

Overlord 831

Chapter 831: Xiang Shaoyun's Transformation

Tuoba Wan'er had left the Dragon Phoenix Academy. News of her departure caused quite a fuss in the academy, especially among the higher-ups. They all thought that she was unhappy with their hospitality.

Fortunately, she had gone to the principal before leaving, telling him of her intention to take a look at the world and that she would return in a year.

The elders only calmed down after hearing the principal's explanation, but anyone who was not blind could see that this departure probably had something to do with Xiang Shaoyun, as he was nowhere to be seen when she left.

From that, it was obvious something must have happened between them. Fortunately, news of her departure was soon overshadowed by the opening of the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground.

The Dragon Phoenix Battlegrounds belonged exclusively to the Dragon Phoenix Academy. Apart from ancient inheritances, optimal advancement treasures could also be found there. The battlegrounds were separated into three grades—primary, middle, and high.

The disciples of the academy were basically all in the Emperor Realm, and they were only qualified to enter the primary-grade battleground. To enter the other two battlegrounds, they needed to reach different levels of cultivation.

The primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground was located at one of the Nine Great Unique Zones, the Forest of Antiquity. The Forest of Antiquity was the best cultivation location for wood cultivators, and it hosted the primary-grade battleground. Many disciples were unaware of that.

Now that the battleground was one day away from opening, the numerous disciples had returned from all around the world. Those in seclusion all came out as well, awaiting the battleground's opening.

About 200 people were gathered at 1 Dragon Villa. These were the elite members of the Overlord Legion, while the others were told to stop coming as the villa couldn't fit so many people. They were all here to wait for Xiang Shaoyun to leave seclusion.

They had all heard about Xiang Shaoyun's outburst, but not many knew the actual situation. However, they did not care. The only thing they cared about was whether Xiang Shaoyun would join them at the battleground.

Since the establishment of the Overlord Legion, Xiang Shaoyun had not done a lot for the Legion, yet he had been able to establish a prestige surpassing everyone else in the Legion. Hence, he was basically the Legion's soul. If the soul scattered, the members would scatter as well.

Xiang Shaoyun hadn't been doing anything in the cultivation room. He sat there silently, his body drooping as long hair covered his face. A dreadful darkness shaped like a devil shrouded his body, exuding a baleful aura that flooded the entire room. The aura was terrifyingly corrosive, and nobody would dare to get within the aura's range.

If it wasn't for the formations completely isolating the room from outside, the specter would have soared out of the room, appearing before the others. Someone who knew his stuff would be able to recognize that the specter greatly resembled an Imperial Nether Clan member.

After the incident with the women, Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have relived the betrayal of Di Lin and Xia Yunxi, and his heart was assaulted by an intense sorrow that he could hardly bear.

When he first entered the room, he directly activated the formations to lock himself in. That way, he prevented himself from going mad, or he would have done something with unimaginable consequences.

In the room, he allowed his devilish aura to fully erupt. He lost control over his balefulness as he unleashed furious attacks all over the room, completely venting his anger. Fortunately, the room was protected by high-level formations. No matter how he attacked, nobody outside could feel anything.

After he exhausted himself, he finally sank into silence. Even so, a terrifying red glow remained in his eyes. The devil blood within him had fully awakened, transforming his bearing and making him look somewhat sinister.

In the past, he had given off a warm vibe, but now, he gave off an absolutely sinister and cold feeling, making him look increasingly mysterious. He was no longer the same amiable and approachable person.

Even after he calmed down, his heart was still aching. However, he had also started reflecting on all that had happened.

Scenes of his interactions with the women surfaced in his mind one after another. Finally, he concluded that he hadn't really wronged them, yet they had gone ahead and done that to him. He was filled with disappointment.

"Perhaps love is not something I can have," Xiang Shaoyun mocked himself.

He recalled his sister, Ye Chaomu. Perhaps she was the only one who would stand by his side no matter what. As for the others, he shouldn't have expected too much from them.

"I still need to retake the Ziling Sect. I still need to kill Di Batian to avenge the uncles. I shall forget any unnecessary affairs. In any case, Wan'er had probably gotten engaged with me for her freedom. Now that she has her freedom, I will let our relationship end here," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

He stood up, and as he flung his hair around, he discovered that his hair had grown darker and longer. It had a glossy look to it, giving off a devilish feeling. He had a feeling his hair was now as tough as an emperor-grade weapon, as though he could use his hair as a weapon now.

"This must be the hair of the devils. If I'm being honest, it looks kind of cool," mused Xiang Shaoyun with a distorted smile. He tied his hair up, revealing a face that looked even more heroic than before. His temperament had changed completely.

At this moment, he had grown even more mature and more unfeeling, as though he had transformed from a boy to a man. He had indeed suffered a mental breakdown, but upon recovery, he became more clear as to what his goal was, becoming someone who was even more rational and pragmatic than before. Perhaps every man would need to go through an experience like this to mature.

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The time for the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground's opening had arrived. The people in 1 Dragon Villa were waiting anxiously, yet the cultivation room's door remained shut, filling them with disappointment.

Apart from being worried that Xiang Shaoyun would miss this opportunity, they were also worried that he would not recover from his mental breakdown. The academy issued an order to all the disciples to convene, and they started leaving for the gathering point.

It was at that moment that the door slowly opened. A slender figure sauntered out of the room, and a voice rang out, "Sorry for making you worried, brothers and sisters. Let's head to the battleground."

Chapter 832: I Won't Mind It Even if All of You Come Together

At the academy's largest training field, all the disciples were gathered in preparation to partake in the battleground.

The principal even personally appeared to give the disciples words of encouragement, wishing them luck to obtain exceptional results in the excursion. He also mentioned that those entering the Dragon Phoenix List's top 100 would obtain different degrees of rewards. Even those in the top 1,000 would be rewarded with contribution points. As for the others, they would not obtain any rewards.

After the speech, the elders started distributing protective jades to the disciples. These jades were ingeniously designed. One only needed to crush it during a moment of danger, and one would be directly brought out of the battleground. Of course, using the jade also signified one's elimination from the battleground. These jades were given to reduce the casualties among the disciples. The ones capable of lasting until the end would become the true victors.

After the elders finished prattling on and on about the battleground, the disciples finally understood their mission this time.

They needed to kill numerous devilish plants, such as devil trees, man-eating flowers, and murderous vines. One should not look down on these plants as they all had at least a basic level of intelligence. They were good at disguise and skilled at attacking with numerous crafty methods. Many of them were highly toxic as well and could penetrate one's defenses in completely unexpected ways.

These plants were the majority of life forms in the Forest of Antiquity. They had been living in the forest for a long time and were extremely powerful. Just surviving in the zone for a year would be extremely hard for many disciples. Killing a large number of devilish plants would be even harder.

Apart from that, the disciples could also fight each other for points. That was also how the final rankings would be decided. One could say that competition would be extremely stiff among the disciples at the battleground. The truly top disciples would be determined there.

