

## Overlord 811

### Chapter 811: Tragedy of the Dwarf

The assassin was not a regular Sovereign. Rather, he was a third-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. Someone with that strength could easily kill Xiang Shaoyun.

However, there was no lack of experts among the procession. Even so, not many of them were Sovereigns, as nobody had expected someone to try to assassinate a Holy Hall member on their turf. This was most definitely an assassination without precedent.

The commander of this group of guards, Ning Pengcheng, was standing guard beside Tuoba Wan'er. With his strength, saving Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be hard. Alas, he had also been aware of this assassination and would naturally not help.

As for the other guards, they were too busy dealing with the snakes and the chaotic crowd, with the majority of them standing guard around Tuoba Wan'er. Not many could spare any help for Xiang Shaoyun. He only had himself to rely on.

The Phantom Shift would allow him to avoid regular attacks, but it was useless against a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator's suppression. During this moment of crisis, he released his Nether Soul Domain.

The Sovereign assassin was trapped in the Nether Soul Domain, his strength forcefully suppressed. His expression shifted in shock.

Imperial Nether Prison.

Hundreds of chains lashed out from all directions, raining down attacks at the assassin's soul foundation, pushing it to the brink of collapse. It greatly shocked the Sovereign, and he quickly put away his soul foundation. He erupted with full strength and slashed at the incoming chains, foiling their attempts at tying him down.

It wouldn't be easy for Xiang Shaoyun to defeat the Sovereign quickly. More importantly, there were still other experts around. His Nether Soul Domain wouldn't be able to hide from them and perhaps they had already surrounded his Nether Soul Domain. Without any hesitation, he used his talent of invisibility and concealed himself completely.

Experts emerged without end, blocking Tuoba Wan'er and Ning Pengcheng's people even as a mid-stage Sovereign arrived near Xiang Shaoyun to finish him off. To his dismay, Xiang Shaoyun was nowhere to be seen.

"Where is he?" the Sovereign asked in confusion.

"You dare assassinate the holy son-in-law in public? All of you deserve death!" The top experts of the Hall finally arrived.

Their dreadful auras surrounded the chaotic crowd, forcing everyone to fall on their knees. As for the assassins, they started fleeing in a disorderly fashion, knowing that their mission had failed. Some took the chance to hide among the crowd, pretending to be one of the innocent bystanders.

The newcomers chased after the assassins, who were hardly their match. In a few seconds, most of the assassins were killed.

Tuoba Wan'er shouted unhappily, "You worthless guards, stop surrounding me. Go look for the holy son-in-law."

At her command, the guards started searching for Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun had planned to show himself after seeing the newcomers, but he could sense that a massive danger was still waiting for him. He looked toward where he felt the sense of danger.

There, an ugly dwarf could be seen squatting at a random corner. His triangle eyes were gleaming with a sinister light, with his aura completely withdrawn to the point nobody noticed him.

Xiang Shaoyun had only noticed the dwarf because all the escaping snakes had vanished after reaching the dwarf. He was certain the dwarf was the one keeping all the snakes away, although he had no idea how that person was doing it.

It doesn't matter if the dwarf is really the culprit, but he definitely hasn't come bearing kind intentions. I need to arrest him, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

Just as the dwarf was about to leave alongside the chaotic commoners, Xiang Shaoyun shouted, "The dwarf is the assassin! Men, take him down!"

That sank the dwarf into panic as he quickly ran off from the crowd. The experts of the Hall finally noticed him, and someone gave chase. However, the dwarf was too fast. Not even the expert could catch up with him. Just as the dwarf was about to escape successfully, a donkey appeared before him, blocking his path.

"Where did this stupid donkey come from? Piss off!" the dwarf shouted as he swatted at the donkey.

When he attacked, it was finally revealed that he was a late-stage Sovereign. His attack was incredibly powerful. Instead of dodging, the donkey suddenly turned around and faced the dwarf with his back before kicking out with his rear hoofs.

The kick was even stronger, blasting the dwarf's attack away before continuing toward his body. The dwarf was caught by complete surprise as the kick struck his chest. He smashed into a random building, slamming through the walls he crashed into.

The dwarf's chest was in intense pain, and his organs were all displaced. He endlessly coughed up blood and could hardly move. However, the dwarf wasn't entirely useless either. He released a demonic snake and allowed the snake to carry him away.

Unfortunately, the snake wasn't able to go far before the donkey suddenly appeared before them again. Opening his mouth, the donkey said, "Take my Turbid Origin Gas Technique!"

Once again, he faced them with his back. A cloud of turbid air burst forth.

The cloud of air had an awful stench, as if it was some unrivaled poison. Both the dwarf and the snake directly fainted from the smell. And just like that, the dwarf expert was captured.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was too busy to pay the dwarf any attention. He wasn't able to kill the Sovereign fast enough and was afraid that the Sovereign would be forced to self-destruct in his Nether Domain. That would make things very troublesome for him.

Without any hesitation, he withdrew the Nether Soul Domain and revealed the Sovereign before the Holy Hall experts. The Sovereign thought that he was still trapped within the Nether Soul Domain, and he did not stop madly swinging his weapon around.

"Audacious! You dare assassinate the Hall's son-in-law? Die!" Ning Pengcheng roared and attacked.

He was not interested in being accused of failing his task of protecting his master. Therefore, he needed to gain some merit for himself, or things would get troublesome for him afterward.

When the Sovereign heard Ning Pengcheng's shout, he finally realized how bad his current situation was. He immediately tried escaping, but he was much weaker than Ning Pengcheng. With a stab, he was impaled on the ground.

"Where is the holy son-in-law? Has anyone found him?" Tuoba Wan'er asked.

The guards looked around blankly. None of them could find Xiang Shaoyun.

#### Chapter 812: First Elder Stabilizes the Situation

Xiang Shaoyun was still in concealment, and nobody could find him. Hence, they started panicking. If something really happened to this holy son-in-law, they would most likely be buried together with him as punishment for failing their task.

Tuoba Wan'er was filled with anxiousness. She searched and searched, but she couldn't find any trace of Xiang Shaoyun. Her search fruitless, she started raging, "Investigate! Who is it that has assassinated the holy son-in-law! I won't spare any of them!"

During the half a month she had spent with Xiang Shaoyun, she had slowly accepted his presence in her life. But now, she had lost him right before her eyes. He might not even be alive anymore. She was filled with sorrow and was utterly disappointed with their guards.

The guards started investigating the escaping crowd, while the experts that had arrived as backup were in charge of detaining anyone they found suspicious. They tried their best to not let any of the culprits escape.

A crowd of more than 10,000 people had gathered for this grand parade. Thus, the Holy Hall wouldn't kill all of them. Therefore, it was inevitable that some of the assassins would be able to escape by mixing with the crowd.

Xiang Shaoyun remained in concealment as he was waiting for the assassins to either escape or be killed off. That way, things would be less dangerous for him.

At this time, the first elder and a few other elders appeared before Tuoba Wan'er. The first elder apologized, "Sorry, young lady. We were late."

They were all elders that, instead of partaking in the parade, were praying in the Holy Hall. In any case, nobody had expected that someone would actually make a move against one of them right in their city. Today, a new precedent had actually been set.

"This is not your fault. The holy son-in-law was captured!" Tuoba Wan'er said anxiously.

