

Overlord 841

Chapter 841: Psychedelic Flower

The glow radiating out of the tunnel looked incredibly alluring, as if a natural phenomenon was occurring within the light. Anyone who saw this sight would immediately assume that some heavenly treasure was hidden in there.

Leading everyone, Xiang Shaoyun approached cautiously. When the multicolored radiance first touched them, they did not feel anything weird. But as they continued onward, they found that they were now all alone, their companions nowhere to be seen.

Xiang Shaoyun had a bad feeling. He pushed his Nether Soul Domain's senses to the limit, trying to figure out his surroundings. Alas, he found nothing and couldn't discover anything. Without any hesitation, he activated his Goldplates, surrounding himself with layers of gold defensive barriers to protect against any surprises that might be waiting for him.

"Big Brother Tang, where are you guys?" Xiang Shaoyun shouted.

He received no answer. He quickly stepped back, prioritizing leaving before doing anything else. However, no matter how he retreated, he couldn't leave. It was as if he had been permanently trapped within the lights.

To make things worse, the lights suddenly moved and started enveloping Xiang Shaoyun, completely binding him. He struggled, but he was unable to break free.

"Piss off!" Xiang Shaoyun erupted with all his strength and even summoned some lightning bolts from the sky. Alas, nothing he did worked.

He felt fear. The lights weren't hurting him, but they had him completely trapped. This did not make any sense to him.

After an unknown amount of time, Xiang Shaoyun's body stopped moving. Finally, he realized the kind of situation he was in. With all the other Overlord Legion members, they were all tightly wrapped like cocoons, hanging before an odd plant.

The plant looked like it was a devil vine, and it had a multicolored flower at the middle of its body. The multicolored rays of light came from that flower. Xiang Shaoyun and the others were currently wrapped up in multiple layers of vines.

From far away, the plant looked like some sort of octopus, with the vines being its tentacles and the flower being its body.

Is this a psychedelic flower? Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed inwardly.

The psychedelic flower was an extremely rare plant, born with the ability to emit rays of light that could induce illusions, causing its victims to lose their rationality, allowing it to capture and devour them. This was a flower feared by many.

Each psychedelic flower had a bright illusory core located at the very middle of the flower. The core could cleanse one's mind and body, remove all hidden injuries and diseases, and increase one's resistance toward illusions.

One should never look down on these functions. The higher one's cultivation, the more important these functions were. Take the first function for example. Cleansing one's mind would grant great benefits during breakthroughs. Cleansing one's body could remove the impurities from one's body and improve one's physique. Hidden injuries and diseases were present in everyone. One might look completely healed up from any injuries one might have suffered, but some hidden injuries might stay stubbornly, eventually affecting one's breakthrough.

Removing these hidden injuries and diseases would be beneficial for one's cultivation path long-term. As for the increased resistance toward illusions, it was essentially a strengthening of one's soul. It would allow a cultivator to clearly see any illusions they had fallen into.

If they could kill this psychedelic flower and obtain its bright illusory core, they would profit greatly. However, even escaping seemed hard, let alone killing the psychedelic flower. The flower seemed completely immune to anything they could do.

Two of them were sent toward the flower. The petals opened, revealing a mouth. The flower was clearly going to swallow them. The two were so scared they teared up. They quickly crushed their protective jades and withdrew from the battleground.

Failing to swallow the pair, the psychedelic flower drew two other people over, trying to swallow them instead. The two struggled as best as they could to no avail. Thus, they were forced to crush their protective jades.

Xiang Shaoyun's brain raced as he tried coming up with a solution. If he failed to think of something, all the Overlord Legion members would be forced to withdraw from the battleground. Although Yun Flame was powerful, it still wasn't strong enough to burn the vines wrapped around him. It was clear how high-tier this flower was.

Xiang Shaoyun could no longer afford to hide his trump cards. He drew the Radiant Saint Sword from his astral cosmos sea and forcefully controlled it with his thoughts. He then cut himself free. The Radiant Saint Sword was worthy of being a saint-grade sword. It was sharp enough to slice through the vines like a hot knife cutting through butter.

The moment he cut himself free, he held the Radiant Saint Sword and started swinging.

Swish! Swish!

The sword swept everywhere, cutting everyone else loose as well. Finally, the psychedelic flower sensed that something was happening. The glow on its bud shifted and became even more psychedelic, as though it was trying to capture them all again.

Xiang Shaoyun naturally wouldn't give it a chance to do anything. He slashed at the flower, sending forth a bright sword energy that sliced the flower in half, causing the flower to start withering. He rushed forward and continued swinging his sword, cutting the flower over and over, causing it to fully wither away.

After killing the psychedelic flower, Xiang Shaoyun plucked the bright illusory core from it. The moment he held the core in his hand, a bewitching fragrance drilled into his nostrils. His head spun, and he collapsed onto the ground, giving everyone a fright. They rushed over to check on him.

One of them was more knowledgeable than the others. He said, "Don't worry. The overlord has inhaled some fragrance from the flower's core. Wait until the effect wears off, and he will be fine again."

Everyone heaved a breath of relief. If a mishap happened to the overlord, they wouldn't know what to do.

"Clean up the battlefield. These vines are excellent refining materials," commanded Tang Longfei.

The others started harvesting the flower's petals and vines, not forgetting to contribute a portion of their gains to the Overlord Legion.

At this time, Pan Yun's voice rang out, "Huh? Everyone, look! Seems like there's an ancient stele there?"

Everyone heard Pan Yun, and just as they were about to get a closer look, a voice rang out, "Looks like I don't need to work hard for this, after all. The ancient stele is actually hidden at a place like this. Overlord Legion members, you may all get lost now. This place no longer has anything to do with you."

Chapter 842: Beheading Huo Xudong

The newcomers had appeared abruptly. Just from the fact that the Overlord Legion members hadn't been able to detect their approach, their strength was clear.

The Overlord Legion members were shocked, and they quickly looked toward the source of the voice. Huo Xudong, who was usually low profiled, appeared before them.

He seemed to be alone, yet he was filled with confidence. His confidence was backed by his strength as he had recently reached peak sixth-stage Emperor Realm. He was much stronger than the Overlord Legion members he was facing. Furthermore, he also had some powerful trump cards up his sleeve. Of course, his biggest source of confidence was the fact that Xiang Shaoyun seemed to have been incapacitated.

With the threat of Xiang Shaoyun removed, Huo Xudong could easily deal with everyone. The ancient stele was his goal. There were many ancient steles hidden in the primary-grade battleground. Each stele contained a different secret, and the steles could be considered the academy's reward to the students for tempering themselves at the battleground.

Those capable of getting through the numerous obstacles to locate a stele would obtain the secret recorded on the stele. The steles hid various secrets, ranging from battle techniques to secret techniques. In short, the disciples would not be disappointed by what they found.

Of course, not many people knew about the steles. Only the personal disciples of the elders were secretly told about them, such as Huo Xudong. Thus, it wasn't surprising that he was aware of this secret.

