

Overlord 781

Chapter 781: An Attendant Doesn't Need to Learn Donkey Driving, Right

Xiang Shaoyun had a decent background. As someone born in a tier-7 sect, he once lived a glorious life.

However, with one glance, he could see how extraordinary the horses were. They were at least Demon Emperors, and they could move at high speed. They also looked extremely majestic. Due to their extraordinary bloodline, their breed was the favorite mount of many royalties and nobilities.

With the sheer number of people in this group and the luxurious carriage, it was obvious how high the woman's status was.

Old Urchin mocked, "The carriage sure looks bright and neat, but it's far inferior to my donkey carriage."

The old donkey joined in, "I can send these cute little horses flying with one kick. Young lady, you should just keep using my carriage."

The mocking of the geezer and the donkey caused the captain's face to turn unsightly, but he did not dare to flare up. He knew about this pair. They had always been unbridled, and he was still not qualified to show off in front of them.

"Let it be, Grandpa Urchin. You two are tired as well. I'll just use their carriage," the woman alleviated the guards' awkwardness.

She then boarded the newly arrived carriage. Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was trying to leave stealthily. However, a guard suddenly blocked his path.

"Brother, I am merely passing by. This has nothing to do with me. Please move aside," said Xiang Shaoyun with a polite smile.

"Captain, there is someone here. How do we deal with him?" asked the guard without even giving Xiang Shaoyun as much as a glance.

Before Ning Pengcheng could say anything, the woman said, "Release him. He is merely passing by."

"Let him go," said Ning Pengcheng with a wave of his hand.

The guard stepped aside, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to leave.

At this time, Old Urchin shouted, "Kid, remember that you owe my young lady for the favor she had shown you. Don't forget this!"

When Xiang Shaoyun heard him, his face turned ghastly as he cursed inwardly, This old fellow is trying to frame me!

That woman had already said that he was a passerby, but now, the old geezer was claiming that he owed the woman for her favor. Wasn't that the same as telling these guards he had a special relationship with the woman?

Xiang Shaoyun could see that they were no pushovers, and he could also see how much they treasured the young woman. Perhaps the old geezer's words might implicate him.

Since obtaining the Light of Wisdom, the depth of Xiang Shaoyun's thinking had increased greatly. He had not imagined that Old Urchin would actually set him up just as he was about to leave. He was forced to quicken his pace, afraid that the guards would turn on him.

With Xiang Shaoyun's speed, when he tried to leave, he moved at the speed of a regular Sovereign. No Emperor could match his pace. And sure enough, after he left, several people chased after him. They were all Emperors, with one peak Emperor among them. To chase someone with Xiang Shaoyun's cultivation level, this was quite an overkill. However, it wasn't long before they completely lost sight of Xiang Shaoyun.

"Head, he seems to have vanished," someone reported to the peak Emperor.

"Continue looking for him. With his strength, he won't be able to flee quickly. He is most definitely hiding underneath the sand," said the peak Emperor.

They started carpet-searching the area for Xiang Shaoyun. Alas, he was already far away from them. No matter how they searched, they would not be able to find him. These people are indeed harboring bad intentions, thought Xiang Shaoyun after he sensed them with his Nether Soul Domain.

He did not dare to stay behind and continued leaving at top speed. He was afraid that Old Urchin would also come looking for him, or the group would send some other experts after him. At that time, fleeing would be much harder.

After fleeing for a long distance and confirming that nobody was behind him, Xiang Shaoyun finally stopped.

"This is still the Desert of Despair. Apart from bandits, why is there such a group of people? Is the Desert of Despair much more complicated than I'd thought?" Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

"Kid, you're a frog in a well," an ethereal voice suddenly drifted into Xiang Shaoyun's ears.

He jumped from fright and scanned his surroundings to find no one. However, he knew who the newcomer was.

"Senior Urchin, please don't scare a timid person like me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sullen face.

Right after saying that, a person mounted on a donkey appeared right in front of him. He even wondered if there was a problem with his vision. Just earlier, he was sure there was no one in front of him. Thus, his reaction was understandable when someone suddenly appeared. He also concluded that Old Urchin was probably far stronger than he had thought.

"Senior Urchin, do you still need anything?" Xiang Shaoyun asked cautiously.

"Nothing. I simply couldn't bear to part with you, kid," said Old Urchin as he studied Xiang Shaoyun mockingly.

"Oh. How can this insignificant kid worry you, senior?" said Xiang Shaoyun, who was starting to have a bad feeling.

He was sure nothing good would come out of this.

"Ok. I won't bother beating around the bush. From now on, you're my attendant. Come with me," Old Urchin finally made his intention clear.

"That's not proper, right?" Xiang Shaoyun replied, his face ghastly.

"What? You're unwilling?" Old Urchin glared at him.

"I'm a disciple of Dragon Phoenix Academy—" Xiang Shaoyun tried to explain, but Old Urchin waved his hand and interrupted him. Old Urchin said, "Don't bother using the Dragon Phoenix Academy's name. I'm not scared of them. Even if you're unwilling, you will be my attendant. Old donkey, move out."

At that command, a crude carriage suddenly appeared behind the old donkey.

Old Urchin dragged Xiang Shaoyun onto the carriage and pushed him down before saying, "Here, take my bamboo pole. First, familiarize yourself with the Great Donkey Driving Technique."

Xiang Shaoyun asked sullenly, "Senior Urchin, an attendant doesn't need to learn donkey driving, right?"

"How can that be? Do you want me to drive you around? I have been driving this old donkey my whole life. It's about time I start enjoying life," said Old Urchin as he went inside the carriage.

The old donkey was enraged. "What is the meaning of this, Old Urchin? If you dislike me, just let me go! Do you think I like being with an old bastard like you?"

"Wow, you're angry just because of that? Sure, go, go if you want," said Old Urchin indifferently as he lounged in the carriage.

"Old Urchin, if you don't make yourself clear, I won't leave!" the old donkey was stubborn.

"Kid, what are you waiting for? Whip his rear. He will definitely start moving," said Old Urchin as he gave Xiang Shaoyun a kick.

"You dare?" shouted the old donkey.

Xiang Shaoyun raised the bamboo pole sullenly, not knowing what to do. He did not dare to provoke either of these two geezers.

Chapter 782: Holy Earth Hall

Unable to persuade Old Urchin to change his command, Xiang Shaoyun was forced to softly swing the bamboo pole at the old donkey's rear. Tragedy befell him. Before his bamboo pole could land, the donkey kicked him away.

The kick was extremely powerful. Even a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator like Xiang Shaoyun was sent flying far away. He was in so much pain his tears nearly came out.

Why am I so unlucky? Xiang Shaoyun howled inwardly.

"If you're not dead, get your ass back here. I'll teach you the Great Donkey Driving Technique. With that, the old donkey won't kick you anymore," said Old Urchin as he waved his hand.

An incorporeal power appeared and dragged Xiang Shaoyun back onto the carriage.

"Come, learn the Great Donkey Driving Technique from me. Mhm ah ya, mhm ah ya, silly donkey, time to move..." Old Urchin started singing.

When Xiang Shaoyun heard that, he nearly spat blood and fainted from anger. What bullshit Great Donkey Driving Technique was that? To his surprise, the stubborn old donkey actually started moving.