Right this moment, Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out, "Wan'er, don't worry. I'm fine."

As he said that, he walked out of a random corner.

The moment Tuoba Wan'er saw him, she shot toward him with joy on her face. "Are you fine? I was so worried!"

Looking at Tuoba Wan'er, whose feelings were completely exposed, Xiang Shaoyun gently stroked her face and smiled. "I can't be killed so easily. Sorry for making you worried, wife."

Tuoba Wan'er could sense Xiang Shaoyun's gentleness, and her face flushed red. She jumped into his embrace, not daring to look at anyone else.

Liang Zhuangmin and Wu Zhijun were also among the crowd. When they saw Xiang Shaoyun, the worry on their faces finally faded. When they saw how intimate he was with Tuoba Wan'er, they even felt happy for the two.

"Brother Yun has a good life," lamented Liang Zhuangmin as he stole a glance at Wu Zhijun.

"That's because he's capable enough," Wu Zhijun replied.

Liang Zhuangmin's expression dimmed. He liked Wu Zhijun, but the difference between their strength gave him great pressure.

The first elder's voice rang out, "Reorganize the procession. The parade will resume. Let me see who will dare to come create trouble again. I will slaughter his entire family."

The first elder was clearly going to personally guard the procession. Nobody dared to say anything toward his command. They quickly returned to their positions and formed a new procession. The music resumed, and the parade continued.

Among the crowd, Hu Yanbo sneered as he thought, This is not over yet.

Sure enough, when a guard led a new horse toward Xiang Shaoyun, something happened again. The guard arrived before Xiang Shaoyun and invited Xiang Shaoyun to get on the horse. But as he did that, his aura erupted.

Xiang Shaoyun had never expected that a guard of the Holy Hall would also actually wish to harm him. Thus, his vigilance was lowered, and he couldn't react in time. The guard initiated self-destruct before he could do anything.

If the guard succeeded, both he and Xiang Shaoyun would perish together. However, just as the guard was about to explode, a powerful force wrapped around the guard, suppressing the guard's surging aura into nothingness.

"You dare make a move before me? You're courting death!" the first elder shouted. As he lifted his arm, the guard was lifted into the air, unable to even self-destruct.

Bang!

Ultimately, the guard really did explode but not through self-destructing. Rather, he was crushed midair by the first elder. As the others saw the firework of blood in the air, they felt a chill creep up their spines, greatly fearful that they would suffer the same fate as well.

Droplets of blood rained down, and when they were about to reach the ground, the first elder waved his hand. All the blood droplets were wiped clean, leaving not a trace behind.

"Resume the parade," said the first elder as though what he just did was completely insignificant.

With his presence, the procession's morale stabilized, and they continued marching. With someone like the first elder here, who else would dare to create trouble? Hu Yanbo and Sha Hanbiao exchanged gazes, their eyes filled with unwillingness. However, that expression was gone as fast as it had appeared.

Nobody created trouble anymore, and the parade ended smoothly. Even so, what had happened had thoroughly challenged the Holy Hall's prestige. Bloody turmoil would definitely come after this.

The Holy Hall was the supreme power within the Holy Earth Hall. The other organizations within the Holy Earth Hall were all their subordinates, and something this serious had never happened here before. If the Holy Hall did not do anything afterward, a great blow would be dealt to their authority. As the son-in-law, Xiang Shaoyun would also lose his prestige. This was not something the Holy Hall could accept.

When those participating in the parade returned to the Holy Hall, Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er returned to the palace. First elder asked impatiently, "Holy son-in-law, young lady, it was my carelessness that led to the incident today. Before tomorrow arrives, I will investigate everything and give you an explanation for what happened today."

"This is not your fault. Don't blame yourself," said Tuoba Wan'er.

Xiang Shaoyun said, "I am a newcomer at the Holy Earth Hall, and I don't know this place well. I only ever offended the Coiling Snake when I took my big brother and sister-in-law from them. They once sent people to kill me. Without Senior Urchin's help, I would have been killed long ago. I believe today's incident is related to them."

Xiang Shaoyun was sure the Coiling Snake had something to do with the assassination. He couldn't think of anyone else who wanted him dead. Of course, it had also crossed his mind that there would be some other people in cahoots with the Coiling Snake, but he did not dare to voice his suspicions.

## Chapter 813: Blood Dragon Pool

In one night, the entire Coiling Snake was exterminated. The Holy Hall was starting to display its might. There were still a lot of Coiling Snake members outside the city. If they did not abandon the Holy Earth Hall from now on, they would all be eliminated as well.

A series of changes had also been enacted within the Holy Hall. Sha Hanbiao, the elder in charge of the commanders, had been replaced by a different elder. Ning Pengcheng was punished for failing

at his task, removed from his position as a commander and banished from the Holy Earth Hall. Some other guards were directly executed.

If it wasn't for the third elder doing his best to protect them, they would have suffered even worse punishments. All the changes were enacted by the first elder. He had never bothered himself with these mundane affairs in the past, but the assassination incident was too serious. He had to do something to demonstrate his power and put some people in place.

The plan of the third and seventh elders had backfired completely. Instead of making any gains, they had attracted trouble. As for Xiang Zixuan, he wasn't affected much. On the day after the assassination, he quickly left and washed his hands clean of everything.

After the engagement, Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er had also tacitly acknowledged the relationship between them. They were able to spend time together amicably. Although they hadn't taken a step further in their relationship, their feelings for each other were still steadily growing.

Naturally, the peaceful days did not last long. A few days later, the first elder finally went looking for Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er after he was done dealing with the assassination incident. He reported everything he had done, then asked them for their opinion.

Prior to this, Xiang Shaoyun had already suspected that the Holy Hall had traitors within that were working with the Coiling Snake to assassinate him. He had kept silent about it as he did not want to be suspected of trying to stir internal trouble.

However, the first elder had also reached the same conclusion. He demonstrated his power in the Holy Hall, making it clear that there were some lines that should never be crossed, and the consequences for crossing those lines would be severe.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have many opinions for what he was told. After all, he was an outsider. Although he was now the holy son-in-law, it did not mean that he could interfere in their internal affairs.

On the other hand, Tuoba Wan'er was the one who suddenly took an unyielding stand. "Someone tried to assassinate the holy son-in-law in public. For something so serious, isn't your arrangement too simple?"

"What does the young lady have in mind?" asked the first elder.



"In my opinion, the seventh elder should be banished. If he can't even carry out his duties as the leader of the guards well, then he is vastly unqualified for his former position. Although he has been removed from his position, it is no longer proper for him to stay in the Holy Hall. Just send him out of the city to deal with other external affairs. Also, there are still some of those guards alive. We need to kill more of them to set an example for everyone else," said Tuoba Wan'er with a ruthless look in her eyes.

Tuoba Wan'er had always been well-tempered and kind. However, the assassination incident had greatly angered her. As the Holy Hall's guards, they had actually allowed their formation to be completely messed up by a bunch of assassins. The holy son-in-law was nearly killed, while the holy maiden had been completely disrespected. If she did not do something, she would lose all her prestige.

The first elder smiled and said, "The young lady is wise. I will do just that." He then looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Holy son-in-law, the hall master once said that your strength is a tad bit too weak. He wants me to increase your strength as quickly as possible. I intend to send you to the Blood Dragon Pool tomorrow. There, you can push your limits and increase your strength. I hope you can withstand the intense training."

