, he released flame attacks capable of burning the sky and evaporating the sea. Even Sima Tian had a solemn expression, forced to take this Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple seriously. As for Tao Zhiyu, after being saved from his crisis, he unleashed his fury on the other disciples.

"I'll kill all of you!" Tao Zhiyu roared and used all his strength to deal with the Overlord Legion members. His attacks were incredibly violent, but the disciples managed to stop him by working together.

"Damn it! I refuse to believe I can't destroy your formation!" Tao Zhiyu was infuriated and attacked with full power yet again.

Both his palms shone brightly as he sent two palm attacks out that crushed forth like two mountains. Just as the attacks were about to land, a figure appeared.

"I am your opponent," said the newcomer. He was none other than Xiang Shaoyun. He used the Cosmos Dao Destroying Fist powered by the nine-colored fog, trying to block Tao Zhiyu's palm attacks head on.

Rumble! Rumble!

Their attacks collided, and even the sky shook from the impact. Once again, Xiang Shaoyun was sent flying. However, he did not spit blood this time. He had successfully blocked the attack.

Tao Zhiyu was mad with rage when he saw that even a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator had managed to block his fully powered attack.

"Good one, kid. Let's see how many of my attacks you can stop," said Tao Zhiyu as he attacked again.

But this time, Xiang Shaoyun did not bother meeting him head on. Rather, he used the Nether Soul Domain and attempted to trap Tao Zhiyu with it.

With how intense the battle was, Xiang Shaoyun had to get rid of this Sovereign as quickly as possible so he could start helping the others. If the Sovereigns were allowed to rampage among the disciples, they would suffer disastrous losses.

The Nether Soul Domain's appearance greatly shocked Tao Zhiyu. He could sense himself falling into an independent space, and his combat prowess rapidly dropped.

"What is going on?" Tao Zhiyu was confused. And before he could think of anything, numerous chains shot out toward him.

"Paltry tricks!" he snorted coldly as he chopped at the chains with his palms.

He had assumed that the chains wouldn't be difficult to deal with, but when he actually faced them, he found that he had greatly underestimated them. The chains were comparable to the attacks of a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. As a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, he was incapable of stopping them.

Finally, Tao Zhiyu started panicking. He quickly released his soul foundation, sending a mighty soul power out as he attempted to destroy the Nether Soul Domain. In truth, the soul foundation was a powerful battle stage formed of a cultivator's cultivation level and soul power, one that could greatly increase one's strength.

By releasing his soul foundation, Tao Zhiyu was releasing his full power. Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to underestimate this move. He sent out over 100 chains to surround Tao Zhiyu like a spiderweb.

Even after using all his strength, Tao Zhiyu still found himself suppressed. Since Xiang Shaoyun's Nether Soul Domain had reached the level of a third-stage soul foundation, no matter how Tao Zhiyu struggled, he couldn't escape.

The chains completely enveloped Tao Zhiyu, making it hard for him to even budge. Never in his dreams had Tao Zhiyu imagined that he would suffer defeat under the hands of a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm kid.

He struggled as best he could, but he still couldn't escape. Perhaps his only chance was to explode his own soul foundation. But doing so would mean a drop in his cultivation level, sending him back to the Emperor Realm, or even the King Realm. He was unwilling to do that.

While he hesitated, Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to tighten the chains around him and crushed him to death. With Tao Zhiyu's head in hand, Xiang Shaoyun removed the Nether Soul Domain and roared, "The bandit Sovereign has been killed! Everyone, work harder and slaughter them all!"

His voice spread far and wide as he crushed the head in his hand.

Chapter 775: Sovereign Extermination

Blood splashed onto Xiang Shaoyun's face, making him look even more murderous. The sight of him caused the hearts of the bandits to jump. Never had they expected their deputy commander to be killed so suddenly.

He was a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator, not some first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. This young man was only a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. How had he killed their deputy commander? That was something they couldn't understand.

Yu Rongxin trembled as he exclaimed, "Deputy Commander Tao was killed? H-How is that possible?"

He had believed that so long as the leaders and deputies were here, they would have no issue taking down all these Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples. But now, he found that they had completely underestimated these disciples.

Xiang Shaoyun had used the Nether Soul Domain so he could plant fear in the hearts of the bandits in the shortest time possible and increase the morale of his fellow disciples. Now, the bandits were fearful, while the disciples' battle intent was raging. They started fighting the bandits with all their strength.

They were geniuses from all around the dominion. They had also gone through three years of tempering at the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Their combat prowess was not to be underestimated. Although they only had cultivation levels between second-stage and fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, they actually possessed combat prowess matching late-stage, or even peak, Emperors.

Thus, there was a large gap between them and the bandits. It was lucky for the bandits that they had several experts among them. Otherwise, they would have suffered immediate defeat.