Tang Longfei had long heard about Huo Xudong from Xiang Shaoyun. Back then during their trip to the Devil Domain, they still weren't aware of how monstrously talented Huo Xudong was. He had to change the way he looked at Huo Xudong.

"Everyone, attack together!" Tang Longfei commanded, showing no fear. There were still about 20 of them. They had a good chance of defeating Huo Xudong if they worked together.

"Hehe, you think I'll fight all of you by myself? Naive," said Huo Xudong with a sneer before taking out a battle puppet.

The puppet was made from the corpse of a goldman. It possessed the combat prowess of a Sovereign and was previously prepared to deal with Xiang Shaoyun. The expressions of the Overlord Legion members underwent great changes when they saw the puppet. They could all sense that it wasn't an ordinary puppet.

"Take the overlord with us. We're leaving," Tang Longfei changed his mind.

Currently, Xiang Shaoyun was unconscious. It would be unwise to risk it and fight Huo Xudong. They might suffer much greater losses doing so.

However, Huo Xudong sneered and said, "You can all leave, but Xiang Shaoyun must remain."

"Impossible!" Tang Longfei and the others replied firmly.

"That is not up to you," said Huo Xudong with a disdainful tone. He then commanded his puppet to attack.

Xiang Shaoyun suddenly opened his eyes, stood up, and said, "Since you want me to stay, I'll stay."

Everyone was given a fright. None of them had expected Xiang Shaoyun to suddenly regain consciousness. Had he been faking it all along?

In truth, Xiang Shaoyun had really fainted for a bit. However, the psychedelic power wasn't too effective against his filthless soul. Furthermore, he had the help of the Nether Dragon Soul Headband. He was able to break free from the psychedelic effect promptly.

Of course, he had never expected that by fainting for a bit, he would be able to lure this enemy out into the open. He was greatly pleased.

"Damn it! You were actually faking it?" Huo Xudong cursed as he started fleeing with his puppet.

He did not know how strong Xiang Shaoyun was exactly, but he knew for a fact that Xiang Shaoyun could easily kill him even with his goldman puppet around.

"If I allow you to escape again, I will spell my name in reverse from now on," declared Xiang Shaoyun as he rushed forth at full speed. A beam shot out of his finger, aiming for the back of Huo Xudong's head.

Huo Xudong did not dare to look down on his enemy. He immediately pushed his defenses to the peak and slapped behind him, trying to swat the beam away.

It was soon revealed that the beam attack was merely a feint. Xiang Shaoyun's figure blurred as he shifted his focus onto the puppet. The Radiant Saint Sword appeared in his hand as he swung at the puppet. With a flash, the puppet was sliced in half before anyone could react.

All of Huo Xudong's hair stood on end when he noticed his puppet's fate. He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would actually possess such a sharp sword. He lacked the courage to even try to salvage his puppet, and he fled as fast as he could.

If not even the puppet could survive a slash from that sword, how was he supposed to survive? Unfortunately for him, he wasn't as fast as Xiang Shaoyun. Before he could go far, Xiang Shaoyun appeared before him like a specter. Without any mercy, the Radiant Saint Sword swept out.

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

A pure white radiance spread far and wide, the blinding radiance forcing Huo Xudong to shut his eyes. Sensing Xiang Shaoyun's intention to kill, Huo Xudong considered crushing his protective jade to withdraw.

I refuse to believe he can really kill me! he roared inwardly as he changed his mind and decided not to withdraw. Instead, a high-tier shield appeared before him.

It wasn't an ordinary shield. It was a top-tier sovereign shield, and not even high-tier sovereign weapons could penetrate its defense. Huo Xudong was confident the shield could withstand Xiang Shaoyun's sword.

Alas, he had overestimated his shield and underestimated Xiang Shaoyun's sword. He paid for his lapse of judgment with his life. Like a hot knife through butter, the Radiant Saint Sword sliced through the shield before reaching Huo Xudong, splitting him into two. His blood sprayed out, presenting a bloody and shocking scene.

The Overlord Legion members gulped when they saw that scene, a chill creeping up their spines. They had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to actually kill. It was clear how much he hated Huo Xudong.

Xiang Shaoyun's feet finally touched the ground again. Several drops of blood had landed on his face. As he wiped the blood off, he said coldly, "What I hate most is betrayal, and this is the price of betrayal."

Those words were meant for the dead Huo Xudong, but in the ears of the Overlord Legion members, it was akin to a warning. They grew nervous and started dreading Xiang Shaoyun. They vowed to never betray him, lest they suffer such a miserable fate.

The current Xiang Shaoyun was akin to a god of slaughter. The murderous spirit of an expert had been forged within him. His murderous intent did not originate from his hostility toward Huo Xudong alone. The changes he had undergone after what the women had done had played a part, allowing the devilish energy in him to transform him in a way that filled him with more ruthlessness and decisiveness.

Chapter 843: Secret Reversal Technique

Secret Reversal Technique.

This was the secret technique recorded on the ancient stele they found. It was a secret healing technique, requiring a high proficiency in the power of wood before one could cultivate it.

Xiang Shaoyun was overjoyed when he saw the Secret Reversal Technique. He had just comprehended the profundity of wood not long ago and was looking for a wood elemental battle technique. Although he had yet to find a battle technique, he had instead obtained a secret technique, which was much more valuable.

After all, a secret technique was much rarer than a battle technique. The Secret Reversal Technique would allow his comprehension of the profundity of wood to deepen, slowly bringing his comprehension to perfection.

There were also a few wood cultivators among their current group. They greatly coveted the Secret Reversal Technique, and they wished that Xiang Shaoyun would give them a chance to cultivate it as well. But if Xiang Shaoyun decided not to share, they wouldn't be able to do anything either.

"Everyone, memorize this Secret Reversal Technique. Even if you can't use it for yourself, you can keep it and pass it on to your descendants in the future," said Xiang Shaoyun magnanimously.

Since this Secret Reversal Technique was placed here in the battleground, Xiang Shaoyun knew it was something prepared for the academy's disciples. He had never planned to keep it for himself. Instead, he was using it to win the hearts of his subordinates.

After memorizing the technique, Xiang Shaoyun started cultivating it. The mantra of the Secret Reversal Technique was abstruse and hard to understand. However, it couldn't pose Xiang Shaoyun any difficulty, and he quickly understood it.

The Secret Reversal Technique detailed the usage method of wood energy, laying out the ways of manipulating one's wood energy and combining it with the world's ambient wood energy. By doing so, one would be able to create an entirely different form of wood energy that could heal and stimulate life force, achieving the effect of returning life to a body.

It was also detailed how this technique would work both on the cultivator and those the cultivator used it on. However, without comprehending the profundity of wood, one would only be able to use this technique on oneself.

"You guys, come over here," Xiang Shaoyun called out to the several injured members of the group.

They arrived before him and stood respectfully, awaiting his command.

"Sit down and relax yourselves. Let me try out the Secret Reversal Technique," said Xiang Shaoyun.