He then turned and left before Xiang Shaoyun could say anything.

Xiang Shaoyun looked at Tuoba Wan'er and asked, "Wan'er, what kind of place is this Blood Dragon Pool?"

Tuoba Wan'er said, "The Blood Dragon Pool is a place where the dragon veins converge. Once, a large amount of dragon liquid had formed at the convergence, but it was nearly harvested clean. Subsequently, dragon blood was poured into it, forming the Blood Dragon Pool. A thick draconic aura can be found there, capable of helping an Emperor increase his draconic aura and advance rapidly. Of course, that place is also thick with vicious dragon energy. An ordinary person would not be able to last long there. There is a danger of bursting apart and dying if one fails to withstand the vicious dragon energy. My best record was staying there for half a month. During those three months, I had advanced three stages."

Xiang Shaoyun immediately understood what kind of a place the Blood Dragon Pool was. He grew excited and said, "That sounds similar to the Sin Dragon Pond. I bathed there once, and the returns had indeed been plentiful."

"Yes, there are similarities, but they are completely different as well. The sin dragons are not pure dragons, while the blood in the Blood Dragon Pool belongs to pure dragons. I also heard from my grandfather that there are dragon bones buried beneath the pool. Of course, I'm not sure if that's true, but I am certain that the vicious dragon energy is very scary. Back then, I was already a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. You're only a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, so it will be somewhat forced for you to enter now. Maybe I should have a talk with the first elder to let you enter after you advance some more," said Tuoba Wan'er in a worried manner.

However, Xiang Shaoyun remained firm. "No, I must enter the Blood Dragon Pool."

It was a good opportunity to grow, so how could he let it go? After all, his cultivation of nine powers had rendered his advantage of having nine stars invalid. Although his speed of growth was decent, it was still not enough. If he couldn't advance fast enough, he would fall even further behind others.

"Then you need to be careful. The moment you're at your limits, leave," reminded Tuoba Wan'er.

"Don't worry. I will be able to get through it. Otherwise, how can I hope to catch up to you? How can I be worthy of you?" said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

Gentleness surfaced on Tuoba Wan'er's face as she said, "I don't need you to be stronger than me. So long as we can be happy together, I can protect you."

For the very first time in his life, Xiang Shaoyun experienced what it was like to have a sugar mommy.

He held Tuoba Wan'er's hands and gently pulled her into his embrace, "As a man, how can I be incapable of protecting my woman? What difference do I have from trash that way? Don't worry. Before long, I will be able to catch up to you. I just hope you can make it more of a challenge."

Tuoba Wan'er lay obediently in Xiang Shaoyun's embrace. With a content smile, she said, "If so, your wife shall wait and see what you're capable of."

## Chapter 814: Entering the Blood Dragon Pool

The Blood Dragon Pool was located within the Holy Hall's forbidden grounds, situated amid a group of mountain ridges behind the forest of towers.

When Xiang Shaoyun arrived with the first elder, he found that the sound of the wind was akin to the roaring of dragons. The roars were vast and mighty, showing just how unique this place was.

The mountain ridges stood tall and lofty, filled with ancient and massive stones. Not many plants could be seen, making the place seem somewhat desolate. Amid the mountain ridges was a valley in which the Blood Dragon Pool lay.

The valley was protected not only by formations but also by Holy Hall elders who stood guard at all times. People without permission would not be able to enter easily.

All who had gotten a chance to enter were the most remarkable of the young talents in the Holy Hall. The place would basically be opened only once every three to five years. Xiang Shaoyun's time of entry had in fact set a precedent, considering how soon it had been since the previous time someone had entered.

The moment he arrived, he could feel something calling out for the draconic aura within him. Without his control, his draconic aura surged out of his body.

"Roar!"

A majestic dragon roared, baring its fangs and brandishing its claws. A projection of a massive dragon suddenly appeared from the Blood Dragon Pool ahead of them. Its roars were absolutely terrifying, completely surpassing Xiang Shaoyun's draconic aura. The difference between the two was as wide as heaven and earth.

Xiang Shaoyun instantly sensed an oppressive force pressing down on him. It was as though his draconic aura was going to be devoured, and he quickly withdrew his draconic aura in panic.

How weird, thought Xiang Shaoyun.

The first elder seemed to have read his mind, saying, "The vicious dragon energy is not only frighteningly destructive. It is also capable of devouring an Emperor's draconic aura and can cause an Emperor to lose all his cultivation. Do you still dare to enter?"

Xiang Shaoyun answered, his voice sonorous, "Why not?"

"Very good. I wish you luck," said the first elder.

At this time, they had arrived beside the pool. A crimson pond lay before them, emitting a horrible stench that was extremely uncomfortable to smell.

Anyone here looking at this seemingly boiling pool of blood would have an urge to throw up. After all, the blood seemed so similar to human blood. From the looks of it, the temperature of the pool was extremely high as well. Cultivating here would not be a feat an ordinary person was capable of.

Even Xiang Shaoyun was starting to wonder if he was perhaps being too brave. Smelling the stench and taking in the blood pool, he felt like throwing up. Fortunately, he had a tenacious willpower that helped in holding the urge.

The first elder vanished without saying anything, allowing Xiang Shaoyun to enter the pool himself. Instead of entering the pool immediately, Xiang Shaoyun sat down cross-legged at the shore. He started chanting the Serene Clearheart Mantra, calming his mental state.

The vicious dragon energy in the Blood Dragon Pool was extremely terrifying. He was just sitting beside the pool, yet he could feel the vicious energy invading his body. He felt a discomfort reminiscent of corrosion. Not only did he need to adapt to the stench here as soon as possible, he also needed to start adapting to the vicious dragon energy.

He spent three days sitting quietly by the pool. Using the three days, he fully immersed himself in his surroundings. He was now used to the stench and had started absorbing the vicious dragon energy into his gold star. The white tiger energy in his gold star shared many similarities with the vicious dragon energy, so the two would be able to fuse together nicely.

After adapting himself to the environment surrounding the pool, Xiang Shaoyun finally stepped toward the pool.

"I'm afraid this is the blood of truly high-level pure dragons. Even after being diluted, it is still capable of creating this boiling effect. It's obvious just how hot the blood pool is," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh. He braced himself and finally stepped into the pool.

Bzzt! Bzzt!

Instantly, the layer of energy around Xiang Shaoyun's body was corroded into nothingness. Like numerous tiny dragons, the vicious dragon energy drilled into his body.

"Ahhhh!"

Xiang Shaoyun felt like he was being burned alive, tormenting him with a pain that reached his marrows. He cried out in pain. Massive quantities of vicious dragon energy entered his body and started ravaging his skin, meridians, organs, bones, and so on. His skin cracked, and blood seeped out, becoming one with the dragon blood.

From a distance, it looked as though Xiang Shaoyun was being devoured by thousands of tiny dragons. The scene looked incomparably tragic.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected the Blood Dragon Pool to be so scary. Even though he had braced himself, he still found it hard to endure. He hurriedly circulated his cultivation method, forcefully pushing part of the invading energy away. At the same time, he directed the vicious dragon energy into his gold star. As for the remaining draconic aura, he forced them to merge with his original draconic aura, rapidly increasing his accumulation of draconic aura.

The draconic aura absorbed here was pure, unadulterated energy that could also be taken into his stars to help them grow.