Xiang Shaoyun felt extremely helpless. He wanted to escape, but he also knew he couldn't do anything before absolute strength. If he wanted to escape, he needed to wait for the opportunity. When the Old Urchin wasn't paying him any attention, he would be able to leave stealthily.

He refused to believe Old Urchin could see through even his invisibility. Pulling the carriage, the old donkey moved forward. He looked like he was leisurely and moving slowly, but he was actually displaying the shrinking space ability.

Xiang Shaoyun was completely dumbstruck. Inwardly, he muttered, This old donkey is probably an old demon that has lived an untold number of years.

"Senior Urchin, where are you going?" probed Xiang Shaoyun.

Old Urchin completely ignored the question, as if he had fallen asleep. Xiang Shaoyun called out to him a few times, but Old Urchin still remained silent. He had no choice but to shut his mouth.

After an unknown amount of time, the old donkey stopped, "Old Urchin, we have arrived at the entrance of the Hall."

Entrance? Where? Xiang Shaoyun wondered inwardly.

They were still in the Desert of Despair, and before them was still the boundless desert. He did not see anything at all.

"Um. We have returned yet again," said Old Urchin as he sat up and rubbed his eyes.

He then left the carriage, and a circular token appeared in his hand. His energy converged on the token as it shone in a certain direction. Next, a miraculous scene appeared.

The sand suddenly opened up into a crack. As the vast sand rippled aside, stairs connecting to the underground appeared before their vision. A massive stele stood erect, with the words "Holy Earth Hall" carved into it.

Xiang Shaoyun watched on with disbelief. He had never imagined that there would actually be such a place in the Desert of Despair.

"Stop staring. Go," said the old donkey as he kicked Xiang Shaoyun toward the stairs.

Both the old donkey and Old Urchin entered the passage of stairs. The entrance closed behind them, and the desert returned to how it was, as if nothing had happened. Xiang Shaoyun followed Old Urchin and the donkey down the stairs, his mind in a daze. After reaching the bottom, he found that there were people standing guard.

"Display the Holy Hall Token!" the guard said with an emotionless voice.

Old Urchin did not waste any time and took out his token.

The guard pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Who is he to you?"

"Attendant," answered Old Urchin impatiently.

The guard took out a book and wrote something in it before saying, "Register yourself here."

"Damn it! I, Old Urchin, am only bringing an attendant back. Do I have to go through so many procedures? Are you tired of living?" Old Urchin shouted, feeling humiliated.

"This is the rule of the Holy Hall, we can't break it," said the guard coldly.

"Damn the rules," grumbled Old Urchin furiously. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "What are you standing there for? Register yourself."

Helpless, Xiang Shaoyun picked the pen up and signed his name.

"A drop of your blood is required as well," said the guard.

"How about I don't go in," said Xiang Shaoyun gloomily.

"No!" both Old Urchin and the guard answered at the same time.

Xiang Shaoyun then gloomily dripped a drop of blood on the book.

Old Urchin beckoned at him, "Come. The entrance is here."

Xiang Shaoyun walked over unwillingly, and when he stood beside Old Urchin, an incorporeal power enveloped them and sent them away. When Xiang Shaoyun's vision cleared, he found that

the scene before him had changed completely. A city was before him, with endless traffic, presenting the scene of a glorious and flourishing city.

"Where are we?" Xiang Shaoyun asked blankly.

He had thought that he would be brought to the territory of a mysterious organization. The place would have a strict classification of ranks and would be guarded by super experts. Ordinary people would not be able to enter.

But he was seeing something entirely different. This was obviously a populous city. People of all strengths could be seen, and there were even commoners around. This did not look like the secret base of an organization.

"Stop dreaming and get going. Look for a tavern. Time to get something to drink," said Old Urchin, pulling Xiang Shaoyun back to reality.

Xiang Shaoyun got on the carriage and said, "Senior donkey, you know this place well. Why don't you lead the way?"

He had no intention of singing the Great Donkey Driving Technique song. It would be too embarrassing if anyone overheard him. Alas, the old donkey completely ignored him.

"Senior donkey, come on, move already. Senior Urchin is still waiting to get his drink," urged Xiang Shaoyun.

The old donkey remained still, as if he had heard nothing.

"Kid, I told you. Unless you use the Great Donkey Driving Technique, the old donkey won't budge," said Old Urchin.

"This, I-I failed to remember the song. Why don't you teach me one more time?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he wiped his cold sweat.

"Are you tired of living? Use the Great Donkey Driving Technique immediately!" berated the furious Old Urchin.

Xiang Shaoyun shivered and quickly sang, "Mhm ah ya, mhm ah ya, silly donkey, time to move..."

Chapter 783: Perhaps This Is Love

The Holy Earth Hall preserved the original architecture style from beyond the borders. Each building was constructed from stones and mud, and they were mostly square-shaped. Wooden buildings were nowhere to be seen. The people here were also dressed in a unique fashion that greatly resembled the outfits of those from Desert Sea Town. More and more, this place resembled a lost desert civilization.

During the ancient times, before the formation of the Desert of Despair, many cities existed in the region. As the desert's environment deteriorated, numerous cities were lost, and the inhabitants were forced to migrate. This caused the extinction of the civilizations in the area.

Xiang Shaoyun had arrived at this Holy Earth Hall in a completely unexpected manner. He did not know if this place was still within the Desert of Despair, but he knew that it definitely had some relations with the desert's lost civilizations.

With his head lowered, Xiang Shaoyun sang the Great Donkey Driving Technique song. He could feel the gazes of the pedestrians landing on him, and he blushed in shame. This was the first time he had ever felt so embarrassed.

A day will come when I make this old bastard drive a donkey carriage for me instead, vowed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly. The old donkey strolled leisurely before finally stopping before a restaurant.

Xiang Shaoyun raised his head and saw a canvas hanging on the wall with the words "Golden Sand Restaurant" written on it.

Old Urchin hopped off the carriage in excitement and said, "It has been a long time since I last had any Golden Sand Liquor. I wonder if it still tastes the same."

He dashed into the restaurant like a gust of wind. Behind him, Xiang Shaoyun slowly followed. But right after he stepped into the restaurant, some noise broke out inside. Then, numerous items flew toward him.

He quickly grabbed them. At the same time, he heard a woman's voice shouting, "You old bastard, you dare come back? Get lost, or I'll slaughter you right now!"

"Stinky woman, what did I do? I had only drunk a couple jars of your liquor. Do you need to be so aggressive?" Old Urchin's voice rang out.

"I'm already patient enough to not greet you with a knife. Pay up the money you owe me for the liquor last time, or I won't let this end!" shouted the furious woman.

Her voice was akin to the roar of a lion, and even Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was turning deaf from all her shouting. When he looked over, he saw a coarse woman pointing a chair at Old Urchin as if they were mortal enemies.

On the other hand, Old Urchin looked rather sorry. His head was bruised, and a pile of broken bowls was in front of him. Evidently, Old Urchin had just gone through an intense attack.

This sight caught Xiang Shaoyun by surprise, and he could not help but laugh silently. Inwardly, he mused, Serves you right, old bastard!

However, he still knew how terrifying the Old Urchin was. He could not understand why Old Urchin allowed the woman to do that to him.

"That reminds me! I'm here today to pay my debt! Kid, come over here and pay this stinky woman 10 mid-grade spirit crystals. Otherwise, we won't be able to drink any liquor," Old Urchin called Xiang Shaoyun over.