They blanked out slightly before quickly doing as told. They were doubtful that Xiang Shaoyun could grasp the Secret Reversal Technique in such a short period. Little did they know, Xiang Shaoyun had already comprehended the profundity of wood. Even without the Secret Reversal Technique, he could already heal others. With the Secret Reversal Technique, his healing capabilities would only grow.

With his comprehension of the profundity of wood, the understanding he gained from the divine tree of life, and the Secret Reversal Technique, he fused his wood energy with the natural wood energy around him. Both his hands flared out as he formed an odd series of motions with them, instantly creating a concentration of pure energy that formed a clump of green radiance in his palm. The people around him immediately felt a comfortable sensation.

Secret Reversal Technique!

Keeping the energy under control, Xiang Shaoyun lightly sprinkled the energy on the few people seated before him. The pure life force landed on them, and their wounds started healing. It was as though they had consumed some healing pills. Their injured internal organs felt extremely comfortable, their bodies soaked in an incredibly splendid sensation.

They focused on absorbing the life force, and after a short while, they had recovered considerably. This healing speed was much faster than their self-recovery. Moreover, their internal injuries had recovered by over 50 percent as well, and it was an astonishing speed.

"Thank you, Overlord," they said gratefully as they stood up.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and said, "We're brothers. Don't worry about it."

The other three wood cultivators were completely stunned. They had only memorized the mantra and couldn't even start to understand it, yet their overlord could already use it. The gap between them was truly massive.

They were all genius disciples. Even if Xiang Shaoyun had one or two more stars than them, that did not mean that he would have a comprehension capability that was much greater than theirs.

However, the reality was right before their eyes. They did not even know what words they could use to describe Xiang Shaoyun's genius, and they could only curse inwardly, The overlord is a freak!

Xiang Shaoyun looked at the three and smiled. "To grasp the Secret Reversal Technique, you need to first comprehend the profundity of wood. Otherwise, you won't be able to unleash this technique's true power."

He proceeded to share what he had learned with them without hiding anything. Although they would definitely return to their respective organizations upon graduation, Xiang Shaoyun did not mind. As far as he was concerned, they were currently his brothers. That alone was enough for him to share without reservation.

They were filled with gratitude after the sharing experience, and their loyalty toward him greatly improved. They had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would actually be this magnanimous. Not many people would be willing to do what he did.

The others were also shocked by Xiang Shaoyun's display of generosity. They were all genius cultivators. Although they currently belonged in the same faction, they were still, in a sense, competitors. They would all keep their trump cards and secrets for themselves. That was an understandable selfishness that everyone possessed. And yet Xiang Shaoyun was sharing the secrets of profundity openly. One could say that he was too selfless.

Was he truly so selfless? Not really. He personally felt that he was merely being a bit generous and wasn't at the level of being selfless. In any case, he wouldn't be truly selfless as the things he considered his would not be given up no matter what. He wouldn't mind letting blood flow if anyone coveted what he considered his.

This time, he had gained the bright illusory core and Secret Reversal Technique. One could say that he had profited greatly. While everyone else was still healing up, he swallowed the bright illusory core.

As the bright illusory core dissolved in his body, he started glowing with a multicolored radiance, looking mystical and divine. He felt extremely comfortable as his body was cleansed, his hidden injuries and diseases removed. His meridians and bones also became more durable. One could say that his entire body had been upgraded.

Apart from that, his filthless soul had also benefited greatly. Some random memory fragments suddenly surfaced in his soul. Initially, they were the memories of his childhood. His memories of these events had long blurred, but they were all resurfacing one after another. Ultimately, the memory fragments of a secret location surfaced. It was where he had obtained the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual.

Chapter 844: Big Black Nimbus

During Xiang Shaoyun's childhood, when he was still an eight-year-old naughty boy, he once went playing at a mountain near the Ziling Sect with a group of people from the sect. At that time, he rode a Demon King in order to experience the feeling of soaring through the air. However, they encountered the attack of a pack of demonic beasts. His mount fled in panic, ultimately bringing him into a random cave.

The cave was located at a unique location that was extremely hard to notice. As for Xiang Shaoyun and the Demon King, they seemed to have been called over against their wishes by some sort of power. Xiang Shaoyun was panic-stricken when he arrived at the cave, thinking that he had arrived at the dwelling of some powerful demonic beast. In truth, he had guessed right.

After his mount sensed the powerful demonic aura in the cave, it went limp in fear, losing the courage to even move. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he suddenly sensed the calling of something familiar. That familiar sensation caused his heart to calm.

He then heard the sounds of hoofs galloping, and a sturdy black figure appeared before him. Before he could get a clear look, the figure bit his clothes and lifted him into the cave. At that time, Xiang Shaoyun was still young. He had no idea what was hidden in the cave. The black figure seemed to be the cave's master. Carrying him, the black figure dashed wildly until they finally arrived at a spacious place deep inside.

There, the black figure finally placed Xiang Shaoyun onto the ground. It was then that he finally had a chance to take a clear look at the big fellow. It turned out that the big fellow was actually a demonic horse.

However, he was too young to see how different that horse was from other demonic horses. What struck him the most was that the horse was incredibly black. As a result, he named the big fellow Big Black.

However, if a knowledgeable person saw the horse, that person would definitely exclaim in astonishment, saying something like: "What a fine steed!"

The black horse was the best of the best; his four hoofs looked like they were stepping on clouds, looking incredibly dazzling. His jet-black coat gave one the irresistible urge to touch him, while his sturdy body and firm limbs demonstrated his prowess. His black mane was long, with a handful of hairs standing erect, looking more like a horn.

Back then, he had no idea how powerful the horse was. The only thing he knew was that the horse had suddenly spoken in the human tongue, addressing him as master. Xiang Shaoyun found it completely random. Why was this random, incredibly cool-looking horse suddenly calling him master?

He even wondered if he was born with so extraordinary a disposition that his mere presence had subdued a mighty steed like this, which seemed unlikely.

Big Black started telling Xiang Shaoyun about certain things, but he didn't even remember half of what the horse had told him since he was still a child. He had also fainted subsequently. But now, with the reemergence of his memory fragments, he was recalling all that had been said to him.

"Master, I have waited over 10,000 years for you. You have finally formed your tenth reincarnation imprint. This is worthy of celebration! I have been guarding the inheritance here for you all this time. You're still too young right now, so you won't be able to fully accept the entire inheritance. But since you're here, you can't leave empty handed. Just accept some basic inheritance for now. Upon adulthood, you will be able to understand your origins," said Big Black respectfully before lifting Xiang Shaoyun and placing him on a crude formation. Next, he activated the inheritance transmittance through the formation.

The clueless Xiang Shaoyun accepted the basic inheritance, receiving the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual. Unfortunately, he was too young and had no foundations in martial training. If it wasn't for the natural talent of his imperial nether bloodline, he would have forgotten both the techniques completely.

The mantra of the two techniques was clearly echoing in his mind. Apart from that, the complete Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique was also resounding in his mind. The three techniques were what the Overlord back then had established his legend with. Finally, they had been reunited with their rightful owner.