Xiang Shaoyun split the incoming energy as quickly as possible, not daring to spare his attention on anything else. In fact, he was so focused he wasn't even feeling much of the pain tormenting him anymore.

After all, he possessed a powerful body that had been tempered by lightning and fire. After the initial discomfort, he quickly adapted himself to the pain, entered a state of cultivation, and forgot himself completely.

As he had once entered the Sin Dragon Pond, he was experienced in dealing with an energy trying to devour his draconic aura. Thus, he was able to deal with the corrosive aspect of the invading energy smoothly.

The massive amount of draconic aura and vicious energy were separated before being sent to the different parts of his body. His strength started climbing unendingly.

The draconic aura here was much purer than what he found at the Sin Dragon Pond. While growing his draconic aura, his original draconic aura was also cleansed and tempered, making his draconic aura much stronger and solid.

Xiang Shaoyun's draconic aura had reached 34 percent solidification before this. Soon, it reached 39 percent, and before long, it reached 40 percent. It continued growing, and the growth did not seem like it was going to stop anytime soon.

Day after day passed, with Xiang Shaoyun completely submerged in the pool. His figure could not be seen from outside the pool.

After some time, the first elder reappeared beside the pool. His eyes seemed capable of penetrating the boiling blood. He sighed, "It has been a month, but this kid is still hanging on. He will probably gain a lot here. The time he is spending in the pool is much longer than even the young lady. In fact, he is already comparable with the hall master. Looks like there is a reason the hall master had selected him, after all."

#### Chapter 815: Dragon Bone

Within the Blood Dragon Pool, draconic aura roiled and surged repeatedly. The blood water boiled and boiled, its red luster captivating yet scary. Within the pool, a figure was seated cross-legged in complete concentration. It was as though that person had completely forgotten the world around him, fully immersed in cultivation.

A horned lightning snake was coiled around him. The snake seemed to love this environment a lot as he hungrily absorbed the vicious dragon energy in the pool, growing rapidly in the process of doing so.

After an unknown amount of time, the horned lightning snake was no longer satisfied with his current environment and headed deeper into the pool.

The snake was none other than Money. After Xiang Shaoyun had adapted to the environment, Money had left the astral cosmos sea as he also needed the draconic aura here to grow.

Unlike Xiang Shaoyun, he did not need to split the vicious dragon energy and draconic aura into different portions. He could directly refine both types of energy to strengthen his bloodline and increase his strength. Thus, both types of energy worked fine for him.

In fact, he had absorbed much more of the energy than Xiang Shaoyun. After all, he also had the bloodline of the dragons in him, and it helped him better digest the energy in the Blood Dragon Pool. No longer satisfied with his current absorption speed, he headed deeper into the pool.

Deep in the pool, thicker vicious dragon energy could be found. Money ignored the energy and dove deeper, but an incorporeal power suddenly appeared to block him. He clashed against the power repeatedly to no avail.

"Damn it, a restriction has been set here. The dragon bone is definitely down there!" Money grumbled in an unreconciled fashion.

He started swimming around randomly, trying to think of a solution. Unfortunately, he couldn't think of anything.

Left with no choice, he forced the drop of blood essence in his forehead out of his body. He then shouted, "Lord true dragon, please show yourself."

The blood essence was his life source, and it contained a trace of dragon blood. The moment it appeared, the surrounding vicious dragon energy converged on it, trying to devour it.

Over 1,000 strands of vicious dragon energy bared their fangs like numerous tiny dragons, but they were all swallowed by Money the moment they appeared.

Finally, the area beneath the layer of restriction reacted. Something down there seemed to have sensed blood that was intimate to it, and it started colliding against the restriction as well, trying to reach outside the restriction. The pool started roiling, splashing the blood water everywhere.

Xiang Shaoyun, who was deep in meditation, was roused awake. "What's going on? What's the ruckus?"

When he discovered that Money was no longer by his side, he sent his senses out and found that Money was trying to do something at the bottom of the pool. That made him anxious, "This fellow can't be trying to dig the dragon bone out, right?"

Without any hesitation, he dove deep into the pool, trying to stop Money. However, right as he was about to reach Money, the restriction broke, and a terrifying power surged out.

"Roar!"

A mighty roar rang out, and a supreme true dragon appeared. It blasted Xiang Shaoyun out of the pool, splattering the blood water everywhere.

The earthshaking roar resounded throughout the forbidden grounds, causing the elder in charge of guarding the place to jump in fright. The first elder had been here observing, and his face paled as well. He quickly flew toward the Blood Dragon Pool.

The Blood Dragon Pool might not be worth much for these elders, but it was extremely important for the Holy Hall. They could not allow anything to happen to it.

"What's going on?" the first elder asked the guardian elder.

"I don't know. The draconic aura suddenly surged, as if a true dragon had appeared. I suspect the restriction on the dragon bone has been broken," said the guardian elder as he looked at the massive dragon projection hovering above the pool. His expression was solemn.

"The dragon bone has been unsealed?" the first elder was astonished. His gaze then landed on the sorry-looking Xiang Shaoyun and asked, "Holy son-in-law, what happened?"

Xiang Shaoyun had been immediately saved by the guardian elder the moment he was sent flying out of the pool. Otherwise, he would have been in a much sorrier state.

"I'll seal this place up first. We can't allow the dragon bone to be lost," said the guardian elder before Xiang Shaoyun could reply.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly said, "Elder, please wait a moment. My brother is down there."

"What is going on exactly?" the first elder repeated.

Xiang Shaoyun explained, "A brother of mine is a mutated silver lightning snake. He has a trace of dragon blood in him, and he was the one who caused this change to happen."



"Trace of dragon blood? The dragon bone must have sensed a familiar aura and charged out of the restriction," said the first elder with a frown. He reached out and sent an incorporeal palm toward the pool.

Xiang Shaoyun cried out anxiously, "First elder, don't harm him."

The first elder did not reply. With a flick of his wrist, Money was fished out of the pool. He was currently busy wolfing down a dragon bone that was so large he could only swallow about one-third of the bone.

"Bastard! He's swallowing the dragon bone! Spit it out!" the guardian elder roared furiously.

The elder was about to attack when the first elder stopped him. The first elder tightened his grip on Money's throat, forcing the dragon bone out. Money was completely incapable of offering any resistance. He could only stare blankly as the dragon bone fell into the pool again.

Then, he was tossed to Xiang Shaoyun's side. The crash caused his head to ring, but he was still safe. After a short while, he recovered and glared at the first elder in a displeased manner. "Why did you snatch my dragon bone?"

"That dragon bone is not yours. Fortunately, you haven't swallowed it whole, or you would be dead for sure," said the first elder.

"Hmph. Since the bone of lord true dragon has acknowledged me, it is mine," said Money resentfully.

"Money, stop talking. This is the restricted zone of the Holy Hall. Everything here belongs to them," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Only then did Money shut up. He shrank his body and returned to Xiang Shaoyun's body.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he apologized, "Elders, I'm really sorry. Money did not do it on purpose."

"Holy son-in-law, you need to keep it in control. If it had swallowed the bone, this pool would have been ruined," the guardian elder reminded him.

"Yes, I will keep my eyes on him," said Xiang Shaoyun with a nod.

The first elder suddenly shifted the topic, "Holy son-in-law, are you going to enter the pool again?"