"Ten mid-grade spirit crystals?" Xiang Shaoyun had an odd expression.

He refused to believe just 10 mid-grade spirit crystals would stump Old Urchin. Thus, he became even more confused. He did not hesitate and handed 10 mid-grade spirit crystals to the woman.

The woman glanced at Xiang Shaoyun before putting the spirit crystals away. She then placed her hands on her hips and said, "This is merely the principal amount. You still need to pay me the interest, or you can forget about the liquor here."

"Yes, yes, interest as well. Kid, pay more. Also, pay for what we're about to drink this time as well," said Old Urchin.

Xiang Shaoyun said nothing and took out 100 mid-grade spirit crystals, "Boss, more liquor, please."

Finally, a smile appeared on the woman's face. "Not bad at all. This young brother is a smart one. However, don't get yourself scammed by that old bastard. He is an infamous old swindler. He owed me liquor money for years, and now, he's even making you pay."

She then carried her sturdy body away to get them the liquor they ordered.

Old Urchin arrived beside Xiang Shaoyun. His face was all smiles as he said, "Kid, this woman is really a unique one, right? Look at the way her waist sways, and look at her large buttocks. They will certainly feel very good to touch."

Xiang Shaoyun felt like vomiting. He thought, This old bastard sure has a strong taste.

In truth, the woman had ordinary looks. More importantly, she had a wide waist, with a massive rear that was probably twice the size of a regular person's. For some reason, Old Urchin was staring at her with a perverted look. It was obvious Old Urchin was very interested in her.

Xiang Shaoyun finally understood why Old Urchin had voluntarily taken a beating from her.

The woman suddenly turned back and glared at them. "Old bastard, are you peeping me?"

Old Urchin quickly waved his hands in denial. "No, no, I was just looking randomly."

"Bah! Old bastard, if you dare to look where you shouldn't, I'll dig your eyeballs out," threatened the fierce woman. She then winked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "This little brother is much more pleasing to the eyes. Are you interested in staying and running this place with me?"

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly rejected, "Thank you for the offer, boss. I am merely Senior Urchin's attendant."

"That's right. This kid is my attendant," said Old Urchin smugly. A bashful look covered his face as he continued, "Actually, I'm interested in staying and running this place with you."

"Go and die," cursed the woman as she tossed two jars of liquor at Old Urchin.

Old Urchin quickly caught the two jars. After giving them a sniff, he praised, "It's still the same old smell. They smell amazing!"

Xiang Shaoyun and Old Urchin sat down. The moment he took a sip of the liquor, he felt like vomiting.

The liquor was rough and tasteless. No, to be precise, it had the flavor of horse urine and was extremely unpleasant to drink. He really couldn't understand why Old Urchin loved this liquor that much.

Perhaps this is the power of love, sighed Xiang Shaoyun inwardly.

He did not continue drinking. Instead, he ordered some food, planning to take a break while thinking of his next course of action. He had arrived at the Holy Earth Hall, and perhaps he should take this chance to explore this mysterious place. Thus, he was no longer in a rush to escape. While he was thinking, a burst of noise erupted.

Next, a group of people appeared in the restaurant. One of them pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and shouted, "Arrest this person. Kill anyone who resists."

Chapter 784: Two Old Freaks

Looking at the newcomers, Xiang Shaoyun recognized that they were the same guards that had escorted the young lady back earlier. The moment they had appeared, they had demanded his arrest, and Xiang Shaoyun was puzzled. He glanced at Old Urchin.

Old Urchin was completely focused on drinking and completely ignored Xiang Shaoyun's imploring gaze. A few guards moved to surround Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun stood up and asked, "What is this about?"

"Come with us, and you will find out," said the leader coldly.

"I don't mind going with you, but Senior Urchin is here. Have you asked if he is willing to let me go?" Xiang Shaoyun asked calmly.

Since Old Urchin was remaining silent, Xiang Shaoyun intended to drag him in. However, the guards did not even spare Old Urchin a glance and reached out to grab Xiang Shaoyun.

"Audacious!" Old Urchin shouted as he slapped the table, shocking the guards.

The leader said, "Senior Urchin, please don't make things hard for us. We are only carrying out orders."

"Orders? Whose orders? This kid is my attendant. Arresting him is the same as slapping me on my face," berated Old Urchin.

He started leaking his aura, greatly frightening them. They knew Old Urchin's status in the Hall very well. Nobodies like them could not afford to offend him.

"Since Senior Urchin wishes to protect him, we have no choice but to report this to the commander," said the leader before leaving with his men.

"Merely a dog that threatens others with his master's might. Even the Hall Master will need to show me some respect. Who do you think you are?" said Old Urchin with disdain.

"Senior Urchin is mighty," Xiang Shaoyun flattered unhesitatingly.

"It's good that you know. Remember, you need to fawn on me properly. You will get a lot of benefits doing so," said Old Urchin smugly.

"Who do you think you are, old bastard? Do you want me to chase you out of my restaurant?" the boss's voice rang out again.

Old Urchin trembled and hurriedly said, "I am nothing. Please don't kick me out. I haven't drunk enough."

"Look at how useless you are. Here, two more jars for you. These are on the house," said the boss after giving him a glare.

Old Urchin caught the two jars that were tossed over and started giggling in a silly manner. When Xiang Shaoyun saw Old Urchin and the boss flirting with each other, he exclaimed inwardly, Is this a demonstration of women throwing themselves into one's arms after demonstrating one's might?

Xiang Shaoyun tactfully offered, "Senior Urchin, I'll deliver some liquor to lord donkey."

He then ran outside with some liquor, leaving some alone time for the two.

When he arrived outside, he showed the old donkey the jar of liquor he had and said, "Lord donkey, I'm here delivering liquor."

"Save it for yourself. It tastes worse than horse urine. That old bastard is really quite amazing to be able to endure this taste," said the donkey with disdain.

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and laughed dryly. He could see that this old donkey knew Old Urchin very well, which reminded him of Little White. It had been several years since they had last met. He wondered if Little White was already a Demon Emperor.

Since he had nothing to do, he chatted with the old donkey, "Lord donkey, can you tell me what place this is?"

"You saw it yourself, right? This is the Holy Earth Hall!" answered the old donkey.

"I mean, which region is this place at?" clarified Xiang Shaoyun.

"Desert of Despair," replied the old donkey. "Don't bother asking anything else. I won't tell you anything, or things will get troublesome."

Xiang Shaoyun started muttering inwardly, How mysterious. But this is indeed a lost civilization of the desert. I wonder if there is anything special about this place.

He wanted to take a walk around to gather more information, but when he recalled how those guards wanted to arrest him, doubt filled his mind. He could not understand why they wanted to arrest him. Was it because he had once gotten in touch with the beautiful young lady?

But that shouldn't be an offense. Perhaps that young lady's identity was too sensitive. By saving him, she had also dragged him into trouble.

At this time, a shout rang out from within the restaurant, "Old bastard, you dare touch my ass? I'll slaughter you!"

Yet another burst of noise rang out. Old Urchin shot out from inside the restaurant and ran away, leaving even Xiang Shaoyun and the donkey behind.

"I'm leaving first. Old donkey, bring that kid with you," Old Urchin's voice drifted over from his vanishing figure.

"Useless old bastard," cursed the boss.