Before the teleportation formation was activated, Han Chenfei and the Han Clan sisters found Xiang Shaoyun once again. Looking at his hair that seemed much thicker than before, an indescribable emotion welled in their hearts.

They wanted to say something to him, but he completely disregarded them as he directly walked past them with the Overlord Legion members. Their hearts hurt badly, as if there were knives slicing pieces of their hearts off.

"W-Why did he become like this?" Han Xuewei asked. As she was the one with the softer personality, she started tearing up.

"He looks like he is completely seeing us as strangers now," said Han Qianwei with a sad sigh.

Han Chenfei frowned as she felt extremely unwell as well. However, she had nothing to say. Yu Caidie was among the crowd and had also seen the scene. A complicated look was in her eyes as she sighed inwardly, His overbearing aura is finally back.

If the others were to hear this, they would be thoroughly shocked. Was the previous Xiang Shaoyun not overbearing enough?

He was still young, but he had challenged many geniuses in a row. He had been soaring rapidly, beating up several individuals from the Dragon Phoenix List. Even Di Lin was a victim of his blade. One ought to remember that Di Lin was a direct disciple of Elder Situ, a previous generation elder.

Although Elder Situ had not provided a response, it was without doubt that Xiang Shaoyun's act of slaying Di Lin would not be without consequences. His many feats proved just how tyrannical Xiang Shaoyun was in the eyes of the other disciples.

"Xiang Shaoyun, for the matter of you bullying my sister, we will settle it at the battleground," said Yu Ziyang as he stood before Xiang Shaoyun, looking down at him.

The surrounding disciples were shocked to see Yu Ziyang issuing Xiang Shaoyun a public declaration of war.

Beside Xiang Shaoyun, Ouyang Chuanqi replied, "Sure, but you need to get through me first."

"Hmph. Both of you are already mine," said Yu Ziyang with a cold snort.

"Hehe, big words, but too bad you're not qualified to be speaking like that," said Xiang Shaoyun with a somewhat sadistic smile.

His words were akin to a sudden thunderclap that stunned everyone around them. Who was Yu Ziyang? He was one of the top five freaks among the disciples. Apart from Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang, he was evenly matched with Ouyang Chuanqi and Huang Tianji. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun's boastful words were exceedingly shocking.

What was the source of Xiang Shaoyun's confidence? Did he have the strength to back his confidence? Then again, very few people could actually see through Xiang Shaoyun's current cultivation.

Yu Ziyang could guess that Xiang Shaoyun had advanced considerably. But even so, speaking that way was still too egotistical. He felt like Xiang Shaoyun had gotten way over his head.

Even Ouyang Chuanqi had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to suddenly be so arrogant. This was completely unlike Xiang Shaoyun's usual self.

"Good. Very good. You got guts. Remember your words. Both of you are mine," said Yu Ziyang with a sneer. It had been years since someone looked at him with such contempt.

At this time, a different voice rang out from not far away, "Brother Ziyang, why don't you let me have Xiang Shaoyun. I really want to experience the might of his high-grade nine-star physique."

Everyone looked over and saw Huang Tianji arriving with Huang Xiaoyue and a group of people from the royal clan. The speaker was none other than Huang Tianji. Beside him, Huang Xiaoyue was looking at Xiang Shaoyun in astonishment, evidently surprised at Xiang Shaoyun's massive change in a short few days.

Xiang Shaoyun also turned to look at Huang Tianji before saying, "I won't mind even if all of you come together."

Arrogance!

Pure arrogance!

Not even the likes of Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang would dare utter such words.

"Why don't you let me have this prince. I really want to witness the might of his royal highness," said Ouyang Chuanqi.

The surrounding disciples quickly moved away from them. These four were disciples of great fame, and they stood at a completely different level than others. Nobody wished to be accidentally harmed by their confrontation.

The battleground had yet to open, yet the smell of gunpowder was already thick in the air. Everyone was taken aback, but they also knew that Xiang Shaoyun was the culprit. What remained to be seen was whether Xiang Shaoyun was really as strong as the other three geniuses.

"What are all of you doing standing around? Get on the formation. We won't wait for you when the time arrives," an elder's voice rang out.

Finally, the hostile atmosphere was dispelled. Despite so, this was merely a prequel to the actual carnage that would unfold at the battleground. The disciples were filled with hope and expectation.

Chapter 833: Primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground

The Forest of Antiquity was a land of danger located at the Southern Wasteland. Of the nine regions, the Southern Wasteland had the most mountains, and there were numerous ancient forests. The Forest of Antiquity, in particular, was the oldest forest in the region.

When the Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples arrived, they saw a seemingly endless mountain range that snaked across the ground like an unending snake. Towering ancient trees dotted the mountain range, creating an environment that was the favorite of demons and poisonous bugs. Numerous other bizarre life forms resided here, and one could even find exceptionally rare life forms.

Many disciples had gained massive benefits cultivating here, and many had also died. One could say that among the nine cultivation spots of the academy, the Forest of Antiquity was the most dangerous one.

However, it was undeniable that the wood energy was the thickest at this location. Even the air was filled with life. After all, the power of wood represented life. Arriving at the Forest of Antiquity did not mean that the disciples had stepped into the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground. There, an elder of the academy activated another teleportation formation to send them to their actual destination.

The Forest of Antiquity was boundlessly large and contained a great deal of danger. Thus, the academy had taken over a part of this place and used it as the battleground. The teleportation formation sent everyone to different locations, scattering all the disciples. It wouldn't be easy for the disciples to reunite with their respective groups.

That caught many disciples by complete surprise. Fortunately, they were all capable Emperors that did not panic. After calming down, they started their exploration. But the disciples had barely arrived when they were subjected to intense assaults. A disciple was attacked before he could defend himself, and his entire body was destroyed. A different disciple was forced to directly crush his jade to leave the battleground.

That particular disciple thus occupied the last place in this event. He didn't even have the tears to cry. Alas, the result could not be altered. The eliminated disciples would not be given a second chance. After all, if this was a real battlefield, these defeated disciples would already be dead.

Xiang Shaoyun was similarly transported to a random location. He did not know where he was. All around him were towering trees and thick bushes. No visible path could be seen. More importantly, the plants around him were actually attacking him like they were actually living beings.

Although he already knew this would happen, he was still given quite a fright. Attacking with both hands, he blasted the plants away. However, he found that his feet had been tied up by the vines. The vines continued crawling up his body, and there were even thorns on them that they used to penetrate his skin and devour his blood.

"Get lost!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as his entire body was instantly shrouded by a clump of flame. The vines were burned off, and the plants around him suffered the same fate as well.

Yun Flame was no joke. Regular objects would not be able to resist its flame. After purging his immediate surroundings of the plants, Xiang Shaoyun did not move out. Since this place was

designated as the battleground, there must be more to this place. There were definitely some unknown dangers here.

Unsurprisingly, he soon found that the plants could move around, and it was completely inconceivable to him.

"Devil trees!" Xiang Shaoyun gasped in alarm.

The devil trees were among the most vicious devilish plants in this battleground. Xiang Shaoyun had not expected that there would be so many of them. They moved about around him as though preparing to launch an offensive.