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head and smiled. "No. It won't do much anymore. Although I can still grow more by using it, my foundations will suffer. This is the perfect time to stop."

#### Chapter 816: I Will Never Let You Down

After spending nearly two months in the pool, Xiang Shaoyun's draconic aura had reached 62 percent from 34 percent. It was an astonishing speed that even Xiang Shaoyun himself had not expected. If it was an ordinary person, staying here for two months would send that person straight into the peak Emperor Realm.

However, Xiang Shaoyun had been incessantly purifying the draconic aura, making the quality of his draconic aura extremely high before using the draconic aura to strengthen his astral energy. Additionally, he had also sent a massive quantity of vicious dragon energy into his astral cosmos sea, enriching its energy so he could better observe the changes that might occur in his astral cosmos sea during his future advancements.

In fact, Xiang Shaoyun had reached 62 percent of his draconic aura the previous month. The remaining time had been used to temper his body with the vicious dragon energy. His flesh had become much tougher than before.

One could say that one would find it hard to harm his current body with even emperor weapons and that he had gone through another qualitative transformation.

Xiang Shaoyun now constantly emanated a domineering aura, as if he was a dragon among men. In his presence, all would suddenly feel a sense of inferiority.

The first elder was somewhat unhappy to see that Xiang Shaoyun had only advanced by three stages, but then again, he recalled how that also served as proof of how solid Xiang Shaoyun's foundations were.

Additionally, what Xiang Shaoyun said about harming his foundations further improved the first elder's opinion of him. After all, not many young men could resist the temptation of advancing quickly.

"Ok. Since that is what you think, I won't force you any longer. Let's go," said the first elder.

Xiang Shaoyun thus left with the first elder. As for Money, he was extremely unhappy. He wanted to stay and devour the dragon bone, but he also knew that it wouldn't be possible.

However, it was not like he had returned empty handed. In truth, he had already swallowed a small portion of the bone. Just that small chunk of bone would take him some time to fully digest.

After returning to the palace, Xiang Shaoyun first took a bath with the assistance of Qiu Yue and Qiu Shui. He then went to visit Tuoba Wan'er.

Qiu Yue and Qiu Shui were still as seductive as ever, and they would constantly tease Xiang Shaoyun. It was as if they were not afraid that he would really lose control and do something to them.

Initially, the teasing caused Xiang Shaoyun no small amount of suffering. But before long, he gained immunity and could now resist the temptation without even chanting the Serene Clearheart Mantra.

Only later did he find out that they had been daringly seducing him because they would be assigned his bed-warming maids after he became the holy son-in-law. Even if he really did something to them, they would have no complaints. Not even Tuoba Wan'er would say anything, as this was the Holy Earth Hall's rule, where servants and the mistress would serve the same husband.

He learned all that from Tuoba Wan'er. Even knowing that, he still didn't do anything to them. It was not that he did not want to shit where he eats but that he was still a virgin. He still couldn't decide who should get his first time.

In his heart, he had already decided to preserve his first time for Yu Caidie. Thus, patience was necessary. At the same time, he saw it as a way to temper his mental fortitude.

After the bath, he looked incredibly heroic. His overbearing aura deeply attracted Qiu Yue and Qiu Shui.

"Holy son-in-law, do you want us to share the bath with you next time?" asked Qiu Yue, her eyes rippling with passion.

Qiu Shui also said, "Yes, that way, the holy son-in-law will feel even more comfortable. As servants, it is our duty to make our master comfortable."

"Enough, stop talking nonsense. I won't be able to resist your teasing and might really do something that could harm both of you," said Xiang Shaoyun. He was already used to them so he was able to reply nonchalantly.

"We are definitely not afraid of that," the two answered at the same time.

"You're not afraid, but I am. Ok, I'm going to look for Wan'er," said Xiang Shaoyun as he coughed and quickly left the room.

He was currently in a good mood due to his recent growth in strength. He couldn't help but lament, "Luckily, Old Urchin had brought me here. Otherwise, I might need a year or two of hard work before reaching this level."

Things like fortuitous encounters were always unpredictable. One could say that Xiang Shaoyun was indeed a person of great fortune. Of course, he did not think that he was the luckiest person in the world. Many people with great fortunes existed in the academy as well. Thus, he still had to keep working hard.

After he found Tuoba Wan'er, who was in a silent cultivation session, the two started catching up, relieving their yearning for each other during the past two months. Finally, he entered the main topic, "Wan'er, have my big brother and sister-in-law been sent away?"

"Yes. After you entered the Blood Dragon Pool, I had someone send them away," said Tuoba Wan'er.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded with a sigh, "That is good to hear."

Tuoba Wan'er asked gently, "Are you thinking of leaving as well?"

Xiang Shaoyun answered candidly, "Yes. I have been away from the academy for a very long time. If I still don't return, many people will be worried about me. It's a pity that the first elder insists that I need to wait until the hall master leaves seclusion before I can get his permission to leave. Sigh."

With a complicated look on her face, Tuoba Wan'er said, "It has been hard on you."

Xiang Shaoyun gazed at Tuoba Wan'er, who had an apologetic look on her face. He held her hand and said, "No, it hasn't been hard on me. But I really have a lot of unfinished business. I truly can't stay here with you forever. I am the one who has wronged you."

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to hide anything from Tuoba Wan'er. He felt that being honest would be good for their relationship. Tuoba Wan'er also liked Xiang Shaoyun's honesty and disliked those deep schemers who would always be beating around the bush. She asked, "If you really manage to leave, will you miss me?"

With his hand on her shoulder, Xiang Shaoyun replied sincerely, "We are already engaged. You're my fiancée. Of course I will miss you. Unless you decide to one day give up on me, I won't give up on you. I will come to see you when I'm done with my unfinished business. It will probably be around three to five years before I'm done with everything. Can you wait for me?"

Tuoba Wan'er's heart melted when she saw Xiang Shaoyun's earnest eyes. She had never fallen for any man before, and recently she had gotten used to Xiang Shaoyun's presence. Her feelings for him were growing day by day, and she had already acknowledged him as her fiancé. With her hands around his waist, she buried her head into his embrace and said, "Even if I have to wait my whole life, I will wait."

Xiang Shaoyun hugged her back and vowed, "You're perfect, Wan'er. I will never let you down, or I will die a miserable death!"

## Chapter 817: A Wife Like This Is All a Man Can Ask For

Tuoba Wan'er had a gentle temperament, and when she heard Xiang Shaoyun's passionate words, she looked up at him with her captivating, tender eyes. Looking at the enchanting face before him and feeling her warm breath, Xiang Shaoyun was completely bewitched. Without any hesitation, he lowered his head, and two pairs of lips met.

Tuoba Wan'er did not move away, her obedient appearance was incredibly charming. As the lips met, Xiang Shaoyun greedily nibbled on Tuoba Wan'er's tender lips while his arms were wrapped tightly around her. An intense desire to take her for himself rose within him.

Their tongues wrestled against each other. Initially, she would still avoid his tongue bashfully, but she soon couldn't help herself as passion took over. And when his touchy hands reached a certain plump part of her body, her entire body went limp, as though she had turned into a snake. Unknowingly, she let off a moan from her mouth, further triggering his lust.

They had a deep, long, kiss, to the point Tuoba Wan'er started gasping for breath. Xiang Shaoyun's hands started tearing her clothes apart, preparing to thoroughly make her his.