"You dumb donkey. What are you doing standing in front of my restaurant? You are scaring my potential customers away! Do you want me to slaughter you and turn you into a meal?" shouted the boss with a knife in hand.

The old donkey jumped up and quickly ran after Old Urchin as fast as he could.

Xiang Shaoyun was forced to run as well. Inwardly, he laughed, These two are both old freaks!

Xiang Shaoyun quickly caught up and asked, "Senior Urchin, where are you taking me?"

"My place, of course," replied Old Urchin. A smug look covered his face, "I've finally gotten a chance to touch that tigress's butt. Tsk tsk, it feels amazing."

What an old pervert. Xiang Shaoyun was speechless, but he still spoke flattering words, "Senior Urchin, conquering her won't be a problem for you at all!"

"Forget it. She's too fierce. I don't think I can withstand her. It's enough to tease her occasionally," said Old Urchin.

Xiang Shaoyun took the chance to ask about this place, but like the donkey, Old Urchin was very cautious with his words and refused to give him any straight answers. Soon, Xiang Shaoyun arrived at a crude mud house with Old Urchin.

Looking at the remote location and the tiny house, Xiang Shaoyun was finding it hard to believe that this was Old Urchin's house. Old Urchin was an expert. Although he might not reside in paradise, he shouldn't be staying in such a shabby place, right?

"Stay here. I will have something for you to do soon. If you can complete the task well, I will send you away. Or else, you can stay here and be my attendant for the rest of your life," said Old Urchin.

Xiang Shaoyun knew that Old Urchin was finally being serious. He quickly asked, "What task? I will definitely do my best to thank you for saving my life."

"No rush. You can stay here for now. When the time is ripe, I will tell you what to do," said Old Urchin. "Feel free to walk around, but do not try collecting information about the Hall. It won't bring you any benefit."

He then left with the old donkey.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "Senior Urchin, no matter what, I'm your attendant. Won't letting me stay here be embarrassing for you?"

"It's not like anyone knows you're my attendant," said Old Urchin shamelessly.

Chapter 785: Who the Hell Made My Big Brother a Slave

Looking at the shabby house, Xiang Shaoyun did not know whether to laugh or cry. Just a moment ago, he naively believed this was Old Urchin's house. Alas, he was wrong. This was merely a residence prepared for him.

In recent years, he had tempered himself numerous ways, and he had stayed in extremely vile environments. Thus, even having this mud house to stay in was considered a decent fate.

However, he did not go inside to rest. Instead, he started taking a stroll around. Since he was already here, he wanted to learn more about this place. He relaxed his nerves and started casually roaming around the city.

The city lacked the majestic and imposing feeling human cities normally gave off. Instead, it had an indescribable atmosphere, making the city feel heavy and firm. This was a city extremely close with the earth.

Comparatively, the residents of this city were good-natured and passionate. In some parts of the city, people could be seen singing, dancing, playing an act, or performing numerous other tricks. It was as if celebrations were being held all over the city. Of course, thieveries and robberies were also occurring at some dark corners.

As a whole, this place resembled a human city, with the local customs and culture being rather different. Xiang Shaoyun had also noted that each house and shop had an odd mark on them. All the marks were the same, as if they represented something.

However, he did not dare to ask about the mark. He was clear there were some things that he couldn't know about. After a while, he felt somewhat bored and was prepared to return to his house.

At that time, he walked past a certain place and found that slaves were being sold. A crowd surrounded the place, pointing at the slaves as they talked among themselves.

"What do you think about that woman? Her figure is decent, and she's not very expensive. It won't be a bad idea to buy her and have her serve you."

"I'm quite interested in that man. He might be a decent fighter. Too bad he only has one arm remaining."

"That young man is not bad, and the price is decent as well. Let me think about it."

"This batch of slaves are all decent. They even have a few foreign races among them."

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When Xiang Shaoyun overheard the crowd, he went over curiously. Slave trafficking had always existed and wasn't even rare, but not many places would actually be selling slaves so openly like this.

He studied the slaves before him. Each of them had a board hanging on their neck with their prices indicated on the boards. Behind the slaves were a group of people shouting and promoting the slaves to the crowd.

"Everyone, take a good look! This is a good slave that is hard to find. We have beautiful and feminine slaves, we have strong and young slaves, and we also have masculine and powerful slaves..." the slaver traffickers promoted.

Xiang Shaoyun scanned the slaves and found the whole thing boring, so he prepared to leave. But out of the corner of his eyes, he caught a glimpse of a certain figure. He immediately stopped, his gaze focusing on that person.

"Big Brother Liang?" Xiang Shaoyun squeezed through the crowd and said to a certain young slave.

The young man's hair was messy, covering his face. Numerous scars could be seen on his body, and his hands were tied up. It was hard to see his actual appearance. When the sturdy young man heard Xiang Shaoyun, he finally lifted his head. A pair of nervous eyes landed on Xiang Shaoyun, and a hoarse voice rang out, "B-Brother Yun."

Xiang Shaoyun was instantly filled with rage. This young man was none other than Liang Zhuangmin, who was his sworn brother during his time at the Cloud Margin Pavilion. Xiang Shaoyun had not expected to see him here in the form of a slave. He instantly lost reason.

"Who the hell made my big brother a slave?" Xiang Shaoyun roared.

He raged and clawed forward, releasing Liang Zhuangmin. His gaze landed on the slave traffickers murderously.

Xiang Shaoyun was one who treasured his relationships. Liang Zhuangmin was his sworn brother, and his anger was understandable after seeing Liang Zhuangmin's fate.

The slave traffickers gathered, and one of them shouted, "Audacious! You dare touch our slave? Kill this kid!"

These traffickers were part of an organization. Thus, people generally wouldn't dare to provoke them so blatantly like this. Now that some fool was trying to snatch their slave, they definitely wouldn't show mercy.

The traffickers had decent strength, as they were all at the Skysoar Realm. One of them arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and brought his massive saber down at Xiang Shaoyun's head.

"Get lost!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as his fist shot out.

The fist met the saber, breaking the saber before blasting his opponent into pieces. The other traffickers surrounded him from all directions, and he attacked without mercy, instantly killing a few of them. The crowd scattered in fear.

"Who exactly are you? Do you know who we are? You dare snatch our slave and kill our people?" shouted the strongest trafficker around.

The strongest trafficker was a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and two Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators were beside him. The three of them were in charge of security.

"Whoever you are, I will uproot you to avenge my brother!" declared Xiang Shaoyun with a ghastly expression.

Without waiting for his enemies to attack, he made a move. Like a gust of wind, he arrived before the three Emperors. His hand shot out, grabbed the throat of the leader, and snapped the neck. The other two Emperors finally realized they had encountered an expert and quickly fled.

"Not one of you can dream of escaping!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted and sent two fiery claws at the two.

"Ahhhh!"

The two were unable to escape as the claws caught them. They were lit on fire and were instantly reduced to ash. After killing almost 10 people in a row, Xiang Shaoyun finally pacified his anger somewhat. To the side, when Liang Zhuangmin saw all that, he praised inwardly, Brother Yun is actually so strong now.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to stay too long. He quickly released all the slaves and said, "Escape yourself."

He then untied Liang Zhuangmin and prepared to flee with him. But before they could leave, a group of people arrived and surrounded them.