Without any hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun sent several finger beam attacks toward the trees. However, when his finger beams were about to land, the leaves of the trees rustled, forming a barrier of pure wood energy that blocked all the finger beams.

With an astonished look, Xiang Shaoyun muttered, "They can even defend themselves automatically? Not bad at all."

He then increased the might of his attacks, forcefully penetrating the defenses of the trees, and burned them to ashes.

Wood was weak against fire. That was unchanging. As for the other devil trees, they let out some bizarre roars before fleeing.

Looking at the escaping trees, Xiang Shaoyun burst into laughter, "These toys are quite fun."

He was in no rush to chase after the trees. When he checked his protective jade, he found that some numbers had been added to it. Evidently, he had earned some points from the trees he had just killed.

He did not care, nor was he in any rush to hunt for more devilish plants. Rather, he sat down where he was and started absorbing the thick wood energy in the air. He knew very well there were plenty of devilish plants around. There was no need for him to go looking. Waiting for his prey to come would be a much better option.

In any case, compared to the rankings, Xiang Shaoyun cared more about comprehending the profundity of wood. He had already comprehended the profundity of eight powers, with wood being the only one missing. After comprehending the profundity of wood as well, he would be able to rapidly improve his cultivation.

Hence, he naturally had to make good use of this environment. Compared to when he first comprehended the profundity of powers, he now held many advantages, such as his previous experiences, the Desolation mantra, and the Light of Wisdom. All these would help increase his comprehension speed, and he did not wish to waste these advantages.

The profundity of powers was not something one could comprehend as one wished. To do that, he had to first gain a full understanding of wood. He absorbed the wood energy in his surroundings unceasingly as he slowly sensed the changes in the wood energy, studying the essence of wood.

The power of wood represented life. There was a saying that even a dead tree carries a spring within it. That saying hinted at the essence of wood. Of course, the power of wood also had other properties, for wood was also tough and durable, gentle and flexible, and so on.

One could say that these properties were common knowledge, but it wouldn't be easy to fully understand them.

Using the Light of Wisdom, Xiang Shaoyun thought of a method to increase his comprehension speed—by utilizing the nature of the five main elements that naturally supported and countered each other.

He had comprehended the profundity of water. Using the power of water, he nourished the burnt tree barks around him, injecting life into the bark once again, allowing him to observe the growth of wood.

It was a pity that this was not a peaceful land. He would not be able to cultivate in peace. Not far from him, sounds of activity break out.

Chapter 834: Intelligent Tiny Tree

Without even looking, Xiang Shaoyun could sense that behind him was a greenhead lizard. The greenhead lizard was about seven meters long. Its green head was massive, and its entire body was green. It was perfectly camouflaged among the vegetation, making it hard to detect.

This was most definitely an Emperor greenhead lizard. Its scales were extremely thick and could block blades. Its massive pair of eyes were focused on Xiang Shaoyun while its tongue flickered about, exuding a bloodthirsty aura.

It slowly approached, and when it saw that Xiang Shaoyun did not react, it was confident that this human would be its next meal.

Whoosh!

Moving cautiously, the lizard shot out its tongue before it even arrived, trying to swallow Xiang Shaoyun with one attack. Right as the tongue was about to reach Xiang Shaoyun, he suddenly shifted away. Using the side of his palm, he chopped at the thick tongue.

Using the palm as a blade, Xiang Shaoyun severed the tongue, causing the lizard to whine in pain. The lizard was infuriated and pounced at Xiang Shaoyun, moving nimbly and violently. It arrived before him in a flash.

Instead of moving out of the way, Xiang Shaoyun met the advance with a punch. His fist shot out like a tyrannical dragon soaring out of the sea. The jaws of the lizard were smashed apart, and after several punches, the lizard was dead.

Xiang Shaoyun thought that he would win some peace after killing the lizard, but it had actually attracted more trouble. Devil trees, devil vines, and others appeared to consume the lizard corpse. The scene of the plants devouring the lizard intrigued Xiang Shaoyun. Apart from that, some green poison bees also appeared, giving him a fright.

These green poison bees had extremely sharp stingers. When they attacked together, they were akin to a volley of numerous arrows being launched. Furthermore, these bees were highly poisonous.

Why is this damn place so dangerous? Xiang Shaoyun grumbled inwardly.

He did not dare to waste any time thinking and directly killed the bees with his mighty combat prowess. But when Xiang Shaoyun fought the bees, the trees and vines worked together to attack him, trying to take him down.

Protecting himself with his Goldplates and attacking with flame attacks, he was capable of both offense and defense. He waged war on these plants and bugs, causing absolute chaos in his surroundings.

Even so, he wasn't having an easy time. The trees and vines seemed capable of growing endlessly, interfering and preventing him from unleashing any powerful attacks. The bees also seemed endless, as there was no end to them.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly used the power of wind and lightning to crush everything around him into smithereens. Numerous bees were sent flying away, and the rain of lightning basted away the trees and vines. By the time he once again resolved the danger around him, his points had grown greatly.

"Money, come out!" Xiang Shaoyun released Money.

Money had been spending all his time digesting the dragon bone recently. His strength had reached a terrifying level, and Xiang Shaoyun did not wish for Money to keep slacking. Thus, he was planning to let Money temper himself here.

Money was somewhat unwilling to leave, but he had no choice but to obey and keep watch for Xiang Shaoyun.

"Vicious One, Two, and Three, come out as well," Xiang Shaoyun released the three birds after some thought.

Even though the three beasts were only late-stage Demon Kings and were probably too weak to survive, Xiang Shaoyun still wished to give them more combat experience. With Money as the leader, the four stood guard while Xiang Shaoyun sank into cultivation once again.

With his cultivation method, he continued absorbing the wood energy around him, rapidly increasing his understanding of the power of wood. At this time, changes started happening to the tiny tree in his astral cosmos sea. It was seemingly trying to communicate that it wanted to come out.

Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that the tiny tree would actually have intelligence. The tiny tree started shining brightly, exuding strands of pure energy throughout the astral cosmos sea, giving him a soothing and comfortable sensation.

Xiang Shaoyun had known that the tiny tree was special, but he had never expected it to be this unique. After a slight hesitation, he released the tiny tree and said, "I hope you don't disappoint me."

After it was released, the tiny tree started rapidly absorbing the wood energy in the area. A massive amount of wood energy converged around it at a speed that gave even Xiang Shaoyun a shock.

He was a late-stage Emperor who could rapidly absorb energy, but when compared to this tiny tree, his speed was still nothing. Perhaps not even a Sovereign could absorb energy faster.

Soon, the tiny tree started glowing again, creating ripples of green radiance that enveloped the area around it.

Beside the tiny tree, Xiang Shaoyun could sense a concentration of exceedingly pure wood energy around him. The purity of the newly gathered wood energy was much higher than what he had gathered. It was almost completely pure.

After absorbing the wood energy, the tiny tree's branches and leaves started slowly changing. Evidently, it was growing healthily.