After accepting the inheritance, he had fainted. By the time he woke up, Big Black had already brought him out of the cave. He spent a few days playing around with Big Black and only left reluctantly after someone came looking for him.

"Big Black, can I still visit and play with you?" asked Xiang Shaoyun with the innocent tone of a child.

He felt a sense of closeness whenever he was with Big Black, and he enjoyed his time with Big Black greatly. It was as if they had known each other for a very long time, possessing a friendship he could not let go of.

"Don't worry. Go. I will be waiting here for your return, master. At that time, we will conquer the world together again!" said Big Black in a heroic manner.

With tears in his eyes, Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand and bade Big Black farewell. After Big Black returned to the cave, it disappeared. Even when the Ziling Sect people came looking subsequently, they had failed to find anything.

At the time, Xiang Shaoyun was unable to see that Big Black was actually only a phantom of consciousness. Now that he was recalling his past, he finally remembered that Big Black had long perished. By the time the medicinal effect of the bright illusory core ended, tears were streaming down Xiang Shaoyun's cheeks.

"Nimbus!" Xiang Shaoyun wailed.

Black Nimbus was his steed during his previous life and had perished during one of his many military campaigns. The Black Nimbus he saw in the cave was merely a remnant soul. He felt great pain in his heart, as though a dagger was slicing it.

One particular memory fragment had resurfaced in his mind earlier. Big Black had been torn apart trying to save him. Among the memories he had regained, that was the most painful memory.

"Overlord, are you fine?" Tang Longfei asked.

After calming his emotions, Xiang Shaoyun said, "I'm fine. Don't worry."

He now knew his inner heart, knew that his past might be much more complicated, after all. He could very well be the same Overlord that Devouring Ghost and Scarlet Flame Monarch spoke of. The two were most likely his subordinates from his previous life. He had yet to fully regain his

memories, but since he could now remember Big Black, it was only a matter of time before he recalled everything else.

His feelings were mixed, not knowing what to make of this revelation.

"So does reincarnation really exist? Or perhaps the remnant soul of my previous life has yet to fully disperse and has opted to be reborn in this body?" Xiang Shaoyun questioned himself repeatedly. Alas, even with the Light of Wisdom, he couldn't answer his questions. It was mostly because his current cultivation level was still too low.

After staying in a daze for a while, he sighed and muttered, "Forget it. Thinking about it won't help either. With the complete Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual in my grasp, I will be able to enter the Soul Foundation Realm easily."

Chapter 845: Stone Key

All along, the Heaven Conquering Overlord Manual and the Nine Overlord Skyslaying Saber Technique Xiang Shaoyun knew had been incomplete. Now that he had recalled their full versions, he had fixed the sole flaw of cultivating these techniques.

He had not imagined that the bright illusory core would actually possess such an effect. He was pleased with his gains.

"The Overlord is me, and I am the Overlord. Whatever relationship the previous life has with this life, the truth will eventually be revealed," muttered Xiang Shaoyun as he clenched his fists. "For now, I should focus on completing this mission."

He readjusted his state of mind and stopped thinking. Gathering the others, they continued on their journey.

In the coming days, Xiang Shaoyun led the Overlord Legion members as they hunted devilish plants, and their points rose rapidly. Occasionally, they would encounter other academy disciples, but Xiang Shaoyun had no interest in acting against them. Of course, any Flaming Sun and Royal Army members they met were eliminated without mercy.

Along the way, they also met the other Overlord Legion members, their group growing to a size of over 100 members. A sizable number of them had been gathered, but it was a pity that many of them had also been attacked and forced to leave the battleground.

As time passed, news of the Overlord Legion's rivalry with the Flaming Sun and Royal Army spread. The many disciples decided to wait and see, curious as to who would be the ultimate winner.

Of course, not many were optimistic about the Overlord Legion's chances. After all, the Flaming Sun and the Royal Army were joining hands against them. In terms of number, the Overlord Legion was at a great disadvantage.

That was the truth, as many Overlord Legion members were jointly attacked by the Flaming Sun and the Royal Army. Their numbers in the battleground continued declining steadily. To make things worse, there were also rumors that the Crushing Sky was also targeting the Overlord Legion. This rumor was being spread by the members of some other factions.

"Is the Crushing Sky really targeting us as well?" Xiang Shaoyun asked Shang Jifeng with a serious expression.

Shang Jifeng had just regrouped with them, and this rumor came from him as well. He nodded and said, "I am sure. I overheard the conversation of some Crushing Sky members while I was sneaking around. They are planning to take any opportunity to step on us while we're down. The only reason they aren't openly attacking is so the Sword Society won't get the chance to deal with them."

"So the Crushing Sky, the Flaming Sun, and the Royal Army have reached a consensus to act against us. They sure think highly of us," said Xiang Shaoyun, killing intent leaking out of his eyes.

Xiang Shaoyun did not find it surprising that the Crushing Sky would join in and target them as well. After all, he had offended An Lulu not long ago. She was probably here for revenge. There was nothing he could say about that. This was a battleground where the winner takes all. If the Overlord Legion really couldn't resist the pressure, their only option was to withdraw.

The battleground was not very small either. It would be very difficult to gather all the Overlord Legion members, so there was nothing Xiang Shaoyun could do. Dealing with all three of their enemies alone would be impossible. Their only option was to obtain an ally like the Sword Society if they wanted to have an advantage in this clash.

In a flash, half a year passed. Each day, some disciples would leave the battleground. As for those remaining, they had mostly regrouped with their respective factions and were starting to sweep through the devilish plants in the battleground. Everyone was accumulating points at a rapid rate.

Some had reaped great harvests, growing madly in strength.

The ancient steles in the battleground were found one after another. It was discovered that the contents of each stele differed completely from each other. Because of that, the temptation to find even more steles grew among the disciples.

During this period, the Overlord Legion gathered about 500 members. This was basically two-thirds of their members that had entered the battleground. The rest were either eliminated or still separated from the main group.

They had also found two additional steles, obtaining a saber technique and an odd description that did not seem to be a battle or cultivation technique. Accompanying the stele with the odd description was a stone key.

A sovereign-grade saber technique wasn't anything special for these disciples, but this particular saber technique they found was rather unique. It was a technique of great quality, known as the Seven Overlapping Waves Slash. It utilized the power of water, and there were seven levels to it.

It was said that when one reached the seventh level, a single slash could unleash the might of a tsunami. Opponents of the same cultivation level would have a hard time withstanding such an attack.

The only saber Xiang Shaoyun had was the Overlord Skyslaying Saber, mainly used to utilize lightning attacks. If he wanted to cultivate this technique, he needed a water elemental saber.

Instead of cultivating the technique, he decided to keep it in his mind. If he had a chance, he would cultivate it. If not, so be it. As for the stone key he had obtained from the other stele, it was interesting. Based on the description on the stele, this key was one of five existing keys. They could be used to unlock a secret room. As for what was stored within the room, it was left to their imagination.