Chapter 786: Rescue and Leave

The new group of people weren't the traffickers' companions. Rather, they were the same group of guards that had attempted to arrest Xiang Shaoyun at the restaurant.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned before handing some emperor-grade spring water and herbs to Liang Zhuangmin as he said, "Big brother, take these things and recover your health."

Liang Zhuangmin did not stand on ceremony. He gulped the spring water down before consuming all the herbs as well. Currently, his cultivation base was sealed, and he also had a great number of injuries. He had to first recover, so he could reduce the burden he placed on Xiang Shaoyun.

"Audacious! You dare kill in the Holy Hall?" shouted the leader of the guards.

"So what? What can you do to me?" Xiang Shaoyun lashed out. He was already in a bad mood, and since these same guards had created trouble for him repeatedly, his patience had run out.

"Very well. Seize him. If he resists, kill!" commanded the leader.

"Yes!" the four guards around him answered and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun clenched his fists and said, "Don't force me to kill even more people."

"Impudent! Surrender yourself!" berated one of the guards as he grabbed at Xiang Shaoyun.

The guard was a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Thus, his attack arrived quickly. However, his movement was as slow as a snail in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes. Xiang Shaoyun grabbed the guard's hand and slammed the guard into a different guard.

Bang!

The two guards collided before collapsing onto the ground. When the other two guards saw how ferocious Xiang Shaoyun was, they drew their weapons without hesitation.

They were respectively a second-stage and a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. They possessed impressive combat strength, and they could also see that Xiang Shaoyun was only a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. They were confident they could defeat him two against one.

Alas, they were not his match. Before their attacks could reach, Xiang Shaoyun attacked their openings, sending them flying and coughing blood.

"How brazen!" The leader was surprised by Xiang Shaoyun's strength. He drew his saber and prepared to attack as well.

He was a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He believed he would be able to defeat Xiang Shaoyun. But he had only drawn his saber halfway when Xiang Shaoyun appeared before him like a specter, causing him to jump. His first reaction was to pull back, but Xiang Shaoyun's attack arrived at his abdomen.

Bang!

A heavy fist slammed right into his abdomen, sending him flying with his body curved like a shrimp. Instead of pushing on, Xiang Shaoyun stepped back and grabbed Liang Zhuangmin, preparing to flee.

"B...Bastard, you...you won't be able to escape!" said the leader weakly, as if a tsunami was breaking out inside his stomach.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored the leader and was about to leave speedily with Liang Zhuangmin. To his surprise, Liang Zhuangmin suddenly said, "Brother Yun, bring your sister-in-law along as well!"

Xiang Shaoyun turned back and saw that Liang Zhuangmin was pointing at a female slave. Xiang Shaoyun could not see the woman's looks clearly. But since it was Liang Zhuangmin's request, he definitely wouldn't abandon her. With Liang Zhuangmin in tow, he dashed toward the woman and left with her as well.

As for the other slaves, he couldn't be bothered about them. This was as much as he could do. After all, he wasn't sure if he could even protect himself now, so he couldn't spare any attention for others.

He brought Liang Zhuangmin and his sister-in-law to the house given to him by Old Urchin. There, he handed some emperor-grade spring water and healing medicine to his sister-in-law. Only then did he get a clear look at her appearance. She was gentle and beautiful, tall and slim. After cleaning herself, she would definitely be a rare beauty.

"Thank you," said the woman as she consumed the spring water and medicine without any hesitation.

Xiang Shaoyun said to Liang Zhuangmin, "Big brother, let me take a look at you and see if I can remove the seal on you."

"Don't force it, Brother Yun. This is a seal placed by a peak Emperor. It doesn't matter if I'm injured, but I'm afraid to drag you down as well," said Liang Zhuangmin with a sigh.

"A peak Emperor is nothing in my eyes," declared Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

He held Liang Zhuangmin's wrist and started sending his energy into Liang Zhuangmin's body. Soon, he sensed an obstructive force in Liang Zhuangmin's body.

It was the seal placed by a peak Emperor. A regular Emperor would not be able to break the seal and might even trigger a backlash that would harm both Liang Zhuangmin and the person attempting to lift it.

However, Xiang Shaoyun had no fear. He was able to drive the seal out of Liang Zhuangmin's body. Muffled sounds erupted within Liang Zhuangmin's body repeatedly, causing him to cough up a mouthful of blood. He looked pale, as though he had been gravely injured.

However, the seal had truly been broken. He could now circulate his energy again, and he could now quickly recover his body.

"Sit down and focus on healing. I'll help sister-in-law remove the seal on her as well," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He then did the same for the woman. He allowed the two to heal inside as he left the house. Since he had killed in public and had even injured the guards, there would probably be people coming after him soon. He had to prepare himself.

I wonder if Senior Urchin will protect me this time, thought Xiang Shaoyun as he sat down in front of the door.

He did not regret being brought to this place. After all, he was happy being able to help Liang Zhuangmin. Anyone coming after them would be met with Xiang Shaoyun's merciless counterattack. Even if he had to create a big ruckus, he would still do his best to open a path with blood and bring Liang Zhuangmin and his sister-in-law away from this place.

While Xiang Shaoyun was preparing himself, a group of people surrounded the area. He was a foreigner. It was easy to locate his whereabouts. In any case, the traffickers had quite a large organization in the city.

"Kid, after killing the men of us, the Coiling Snake, you still dare to stay? Die!" shouted a fierce voice as the newcomers arrived.

Along with the shout, a massive hammer was slammed down toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Chapter 787: Understanding the Holy Earth Hall

The attacker was no pushover; he was a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. The might of the falling hammer was enough to destroy the entire mud house. Liang Zhuangmin and the woman within would most likely suffer as well.

Xiang Shaoyun bolted from the ground without hesitation and stopped the hammer with one hand. His other hand assumed a blade stance and chopped at the opponent.

Devil Severing Edge!

Xiang Shaoyun's attack was fast and violent, instantly aiming for his opponent's opening. The sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert had his chest split by the chop before being sent flying away. At this time, three other Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators arrived with their attacks.

These three were using ranged attacks, deciding to punish Xiang Shaoyun for what he had just done.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was forced to protect the mud house behind him. Thus, he unleashed a flurry of attacks in all directions, sending out numerous Devil Severing Edges and breaking through the incoming attacks. The three attackers were struck and killed on the spot.

With Xiang Shaoyun's combat prowess, which was at the level of a peak Emperor, these regular Emperors were not his match. The other Coiling Snake members no longer dared to act rashly.

"I haven't gone looking for you, yet you're here for me? How audacious!" Xiang Shaoyun roared.

"You're the audacious one! Do you know that the Coiling Snake has businesses spread throughout the Holy Hall? You dare kill our men? We won't spare you!" shouted the leader. "If you are willing to surrender, you will suffer less."

"What can trash like you do to me? You're too naive," Xiang Shaoyun sneered as he strode toward them, preparing to kill all of them.

"You really think you can defeat us? Time for you to taste the suffering of 10,000 snake bites!" said the leader coldly. He took out a short flute and blew it.

Wuuu—

The instant he blew the flute, numerous pythons emerged from all directions and surrounded Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know where these pythons came from, but there were a lot of them. Furthermore, none of them were below the Demon King realm, and there were even a few Demon Emperors among them. It would be hard for him to stop all of them at once.

He took out the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, and as his killing intent leaked out, he slashed at the pythons. Python blood sprayed everywhere as the pythons died one after another.