"Good fellow. If I can meditate on the energy here for a while, comprehending the profundity of wood won't be anything difficult," said Xiang Shaoyun in excitement.

Just as he was about to sit down cross-legged, he found many plants approaching them, including numerous old devil trees. They had tough trunks and branches, showcasing their age. They seemed rather interested in the tiny tree as their branches reached over toward the tiny tree.

When Xiang Shaoyun was about to stop them, he sensed the energy around the tiny tree shifting into a powerful defensive barrier, stopping the devil trees' approach.

"This little fellow can't be a young devil tree, right?" Xiang Shaoyun wondered.

Alas, although the tiny tree wasn't weak, its defensive barrier was destroyed after the old devil trees personally acted. As a response, the tiny tree quickly hid behind Xiang Shaoyun, rendering him speechless. Now was not the time for him to think. He had to first deal with these old devil trees. He took out his saber and swung at the old tree branches.

Cling! Clank!

To his surprise, the saber actually failed to sever the branches. Instead, a series of sharp clanking sounds rang out. He finally realized that things might be getting troublesome.

Chapter 835: Divine Tree of Life

The old devil trees had extremely tough branches. Furthermore, their branches were extending at a rapid speed and instantly surrounded the tiny tree. Some other branches started swinging at Xiang Shaoyun heavily.

During the moment of crisis, Money roared and spat out a large clump of lightning energy, bombarding the branches. However, even he failed to push the branches away.

The interruption bought Xiang Shaoyun a tiny respite. No longer daring to hold back, he used saber intent and human saber unity, bombarding the devil trees with boundless lightning attacks.

Xiang Shaoyun had never gotten the chance to fight at full power since reaching sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. These old devil trees had probably reached the strength of a Sovereign. He had to try his best against them.

In the past, he was only able to attract about 100 bolts of lightning. Now, he was able to attract hundreds of lightning bolts, creating an ocean of lightning that wreaked havoc among the devil trees.

The more he fought, the more vigorous he seemed. He created such a big ruckus that some other disciples not far away also sensed him.

These disciples were all the prodigies of the Dragon Phoenix Academy. All of them were currently surrounded by dangers. Thus, they naturally wished to locate their friends and work together to earn more points. Of course, if they encountered those they disliked, they would act unhesitatingly to eliminate them and reduce their competition.

There were many beings capable of threatening the disciples in the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground, but those capable of posing any threat to the likes of Xiang Shaoyun were few.

Xiang Shaoyun's rampage destroyed even the roots of the devil trees surrounding him, leaving only a few old devil trees that had relied on their massive trunks to survive. Even so, they weren't in good condition.

They no longer bothered him and tried escaping, but the tiny tree suddenly went on the offensive. Several tiny branches extended and shot toward several directions, directly piercing the old devil trees' branches.

Xiang Shaoyun did not know what the tiny tree was trying to do, but he soon saw the old devil trees withering. His eyes twitched as he noticed that the tiny tree looked even lusher than before. However, the tiny tree still remained at the same height.

It came as a complete surprise to him that the tiny tree could absorb the old devil trees' strength in this manner. His suspicions that it was a tiny devil tree intensified.

He soon stopped caring upon sensing the tiny tree's unique life force, which was an extremely pure power of origin. When he sensed it, it improved his comprehension of the profundity of wood. He had a feeling that by staying beside the tiny tree and sensing its changes, comprehending the profundity of wood would pose him no trouble whatsoever.

Unfortunately, before he could even enter meditation, some new disturbances arrived. This time, it was several Dragon Phoenix Academy disciples who had appeared near him.

When he discovered that they weren't Overlord Legion members, he warned, "Don't look for trouble."

He made his attitude very clear as he did not wish to be disturbed. After some hesitation, the disciples decided to leave as they did not dare to approach him. They were very clear they weren't Xiang Shaoyun's match. If he wasn't strong, how would he dare to go against the likes of Yu Ziyang and Huang Tianji?

After they left, Xiang Shaoyun hesitated for a bit before walking away in a random direction. He did not want to stay as he believed that there was definitely a much safer and peaceful area here where he could focus on comprehending the profundity of wood.

After roaming about for two days with the tiny tree, he finally found a quiet place to hole up temporarily.

The place he found was the territory of a powerful demonic beast. He had killed the demonic beast, and after cleaning up its cave, he used the cave as his temporary cultivation spot.

He kept the tiny tree planted beside him while Money and the three birds guarded the cave entrance. He started observing the tiny tree, observing its every change. While doing so, he also sensed the properties of wood. Numerous inspirations rose in his mind as he started increasing his comprehension of the power of wood.

As for the tiny tree, it crazily absorbed the energy around it, creating a convergence of highly pure wood energy that greatly benefited Xiang Shaoyun. While greedily absorbing the pure wood energy, he deeply immersed himself in the true meaning of wood.

After an unknown amount of time, he saw the tiny tree shining with a radiant glow that looked incredibly mystical and holy. His eyes widened as he gasped, "I-Is this the divine tree of life?"

The divine tree of life was one of the most mystical trees in existence. A single leaf from this tree could revive the dead, while a single piece of its roots could increase one's lifespan and preserve one's youth by thousands of years. In the legends, if one could refine one such tree into one's body, one would obtain an immortal body. This was definitely a divine tree that everyone yearned for.

From the powerful life force the tree was emanating and the holy radiance it was glowing with, Xiang Shaoyun guessed that this tiny tree was a divine tree of life. Of course, he still wasn't fully confident he was right.

Regardless, his eyes were still instantly filled with excitement. He would reap endless benefits by keeping such a tree by his side. He considered fully refining the tiny tree, but he decided to forget that thought for now.

He was still young, with his body at its peak. If he continued his rapid advancement, he could reach the Heaven Battling Realm or higher. At that time, he would have a much longer lifespan, and there would be no need to waste using this tree for himself.

If he allowed the divine tree of life to be independent, it could continue growing and would provide him with even more benefits. The lightning liquid and emperor-grade spring water weren't even comparable to a single leaf in terms of healing power.

Xiang Shaoyun tossed all that to the back of his mind and continued focusing on studying the energy around the divine tree. Soon, he entered a miraculous state of meditation.

His current sensation couldn't be expressed with words. It was as if he was observing the growth process of all living beings, watching how life force accumulated bit by bit into a lifeline, watching how life distributed itself in a life form's body, granting life to that life form, allowing that life form to mature and grow.

Time passed, and the wood energy in Xiang Shaoyun's body became denser and denser. The energy lingered around his body instead of entering his star. The energy permeated his flesh and meridians, transforming into a sort of life force that increased his body's vigor.

The power of wood represented the power of life. That was something many understood, but few could truly comprehend the meaning behind it. Finally, Xiang Shaoyun succeeded in comprehending the profundity of wood. His comprehension of all nine powers had thus been completed.

He planned to continue deepening his comprehension, but he suddenly heard Money's shout coming from outside the cave. He was forced to end his meditation session.

Chapter 836: Profundity of Wood

Xiang Shaoyun had been fully focused on comprehending the profundity of wood, so he had not noticed anything that was happening outside the cave. If it wasn't for Money's warning shout, he wouldn't have noticed anything.