Since the academy had split the key into five parts and made the entire thing seem so mysterious, the room definitely contained something important. Perhaps this was the battleground's final test, and one could gain great benefits within the room.

However, they had only accidentally found this one key after half a year. They had no idea where the other four keys were. Thus, it wouldn't be so easy to gain access to the room.

They had just located another stele. This stele also contained a stone key, but it was unfortunate that the key on the stele was missing. It was evident someone else had taken it.

"Looks like others know about the keys as well. I wonder if anyone will be able to gather all five keys in the end," muttered Xiang Shaoyun. "Big Brother Tang, get someone to spread the news that we have one of the stone keys."

"Won't that be too risky?" Tang Longfei asked.

It was certain that many people wanted to know about the secret of the stone keys. If they spread the news that they had one, they would attract unwanted attention. People would try robbing them of their key.

"Our number is big enough. Apart from the few factions daring to challenge us, nobody will dare to provoke us. By spreading the news, we can find out who else has a key. This will make it easier for us to rob the keys from others," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Just as Tang Longfei was about to reply, a disturbance broke out not far from them, and a group of people appeared before them.

When Xiang Shaoyun looked over, his face sank. With a look of displeasure, he commanded, "Let's leave."

Chapter 846: From Today Onward, the Glacier Palace Is No More

The newcomers were none other than Han Chenfei and the Han Clan sisters of the Glacier Palace. Behind them was a group of about 20 people. They looked rather pitiful in comparison with Xiang Shaoyun's large group.

Han Chenfei was the number two beauty of the academy with great rallying power. Unfortunately, she only recruited ice and water cultivators into her faction. Thus, her Glacier Palace had never been able to grow past a certain stage.

This time, the Glacier Palace had suffered heavy losses. Many of their members had been eliminated, while some were still missing. As the young palace master, she only had this small group of people by her side. If this continued, it was only a matter of time before the Glacier Palace

was completely eliminated from the battleground. As the leader, Han Chenfei would lose her prestige, and the Glacier Palace would continue declining.

Han Chenfei had not expected that she would encounter the Overlord Legion here. The Glacier Palace had a decent relationship with the Overlord Legion, and they once had a cooperative relationship. Thus, she naturally hoped to form an alliance with them.

However, the Overlord Legion actually left the moment they met. With her sharp eyes, Han Chenfei could see that Xiang Shaoyun was leading the group. She immediately shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, wait."

Xiang Shaoyun acted like he heard nothing and continued walking. Inwardly, he was still angry with Han Chenfei and the sisters. It wasn't that he was petty, but he was hurt pretty badly by what they had done.

Han Chenfei increased her speed and stood before Xiang Shaoyun. She said, "Xiang Shaoyun, I know you're still angry with us, but we are aware of our mistake. Will you accept my apology?"

This was the first time she was speaking in such a tone. A look of sadness covered her face as though she was on the verge of tears. When the Overlord Legion and Glacier Palace members saw it, they were filled with admiration toward Xiang Shaoyun as they thought, The Overlord lives up to his reputation. Even the number two beauty has yielded to him.

They all felt that Han Chenfei definitely harbored feelings for Xiang Shaoyun. Otherwise, she wouldn't act like this in front of him.

With complete indifference, Xiang Shaoyun said, "I accept your apology. We're still in the battleground, and we need to continue our hunt to earn more points. I don't have time to chat with you."

When Han Chenfei saw Xiang Shaoyun's attitude, she felt even sadder as she asked, "Don't you see me as a friend anymore?"

"Hehe, friend? I, Xiang Shaoyun, am not worthy," said Xiang Shaoyun with a ruthless sneer.

He then walked away, completely ignoring Han Chenfei.

"Young Master Xiang, please don't be angry with big sister. Blame us. We can accept any punishment," pleaded Han Qianwei.

Xiang Shaoyun had saved their lives many times, but the sisters had never known their place. They dreamed of being on equal footing with him, and aimed to be his women. Eventually, they found out how big the gap between them and him was. They deeply regretted their act of criticizing him during that incident.

To the side, Han Xuewei also begged, "Young Master Xiang, we know our mistake. Can you forgive us?"

The sisters weren't as alluring as Han Chenfei, but they were still rare beauties. For them to apologize like this in public, they were showing Xiang Shaoyun a great deal of respect. Unfortunately for them, Xiang Shaoyun remained unmoved. He said indifferently, "There is no need to talk like that. Your matters have nothing to do with me, so there is nothing to forgive. I'm busy, so I'll be taking my leave."

The sisters felt their bodies turn cold when they realized that Xiang Shaoyun was intending to draw a clear line between them.

Han Chenfei couldn't take it anymore and shouted furiously, "Are you still a man, Xiang Shaoyun? Why are you so petty?"

"Think what you want," replied Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

He no longer cared about romance. Thus, what they thought no longer concerned him.

"You are not allowed to leave! I want you to pay your debt to me right now!" Han Chenfei shouted angrily.

Xiang Shaoyun stopped, turned, and said, "Say it. How do you want me to repay you?"

He knew what Han Chenfei was talking about. Back when he sought her help on behalf of the Han Clan sisters, he had owed her a favor. Although he had given them some of the treasures he had gotten from the iceberg, he did not consider it the repayment for that favor.

"The Glacier Palace wishes to form an alliance with the Overlord Legion. This alliance will last until we leave the battleground," said Han Chenfei.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes flickered as he gave it a thought. He rejected it, "I refuse the alliance."

"You are breaking your promise!" Han Chenfei accused.

Xiang Shaoyun shook his head. "No. I want the Glacier Palace to merge with the Overlord Legion instead. You will be the deputy commander."

"What? That is not acceptable! Young palace master, let us leave. We don't need to beg him," said someone from the Glacier Palace.

The others also voiced the same sentiment. This was no different from stepping on them while they were down. Xiang Shaoyun did not care. He gazed at Han Chenfei calmly, awaiting her answer.

Han Chenfei had not expected that Xiang Shaoyun would take this chance to make such a request. Her anger vanished, replaced by complete calm. A smile formed on her face as she asked, "Are you sure?"

"Yes," Xiang Shaoyun confirmed.

"Fine. The Glacier Palace will join the Overlord Legion. From now on, the Glacier Palace is no more," Han Chenfei agreed straightforwardly.

The Glacier Palace members were stunned. They couldn't understand the reason for her decision. As for the Overlord Legion members, they were overjoyed. At present, they were facing enemies on all sides. With the inclusion of the Glacier Palace members, their strength would grow. Moreover, they would also gain the help of a freak like Han Chenfei. They would be much more confident in surviving the battleground.

Xiang Shaoyun had not expected Han Chenfei to agree. He took the chance to say, "Since you have agreed to join, you need to follow the rules of the Overlord Legion. Otherwise, don't blame me for showing no mercy."

A powerful aura burst out of his body. The aura was completely comparable to the aura of a peak Emperor. One could say that his aura was even slightly scarier. The Glacier Palace felt a pressure crushing down on them, causing them to suffocate.