"You think you can defeat me with just some snakes? Naive!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he charged the Coiling Snake members.

These pythons couldn't pose a threat to him. The Coiling Snake members did not flee. Rather, they separated into different positions to form a formation before attacking as well.

Coiling Snake's Sword Formation!

The five unleashed attacks of different intensities, creating numerous energy snakes that surrounded Xiang Shaoyun. The attacks worked together, combining to unleash a might comparable to a peak Emperor's attack.

"If you can break even the Coiling Snake's Sword Formation, I'll consider myself unlucky," said the leader of the group.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that the python swarm was merely for the sake of delaying him so they could prepare their formation.

"You think a mere sword formation can stop me?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered and finally started to turn serious.

Lightning Slash From the Clear Sky!

With his saber raised, he unleashed the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique's first stance. Numerous lightning bolts rained down alongside numerous saber energies, unleashing an incredibly destructive attack.

Rumble! Rumble!

By the time the explosions ended, the Coiling Snake members were already completely battered. Two were killed, while three were badly injured. They finally lost their courage and fled without hesitation.

They were even fleeing in different directions, afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would get all of them together. Alas, they weren't even able to leave far before they found themselves trapped inside the Nether Soul Domain.

Using the Domain, Xiang Shaoyun killed two of them, sparing one. He then used the Nether Dragon Soul Curse to put that final survivor under his control. He was a captain in the Coiling Snake, his name Yang Dongling. He was a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

From him, Xiang Shaoyun learned more about the Coiling Snake. It turned out the Coiling Snake was one of the 18 subsidiary organizations under the Holy Hall. They were rather influential in the Holy Earth Hall and were under the Holy Hall's direct command.

The Coiling Snake was a sinister organization specialized in slave trafficking and smuggling numerous items of dubious origins. They were spread throughout the Holy Earth Hall and had more than 20,000 members.

This city was the Holy City of the Holy Earth Hall, containing numerous organizations. The strongest organization here was the Holy Hall, something equivalent to the imperial palace of an imperial dynasty. The Holy Hall had an unimaginable might in the Holy Earth Hall. There was also a saying depicting their power: The Holy Hall commands, the world dares not disobey.

Xiang Shaoyun was also able to learn some general information about the Holy Earth Hall. This was indeed a lost civilization of the desert. The Holy Hall's first-generation master had used a heaven-defying method to transform this place into an independent space capable of supporting life. There were five regions here, each region as large as three legions of the outside world. All of them were under the Holy Hall's administration.

As this place was buried deeply under the desert, it was isolated from the world. Due to its location, it was named the Holy Earth Hall. Although the Holy Earth Hall was isolated, many organizations had access to this place.

To enter, one needed to possess a Holy Hall Token. Otherwise, one would have no way of entering. As for how Liang Zhuangmin had become a slave, it was a long story.

Based on Yang Dongling's explanation, the Coiling Snake also had some relationships with the organizations of the outside world. Each year, those organizations would supply them with slaves and items of dubious origins to be fenced in the Holy Earth Hall. In this manner, Liang Zhuangmin and the other slaves were sent here.

As for the organization responsible, it was actually the Rat Assassins, an organization Xiang Shaoyun was familiar with. When he heard the name, a thick killing intent rose within him. "Enemies truly meet on a narrow road. Just wait until I leave this place. I will make them pay!"

The Rat Assassins had moved against him many times, and Huo Xudong was one of their potential successors. Xiang Shaoyun himself had nearly fallen under their hands, and with the additional grudge of what they had done to Liang Zhuangmin, he would definitely settle the score with them.

At this time, the Holy Hall's people arrived.

Chapter 788: Turbid Origin Gas Technique

This time, a considerable number of the Holy Hall had arrived. There were 50 of them, even more than the Coiling Snake members that had come. They were dressed uniformly in guard armors, looking rather imposing.

The leader was the same Ning Pengcheng who was previously there to escort the young lady back. Ning Pengcheng was most definitely a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to become the leader of these Emperor Realm guards.

Looking at them, Xiang Shaoyun thought, Looks like I won't be able to escape anymore.

Perhaps he could use the Nether Soul Domain to kill all of them, but by doing so, he would get himself into even bigger trouble. At that time, not even Old Urchin would be able to protect him anymore.

His brain raced, trying to think of a dependable solution for his current crisis. He did not wish to die for nothing at a place like this.

Ning Pengcheng took wide strides as he approached Xiang Shaoyun. He was tall and sturdy and was half a head taller than Xiang Shaoyun. Looking down at him, he asked flatly, "So, are you going to come with us, or do you want us to drag you with us."

His eyes were filled with contempt, completely looking down on Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun frowned and said, "What if I refuse both options?"

"That is not up to you," Ning Pengcheng replied.

"Hehe, are you not afraid that your young lady might find out that you abused your power just to deal with me? I was brought here by Senior Urchin. Can you withstand his fury?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with a chuckle.

Ning Pengcheng sneered, "I know you were brought here by Senior Urchin, but you had committed murder in the Hall and had disturbed the peace. With those two offenses, I have the right to kill you. Nobody can protect you."

"That may be the case, but you definitely won't have a good time after I'm dead. I am but a nobody, while you're a commander. Who will make a bigger loss here?" Xiang Shaoyun asked calmly.

He was certain this person had a grudge toward him. Perhaps there was a conspiracy at play, and he had to make things extremely clear so as to plant some fear and cause some confusion.

At his words, Ning Pengcheng's gaze turned sharp as his killing intent leaked out. He had a justifiable reason to kill Xiang Shaoyun, but as Xiang Shaoyun had said, if Ning Pengcheng did it, he himself would not have a good time afterward. Xiang Shaoyun was someone brought in by Senior Urchin. That was undeniable.

"You have a glib tongue. You wish to scare me off just with this? You're far from qualified," said Ning Pengcheng with a tone of disdain. He waved his hand at the people behind him and said, "Arrest him and take him to the Coiling Snake. Let them deal with him."

Xiang Shaoyun's expression changed. This person was trying to kill him with a borrowed knife.

"Come, then. At most, I'll fight to the death," Xiang Shaoyun braced himself for a struggle.

It was at this moment that Old Urchin's voice rang out, "Guards, you're actually creating trouble at my old house? Have I perhaps been stripped of my position of elder by the hall master?"

Ning Pengcheng blanked out when he heard that, and even his face paled.

Old Urchin had always been an eccentric who was never serious. Not many people cared about him, but it was undeniable that he was an elder with high status in the Hall. It was rumored that he was the hall master's junior brother. A person with his status was not someone the guards could offend.

Ning Pengcheng turned and saluted Old Urchin. "Greetings, Senior Urchin. We are merely here to capture a murderer."

Old Urchin ignored him and rubbed the old donkey's neck. "Partner, these annoying fellows are blocking our house. Kick them away!"

"That's exactly what I have in mind!" answered the old donkey as he started running at an incredible speed. By the time one caught sight of him, he was already among the guards.

He raised his rear hoofs and kicked the guards before they could react, sending them flying one after another.

None of the 50 guards were weaker than the Dragon Ascension Realm, and some were even peak Emperors. And yet, they were all kicked flying like puppets, not even realizing they had been struck until they were already flying in the sky.