He kept the tiny tree away and left the cave. He saw about a dozen people ganging up on Money. The three birds were completely looked down upon, but the three were also seriously injured to the point they could barely move. If it wasn't for Money protecting them, they would have died by now.

Looking at those people, Xiang Shaoyun found that he did not know any of them. Without any hesitation, he charged out and yelled, "You're courting death! You dare to harm my brothers?"

Without wasting any time speaking nonsense with them, Xiang Shaoyun rushed them with a quick footwork and blasted them with his merciless punches. They had just seen that the newcomer was Xiang Shaoyun and couldn't even react before three of them were sent flying.

"It's Xiang Shaoyun! Stop! We're members of Crushing Sky!" one of them cried out in alarm.

"I don't care who you are. You dare harm my brothers, so you will die," said Xiang Shaoyun. He continued attacking and sent two more people flying away while spitting blood.

"Leave, the leader will avenge us!" shouted the leader.

They started fleeing in a disorderly fashion. Those failing to escape were forced to crush their protective jades and leave the battleground entirely. If they reacted any slower, Xiang Shaoyun might have directly killed them.

Xiang Shaoyun intended to give chase, but after some hesitation, he decided against it. He wasn't afraid of Zhan Wushuang since he also looked forward to fighting Zhan Wushuang. He was already a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. With his combat prowess, he could surpass any Emperor. Coupled with the might of his Nether Soul Domain, he did not fear Zhan Wushuang.

He did not give chase because Money's injuries weren't too serious and the three birds needed urgent care. There was no point wasting time chasing after those people. When he took a look at the three birds' injuries, he found that their injuries were rather heavy, further infuriating him.

He said, "Regardless of whether the Crushing Sky people did this intentionally, I won't spare them."

Xiang Shaoyun was about to feed them some spring water when he recalled that he had already comprehended the profundity of wood. It was time to put it to the test. He placed both his palms on Vicious One's wound and started gathering the wood energy around them. With the profundity of wood, he started applying the wood energy to Vicious One's wound.

Vicious One felt much better, and soon, his wound started closing up.

"Sure enough, the power of wood represents life and works well in healing. However, it is somewhat weak in terms of attack," muttered Xiang Shaoyun.

Very few people could use the power of wood to heal others. Most could only use it to hasten their own recovery. To do what Xiang Shaoyun just did, one needed to comprehend the profundity of wood. Otherwise, one wouldn't be able to do it even if one was highly skilled at manipulating the power of wood.

Xiang Shaoyun applied healing to all three birds, greatly alleviating their injuries before feeding them some spring water to further hasten their recovery. Two days later, the three were able to once again spread their wings and soar in the sky.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help lamenting the effectiveness of the power of wood in terms of healing. He also rejoiced that he had such power under his control now.

Even after comprehending the profundity of wood, he still didn't plan to go out hunting for the devilish plants. He remained there to cultivate in peace. This time, he would focus on using all nine profundities at the same time and test his energy absorption speed and see if it could reach a decent level.

The wood energy was the thickest in the Forest of Antiquity, but that did not mean that there were no other energies. Xiang Shaoyun could still absorb other energies, but the absorption speed wouldn't be as fast as when he was absorbing wood energy.

After repeated attempts, he was able to increase his absorption speed, but he failed to absorb all nine energies at the same time. Perhaps he had to fuse all nine profundities, creating a brand new and unique profundity, before he could accomplish it.

In the past, he never thought of fusing the profundities. But the vague idea in his mind seemed to turn more and more distinct as if he really could do so. He had a feeling this would be the secret of solving the biggest issue of cultivating nine powers.

His inspiration came from the Light of Wisdom, but fully solving the issue would still be exceedingly difficult. For now, he already had a general idea of what he should do. First, he needed to fuse the profundities of the five main elements. Only then would he start working on fusing the other four powers.

Even so, fusing the five main elements wasn't an easy feat. After repeated attempts, he made no progress and was forced to stop for now. A month after entering the battleground, Xiang Shaoyun finally started his hunt.

During the hunt, he obtained decent gains, and there were many unharvested treasures in the forest. So long as one was strong enough, one would be able to obtain them.

Money managed to become a fifth-stage Demon Emperor. He wasn't originally in a rush to break through, but after being injured by the Crushing Sky people, he was furious and broke through two stages in a row.

Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling Money was still hiding a lot of his strength. Perhaps he had yet to even fully digest the dragon bone.

While hunting, Xiang Shaoyun also encountered many academy disciples. However, he had not met any Overlord Legion members. Thus, he felt somewhat gloomy, as he was worried about them.

But when he recalled how they would be mostly safe with the protective jades, his worries were alleviated.

One day, he suddenly heard a familiar voice while traveling, "You bastards! Don't push it, or the Overlord Legion will not spare you!"

Xiang Shaoyun had a good memory, and he immediately recognized that the voice belonged to Pan Yun, an Overlord Legion member. It seemed he had encountered trouble.

"Haha, the Overlord Legion is targeted to be cleaned from the battleground. If you're smart, crush your protective jades and leave. Otherwise, you'll suffer," came a different voice, followed by a series of arrogant laughter.

Chapter 837: Trashing the Royals in Anger

Apart from Pan Yun, there was another Overlord Legion member there as well. She was Yuan Xuefen, a fifth-stage Emperor known for her Windchaser Arrow technique. Both had been teleported to the same area, so they were able to group up quickly.

Unfortunately, they had caught the attention of the Royal Army members. Relying on their superior numbers, the Royal Army people heavily injured the two.

The so-called Royal Army was none other than the faction founded by Huang Tianji in the academy, a faction ranked higher than the Overlord Legion. If it wasn't for the Overlord Legion's recent rapid growth, the gap between the two would be much larger.

This particular Royal Army group was led by a peak fifth-stage Emperor called Shuai Hong, one of the four strongest guards of Huang Tianji. Shuai Hong was extremely handsome. His face looked like it was sculpted, and his eyes were as bright as the brightest star. He stood tall and straight, looking full of vigor with his azure armor and halberd.

A group of about a dozen disciples of different cultivation levels was following him, and they held the absolute advantage in the battle. As far as they were concerned, Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen were as good as theirs. Thus, they were completely at ease, exposing their plan without care. Little had Shuai Hong imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would arrive and overhear their conversation.

"Xuefen, looks like we have no choice but to leave early," said Pan Yun with a bitter smile.

"I cannot accept withdrawing just like this. I want to try fighting," said Yuan Xuefen stubbornly.

Pan Yun clenched his teeth and said, "I'll cover your retreat. I never hoped to enter the top 100 anyway."

He used a defensive technique unique to him and erected a barrier before Yuan Xuefen, trying to create an opportunity for her to flee.

"You overestimate yourself. Neither of you can hope to escape. Get them both!" commanded Shuai Hong with a disdainful sneer.

Suddenly, a voice rang out, "Are you capable of getting them both, though?"

Before Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen, a figure appeared out of nowhere.

When the two saw the newcomer, joy covered their faces. They exclaimed, "Overlord!"