Sima Tian, who was fighting Ouyang Chuanqi, learned of Tao Zhiyu's death, and he grew apprehensive. With his cultivation level of second-stage Soul Foundation Realm, he was supposed to be able to suppress Ouyang Chuanqi completely. But after the fight started, he found that he had been too naive.

The young man before him was incredibly scary. Even after using both layers of his soul foundation, he could only fight him to a draw. As for Zhang Baolu, she was busy dealing with Zhuge Zhantian's battle formations. She had originally thought that she would be able to break the formations alone, but she also learned the hard way that she couldn't.

The strength of hundreds of Emperors combined together was more than enough to handle a first-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator like her. If she couldn't break the formations, they would probably return empty handed this time.

"I can't hold back anymore," said Zhang Baolu as a dazzling sovereign weapon appeared in her hand. Using all her strength, she attacked Zhuge Zhantian's formation with the weapon.

Rumble! Rumble!

Zhang Baolu dealt terrifying damage with her sovereign weapon, breaking Zhuge Zhantian's formation with brute force. Many disciples collapsed on the ground, coughing up blood. If it wasn't for the fact that the formation was powerful enough, the attack would have killed them.

With a cold look in her eyes, Zhang Baolu pressed on. Suddenly, Xiang Shaoyun appeared like the wind and stamped his foot at her head.

Overlord's Nine Nether Steps!

He had already pushed himself to his peak state. He wanted to seriously face an actual Sovereign. In any case, he had already released Money and a few ghostrunes to assist the disciples. Now, he could finally focus on testing the limits of his combat prowess as a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

When fighting Tao Zhiyu earlier, he had rushed the fight using the Nether Soul Domain to lessen his opponent's offensive capability. That way, he could greatly reduce the losses his side might suffer.

Now that Ouyang Chuanqi could match Sima Tian, he could focus on Zhang Baolu while the others dealt with the regular bandits. Although there were a few peak Emperors among the bandits, he still believed the disciples would be able to achieve victory.

Without anything to worry about, he could finally focus on enjoying the fight. Not only was the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps a footwork technique, but it was also capable of extremely damaging attacks.

However, he needed to combine the strength of his cultivation and his soul power to fully release its offensive power. With his filthless soul and the cleansing by the power of light, his soul power was

now comparable to a third-stage Sovereign's. Thus, his soul suppression was incredibly dreadful, and as he stomped at Zhang Baolu's head, she couldn't even breathe.

Even so, Xiang Shaoyun was still not an actual Sovereign. Although he exerted considerable pressure on Zhang Baolu, he still couldn't make her stay still and take his attack.

"You're courting death!" Zhang Baolu roared as she slashed her sickle at Xiang Shaoyun.

Zhang Baolu's sickle was not just any sovereign weapon. Rather, it was a mid-grade sovereign weapon, and it could greatly amplify her attacks. She wouldn't have been able to break through Zhuge Zhantian's formation with one slash otherwise.

Xiang Shaoyun understood that, and without any hesitation, he stamped his foot the second time. As he took his second step, projections of a dragon and a tiger appeared behind him. Both of them roared domineeringly as if they disdained all life.

Once again, Zhang Baolu was suppressed. Her body turned stiff, and her discomfort intensified. She had not imagined that this young man would actually give her such great pressure. Even so, she still followed through with the slash of her sickle, albeit with a greatly weakened might.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to take his third step. The moment he completed the third step, dark clouds covered the sky as over 200 silver lightning bolts rained down toward Zhang Baolu.

The third step was incredibly mighty, and it was even more fatal with the sovereign-level pressure Xiang Shaoyun was applying. Finally, Zhang Baolu was forced to take Xiang Shaoyun seriously. Inwardly, she thought, No wonder Old Tao got himself killed. This kid is really quite capable, but this is not enough to deal with me!

She swung her sickle repeatedly, destroying the incoming lightning bolts and preventing them from harming her. However, the lightning bolts contained the power of the profundity of lightning. They were scarily destructive and could cause her great pain.

She did not dare to wait and immediately pushed herself to her limits, breaking through Xiang Shaoyun's attacks before launching an attack. Xiang Shaoyun was planning to take the fourth step, but he decisively stopped himself. A bright sword appeared in his hand, and the energy around his body changed abruptly.

Dazzling Sky Sword Technique, first stance: Dazzling and Eyecatching!

Instantly, a blinding radiance erupted, forcing Zhang Baolu to shut her eyes. The next instant, Xiang Shaoyun's sword arrived and slashed at Zhang Baolu. Just as the attack was about to hit, she quickly pulled her sickle back and swung it the other way to block the sword.

Clank!

Along with a crisp sound, one of the two weapons broke.

“NO!”