Miserable wails rang out one after another, and even Ning Pengcheng was starting to get nervous. He was a commander of the guards, and his cultivation level was at the Soul Foundation Realm. But he was too weak facing someone like Old Urchin.

The old donkey had evidently reached an incredible realm as well, with strength far beyond him. If the donkey was to give him a kick as well, he would lose all his prestige.

"Senior Urchin, you can't—" Ning Pengcheng quickly protested.

He was trying to make Old Urchin stop the old donkey before he was kicked. However, Old Urchin ignored him. Appearing before Ning Pengcheng, the old donkey aimed his backside at Ning Pengcheng and farted.

A powerful clump of turbid gas exploded right in Ning Pengcheng's face with a deafening sound, instantly knocking him out. Xiang Shaoyun was quite far away, but even he suffered from the smell. He quickly pinched his nose and held his breath, yet his vision still blurred.

This donkey's fart is too powerful, Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly.

"Kid, don't you think that my fart smells heavenly?" asked the old donkey smugly.

Still pinching his nose, Xiang Shaoyun braced himself and answered, "Lord donkey's fart is capable of shaking the heavens, causing gods and demons alike to cry, possessing a might that can spread far and wide. This kid is filled with admiration."

"Hehe, of course, of course. I'll teach you my Great Fart Technique—uhm, I need a more refined name—the Turbid Origin Gas Technique. I guarantee you can defeat your enemy with a single move once you learn it," said the old donkey with a smug laugh.

"This kid is too stupid. I'm afraid I won't be able to learn a technique this formidable," Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly refused.

What a joke. If he learned that technique, his image would totally be ruined. Wouldn't he scare off the countless beauties around him?

"Kid, you might be stupid, but you can practice more to learn it. Come, come, I'll first teach you the basics," the old donkey offered passionately.

"Oh, lord donkey, we should talk about this next time. Look, they're still here!" Xiang Shaoyun shifted the topic.

"Ignore them. They won't be able to do anything. If they dare to be rude before me, I'll kill them all with my Turbid Origin Gas Technique!" said the old donkey nonchalantly.

"Forget it, old donkey. The young man is not interested in your Great Fart Technique. Keep it for your descendants," said Old Urchin. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Kid, what did you do to attract the guards?"

"Senior Urchin, you see..." Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to hide the truth and told Old Urchin about how he had saved Liang Zhuangmin.

"Kid, you're in big trouble," said Old Urchin with a sigh.

Chapter 789: Holy Hall Affair

Thump.

Xiang Shaoyun felt his heart go cold. He had not expected that even Old Urchin would think that he was in big trouble. If that was the case, things would be very dangerous for him in the Holy Earth Hall.

"How about this, you just send me away from this place. I will definitely repay the favor I owe you in the future," pleaded Xiang Shaoyun.

Even if he did not care about his own safety, he had to think about Liang Zhuangmin and his sister-in-law. He had no choice but to lower himself and beg.

Old Urchin smiled. "Yes, you're in big trouble. But so long as you listen to me obediently and complete my task for you properly, no trouble will be an actual issue. Furthermore, you can even benefit a lot from completing my task."

"Don't worry, Senior Urchin. I will definitely complete your task perfectly," Xiang Shaoyun promised.

He was out of options, and he had to make his stand clear.

"Hehe, don't be so quick to brag," said Old Urchin. "Alright, stay here for a few days. I'll come get you when it's time."

"What if they come again?" Xiang Shaoyun pointed at the guards that were sprawled everywhere.

"They won't have the guts to come anymore," said Old Urchin confidently. "The old donkey will be staying here for a few days to teach you the Turbid Origin Gas Technique. As for me, I need to go and see if that tigress is still angry. If she is not angry anymore, I'll give her butt another grab. Ahh, this is life."

He then drifted away.

"A bastard that abandons friends for women," complained the old donkey unhappily. He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Kid, come, let me continue teaching you the Turbid Origin Gas Technique. Remember to learn it properly. This is an amazing and fatal technique."

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to refuse, but he did not have the courage to do so. As for Ning Pengcheng and the other guards, they had left. Ning Pengcheng's current explosive hairstyle was rather comical, and even Xiang Shaoyun secretly laughed.

Ning Pengcheng turned back and glared at Xiang Shaoyun as he thought, I won't spare you, kid.

He then returned to the Holy Hall with the guards. The Holy Hall was different from other places, and it had an imposing and minimalistic architectural style. Numerous ancient carvings could be seen on the castle walls, adding a sense of mystery to the place. One who looked at this place would have an urge to explore its secrets.

The place was guarded by a heavy military presence at all times. Clad in battle armor and with weapons in hand, these guards gave the Holy Hall a solemn and dignified look. When Ning Pengcheng arrived, he sent the other guards away. After tidying himself up, he headed toward one of the palaces.

It was a side palace where only those with extraordinary status could reside. As someone with a leadership position, Ning Pengcheng had the Holy Hall Token and could freely enter.

When he arrived, he said something to the guards before proceeding to wait silently. Soon, a guard returned and invited him in.

Ning Pengcheng carefully stepped into the palace. Looking at the old man seated ahead of him, he saluted deferentially and said, "Seventh guard commander, Ning Pengcheng, greets the third elder."

The third elder had a medium build, with a white cloth tied around his head. He had a yellow beard and a serious expression. His eyes constantly emanated a sharpness that nobody dared look straight at. With one look, it was obvious he was unfriendly and was of considerable status.

The third elder looked at Ning Pengcheng and frowned. "Why does your hair look like a bird's nest? What is this?"

Ning Pengcheng panicked and quickly explained, "Third elder, this is not by choice. Rather, this hairstyle is the work of Old Urchin's donkey. All my subordinates were also injured by that donkey."

"Tell me. How did you offend that Old Urchin?" said the third elder flatly.

Ning Pengcheng gave the third elder a rough recollection of all that had happened. Naturally, he did not forget to add additional details to his story. Even so, he was clear he couldn't tell complete lies, or he would suffer after the third elder found out about his lies.

The third elder sank into momentary thought before saying, "You sure that kid is only a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator?"

"I am absolutely sure. He can punch above his class, so he is probably a rather powerful genius," said Ning Pengcheng.

"Even so, he should not be the kind of man to catch the young lady's favor," said the third elder who was looking visibly conflicted.

"Yes, but that kid looks as pretty as a woman! I don't know if the young lady will be charmed by him. Also, Senior Urchin is rather protective of that kid. Perhaps he is willing to see the young lady together with that kid. Too bad I can't bring him back to be judged by you, third elder. We won't have to be making wild guesses here otherwise," said Ning Pengcheng.

"Um. Continue monitoring that kid. With Old Urchin protecting him, nobody in the Holy Earth Hall can touch him. Let me see what childish game Old Urchin is playing this time," said the third elder in a displeased manner. "Are the people from the Xiang Clan here yet? We can't allow any mistakes on that end."

"We estimated that they will arrive by tomorrow. All the preparations are complete."

"Good. You will personally welcome them and bring them here tomorrow. I'll meet them first. You can do as you see fit for the other affairs."

...

A group of extraordinary individuals had appeared at the Desert of Despair. Their presence was imposing, each individual was powerful, and they moved in an orderly fashion like well-trained soldiers. The leader was a young man mounted on a purple clear lion.