Shuai Hong's pupils shrank when he saw Xiang Shaoyun. His halberd lashed out as he roared, "Attack with your full strength and take them down at all cost!"

Shuai Hong was very clear that if they couldn't defeat Xiang Shaoyun with a rapid attack, they would be the ones to flee in the end. Before they could attack, Money attacked from behind them. His strong and sturdy body swept about, sending several disciples flying.

On the other side, Xiang Shaoyun met Shuai Hong's attack with a domineering punch. The fist crushed through Shuai Hong's attack before striking his chest, blasting him away.

The other Royal Army members failed to surround Xiang Shaoyun because Money's sneak attack had caught them by surprise. As for Shuai Hong, he had been sent flying with a single punch, causing their morale dropped. Regardless, they were all genius cultivators who would not flee just because of lowered morale. They used their full strength, exposing one trump card after another to resist Xiang Shaoyun and Money.

Their strength was rather impressive. If this was half a year ago, Xiang Shaoyun would have had a hard time dealing with them. But now, he could suppress them completely.

Xiang Shaoyun moved into their midst, shifting the energy in his fists to a green energy that made each punch of his seem like the attack of an ancient tree. He looked like he was punching randomly, but it also seemed like he could predict all their movements in advance. He proceeded to wreak chaos among them.

Money, with his recent growth in strength, trashed a few of their opponents. The Royal Army members did not lack quality armor and weapons, and thus, they weren't completely helpless. However, the advantage they had established earlier was completely destroyed.

The only thought they had in mind right now was to escape. Otherwise, they would either be killed or forced to withdraw from the battleground. Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to show them any mercy. He relied on his ultimate speed and trashed the Royal Army members. They were completely helpless against him.

"Xiang Shaoyun is actually this strong? We need to retreat, or this will be it for us!" said Shuai Hong. His earlier confidence was nowhere to be seen, and he started fleeing.

Unfortunately for him, a nearby flower suddenly bloomed and swallowed him just as he started fleeing. Shuai Hong was too focused on fleeing and had not expected to be ingested by a flower. He was forced to attack with his full power to destroy the flower.

That tiny delay gave Xiang Shaoyun the time to finish up with the others before rushing toward him. Without holding anything back, Xiang Shaoyun stomped on Shuai Hong's face.

"AHHH!"

Shuai Hong felt like his entire nose had been destroyed, an intense pain assaulting him as blood sprayed out of his nose.

With one foot on Shuai Hong's chest, Xiang Shaoyun asked, "What did you mean earlier when you said that the Overlord Legion was the target for cleanup?"

With a stubborn look, Shuai Hong said, "I won't tell you anything."

"Then that leaves you with only one option," said Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

"Yes, I choose to say goodbye," said Shuai Hong, howling with laughter. He crushed his protective jade, and Xiang Shaoyun could only watch on as his prisoner vanished right under his nose.

Shuai Hong was a fifth-stage Emperor, someone strong enough to get onto the Dragon Phoenix List. For him to unhesitatingly give up and withdraw from the battleground, he was quite a resolute person.

"You think I can't figure anything out without you?" Xiang Shaoyun sneered as he returned to his previous position.

Money, Pan Yun, and Yuan Xuefen had the remaining Royal Army members under control. A small number of them had been able to withdraw using their protective jades.

"I'll give you all one chance. Tell me what's going on, or I will kill you all," demanded Xiang Shaoyun coldly.

They trembled when they sensed his thick murderous intent. Some of them were unwilling to withdraw from the battleground this simply, so they started speaking. It turned out that the Royal Army and the Flaming Sun had joined hands to clear the Overlord Legion from the battleground.

Xiang Shaoyun's face turned ghastly when he heard their explanation. He commanded, "All of you, withdraw immediately."

"You promised to spare us! You're breaking our trust!" said one of them unhappily.

"I am already being merciful by not killing you, yet you're here talking about trust with me?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he gave the person who had spoken a kick.

Bang!

Chapter 838: The Overlord Has a Lot of Tricks up His Sleeve

When all the Royal Army members withdrew from the battleground, Xiang Shaoyun looked at Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen and asked, "Why are there only two of you?"

"Overlord, we haven't found anyone else," said Pan Yun.

"Take one day to heal up. After that, we will go look for the others," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen did not waste any time and immediately started healing. Xiang Shaoyun shot them a glance before using the profundity of wood to create a concentration of pure wood energy. The wood energy slowly permeated their bodies. The two sensed something, and they opened their eyes to look at Xiang Shaoyun in confusion.

Xiang Shaoyun said nonchalantly, "Focus on healing and don't think of anything else."

They now knew that what they felt was done by Xiang Shaoyun, so they stopped thinking and focused on healing again. The wood energy Xiang Shaoyun used this time did not have a clear healing effect like what he had done for the three birds, but it still helped to accelerate their recovery, and it was one of the ways one could use the profundity of wood.

Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling that if he could deepen his understanding, he would be able to push his comprehension on the recovery aspect of the profundity of wood to the limit.

In the blink of an eye, a day passed. Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen woke up from their meditation.

"Thank you, Overlord," they stood up and said respectfully.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "We are brothers and sisters. There is no need to say all these polite words. Let's go. Time to look for the others."

He took the lead and walked in a certain direction. Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen followed him as they mused inwardly, The overlord sure has a lot of tricks up his sleeve.

They were well aware that with their healing capabilities, recovering to about 80 percent of their optimal state in a day was not possible. They would be able to recover up to 50 percent at most. With Xiang Shaoyun's assistance, they had upped their recovery by at least 30 percent. That was truly shocking.

One should never look down on the 30 percent increase. In moments of life and death, time was essential. In their eyes, Xiang Shaoyun became even more deep and unmeasurable.

Xiang Shaoyun did not care about what they were thinking. He scanned his surroundings with the senses of his Nether Soul Domain and used the profundity of wood to fuse with the forest, clearly sensing all plants in the area.

The devilish plants were extremely good at disguising themselves. At one glance, a devilish plant would look the same as an ordinary plant, and they would lie in wait to unleash a fatal attack when one least expected it.

Relying on his sharp senses, Xiang Shaoyun slaughtered all the devilish plants he came across, not giving them a chance to launch any sneak attacks. Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen weren't even given a chance to do anything. They felt somewhat embarrassed to be watching and doing nothing as they traveled.

After all, they were the subordinates and should be the ones charging ahead. But now, the leader was the one charging ahead, causing them to feel extremely ashamed. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun soon allowed them to go ahead. He did not do so because he was tired of taking the lead. Rather, he had a sudden flash of inspiration he needed to focus on.

He had discovered that whenever he killed a devilish plant, pure wood energy and devilish energy would leak from the dead plants. When he absorbed the energy, he found that it was extremely beneficial for him. This area already contained dense ambient wood energy. However, the wood energy from the dead plants was much denser.

Thus, Xiang Shaoyun started absorbing the energy from the dead plants, growing his wood and devilish energies. This could be considered an unexpected gain. Thus, he allowed Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen to take the lead while he immersed himself in absorbing energy.