Chapter 776: Bandit Leader's Self-Destruct

Never had Zhang Baolu imagined that her sovereign weapon would be broken by her opponent's sword. Her weapon was a mid-grade sovereign weapon. It was a remarkable weapon that would be extremely useful for many Sovereigns.

As a token of love, Sima Tian allowed her to use such an important weapon while he himself only used a low-grade sovereign weapon. Relying on this weapon, Zhang Baolu had killed many experts of the same cultivation level.

And yet, after only one clash with her opponent, her trusty weapon broke. Furthermore, his opponent's weapon was still heading unobstructed toward her.

She had not expected her weapon to break or for Xiang Shaoyun's swing to still have so much power behind it after the clash. Thus, she was unable to dodge in time.

Sphhlt!

A head was sent flying. Even in her last moments, Zhang Baolu was unable to accept the truth. Alas, she could no longer do anything about it. Sima Tian, who was battling Ouyang Chuanqi, sensed Zhang Baolu's death. His eyes widened in fury as he roared, "You bastard! You dare kill my wife! I'll slaughter you!"

Sima Tian was completely infuriated. Pushing himself to his limits, he charged Xiang Shaoyun recklessly. Ouyang Chuanqi seized the opportunity and entered the human weapon unity mode, transforming into a fiery dragon that charged toward Sima Tian like a raging inferno.

Ouyang Chuanqi was a freak from the Dragon Phoenix Academy. He had reached his current level through numerous battles, and he possessed rich combat experience.

The strength Sima Tian released in his anger was dreadful, but with Ouyang Chuanqi's extraordinary physique, the power he erupted with could match a second-stage Sovereign head on.

Grabbing onto the opening, Ouyang Chuanqi skewered Sima Tian's soul foundation and burned it with fire. This time, Sima Tian's soul foundation was going to be destroyed for sure.

"Arghh! I want you to die!" Sima Tian roared, and as he glared at Ouyang Chuanqi, he threw his weapon toward Ouyang Chuanqi's chest.

He was attacking in a way to ensure both sides suffered, but Sima Tian was confident Ouyang Chuanqi would die before him. He would then have the time to recover his soul foundation.

Unfortunately for him, when his weapon struck Ouyang Chuanqi's chest, a crisp clang rang out. That sound was akin to a declaration of his failure, causing him to sink into despair.

"An armor that is higher than the sovereign grade!" Sima Tian exclaimed in alarm.

His attack only caused Ouyang Chuanqi to spit up a mouthful of blood. As the impact threw Ouyang Chuanqi away, Ouyang Chuanqi took the chance to pull his spear back and escape Sima Tian. With his soul foundation damaged, Sima Tian's aura dropped. The flame was still burning his soul foundation, making it hard for him to even recall the soul foundation into his body.

Using his last bit of strength, Sima Tian forcefully shook the flame away before withdrawing his soul foundation. His aura was incomparably weak, and he could only release about 30 percent of his combat prowess.

In his current condition, he could no longer fight. Even so, he still stubbornly charged at Xiang Shaoyun.

"Little bastard, you will pay with your life for killing my woman!" Sima Tian loved Zhang Baolu greatly. Otherwise, he wouldn't have given her the mid-grade sovereign weapon. Now that Xiang Shaoyun had murdered his beloved, he had to kill this murderer to vent his anger.

Sensing Sima Tian's killing intent, Xiang Shaoyun did not feel any fear. He directly released the Nether Soul Domain and trapped Sima Tian within. Ouyang Chuanqi, who was chasing after Sima Tian, wore a bitter smile when he saw Sima Tian vanish into thin air. He thought, The Nether Soul Domain is indeed terrifying.

In fact, the Nether Soul Domain's might was the reason Ouyang Chuanqi had agreed to become Xiang Shaoyun's helper. Otherwise, with his strength, he would never become anyone's subordinate.

This was his second time seeing the Nether Soul Domain in action, and his shock had not lessened one bit. After entering the Nether Soul Domain, Sima Tian shivered as he realized how rash he had been.

Unfortunately for him, it was no longer possible for him to escape. Numerous chains shot toward him from all directions. With his soul foundation badly damaged, he could no longer display his usual strength. With the chains around him, he became completely helpless.

Even so, he was a decisive person as he roared, "If I'm to die, I'll drag you down with me!"

He then self-destructed. Xiang Shaoyun was greatly shocked and quickly tossed Sima Tian out of his Nether Soul Domain.

Bang!

Sima Tian had just been tossed outside when a terrifying explosion rang out. Blood sprayed everywhere.

The rumbling explosion was extremely terrifying, causing the sky itself to shake. The combatants on the ground were given a fright as they started fleeing in chaos, no longer bothered about their battle. When the explosion settled, everyone had a look of confusion on their faces.

"The bandit leader self-destructed. Brothers, finish these bandits off, and our job will be done," Ouyang Chuanqi's voice rang out.