But right at the climax, Old Urchin's voice rang out, "Young lady, I'm here!"

Like a startled rabbit, Tuoba Wan'er pushed Xiang Shaoyun away. Her head remained lowered, while her face was completely red.

Xiang Shaoyun was feeling extremely gloomy. Just a moment ago, his lower body was burning with passion. But now, it was as if his tool had withered. Inwardly, he cursed, What kind of timing is this, Old Urchin? I won't let this slide!

"S-sorry. Grandpa Urchin is here. W-we can't continue," said Tuoba Wan'er, behaving like a young wife that had just committed an offense, using an apologetic soft voice.

Looking at the way she was behaving, his heart was filled with tenderness. He held her hand and said, "Fool, we will have plenty of chances to do what we want in the future. Come, let's meet Senior Urchin."

He then headed toward the door with her in tow, as if nothing had happened at all. When they arrived outside, they saw Old Urchin sitting on a chair while sloppily stuffing fruits into his mouth.

A teasing smile formed on his face as he said, "I didn't interrupt anything, right?"

F\*ck you! You dare ask that question? Xiang Shaoyun cursed inwardly. However, he still maintained his smile as he said, "Senior Urchin, I wonder why you're here today?"

Before Old Urchin could answer, Tuoba Wan'er said, "I was the one who called Grandpa Urchin over."

"I see. You two talk, then. I'll take a walk," said Xiang Shaoyun. But Tuoba Wan'er pulled him back and said, "This is related to you."

Xiang Shaoyun looked at her doubtfully as he wondered inwardly, Has Wan'er thought of a way to help me leave?

"Grandpa Urchin can bring you out of the Holy Earth Hall," said Tuoba Wan'er seriously.

Sure enough, Xiang Shaoyun's guess was right.

Joy surfaced on his face as he asked, "For real?"

Old Urchin said, "No, it's fake. This old man is not that capable."

"Grandpa Urchin, please think of a way to bring the holy son-in-law away," said Tuoba Wan'er solemnly.

Old Urchin replied, "Young lady, think this through. After I bring this kid away, he might never return. He definitely has a lot of love interests outside. After all, it's a big world out there."

That filled Xiang Shaoyun with shame as he had been completely seen through.

"I trust him," said Tuoba Wan'er firmly as she tightened her grasp on Xiang Shaoyun's hand.

Xiang Shaoyun was incomparably moved. He looked at Tuoba Wan'er tenderly, no amount of words could describe his current affection for her. With a wife like this, what more could a man ask for?

"Kid, you really want to leave?" Old Urchin asked.

Xiang Shaoyun replied frankly, "Yes, I want to leave."

"Can you bear to leave the young lady?" Old Urchin asked again.

"No. If possible, I wish to take her with me," answered Xiang Shaoyun seriously.

"Just take her with you, then. Why do you need my help?" said Old Urchin with a shrug.

"But will the first elder allow us to leave?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"First grandpa won't allow me to leave," said Tuoba Wan'er in a dispirited manner.

"Who is he to restrict your freedom? In the past, he had been keeping you here for your safety. Furthermore, your marriage had yet to be decided. Now that you already have a husband, what excuse can he use to stop you from going on a trip with your husband? Not even the hall master will stop you. You are over-complicating this," said Old Urchin. "In any case, with me personally serving as your guard, the first elder definitely won't have any excuse to stop you."

The two exchanged gazes, immediately realizing the truth in those words. This was especially true for Tuoba Wan'er who knew more about the truth.

In the past, she had been forbidden from leaving as she wished. That was mainly because they were afraid that she would be endangered outside. The hall master did not allow her to leave alone. Not long ago, she had been able to leave for a bit, but that was also due to her reaching the marriageable age.

Using that as an excuse, she had been able to travel outside for half a year. Now, she was decently strong and was already engaged. Logically speaking, those restrictions should no longer apply to her. Nobody should be able to stop her from leaving.

"Grandpa Urchin is right. If I want to leave now, first grandpa won't have any excuses to stop me," said Tuoba Wan'er joyfully. "Will it be fine if I go with you?"

"That will be the best option. But I am returning to the academy, and outsiders are not allowed there so things will be somewhat troublesome," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He wasn't lying as the academy did not allow the entry of outsiders. This was especially true for disciples who had zero authority to bring outsiders in.



"Don't worry, kid. Entering your Dragon Phoenix Academy might be difficult for anyone else, but not our young lady," said Old Urchin.

"You have a way to get me in?" Tuoba Wan'er asked.

"Hehe, the Desert of Despair has always been our turf. The Dragon Phoenix Academy had obtained our permission before they started sending their disciples here to cultivate. As the holy maiden of the Holy Hall, they will not refuse your request to visit as a guest if they still want their disciples to cultivate at the Desert of Despair," said Old Urchin.

### Chapter 818: First Elder's Plans

Under Old Urchin's advice, Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er decided to call the first elder over so they could ask for his thoughts.

Soon, the first elder arrived. He greeted them, "Greetings, young lady and holy son-in-law. What can I do for you?"

Tuoba Wan'er did not say anything unnecessary and directly voiced her request.

When she was done speaking, the first elder still maintained the same expression. He nonchalantly asked, "Is this your idea, young lady, or the holy son-in-law's idea?"

"It's my idea!" both Tuoba Wan'er and Xiang Shaoyun said at the same time.

"Wan'er, you don't need to hide it for me," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The first elder smiled slightly and said, "So this is the holy son-in-law's idea, then?"

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "I am a disciple of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. I still need to return and cultivate at the academy. Also, I still have some unfinished business. I need to leave."

Tuoba Wan'er quickly said, "Since we are already engaged, I wish to go with him."

The first elder looked at the two, causing them to start feeling uncomfortable. He then looked at Old Urchin, who was seated not far away. Finally, he laughed heartily, "Haha, young lady, holy son-in-

law, if you want to leave, you are free to do so at any time. Why do you need to inform an old man like me? It's almost like I am restricting your freedom or something."

Old Urchin immediately looked at the first elder in astonishment as he exclaimed, "Boss, since when were you so agreeable?"

Old Urchin was obviously unable to believe that the first elder would let Xiang Shaoyun and Tuoba Wan'er go so easily. Even the two were filled with disbelief.

The first elder glared at Old Urchin and said, "Don't think that you're the only one thinking on behalf of the young lady. I can do so as well." He then looked at Tuoba Wan'er kindly. "In the past, I prevented you from leaving to protect you, allowing you to focus on cultivation and become our holy maiden. Now that you're getting married soon, the holy son-in-law will naturally take over the responsibility of protecting you. It is also about time for you to go expand your horizon. Only then will you be able to stand your own in the future.

"I naturally won't stop the young lady and the holy son-in-law from leaving. Even if they don't mention this now, after the hall master leaves seclusion, they will still obtain their freedom. But no matter where the young lady goes, Old Urchin, you need to take charge of her safety. If something bad happens to her, you can apologize to the hall master with your own head."

Tuoba Wan'er's eyes were misty after she heard the first elder's words. She said, "Sorry, first grandpa. I misunderstood you all this while."

"Silly child, your first grandpa is used to being the bad guy," said the first elder with a smile. He looked at Xiang Shaoyun with a solemn expression and said, "Holy son-in-law, since you are now engaged to the young lady, you will be the one bearing the responsibility of protecting the young lady. If she suffers any wrongs or harm, wherever you are, I will not spare you!"