Even Han Chenfei felt greatly pressured. She was greatly shocked as she thought, His strength has actually reached this level?

She waved her hand at the Glacier Palace members and said, "Everyone, come and greet the overlord. Of course, if anyone wants to leave now, I won't blame you."

Chapter 847: Foes Always Meet

The Glacier Palace was never a large faction. If they moved alone, it was only a matter of time before they were completely eliminated from the battleground. Under the pressure of elimination, only a small number of them left because they were unhappy with Han Chenfei's decision.

Once again, the Overlord Legion grew. The additional 20-something members did not change much, but Han Chenfei's addition was crucial. Xiang Shaoyun did not think too much about the merge. He had only made the request to scare Han Chenfei off. Her agreement was surprising, but he wasn't too affected otherwise.

Although he still treated the three women coldly, the Overlord Legion would benefit from this merge.

Xiang Shaoyun commanded the group to continue their search for the ancient steles. His interest had been thoroughly piqued by the secret locked door.

"Overlord, I have something to report," Han Chenfei immediately adapted to her role and changed how she addressed him.

She had not chosen to join the Overlord Legion out of a hot-headed decision. Rather, it was her best option at this point in time. Although she had decent rallying power in the academy, due to the nature of the Glacier Palace, they were greatly limited in terms of recruitment.

She had already started to regret her decision back when she established the faction. It was too late to change, and with Xiang Shaoyun making such a request, she decided she might as well go along with it.

After all, even Ouyang Chuanqi looked highly upon Xiang Shaoyun. This was a gamble worth taking. More importantly, she could take this chance to spend more time with Xiang Shaoyun and dissolve the hostility between them.

"What is it?" Xiang Shaoyun asked, using the tone of a superior speaking to a subordinate.

Han Chenfei curled her lips as she said, "I saw Xia Yunxi and Zhan Wushuang earlier."

Xiang Shaoyun frowned. "So what?"

Xia Yunxi was his first love, a woman that had left a deep imprint in his heart.

He had killed Di Lin, but he never bothered to create any trouble for her. It was not that he had spared her, but he couldn't find any excuse to look for her. He had assumed that he would only be able to settle his grudge with her upon his return to the Ziling Sect.

"You killed Di Lin. She won't forget that. Perhaps she will convince Zhan Wushuang to make a move against you. You need to watch out," reminded Han Chenfei.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled indifferently. "Heh, I am looking forward to meeting Zhan Wushuang in battle."

Han Chenfei blanked out slightly before saying, "You sure are courageous. Perhaps you still don't know how strong Zhan Wushuang is. He is someone capable of trashing a second-stage Soul Foundation Realm cultivator with his bare hands."

"So what?" Xiang Shaoyun replied indifferently. He couldn't even be bothered to say more and commanded the group to continue moving.

Han Chenfei said, "I know the location of an ancient stele, but that place has been occupied by Huang Tianji and his people. I think they are still trying to break through the defenses, so they have yet to get near the stele."

"Huang Tianji? Excellent! Lead the way," said Xiang Shaoyun with a trace of excitement in his eyes.

Before entering the battleground, Huang Tianji had shown his displeasure toward Xiang Shaoyun, and he clearly intended to have a fight with him. Furthermore, the Royal Army had been attacking the Overlord Legion again and again. It was time for payback.

"Are we really going to turn on them?" Han Chenfei asked.

"Hehe, they turned on us first, so they can't blame me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sinister smile on his face.

Only now did Han Chenfei notice that Xiang Shaoyun had changed greatly. She lamented inwardly, Did that incident really hurt him that much?

She was unaware that the previous incident was only one of the reasons Xiang Shaoyun had changed. After consuming the bright illusory core and recalling his past memories, his entire state of mind had changed. With Han Chenfei leading the way, they traveled in a certain direction. About half a day later, they arrived at a mountain ridge filled with snake vines.

The snake vines were different from the murderous vines. These snake vines would constantly slither around like snakes, but they could not extend endlessly like the murderous vines. They were highly toxic, capable of instantly killing anyone entangled with them.

In the area filled with snake vines was a thick poisonous miasma. Here, an ordinary person would feel dizzy after a single breath and would die after multiple breaths. An ancient stele stood amid the vines. It wouldn't be easy to get near the stele.

The Royal Army was also stationed here, not allowing anyone else to approach. Their number of members wasn't much higher than the Overlord Legion. In fact, the Overlord Legion had been catching up to them recently. Thus, both groups had similar numbers in the battleground.

Previously, the Royal Army had forced a decent number of Overlord Legion members to withdraw. However, the Overlord Legion had also returned the favor. One could say that neither was victorious over the other.

However, because the Royal Army was working with the Flaming Sun, the Overlord Legion was at a disadvantage. Currently, the Royal Army people were busy attacking the snake vines with fire.

They were also working to disperse the poisonous miasma. Only when they succeeded would they be able to reach the stele.

They had cleared about a third of the snake vines, and they needed only two or three more days to reach the stele.

As the prince and princess, Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue had always lived a pampered life. Thus, they didn't do any of the work personally. Their subordinates were in charge of all the dirty work as they merely sat around waiting for the result.

Of course, Huang Tianji would help if any of their subordinates encountered danger. That was his responsibility as a leader. The moment Xiang Shaoyun and his people arrived, Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue noticed them.

"Truly, foes always end up meeting each other," said Huang Tianji. A slight trace of envy was present in his eyes when he saw Xiang Shaoyun together with Han Chenfei.

He had harbored feelings for Han Chenfei for a long time. In fact, he had also hinted at his feelings for her. But due to his identity, he wouldn't be able to grant Han Chenfei the position of main wife. Thus, Han Chenfei, who did not have many feelings for him in the first place, used it as an excuse to reject his courtship.

It would be weird if Huang Tianji wasn't jealous when he saw Han Chenfei by Xiang Shaoyun's side.

"Big brother, are you really going to make a move against him?" asked Huang Xiaoyue anxiously.

"He has bullied you multiple times. That is an act of complete disrespect. I won't show him any mercy," replied Huang Tianji firmly. "Everyone, stop what you're doing. Gather up."

At his command, the Royal Army members realized what was happening and quickly returned to his side.

Leading the Overlord Legion, Xiang Shaoyun stood before the Royal Army. With a distorted smile on his face, he said, "The Overlord Legion will be taking over this place. F*ck off if you're smart."

Chapter 848: Never Too Much Deception in War

In the past, Xiang Shaoyun had always been a kind young man. He had a good temper and wouldn't provoke anyone who hadn't provoked him.

But now, he had regained a decent amount of his past life's character. His domineering disposition showed itself. Since the Royal Army had provoked him, he had been looking for a chance to deliver some payback to them.

Huang Tianji and Huang Xiaoyue were surprised by Xiang Shaoyun's bold words, but they were not afraid of him.

With a cold tone, Huang Tianji said, "I have yet to go looking for you, but you're delivering yourself right into my lap? Today, I shall teach you a lesson on my little sister's behalf. You will learn that us royals can never be bullied!"