The disciples heard him and became endlessly excited. With great enthusiasm, they started cleaning up the remaining bandits. The bandits were in complete disorder. All three of their leaders had been killed, and their morale dropped greatly as a result.

Yu Rongxin could no longer hang on, and he quickly commanded, "Flee! Flee quickly!"

He fled, not bothering about the others.

"I knew a cowardly bandit like you would attempt to flee. Witness my Soul Chasing Arrow!" A woman from the Overlord Legion sneered and aimed her bow and arrow. With her attention focused on the arrow, she let it loose toward Yu Rongxin.

Swish!

Like a rainbow, the arrow glided through the air toward Yu Rongxin. It moved rapidly, reaching the level of an arrow shot by a peak Emperor. By the time Yu Rongxin noticed the arrow, it had already reached him. He swung his hammer behind him without any hesitation, trying to intercept the arrow.

However, the arrow actually moved in a "z" trajectory and avoided his hammer before shooting toward his forehead. Never in his wildest dreams had Yu Rongxin imagined that the arrow would shift its trajectory. Unable to defend himself in time, he was killed.

Bang!

Chapter 777: Truly a Super Freak

Many of the Overlord Legion members saw that stunning shot, and they were given quite a shock. They were all geniuses, but that unique shooting technique was one they would have a hard time blocking as well.

The woman had average looks and a heroic temperament. She was Yuan Xuefen, and she cultivated the power of wood. She was now a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator strong enough to challenge the Dragon Phoenix List.

The bandits' morale collapsed completely at the sight of Yu Rongxin's death. They started fleeing everywhere, none of them having the courage to stay behind and die. This time, the disciples did not intend to spare the bandits—they chased and attacked them with all their might.

The sounds of battle rumbled on, explosions erupting everywhere as clouds of sand billowed up. Xiang Shaoyun and Ouyang Chuanqi mostly ignored the subsequent battles. They stood side by side as they healed themselves and observed the battle.

Xiang Shaoyun had received considerable wounds during Sima Tian's explosion. If he hadn't reacted fast enough, he would have died during the explosion. Additionally, he had fought the Sovereigns in rapid succession, exhausting himself greatly. He did not have much strength left, and if he didn't stop to heal himself, his injuries would only worsen.

As for Ouyang Chuanqi, he had also fought fiercely, and Sima Tian had also hit him, causing him some injuries. Thus, Ouyang Chuanqi also needed to stop and heal. Fortunately, he was wearing high-tier armor. Otherwise, he would have suffered an even worse injury.

"We have completed the mission with total victory," said Ouyang Chuanqi.

"Yeah. What a thrilling victory," replied Xiang Shaoyun. "You, your combat prowess is freakish. You can even fight Sovereigns. I think you are totally qualified to take first place on the Dragon Phoenix List."

"Are you praising yourself in a roundabout way, or are you insulting me? You're the one who killed all three Sovereigns!" said Ouyang Chuanqi with a helpless smile. "You are the actual freak here!"

Ouyang Chuanqi had the strength to kill a first-stage Sovereign, and he could match a second-stage Sovereign in battle. This was a difficult feat of fighting someone a realm above him. That was enough to show how terrifying he was.

However, Xiang Shaoyun was able to kill Sovereigns consecutively, and it was extremely hard for many people to believe.

Xiang Shaoyun shrugged. "I did not rely on my actual combat prowess to win."

Ouyang Chuanqi replied, "Whatever you did, so long as you can defeat enemies with it, it is a part of your combat prowess. Stop putting yourself down."

Xiang Shaoyun did not wish to continue the topic, so he spoke of something else, "By the way, you visited Zhan Wushuang before this, right? I hear they are no longer creating trouble for us. Did you scare Zhan Wushuang badly to make him do that?"

"If I'm really capable of that, I won't be coming to this god-forsaken place with you," said Ouyang Chuanqi sullenly.

Xiang Shaoyun noted Ouyang Chuanqi's expression and asked in astonishment, "Are you really not his match?"

"In the academy, Zhan Wushuang and Baili Yixiao are probably the only ones capable of fully suppressing me. As for the others, they are nothing for me," said Ouyang Chuanqi with a complicated expression.

"Are they really that strong?" Xiang Shaoyun hissed in shock.

To join the Dragon Phoenix Academy, one had to be below 30 years old. It had been three years since they had joined, and the many disciples were in their early thirties. For someone at this age, reaching Ouyang Chuanqi's level was already a remarkable accomplishment.

And yet, there were actually two other people capable of suppressing him? It was evident how scary the two were. Xiang Shaoyun felt like he might not be able to guarantee a victory against those two, even with the Nether Soul Domain.