Xiang Shaoyun bowed to the first elder and said, "Don't worry, first elder. Even if I die, I won't let any harm come to Wan'er."

The first elder nodded in a satisfied manner and said, "Leave without worries. With me here, nothing will happen to the Holy Hall. But after the hall master leaves seclusion, I will send someone to inform you. You need to come back immediately and get married. This is not up to discussion. If you can't agree to that, I would rather you two wait here until the hall master is out. He will be the one to decide whether you can leave."

At this time, Old Urchin said, "Boss, let me handle them. Don't worry. After the hall master is out, I will immediately bring them back."

"You're the one I'm most worried about. You're never serious. If you somehow lose the young lady, I won't spare you," said the first elder sternly.

"Hmph. You think you're the only one who cares about the young lady? With me around, nobody can harm her!" said Old Urchin unhappily.

"Both grandpas care about Wan'er. I will never forget this," said Tuoba Wan'er.

They proceeded to talk about the academy and what to watch out for. Finally, they decided to set their departure date to be in seven days. The first elder had requested them to delay their departure so he could send someone to deliver a letter to the academy first. That way, the academy could prepare to welcome their holy maiden as a guest.

Although the academy was no weaker than the Holy Earth Hall and had much more clout, the Holy Earth Hall was the Desert of Despair's true master. If the academy wanted their disciples to continue cultivating here, they needed the Holy Earth Hall's permission. Otherwise, they would lose an excellent cultivation spot.

Xiang Shaoyun was not in so much of a rush that he couldn't wait a few days, so he followed the first elder's arrangements.

...

Currently, a major incident was happening at the Dragon Phoenix Academy. The academy had announced the opening of the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground.

The so-called primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground was a battleground built by the academy. There, the many disciples could grow their strength and obtain some resources to increase their collection of trump cards. Of course, what they managed to get would depend on their own capabilities.

Those capable of reaching the top 100 on the Dragon Phoenix List at the battleground would be allowed to participate in the competition between the four great academies.

This requirement meant that the names on the Dragon Phoenix List would be reshuffled during the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground. Who would be the new first ranker? Who would be the ultimate dark horse? The ranking would now have an extraordinary significance attached to it.

After all, the top 100 on the ranking would represent the academy and challenge the other three academies. This was a sort of glory granting them the qualification to be one of the world's top prodigies. If one could achieve a brilliant result in the competition, one would obtain instant fame and carve one's name in the annals of history.

Which of these young geniuses was without an ambition to be number one among their peers? They were all talented cultivators who wished to have their names forever remembered by future generations.

During this period of time, the disciples who were cooped up in the various cultivation spots returned one after another, including those top freaks who were rarely seen in normal times. Among them, Baili Yixiao from the Sword Society and Zhan Wushuang from the Crushing Sky also appeared, causing a sensation in the academy.

In everyone's eyes, Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang were the strongest in the academy. Nobody could come close to them, not even the likes of Yu Ziyang, Huang Tianji, and Ouyang Chuanqi.

## Chapter 819: Overlord Legion's Update

As one genius after another showed up, the Overlord Legion's overlord was nowhere to be seen. According to the Overlord Legion members, Xiang Shaoyun had gotten himself killed at the Desert of Despair, and this news spread after they returned from their expedition.

At that time, the entire Overlord Legion had gone to the Desert of Despair on a bandit extermination mission. After completing the mission, they encountered a super sandstorm, and Xiang Shaoyun attempted to stop it but was torn into shreds.

News of this filled the other disciples of the academy with regret. Xiang Shaoyun was the owner of a nine-star physique, the strongest physique in existence. Although he had selected a path of cultivation that did not seem to have a future, he had still displayed a talent that was among the top in the academy.

That was especially true for his accomplishment of charging into Feng Xiaosha's villa and defeating various opponents alone, which was also his most tyrannical feat. Furthermore, Ouyang Chuanqi was his willing subordinate. All of this showed just how extraordinary he was.

It was such a genius who could no longer participate in the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground competition, unable to represent the academy against the other academies' geniuses. It was quite a regret.

The Overlord Legion did not collapse because of his absence. Instead, it seemed much more united than any other faction in the academy.

The Overlord Legion's deputy commander, Ouyang Chuanqi, was there to stabilize the morale. Coupled with the increased unity from the expedition, their members had a high sense of belonging. Thus, anyone who dared to provoke the Overlord Legion would face their full wrath. Nobody dared to easily provoke them nowadays.

Currently, Ouyang Chuanqi, Tang Longfei, Zhuge Zhantian, Shang Jifeng, Ma Qihao, and the other main members of the Overlord Legion had been gathered at 1 Dragon Villa.

This was their first gathering at the villa after their return from the Desert of Despair. Prior to this, they had kept the villa empty, with Lady Shura occasionally coming over to keep it clean.

They were now here to talk about the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground that would start in half a month.

"I believe everyone is clear about the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground in half a month. Brothers and sisters of the Overlord Legion, we need to prepare ourselves. Only then will we be able to gain more from the battleground and reduce our casualties," said Tang Longfei.

"What instructions do you have, deputy commander?" Shang Jifeng asked.

"No instructions, but I just want to remind everyone to tread lightly. Also, the captains need to take charge of their own people. At the battleground, we will probably be separated. The moment that happens, the leaders need to do their part and lead their people well. We must uphold the Overlord Legion's prestige," said Tang Longfei. He continued speaking about some other topics, all in preparation for entering the battleground.

Of course, most of what he said was common sense, but he still needed to do his part as the deputy commander.

Tang Longfei was under great pressure. He was already a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, but it felt increasingly hard for him to advance further. As for the others, they were still growing rapidly. If it wasn't for Ouyang Chuanqi's presence, he would probably not be able to command enough respect to continue leading.

In the Overlord Legion, there were already four other fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. Each was appointed captain. Since they were not from the first batch of members, they could not replace Tang Longfei. However, that did not mean they lacked the ambition to do so.

Naturally, if they wanted to replace Tang Longfei, they had to first seek Ouyang Chuanqi's approval. Without Xiang Shaoyun around, Ouyang Chuanqi had the greatest prestige.

"Deputy Commander Ouyang, do you have anything to add?" Tang Longfei asked when he was done talking.

Ouyang Chuanqi sank into momentary thought before saying, "I have nothing to add. Everyone, just work hard. We will depend on our own capabilities to earn our worth during the competition. However, remember not to turn on each other. If any of you turn on your fellow brothers and sisters for wealth, do not blame me for being merciless."

Everyone nodded in agreement. At the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground, there would be many opportunities. Anyone inside was a potential competitor. Thus, it was very possible that brothers might turn on each other. That was something they needed to watch out for.

"Right, is there any news about the overlord?" Shou Xie suddenly asked. He had remained silent throughout the entire meeting.

Everyone shook their heads, their expressions dimming.

Lady Shura said, "Don't worry, everyone. I have a feeling the overlord will be fine. He will return soon."

"I have the same feeling. Too bad he won't be able to enter the battleground and will lose his chance to compete against the other academies," said Tang Longfei with a sigh.

"There are things that were just not meant to be. If he is fated to miss this, there is nothing we can do. But I am confident he can return in time," Ouyang Chuanqi said. "Alright. There is still half a month left. Everyone, cultivate hard in this remaining time."