The young man looked to be about 30 years old. He had a handsome and smart appearance. He wore a feathered headgear and a set of armor while a purple sword hung at his back. He radiated an air of arrogance, and anyone who saw him would have the impression that he was a rare genius.

To his left and right were two middle-aged men, one dressed in black and the other in white. They appeared completely unassuming, and their steps were stable and firm. They were great experts, known as the Black and White Guardians.

"Uncle White, how long until we're there?" asked the young man.

"Soon, but we won't be able to enter directly. We need someone to bring us in," said White Guardian.

"Is that place really so mysterious? Isn't it just a tiny sealed space?" asked the young man doubtfully.

"You are unaware of this, young master, but that place is not so simple. It is an underground dynasty, and if you can obtain some gains from this trip, it will make your journey to inheriting the clan leader's position smooth," said Black Guardian.

"Are you not exaggerating? Looks like I need to open my eyes wide this time," said the young man with a smile.

Abruptly, a person appeared from the sand ahead of them and asked, "Is this the group from the Xiang Clan?"

"Yes," White Guardian answered.

"I am the guide from the Holy Earth Hall. Please come with me," said the other person.

Chapter 790: Liang Zhuangmin and Wu Zhijun

In a certain shabby mud house at Holy Earth Hall, Xiang Shaoyun was helplessly listening to the old donkey's teachings about the Turbid Origin Gas Technique. He was extremely disgusted, but he did not even dare to voice his thoughts. He knew very well how powerful the old donkey was.

Fortunately, Liang Zhuangmin and his sister-in-law had recovered considerably. They walked out of the room, saving Xiang Shaoyun from his torture.

"Lord donkey, my big brother and my sister-in-law have recovered. I need to catch up with them. I have mostly memorized your Turbid Origin Gas Technique. I will definitely practice it seriously when I have the time," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The old donkey started nagging, "Remember, you need to practice it. This is a sure-kill technique. I won't teach it to others even if they beg me. Count yourself lucky, kid."

"Yes, yes, I will work hard," promised Xiang Shaoyun before walking toward Liang Zhuangmin and his sister-in-law. "Big brother, are you fine?"

"Brother Yun, thank you for saving us." Liang Zhuangmin pulled his wife's sleeve and knelt down.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly caught them and said, "Big brother, what is this? Are you still treating me as your brother? Why are you insulting me so?"

"Haha, I know you won't care about formalities with me. I will engrave this favor deep in my heart. If you need me in the future, I will go through the high seas and tread on fire for you!" declared Liang Zhuangmin as he slapped his chest in a heroic manner.

"There is no need to make this such a big deal, big brother," said Xiang Shaoyun. "Also, why are you still not introducing my sister-in-law to me?"

With an awkward look on his face, Liang Zhuangmin scratched the back of his head and said, "Brother Yun, truthfully, she is not your sister-in-law. She is my best friend, Wu Zhijun."

Wu Zhijun was obviously the name of a man, but this person was obviously a big beauty.

At this time, Wu Zhijun said gratefully, "Thank you."

Xiang Shaoyun blanked out slightly and smiled, "You're too polite, sister-in-law."

"I thought I told you—" Liang Zhuangmin corrected Xiang Shaoyun, but Xiang Shaoyun interrupted him, "Don't worry about it, big brother. I understand. Tell me, how did you arrive here?"

Xiang Shaoyun was sure Liang Zhuangmin had feelings for Wu Zhijun. As for Wu Zhijun, her feelings toward Liang Zhuangmin were probably still unclear. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun decided to take this chance and insist on calling her sister-in-law. If she did not object, Liang Zhuangmin might have a chance with her. If she objected, then Liang Zhuangmin would need to work harder. Since Xiang Shaoyun did not want to keep talking about this, he shifted the topic.

Fury immediately covered Liang Zhuangmin's face as he said, "This is a long story, but it's all the fault of the Rat Assassins. I will definitely pay them back for this."

Wu Zhijun agreed, "I was the one who had gotten your big brother involved in this. He would still be fine otherwise."

The two gave Xiang Shaoyun a brief recollection of all that had happened.

A few years ago, after Xiang Shaoyun left the Cloud Margin Pavilion and the Land of Soul Springs, Hua Honglou had returned to learn that Xiang Shaoyun had departed. Liang Zhuangmin had reached third-stage Skysoar Realm at that time thanks to the earthstone heart he had gotten from Xiang Shaoyun. His cultivation level soared, and he became a new elite King of the Cloud Margin Pavilion.

He did not stay long as he decided to tour the world while looking for more chance encounters to further increase his cultivation. He had been one of the most talented disciples of the Cloud Margin Pavilion. If it wasn't for the past accident, he wouldn't have been stuck at the Transformation Realm for many years.

After several years of tempering, he was able to grow quickly and reach peak King Realm. Not long ago, he arrived at the Desert of Despair during his travels. He planned to train himself in the desert, looking for a chance to break through into the Emperor Realm.

It was during that time that he came to know Wu Zhijun by accident. At that time, he saw her surrounded by a group of lustful bandits. Thus, he tried enacting the scene of a prince charming rescuing a princess from evil.

But he failed and got himself beaten up. It turned out there was an Emperor among the bandits, and he was not the Emperor's match. Just as he thought that everything would be over for him, Wu Zhijun demonstrated great martial prowess and killed all the bandits.

Only then did Liang Zhuangmin realize that his help had been completely unneeded. Fortunately, he had something to show for his efforts. He gained Wu Zhijun's approval, and the two became friends and started traveling together.

Liang Zhuangmin had fallen in love with Wu Zhijun at first sight. After spending some time together with her, he found himself falling even deeper in love. However, he felt that Wu Zhijun was stronger than him and would probably have high standards. Thus, he had never dared to confess his feelings.

It was during that time that the Rat Assassins started hunting them. They fought and managed to kill a considerable number of enemies, but they were still ultimately captured. Fortunately, the Rat Assassins did not kill them directly. Instead, they were sealed and sent to the Coiling Snake. Subsequently, they were brought here to the Holy Earth Hall. As for what happened next, Xiang Shaoyun knew.

"I'd had some past conflicts with the Rat Assassins as well. Sooner or later, I will uproot them entirely," said Xiang Shaoyun with deep killing intent.

"Yes, we can't spare them," Liang Zhuangmin agreed.

He was only about 30 years old, yet he was already a peak King. He had a bright future ahead of him, and if he could obtain sufficient resources, he would stand a chance to enter the Emperor Realm. In fact, even entering the Sovereign Realm was possible. Thus, someone like him was qualified to declare taking revenge against the Rat Assassins.

If it wasn't for his low birth and lack of resources, he would definitely be one of the genius disciples in one of the Four Great Ancient Academies.

"Um. It's never too late for a hero to take revenge. We can afford to wait," said Xiang Shaoyun.

As Wu Zhijun looked at Xiang Shaoyun and Liang Zhuangmin, who were both brimming with confidence, her eyes rippled.

"Brother Yun, have you been here all these years?" Liang Zhuangmin asked.

"No, I just arrived, too. In fact, I'm still trying to think of a way to escape," said Xiang Shaoyun as he rubbed his nose bitterly.

"What's that about?" Liang Zhuangmin asked.

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly and gave Liang Zhuangmin a rough recollection of his affairs as well.

When Wu Zhijun heard the story, she gasped, "You're a Dragon Phoenix Academy disciple?"

"Yes. What about it, sister-in-law?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.