"Zhan Wushuang's Unrivaled Fist is capable of beating all Emperors. As for the three Sovereigns you just killed, not even they can last more than 10 of his punches," said Ouyang Chuanqi solemnly. "I initially thought I could match him, but when I went looking for him, I found that I couldn't even survive five punches. And he wasn't even trying at that time."

Xiang Shaoyun swallowed. "He's truly a super freak."

He had always thought that people like Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, Yu Ziyang, and Ouyang Chuanqi should be similar in strength. Now that he had entered the third stage, although he couldn't defeat them, they would also have difficulty defeating him. But now, it seemed he had been too naive.

Zhan Wushuang had defeated Ouyang Chuanqi with fewer than five punches. It was clear the gap between the two was still rather large. From that, one could only imagine how strong Baili Yixiao was. He had, after all, occupied first place on the Dragon Phoenix List all this time.

Once, it was rumored that Baili Yixiao was unwilling to reside in 1 Dragon Villa, which was the only reason that the villa had been empty, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to move in. If Baili Yixiao wanted, that villa would definitely be his. Only now did Xiang Shaoyun finally start taking that freak seriously.

"Actually, your physique is the biggest freak of all. It's a pity you insisted on cultivating nine powers," said Ouyang Chuanqi with a sigh.

While the two chatted, the others had eliminated about 90 percent of the bandits. Only about 10 percent of the bandits were able to escape in the chaos. One could say that the Overlord Legion had obtained a victory of great significance. Not only had the victory increased their morale, but their unity had also grown.

Tang Longfei dragged his wounded body over to Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Overlord, we killed 3,150 bandits in this battle. Our mission is complete. Haha!"

Despite his injuries, Tang Longfei was still in great spirits. It was clear he was overjoyed with their victory.

"How about the casualties on our side?" Xiang Shaoyun asked with a nod.

Tang Longfei's expression dimmed as he answered, "Over 20 brothers were killed, and several hundred suffered injuries of varying degrees."

"Bring their corpses back to the academy and have the academy send them home," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

In a military campaign, deaths were unavoidable—for both commoners and geniuses. There was nothing Xiang Shaoyun could say about this. To survive in a battle, one had to be strong enough so as to increase the chances of survival.

Soon after, Xiang Shaoyun started praising those who had performed well during the battle. He also announced that they would return after cleaning up the battlefield. But right before they started their return trip, some phenomenon appeared from a distant place, attracting their attention.

Chapter 778: Stopping the Super Sandstorm

Desert of Despair.

This desert was not known as the Desert of Despair just because of its boundless size, numerous beasts, and poisonous life forms. Its true source of despair originated from its super sandstorms. Sandstorms existed in all deserts, and generally, cultivators would be able to survive them.

But the super sandstorm in the Desert of Despair was extremely terrifying. Kings would face sure death before one, while Emperors could only flee. Not even Sovereigns would dare to clash against one head on.

It was precisely such a sandstorm that had suddenly appeared not far away just when the Overlord Legion was about to depart.

A tornado could be seen approaching from far away. It looked like a furious yellow dragon, roaring and wreaking havoc. It also looked like a berserk wave of sand that swallowed and destroyed everything in its path. The pupils of all the disciples constricted at its sight.

"Th-This is the legendary super sandstorm! It's like the world is ending. How fearsome."

"Stop looking. It seems to be coming our way. We need to flee."

"There are still some spirit crystals left in the vein. Should we dig them all out first?"

"You can stay if you want to die. This super sandstorm is not something we can stop."

...

The Overlord Legion members were flustered. The super sandstorm might look like it was still far away, but with its speed, it would reach them in no time. Many of them looked at Xiang Shaoyun, waiting for him to make a decision.

Unhesitatingly, Xiang Shaoyun commanded, "We will abandon the remaining spirit crystals. Everyone, retreat immediately."

With his command, they started flying away at top speed. Xiang Shaoyun and Ouyang Chuanqi stayed behind to watch their backs, showing their sense of responsibility as leaders.

The Overlord Legion had just undergone a major battle. Many of them were still injured. It wouldn't be easy for them to escape. Commanding the uninjured and lightly injured ones, Zhuge Zhantian had them assist the badly injured ones as they fled. But doing so, their escape slowed, further intensifying their crisis.

"Looks like we're tight on time. I'll go stop this super sandstorm for a bit to give everyone more time," offered Ouyang Chuanqi during the moment of crisis.

Just as he was about to make a move, Xiang Shaoyun stopped him. "Let me deal with this. You should go lead everyone and leave."

"Your Nether Soul Domain is scary, but it won't be much help against a sandstorm like this," said Ouyang Chuanqi.

"You underestimate me. I cultivate nine powers, and I am proficient in both wind and earth. I will have no problem stopping this sandstorm," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently. "Also, I am the actual commander of the Overlord Legion. You need to listen to me. Go and protect everyone on the return trip!"