He stepped forth, and a powerful presence erupted from his body. A near 90-percent-formed dragon burst and roared from his back, baring its fangs and brandishing its claws dreadfully.

Huang Tianji cultivated the Royal War Aura that granted him a natural affinity with draconic aura. Although he was still a tiny bit away from reaching ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, he was already demonstrating the might of a peak Emperor.

Huang Tianji's strength was at the same level as the likes of Yu Ziyang and Ouyang Chuanqi. He was absolutely not an individual to be trifled with. When the Royal Army people sensed the aura Huang Tianji was projecting, their spirits were roused. Nothing could boost one's morale as good as having a powerful leader.

"Hehe, you're not qualified to fight me. I'll let my deputy commander Han face you," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. He glanced at Han Chenfei, his intention clear.

Han Chenfei blanked out slightly before stepping forth and answering, "Ok. I'll fight him."

Inwardly, she grumbled, Does this person have no affection whatsoever toward the fairer sex?

She fully released her aura as well, revealing a strength that wasn't much weaker than Huang Tianji's. She had actually reached the eighth stage as well. However, she was only a fresh eighth-stage and was still quite far away from peak eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

But for genius cultivators, that tiny gap was nothing.

Everyone was stunned. Nobody had imagined that Han Chenfei would act on behalf of Xiang Shaoyun. More importantly, from Xiang Shaoyun's words, it seemed like Han Chenfei was now a member of the Overlord Legion as well.

Who wasn't aware that Han Chenfei had founded the Glacier Palace? What was going on here? Had the entire Glacier Palace been swallowed by the Overlord Legion?

"Big Sister Chenfei, what are you doing? Why are you helping that stinky fellow?" Huang Xiaoyue asked unhappily.

Huang Tianji was also looking at Han Chenfei unhappily. However, most of his anger was still directed toward Xiang Shaoyun. It was common knowledge that he harbored feelings for Han Chenfei. Now, Xiang Shaoyun was making her fight him. It was truly vile.

Han Chenfei gently brushed her hair and revealed a helpless smile as she replied, "I am now a member of the Overlord Legion. Therefore, I can only obey the overlord's command."

"Hanfei, why are you doing this?" Huang Tianji asked furiously.

"What I do has nothing to do with you. You can either fight me or leave with your people. You have no other options," said Han Chenfei firmly.

To the side, Xiang Shaoyun stood nonchalantly, awaiting Huang Tianji's response. A cheeky smile hung on his face, making Huang Xiaoyue gnash her teeth in anger when she looked at him, wishing to hit his face with a few punches.

"Your highness, let me deal with her," an ordinary-looking man from Huang Tianji's side offered.

He might look ordinary, but he had quite the reputation in the academy. He was none other than Wang Yufeng, once tested to possess a high-grade eight-star physique.

His physique was comparable to Di Lin's, and he was a few years older than Di Lin. Thus, he was stronger and had reached seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. He was ranked 13th on the Dragon Phoenix List.

With his strength, he could even found his own faction. And yet, he decided to become Huang Tianji's subordinate. There must be an unknown story behind that decision. Wang Yufeng was the head of the Royal Army's four great guardians. With him challenging Han Chenfei, he saved Huang Tianji from the awkwardness of personally facing her.

In any case, he was the only one of the Royal Army members that could contend with Han Chenfei. Nobody else was qualified.

"Good. Xiang Shaoyun, I'll fight you instead," Huang Tianji roared loudly as he attacked.

"So be it. Everyone, to your positions. Crush them," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.

At his command, the Overlord Legion members quickly moved to their respective positions before unleashing a barrage of merciless attacks toward the Royal Army.

The Royal Army was utterly stunned. Weren't they just talking about individual fights just a moment ago? Why were the Overlord Legion people suddenly engaging in a large-scale battle? That was too despicable!

"Xiang Shaoyun, you scoundrel! Everyone, attack together! Destroy the Overlord Legion and show the might of the Royal Army!" Huang Tianji roared furiously.

A battle erupted, and the scale of the battlefield expanded massively.

Rumble! Rumble!

Numerous energy attacks clashed against each other, and explosions rumbled on and on. The entire world seemed to be shaking.

Because the Overlord Legion had received their commands in advance and had received training under Zhuge Zhantian, they were exceedingly powerful when fighting in army formations. The Royal Army was completely suppressed, and they were thrown into complete chaos. Many of them were defeated by the very first volley of attacks and were forced to withdraw from the battleground.

Xiang Shaoyun's sudden attack was indeed despicable, but there was no such thing as too much deception in war. On the battlefield, there was no need to talk about fairness.

"Bastard, I'm going to slaughter you!" Huang Tianji had never suffered such losses before. He roared furiously as a white silver spear appeared in his hands. He swept the spear forth, sending a white dragon phantom pouncing toward Xiang Shaoyun.

The Royal War Aura did not have an undeserved reputation. The moment Huang Tianji attacked, he unleashed a combat prowess higher than many peak Emperors. The white dragon he created was several hundred meters long, strong enough to force even ordinary Sovereigns into retreat.

Huang Tianji aimed his attack straight at Xiang Shaoyun's chest, intending to get rid of his opponent for all to see.

However, Xiang Shaoyun wasn't interested in a head-on collision. He quickly stepped back and shouted at Han Chenfei, "Deputy Commander Han, what are you waiting for?"

One could say that Xiang Shaoyun was truly too cunning. Even now, he was still trying to make Han Chenfei attack Huang Tianji. Han Chenfei did not hesitate. She slammed her foot against the ground, and her lithe body shot toward Huang Tianji. Instantly, a frosty attack assaulted him.

Chapter 849: Capturing Huang Xiaoyue

Although Han Chenfei was only a fresh eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, she could unleash a combat prowess comparable to Huang Tianji. With the energy of extreme cold surrounding her body, she was an extremely difficult opponent.

Huang Tianji was unwilling to face Han Chenfei, and he was forced to passively defend against her attacks. He shouted, "Chenfei, are you really going against me?"

"Just retreat. I have no choice but to do as commanded," answered Han Chenfei firmly.

Huang Tianji's eyes turned cold as the battle aura around him solidified. He furiously roared, "Since you don't care about our friendship, let me sever it with my very own hands!"

He was a prince, and he had his pride. He had been putting up with Han Chenfei for a very long time, and today, he finally lost his patience. He was of noble birth and had excellent talent in cultivation. He never lacked women, and since Han Chenfei did not reciprocate his feelings, he decided to cleanly cut the link between them.

After erupting in full power, his aura completely suppressed hers. However, it still wouldn't be easy for him to completely defeat her.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he was currently facing Wang Yufeng. Wang Yufeng was a seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator born with an innate elemental physique. Thus, he could unleash the combat prowess of an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

He had the Innate Earth Physique, and he cultivated a peculiar cultivation method that allowed him to draw in the soil and stones in his surroundings to turn himself into a massive golem. He sent an unending barrage of flying stones toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Wang Yufeng had long comprehended the profundity of earth. Thus, he was quite a valiant combatant. As he attacked, he roared, "Xiang Shaoyun, who are you to challenge the prince? Today, I will crush you!"