Of course, he was also doing so to allow Pan Yun and Yuan Xuefen to gather more points. He could see that the two worked together well. Pan Yun would focus on defending while Yuan Xuefen would focus on attacking.

During the process, they were also able to gather some king and emperor medicines, further enriching themselves. After about five days, they encountered a group of about a dozen Overlord Legion members.

This group had yet to encounter any Flaming Sun or Royal Army members. But some of them had already been forced to withdraw by crushing their protective jades. After all, the devilish plants weren't easy opponents. Any carelessness could be fatal.

After meeting up with them, Xiang Shaoyun's confidence increased. He was hoping he could encounter other factions so he could eliminate those factions' people.

Not far away from Xiang Shaoyun's group, Tang Longfei and Ning Wenhuan were leading a group of about 30 people as they ran from two different groups.

The two groups were none other than the members from the Flaming Sun and the Royal Army. There were about 50 of them in total, holding a complete advantage over the Overlord Legion people.

Fortunately, among the Overlord Legion's group were Mu Qingyu and Wang Xin. Both were fifth-stage Emperors, allowing them to withstand the attacks of the Flaming Sun and Royal Army members while fleeing.

The chase seemed extremely intense. The occasional sneak attack from the devilish plants further increased the chaos.

The person leading the Flaming Sun group was Li Li. She had always been low profile and was extremely loyal to Yu Ziyang. She had an impressive cultivation speed and was already a sixth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. She was comparable with An Lulu the Lady Violence.

The Royal Army group was led by a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert. Working together, Tang Longfei and the rest were having a hard time even escaping.

"Run, everyone! Don't get tangled up! We will have our revenge after finding the overlord and Deputy Commander Ouyang," said Tang Longfei.

"Hehe, you better crush your protective jades and leave, or all of you will suffer," said Li Li with an indifferent smile.

She attacked unceasingly, forcing Tang Longfei to retreat again and again. She demonstrated a formidable combat prowess that caused even the surrounding devilish plants to move out of her way.

Even with Wang Xin assisting Tang Longfei, the two were still not her match. As for Mu Qingyu, he was busy dealing with the fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm expert from the Royal Army and was unable to help the others.

A few people from the Overlord Legion were forced to crush their protective jades one after another, and some were able to forcefully escape. Finally, Li Li's whip struck Tang Longfei's chest, tearing his armor apart. He spat blood and collapsed onto the ground.

Wang Xin wasn't doing very well either. He was kicked in the stomach and was currently vomiting on the ground.

"Deputy commander of the Overlord Legion? Nothing special," said Li Li with contempt, ready to launch her final attack.

"Fine," Tang Longfei sighed as he prepared to crush his protective jade as well.

Suddenly, an indifferent voice rang out, "Is that so? Why don't you come meet the commander, then?"

Chapter 839: Defeating Li Li

The voice felt like it was heavenly music in Tang Longfei's ears. He exclaimed in excitement, "Overlord!"

As for Li Li, her expression turned unsightly. However, she still wasn't afraid since her strength had also grown greatly recently. Without any hesitation, she attacked Tang Longfei, trying to finish him off before doing anything else.

But before her whip could strike Tang Longfei, a silhouette appeared before her and caught her whip in his hand. The whip's lash was insanely powerful, capable of threatening even a peak Emperor. And yet, the newcomer was able to catch it with bare hands, greatly alarming Li Li. The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun.

"Get over here," Xiang Shaoyun roared as he pulled and dragged Li Li toward him.

She was naturally unwilling to be caught so easily. Using all her strength, she planted her feet into the ground, trying to stop herself from being pulled. However, it seemed like her struggle was completely pointless, and her body continued approaching Xiang Shaoyun at a rapid speed, her buried feet leaving two deep trenches on the ground.

Her expressions shifted several times as she quickly focused her energy into the whip and roared, "Let go!"

The energy she directed into the whip was powerful, and an ordinary person would not be able to endure it. However, Xiang Shaoyun seemed completely unaffected. He channeled his own energy into the whip as well, and the two energies clashed with the whip as the medium.

Several muffled sounds rang out, and the whip snapped into several parts. The impact blasted Li Li away. Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to spare her, so his body blurred as he reappeared above her. His foot lashed out.

He showed no mercy despite facing a great beauty, aiming his kicks at her vitals. Fortunately for Li Li, after being kicked twice, the Flaming Sun members arrived to back her up, preventing Xiang Shaoyun from continuing the torture.

Xiang Shaoyun snorted coldly, "You were trying to bully my Overlord Legion for having fewer numbers, right? All of you can leave the battleground."

Xiang Shaoyun was already unhappy with the Flaming Sun and the Royal Army for what had happened earlier. With a roar, a saber appeared in his hand. Using human saber unity, he attacked in all directions.

He was going to let these people bleed, lest they not know the price for offending the Overlord Legion.

Since Xiang Shaoyun focused on too many different aspects of cultivation, he had never gotten the chance to study the second stage of saber intent. He was still stuck at the peak of the first stage, but that was enough for him to defeat them all.

In any case, the remaining Overlord Legion members still had decent strength, so the two sides were now evenly matched. Xiang Shaoyun swung his saber continuously, instantly causing several people to bleed and wail miserably.

If it wasn't for the fact that Xiang Shaoyun had been holding back since they were all fellow disciples, he would have outright killed or crippled them. Apart from Li Li, who was still somewhat strong, the others were nothing before Xiang Shaoyun.

Fear filled the Flaming Sun and Royal Army members as they started fleeing in a disorderly fashion. Those failing to escape crushed their protective jades, desperately trying to escape Xiang Shaoyun, who was akin to a death god.

Li Li was extremely sullen. She was unwilling to withdraw, so she clenched her teeth and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, I challenge you to a duel!"

Once, she represented the Flaming Sun and tried to recruit Xiang Shaoyun but was rejected. She had subsequently created some troubles for Xiang Shaoyun, but he had survived them all. And now, it was finally the time for them to have a decisive battle.

As a wood cultivator, she had an advantage in their current environment. Even if Xiang Shaoyun seemed stronger than she had expected, she did not fear dueling him here. A green sword appeared in her hand. She became one with her sword and sent repeated sword attacks forward, surrounding Xiang Shaoyun with sword energies.

The sword energies were incredibly sharp, leaving deep cuts everywhere in the area. They were powerful enough to threaten peak Emperors. Xiang Shaoyun had just sent several people flying away when he felt the sword energies coming from his back. He wasn't able to dodge in time, so he turned and swept with his saber.

River of Corpses!

The attack seemed casual, but it emanated an intense killing intent. Bolts of lightning shot from the saber, instantly destroying the sword energies before continuing toward Li Li. She retreated again and again, swinging her sword repeatedly. However, the saber energies seemed endless, coming for her untiringly.

Skyshaking Green Rainbow!

With a roar, Li Li formed a green rainbow that seemed like it had appeared from the distant horizon. The rainbow clashed with Xiang Shaoyun's lightning saber energies. This was Li Li's trump card, yet it only barely stopped the saber before the impact blasted her far away.