He then dashed forth without giving Ouyang Chuanqi a chance to reply.

Looking at Xiang Shaoyun's back, Ouyang Chuanqi shook his head. "Remember not to overexert yourself." He then looked at the others and said, "Help the injured brothers and flee at your fastest speed. Also, change the direction so the sandstorm won't have a chance to catch up with us."

Not many of them noticed Xiang Shaoyun's departure, and when they heard Ouyang Chuanqi's command, they started helping the injured and fled in a different direction. As for Ouyang Chuanqi, he followed behind them, not forgetting to look back at the sandstorm.

At this moment, Xiang Shaoyun had already arrived before the sandstorm. Standing on the sand, he used the profundity of earth with all his strength, trying to snatch the sand from the sandstorm. If he succeeded, the might of the sandstorm would be halved, and it would be much less dangerous.

Gravity Field!

With the profundity of earth, he created a gravity field and tried forcing the sandstorm to stop. Sure enough, the super sandstorm was slightly obstructed. But just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to snatch the sand from the sandstorm, it started advancing again with a greater might as though it had been angered.

Xiang Shaoyun had underestimated the super sandstorm. Before he could snatch the sand away, an incomparably powerful force dragged in his entire person. He was sent flying about, and his gravity field was torn apart.

A vast amount of sand struck his body, putting him in extreme pain. He felt like he was facing a rain of arrows. Gnashing his teeth, he resisted the pain and used the profundity of wind, trying to first stabilize himself within the sandstorm.

He once faced the storm created by the yin devil wind. The two storms shared similar characteristics, and he was able to stabilize himself quickly and move alongside the wind. But immediately after, two massive boulders suddenly shot toward him.

Xiang Shaoyun was already exhausted from the earlier battle. He had also sustained some injuries. In his current unfavorable environment, even his reaction time had dropped greatly. Thus, the two boulders struck him.

Xiang Shaoyun did not expect to encounter such large boulders amid the storm. The impact was akin to a Sovereign's attack, causing Xiang Shaoyun to spit out a mouthful of blood and lose consciousness.

Ouyang Chuanqi was protecting the retreating disciples while waiting for Xiang Shaoyun to rejoin them after delaying the sandstorm. However, he found that Xiang Shaoyun had completely vanished after the sandstorm swallowed him. Furthermore, the sandstorm was not showing any signs of stopping. He guessed that a mishap might have happened.

"Don't tell me something really happened to that fellow?" Ouyang Chuanqi muttered under his breath.

Even after fleeing far away from the sandstorm, Xiang Shaoyun was still nowhere to be seen. Finally, he was sure that something had happened to Xiang Shaoyun.

At this time, Tang Longfei went to the rear of the group and asked, "Brother Ouyang, where is the overlord?"

Earlier, he was too busy helping the others, so he hadn't been paying attention to Xiang Shaoyun. The others also looked at Ouyang Chuanqi curiously, noticing that Xiang Shaoyun was not with them.

Ouyang Chuanqi sighed, "He went to block the sandstorm to give us more time. A mishap might have happened to him."

Chapter 779: A Donkey Carriage in the Desert

"What? How can that be?" Tang Longfei exclaimed in alarm. Without any hesitation, Lady Shura stepped in the direction they had come from.

Ouyang Chuanqi stopped her. "Don't go. With the speed of the super sandstorm, we won't be able to find it anyway. We need to return to the academy immediately. I believe the overlord will stay safe."

"How can we do that? What if he needs our help?" Tang Longfei disagreed.

"With the strength of the super sandstorm, we won't be of any help even if we go. Heed my command, return to the academy immediately!" Ouyang Chuanqi commanded with his identity as the deputy commander.

It was not that Ouyang Chuanqi did not want to save Xiang Shaoyun, but he really had no idea where the super sandstorm was. Even if they backtracked, they might not find it. They also had a number of injured members, so it would be unwise to stay any longer. They should prioritize returning to the academy.

He was also quite confident that Xiang Shaoyun would be able to survive the sandstorm. And if Xiang Shaoyun really failed to even survive, he could only say that he had overestimated this overlord.

When Tang Longfei saw that Ouyang Chuanqi was getting somewhat angry, he stopped arguing and worked with the others to leave. Although Tang Longfei was also a deputy commander and had a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivation level, he was still somewhat lacking compared to Ouyang Chuanqi.

...

In the Desert of Despair, wherever one looked was a boundless expanse of gold. The view was amazing, yet behind the beauty was despair. In this sparsely inhabited desert, a donkey carriage was slowly traveling.

The old donkey was thin and weak, dragging a crude carriage. Each step the old donkey took seemed extremely weak, as if the donkey was going to collapse on the ground at any time.