He then left the meeting. The others did not stay long and dispersed as well.

...

Meanwhile, the academy received the letter informing them of the holy maiden's visit. The principal was forced to personally deal with the matters of welcoming the guest. He gathered the numerous elders and informed them of the visit, allowing them to prepare for it.

"Everyone, why do you think the Holy Earth Hall's holy maiden is visiting? How should we express our friendliness?" the principal asked the elders.

"The Holy Earth Hall has always isolated themselves from the world. They won't easily contact other powers. However, their strength can't be neglected. Furthermore, the Desert of Despair is their territory. We need to welcome the visitor grandly," said an elder.

A different elder said, "The Holy Earth Hall has suddenly decided to visit us. Is this their signal that their isolation is ending? If that is so, there is a need to maintain a friendly relationship with them. In the future, we might even be able to recruit their geniuses as well. That way, things will be even safer for our disciples out training at the Desert of Despair."

Other elders also spoke their minds, unanimously agreeing to welcome the visitor grandly. An elder even proposed to gather all the disciples, making them part of the welcoming crew as well. The Holy Earth Hall would be allowed to witness the might of their new disciples. That same elder believed that the holy maiden was probably visiting to find a lover. What if a disciple of the academy was selected?

The suggestion obtained the support of the principal and the other elders. Thus, orders were sent to the disciples to welcome the holy maiden.

## Chapter 820: On the Way Back

The disciples were completely confused when they received the order to welcome the holy maiden.

They were all geniuses hailing from different parts of the world. They also originated from powerful organizations. Thus, they couldn't understand why the academy would make such a big deal out of some holy maiden visiting.

"The primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground is opening soon. Why is this random holy maiden appearing at this time? Something seems fishy."

"Is the visitor a Saint Realm cultivator, and that's why we need to welcome her? But a person at that level shouldn't care about such mortal formalities, right?"

"I heard the holy maiden is as beautiful as a fairy. She is here to look for a lover. I'm so handsome. What am I to do if she decides to pick me?"

"Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror? She would need to be blind to pick you. Even a masculine man like me does not dare to say that she will pick me. But of course, if she has good eyes, she will most certainly pick me."

...

The many male disciples were filled with excitement, talking about the visit nonstop. They were all hoping that this sudden visit would bring them a nice surprise. Of course, there were also many disciples who were completely indifferent. They cared more about what they could gain from the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground.

The academy's many overseers started decorating the academy lavishly, finishing the welcoming arrangements. The many disciples were also given their respective tasks to gather in an orderly fashion to show off the academy's splendor.

As the Overlord Legion's military genius, Zhuge Zhantian was also recruited to act as the temporary commander, shocking many disciples. He was merely a brand new fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. How was he worthy of that position?

As everyone voiced their doubts, a formation grandmaster of the academy personally took Zhuge Zhantian as his disciple. With Zhuge Zhantian's high attainment in formations, arranging the disciples' formation for the welcoming ceremony was a piece of cake.



When the many disciples heard, envy filled them. Many even cursed, saying, "That damn fatty has gotten lucky."

If Zhuge Zhantian heard those words, he would probably spit blood from sheer rage. Sure, he was somewhat chubby, but he definitely didn't consider himself fat! While the academy's preparation for the holy maiden's visit was in full swing, the holy maiden in question was leisurely traveling in the embrace of a handsome young man.

This time, she was no longer traveling on Old Urchin's shabby donkey carriage. Rather, she was seated on a carriage pulled by eight dragonblood horses. The curtain around the carriage, surrounded by maidservants, gently rippled about. A hundred and eight mounted guards were also traveling alongside the carriage. It was quite a luxurious and high-profile procession.

It was a shame that right in front of them was a shabby donkey carriage, completely destroying the procession's image. It was as if an entire pot of fine porridge had been spoiled by a clump of rat feces.

"Holy son-in-law, won't going to the academy in this manner be too high profile? Why don't we send them all back? Just Grandpa Urchin alone is enough," said Tuoba Wan'er while feeding Xiang Shaoyun some spirit fruits.

The pair was displaying the scene of a loving couple that could invite jealousy everywhere they went.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled and replied, "You are the holy maiden, and this is your first visit to the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Only by being high profile can you show how extraordinary you are. If you go on Senior Urchin's carriage, I bet you won't even get through the academy gate."

"No wonder the first elder made it clear that I should bring all these guards with me. So that was why," said Tuoba Wan'er.

"Yes. As the holy maiden, you need to show the splendor of a holy maiden," said Xiang Shaoyun. Inwardly, however, he thought, Shit, this is too high profile. How am I supposed to explain this if Caidie saw this?

Although it was normal for a man to have multiple wives, Yu Caidie and Tuoba Wan'er were the type of women that would take a man all his luck to get. No men would reject them even if the cost was a reduction of their lifespan by 100 years.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun had two of them for himself. But he was afraid that the two holy maidens would clash with each other, causing him to suffer.

Suddenly, a large group appeared and surrounded the procession. The newcomers were bandits, and there were more than 500 of them. They did not look weak.

"Audacious criminals! You dare block the Holy Hall's procession? You are courting death!" shouted the commander.

Instantly, the guards assumed a battle stance. Their weapons were drawn as they braced for battle. As for Old Urchin, he was still humming his Great Donkey Driving Technique song, completely disregarding the bandits.

"I don't care who you are. Kill all the men and capture all the women. We will properly taste them later. Brothers, go!" commanded the bandit leader.

The pitiful bandit leader did not seem to have good eyes. He was unaware of the scariness of the group before him. He thought he would have the advantage due to his superior numbers, and he was completely oblivious to the fact that he was akin to a lamb that had stumbled right into a tiger's den.

As Xiang Shaoyun looked at the bandits, his battle intent soared. He charged out of the carriage and shouted to the guards, "Protect the holy maiden. These bandits shall serve as my target practice."

The guard commander naturally did not wish to see Xiang Shaoyun endanger himself. But Old Urchin suddenly said, "Listen to the holy son-in-law. Let us witness the holy son-in-law's splendor as he fights a multitude of enemies all by himself."

His words rendered the commander helpless. The commander looked at Tuoba Wan'er, waiting for the holy maiden's decision.

"Follow the holy son-in-law's command. If things get dangerous for him, it won't be too late for us to help," said Tuoba Wan'er after some hesitation.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun had already arrived before the bandits. He shouted, "Bandits, prepare to die!"

A powerful gravity field broke out and enveloped the bandits. The heavy pressure instantly caused their mounts to collapse, and numerous palms that looked more like slabs slammed down at the bandits.

At the same time, the bandit leader roared, commanding the bandits to attack Xiang Shaoyun, "Kill, kill him!"

The bandit leader was merely a peak Emperor. Although there was a decent number of Emperors among them, they were nothing in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun was simply unstoppable. As he sent forth Major Slab Palms, he smashed dozens of bandits into mincemeat. Wails rang out repeatedly, and the desert was dyed red with blood.

The guards were overwhelmed with shock as they witnessed Xiang Shaoyun's might. They found it hard to believe that the holy son-in-law was only a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. In fact, they felt like this was the kind of strength that belonged to a Sovereign.

They sighed, "The man that has caught the holy maiden's eyes is indeed extraordinary."