She nimbly turned around and started fleeing at her maximum speed. Even as she fled, she left a warning behind, "Xiang Shaoyun, the holy son will not spare you."

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to give chase, but he found to his astonishment that her aura had vanished completely. It seemed Li Li was rather impressive in terms of preserving her own life.

Even if he tried giving chase, he wouldn't be able to determine in which direction she had fled. Thus, he forgot about chasing her. In any case, they would have a chance to meet again if they both remained on the battleground.

With Li Li escaping, the remaining Flaming Sun and Royal Army members became helpless. Those capable of escaping fled, while those who couldn't crushed their jades. Soon, the battle ended. There were about 30 Overlord Legion members left.

Before this, some of them had been forced to crush their jades, and some others had been separated from the group while escaping. Even so, with their current number, they could already protect themselves in the battleground. At the very least, it was much better than fighting alone.

Xiang Shaoyun wanted to let Tang Longfei and the others recover somewhat before they went looking for the others, but Tang Longfei told him something that forced him to lead the others and start traveling in a rush.

Regardless of the authenticity of the information, it was a great opportunity for the Overlord Legion members. They had to give it a try. What information was it exactly that Xiang Shaoyun placed so much importance on?

Chapter 840: The Overlord Is Way Too Scary

Danger was everywhere in the primary-grade Dragon Phoenix Battleground. Apart from the numerous devilish plants, there were also some peculiar beasts good at camouflage in the area. The many disciples were having a hard time guarding against everything. Every single day, some of them would be eliminated from the battleground. Of course, some of them had also encountered fortuitous encounters.

For example, Tang Longfei had discovered a place that seemed to be hiding some treasures. However, there were too many powerful devilish plants in the area. He was nearly killed there, but the potential treasures to be gained were too attractive, so Tang Longfei told Xiang Shaoyun about it. He managed to catch Xiang Shaoyun's interest, and they thus headed over with the others.

A day later, Tang Longfei brought the group to a lush mountain ridge. Pointing forward, he said, "It's this mountain. I guess that there is a paradise hidden within it. Perhaps there is a great secret, too."

"How are you sure?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"I'm confident I'm right. I was teleported right into the mountain ridge. At that time, I discovered some clues. If it wasn't for the large number of devilish plants chasing after me, I would have explored the place," said Tang Longfei confidently.

"Since that is the case, let us kill our way in. We can also help everyone gain more points that way," said Xiang Shaoyun with no hesitation.

He then led the Overlord Legion into the mountain ridge. Instead of brutishly charging straight in, he extended the senses of his Nether Soul Domain and picked the best route to enter.

"Move in two rows. I'll take the front, and Big Brother Tang will cover the rear. Keep your defenses up and kill anything we encounter at full force," commanded Xiang Shaoyun.

The group did as told, separating into two rows. They attacked the devilish plants they encountered, their barrage akin to a natural disaster, blasting the numerous devilish plants apart.

Naturally, things wouldn't be so simple. Numerous murderous vines started growing toward them, trying to bind their legs. These were extremely high-level vines. Otherwise, they wouldn't be so tough. The vines could act as rare sovereign-grade materials if one managed to harvest some of them.

Fortunately, the disciples had excellent weapons as well. After some struggle, they severed the vines, but of course, the process wasn't exactly smooth.

With his senses, Xiang Shaoyun picked up on the origin of the vines. He commanded Yuan Xuefen, "Xuefen, shoot in that direction, aiming for the spot three kilometers away."

Yuan Xuefen pulled her bow and aimed her arrow at the directed position.

Bang!

As her energy arrows bombarded the highlighted area, the vines started shrinking back. Instead of wasting more time, the group continued their advance.

Along the way, they encountered man-eating flowers, devil trees, and some poisonous plants. The concentration of enemies here was much higher than in other places. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's multipurpose senses, it would have been much harder for this group of about 30 people to enter so deeply.

Even so, they had paid a price to reach this far. Three of them were seriously injured, and about a dozen had suffered light injuries. It was evident the group had faced intense battles.

At this time, they were at a crucial juncture of their advance. They were surrounded by many man-eating flowers and murderous vines that were far higher leveled than the plants they had previously encountered. Not even a Sovereign could hope to easily get through.

Not only could the man-eating flowers here swallow humans, but they could also spew poisonous mist that could induce illusions, sealing one's combat abilities before swallowing their opponent.

"Flame attacks, full power! Everyone else, coordinate with the flame users!" Xiang Shaoyun commanded decisively.

He activated the profundity of flame and unleashed Yun Flame, creating a dreadful sea of flame. The others also did their part, cleaning up the plants in the area. The plants here were much more difficult to deal with. Although their attacks were simple, they were powerful and numerous. Withstanding these plants would be no easy feat.

Some of the group were forced to spare some of their attention protecting the injured members, giving the vines a chance to wrap around them. If they weren't able to crush the protective jades in time, they would have been killed on the spot.

Xiang Shaoyun's flame might be fierce, but he found it hard to clear the poison spewed by the flowers. Clenching his teeth, he shouted, "Pull some distance from me."

He then soared into the sky before unleashing his lightning power. The Overlord Skyslaying Saber appeared in his hand as he summoned lightning bolts from the sky. Instantly, the lightning bolts rained down, creating a sea of lightning. At the same time, he unleashed a terrifying tornado upon the ground as well, wreaking absolute havoc with the storm he had created.

The sight greatly shocked the Overlord Legion members. If they hadn't pulled away in time after Xiang Shaoyun's warning, they would have been erased by the storm as well.

The overlord is way too scary, thought all of them.

The combat prowess Xiang Shaoyun demonstrated had exceeded the level of an Emperor, reaching the level of a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator. When the storm was done ravaging the area, tranquility returned.

Since the man-eating flowers and murderous vines were essentially plants, their defenses weren't too impressive. Thus, they were helpless against the absolute destruction wrecked by the storm.

The group managed to pass through all obstacles, finally arriving at the other side of the mountain. There, they saw a tunnel glowing with a multicolored radiance. Whoever saw the multicolored glow would be attracted to it, feeling like some treasure had to be hidden within.

The Overlord Legion members grew excited, and without even waiting for Xiang Shaoyun's command, they charged over.

Suddenly, a bad feeling rose within Xiang Shaoyun. He couldn't explain the feeling, but he shouted without the slightest hesitation, "Get back here!"

At times, the more attractive something was, the more danger there would be. A few of those charging stopped, but a few continued right into the tunnel.

"Overlord, what's wrong?" Tang Longfei asked.

"There is definitely some secret to this place. Get nearer. I need to make more observations," said Xiang Shaoyun with a frown.

He slowly approached the tunnel and extended his senses. However, the rays of light obstructed his senses, making it impossible for him to figure out what was hidden within the tunnel.

"This is tricky. I can't see through it at all," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh.

"Overlord, I think we should try exploring it," suggested someone.

Some others voiced their agreement. It was obvious they all wanted to explore the tunnel.

After some hesitation, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Fine. Keep your strongest defenses up at all times. We will go in together."