And yet, the old donkey did not collapse. Rather, it advanced steadily, dragging the carriage behind it. Seated on the carriage was an old man. He was leisurely humming a song, presenting quite a unique scene.

One who was actually in the mood to hum a song in this kind of place was most definitely no regular person. The old man was short and thin, his hair was sparse, and his expression was leisurely. He waved around the thin bamboo pole in his hand, looking like a mischievous old man. The donkey carriage moved and moved, and suddenly, it stopped.

The old donkey said, "Old Urchin, there seems to be someone ahead, buried in the sand."

"Old donkey, since when were you such a busybody? Continue traveling," answered Old Urchin.

Just as the old donkey was about to continue ahead, a melodic voice rang out from inside the cart. "Grandpa Urchin, let's go take a look. Perhaps that person is still alive?"

Just from the voice, it was obvious the owner was a kindhearted, graceful, and amicable woman.

"Young lady, a kind person would not appear in this desert. You don't have to show kindness here," replied Old Urchin.

"It's better to save one life than to build a seven-storied pagoda. Let's take a look," insisted the woman.

"Sigh, the young lady is too softhearted. Otherwise, who would dare to bully you?" said Old Urchin with a sigh. He stopped the donkey and made a grabbing motion with his hand.

Whoosh!

A figure flew out from the sand. It was none other than Xiang Shaoyun, whom the sandstorm had swallowed. He was still unconscious, and his body was covered in wounds. He looked incomparably sorry, and his aura was extremely weak, proving that he was in a critical state.

Old Urchin dragged Xiang Shaoyun over, scanned him, and mumbled, "Huh? Such serious injuries yet still alive? He is quite a tenacious one."

"Grandpa Urchin, since he is still alive, help him out," the woman's voice rang out again.

Old Urchin replied, "How good must this kid's luck be to earn your kindness, young lady?"

He then stuffed a pill into Xiang Shaoyun's mouth. After swallowing the pill, a powerful medicinal power started nourishing his body.

"Young lady, I already fed him a healing pill. I believe he will be fine soon. So, shall I leave him here?" asked Old Urchin.

The woman replied, "It won't do to just abandon him here. Bring him inside the carriage."

"That won't do! How noble are you, young lady? This kid is filled with filth," Old Urchin quickly objected. "But since you wish to help him, we'll just let the old donkey carry him around."

The woman hesitated for a bit before agreeing, "Fine."

Old Urchin then placed Xiang Shaoyun on the old donkey before continuing on with their journey. Inwardly, he thought, This kid has decent looks. If he is a smart kid, it won't be a bad idea to take him as my attendant.

Xiang Shaoyun was naturally unaware that he had been appointed the position of an attendant. His body was still busy digesting the medicinal power of the pill. With the medicinal power spreading throughout his body, his wounds started healing rapidly. It was obvious he had been fed a rather valuable pill.

Gradually, Xiang Shaoyun regained consciousness. When he sensed the majestic medicinal power within his body, he quickly circulated his cultivation method, further refining the medicinal power within him.

As his body absorbed the medicinal power, his condition improved, and his clarity of mind returned. He slowly opened his eyes and found that he was currently being carried by something. He quickly struggled back up. But before he could get up, a certain force pressed down on him, suppressing all movement.

"You're not well yet. Just lie there obediently," said Old Urchin.

Xiang Shaoyun lifted his head and saw a white-haired old man lazily waving around a bamboo pole. A smile formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face as he said, "Th-Thank you for saving me, senior."

He had recalled how he had fainted after the super sandstorm had swallowed him. Since he was able to regain consciousness, and there was even medicinal power spreading throughout his body, he could guess that he had been saved.

"You don't need to thank me. If you really want to thank someone, thank my young lady. If it wasn't for her kindness, I would have ignored you completely," answered Old Urchin.

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun notice that there was someone seated within the carriage. He did not put much thought into it and focused on recovery.

After a while, the woman inside the carriage spoke using voice transmission, "Grandpa Urchin, let's take a break here."

"Young lady, we are going to reach our destination soon," said Old Urchin.

"Just stop when I tell you to!" grumbled the woman grumpily.

Chapter 780: Perfect Woman

The donkey carriage stopped. Xiang Shaoyun had mostly healed up. Old Urchin's medicine was quite powerful, capable of healing him up in such a short time, so Xiang Shaoyun could finally get off the old donkey.

Inwardly, he sighed, I need a nice shower to rid my body of this donkey's smell.

The old donkey seemed to have read his mind and said, "Kid, you have been lying on this lord's body for almost half a day, yet you have such an expression on your face? What, do you think this lord is dirty?"

Xiang Shaoyun replied with an awkward expression, "Lord donkey, you must be kidding. How would I think that way? I was just feeling uncomfortable from my injuries."

"That better be the case. You won't be able to get on me that easily anymore," said the old donkey loftily.

A look of shame covered Xiang Shaoyun's face as he thought, Who wants to get on you? I'm not into bestiality! Moreover, you're an old male donkey! I'm not a freak!

Old Urchin pulled the flap of the carriage open, allowing the woman inside to step out. Xiang Shaoyun glanced over, and his eyes instantly locked onto her. He couldn't move them away.

She was dressed in a light yellow outfit. As she bowed slightly to step out, her long hair cascaded down and covered half her flawless face. Her eyes were as clear as limpid autumn waters. Her nose was delicate, and her lips were akin to a blooming cherry blossom. When one moved one's gaze farther down, one would be greeted with a snow-white neck and a bountiful chest with a deep valley.

She got off the carriage, and it became apparent that she was tall with a flawless hourglass figure. She was a woman of no imperfection. Xiang Shaoyun had not seen a lot of women like this. Only Ye Chaomu and Yu Caidie were comparable to her.

"Watch where you're looking. Do you want me to dig those eyes out?" berated Old Urchin with a glare, jolting Xiang Shaoyun awake.

Xiang Shaoyun blushed and said, "Sorry. I was unable to restrain myself."

He wasn't wrong. No man could remain calm in the face of a woman so perfect.

"Haha, well said. What an interesting kid," said Old Urchin with a hearty laugh. "Kid, my young lady is as beautiful as a fairy. Do you want to see her every day?"

The woman berated solemnly, "Grandpa Urchin, you're fooling around again!"

"Ahhh, grandpa is doing this for your own good! You don't want to return because you are unwilling to accept the Hall's marriage arrangement between you and that Holy Son, right? You might as well find yourself a partner to deal with those geezers," said Old Urchin with a sigh. He pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and continued, "Look, this kid is not bad."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" the woman complained unhappily.

She looked to be someone in her early twenties, her entire person exuding grace. Comparatively, the donkey carriage looked incredibly shabby beside her. In fact, she looked like a princess who had escaped home.

"I, Xiang Shaoyun, thank the young lady for saving my life," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Your surname is Xiang as well?" asked the woman, an odd look on her face.

"Um. I'm surnamed Xiang as well," answered Xiang Shaoyun in confusion.

"Kid, what is your relationship with the Xiang Clan?" questioned Old Urchin.

"I am a disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy, here to cultivate. I got myself swallowed by the super sandstorm by accident. I wonder which Xiang Clan you are referring to?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing.

He was aware of the hidden influential clan in the Western Desert, the Xiang Clan. It was a clan comparable to the Yu Province's Yu Clan, and he indeed originated from that clan. However, he had

never been there and had only heard of it from his father. Thus, he did not know if it was the same Xiang Clan that these two obviously knew of.

"A Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple? Well, this is definitely a misunderstanding," muttered the woman.

"That might not be the case," said Old Urchin. "Where are you from? Which organization do you belong to? Who is your master? Also, list out 18 generations of your ancestors, or I won't mind doing something to make you talk."

Xiang Shaoyun could sense that Old Urchin was a powerful person, and was thus forced to give a rough introduction of his background.

Old Urchin laughed, "So you're from the Western Desert as well, also surnamed Xiang. Interesting, really interesting. Young lady, why don't we bring this kid back and fool those geezers first. That way, they won't force you that much anymore."

"No. He's too weak. Anyone smart will be able to see through this," said the woman.

"True, only a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. If he was a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm, it would be much better. Too bad, too bad," said Old Urchin after shooting Xiang Shaoyun a glance.

Xiang Shaoyun was depressed, feeling like he was losing his freedom.

"Alright. I will deal with that myself. Let him go," said the woman understandingly, seemingly having read Xiang Shaoyun's mind.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly said, "Thank you, young lady."

He then turned and left. But at that moment, a group of people suddenly appeared ahead of him, forcing him to stop. They were all mounted on powerful beasts and clad in shining armor. They were all heading in Xiang Shaoyun's direction. A torrential aura crashed forth from them while clouds of sand were left in their wake.

Old Urchin suddenly shouted, "Ahh, why are these fellows here so fast? Looks like they have been waiting for your return, young lady."

"Um. They are too kind," answered the woman indifferently.

There were about 100 newcomers who were arriving quickly. When they saw the woman, they hopped off their mounts, knelt down on one knee, and greeted, "We welcome the young lady's return to the Holy Hall."

The woman waved her hand. "Rise."

At her command, they all stood up.

Next, a tall and sturdy man stepped forth and said, "Young lady, Captain Ning Pengcheng of the squads greets you. Please get on the carriage and allow us to escort you back."

As he said that, a luxurious carriage pulled by four sturdy desert horses appeared. There were even four maids standing in wait around the carriage, making the scene look even more impressive.