Wang Yufeng could crush mountains with his fists and create canyons with his feet. Not many people could withstand his seemingly boundless strength.

Xiang Shaoyun knew very well that he wouldn't be able to gain an advantage if he faced Wang Yufeng with the profundity of earth. After all, he only had a single earth star, whereas his opponent had eight stars. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun had to use his unique advantage to have a larger chance at defeating his opponent.

Xiang Shaoyun shifted his body left and right, avoiding Wang Yufeng's attacks while observing his surroundings. When he caught a glimpse of Huang Xiaoyue, his lips curled into a smile. His entire body seemed to transform into a gust of wind as he rushed toward her.

He was as fast as a Sovereign, and nobody present could compete with him in terms of speed. Furthermore, he had already grasped the second stage of footwork intent, the shrinking space stage. In the blink of an eye, he appeared at the back of the army and beside Huang Xiaoyue.

She was still young, about two years younger than him. However, she was already a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Her talent in cultivation was no less than her brother's.

However, her strength wasn't anything special. As someone who had been pampered since young, nobody around her dared to let her take any risks. In any case, she was constantly protected by numerous experts. No enemies had ever gotten close to her before.

Alas, with Xiang Shaoyun's speed, her protection was pointless. In the blink of an eye, Xiang Shaoyun appeared beside her and captured her. Huang Xiaoyue couldn't even react to what was happening when she felt a choking sensation around her neck. A hand was wrapped around her tender neck, causing her to shiver in fear.

Wang Yufeng had just noticed that he had lost Xiang Shaoyun. When he finally found Xiang Shaoyun again, he knew things had turned bad.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you coward! Let the princess go!" Wang Yufeng roared.

However, Xiang Shaoyun ignored him. Instead, he roared to the Royal Army, "People of the Royal Army, listen. Put down your weapons and surrender, or you can bid your precious princess goodbye."

As he spoke, he wrapped Huang Xiaoyue with a powerful sealing energy, completely locking her cultivation. That way, she couldn't crush her protective jade to leave if she wanted. After all, if she did, his plan would fail.

Huang Xiaoyue had never expected that Xiang Shaoyun would treat her so roughly. However, she couldn't even speak and could only grumble inwardly, This bastard, why is he being so rough? I will teach him a lesson when I'm free!

Huang Tianji also heard his demands. After pushing Han Chenfei away, he rushed toward Xiang Shaoyun and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, release my sister, or I will hunt you until you're dead!"

Huang Tianji cherished his little sister greatly. Otherwise, he wouldn't have apologized to Xiang Shaoyun on her behalf. But now, Xiang Shaoyun had actually captured his sister. It was a massive provocation that filled him with fury.

"Don't get too close. If you make me nervous, I might accidentally make a slip of the hand and injure her. You don't want that to happen, right?" said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

Huang Tianji was forced to stop. With fury in his eyes, he demanded, "Release her, and we will let you have this place."

He had a resolute decision, and he was confident Xiang Shaoyun would agree.

However, Xiang Shaoyun raised one finger and waved it as he said, "No, no, that condition is not worthy of the noble princess."

"What do you want?" Huang Tianji asked.

"Simple. The entire Royal Army needs to withdraw from the battleground," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sadistic smile.

"Impossible!" Huang Tianji firmly rejected.

If they withdrew, it wouldn't only be a loss for them. It would also displease their members. One ought to remember that their allegiance to the Royal Army was only limited to their time in the academy. Upon graduation, they would all return to where they came from. Everyone wanted to benefit from this battleground, and they wouldn't agree to withdrawing so easily.

"So you want her to die?" asked Xiang Shaoyun as he tightened his grip on Huang Xiaoyue's neck.

Huang Xiaoyue was feeling terrible, and her expression was ghastly. Her appearance gripped Huang Tianji's heart.

"Xiang Shaoyun, have you considered the consequences of offending our dynasty?" Huang Tianji was forced to use the name of his family.

"Stop talking nonsense with me. This is the Dragon Phoenix Battleground, not your imperial court. I will give you one last chance. Half of you shall withdraw, and this place will come under the Overlord Legion's control. If you can't even agree to that, whatever. Don't even think that I won't dare to kill her," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sinister tone.

Chapter 850: I'm in Charge

The sinister aura Xiang Shaoyun emanated gave Huang Xiaoyue a biting cold that seeped into her bones. She had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would truly consider killing her.

He's really willing to do it! Huang Xiaoyue thought to herself sorrowfully.

Although she had had her conflicts with Xiang Shaoyun, she still thought very well of him. But now, all that was gone.

Xiang Shaoyun showed no love toward her, the pampered and unruly princess. Instead, he seemed to be filled with disgust. Now, he was even using her as a hostage. It was despicable and not something a man should do, in her opinion.

If Xiang Shaoyun knew her thoughts, he would only jeer at her for being too naive. The meeting of two armies was a life and death situation, not a game. Since they were standing opposed to each other, they should always be ready to be killed by the other side.

Xiang Shaoyun was merely trying to get rid of the Overlord Legion's opponent with the lowest price possible. From the perspective of a leader, he was making the right choice. Regardless of what others thought of him, he would do what he deemed right. He did not care about the opinions of others.

One ought to say that Xiang Shaoyun had matured greatly compared to his previous self. He was also radiating the domineeringness of an overlord, and he also possessed the craftiness of a tyrant. This was a result of the combination of memories between his past and present lives.

Even he himself was not aware of it. But even if he was aware, he wouldn't think of it as anything bad. In any case, this was a dog-eat-dog world where might makes right. If he wasn't strong enough, he would have to accept the fate of living as prey.

His initial plan was to make the entire Royal Army withdraw, but that seemed rather unrealistic. There were hundreds of them, and even if Huang Tianji could command all of them to withdraw, he wouldn't have the guts to do so. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun lowered his requirement and only requested the withdrawal of half their members.

When Huang Tianji saw Xiang Shaoyun's firmness, he knew he had no other options. He turned around and bowed to the Royal Army members before saying, "I, Huang Tianji, have let all of you down. Please give Xiaoyue a chance to live on. I, Huang Tianji, will deeply remember this favor."

One ought to admit Huang Tianji was truly a person deserving of respect. In such a situation, he was actually using a pleading tone toward his subordinates, not a commanding tone. The Royal Army members were greatly moved.

"Your highness, please don't speak like that. I won't be of much help even if I stay, so I'll withdraw. I hope the princess will be fine," said someone as he crushed his protective jade.

"Your highness, I am already injured, so I shouldn't be staying and burdening everyone. I hope you can find a chance to defeat Xiang Shaoyun and avenge us," said someone else before crushing his protective jade as well.

One Royal Army member after another withdrew, and their numbers dropped greatly. It was evident that Huang Tianji's bow had worked effectively.

When about one third of them had withdrawn, Huang Tianji looked at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "This should be enough, right?"

"It's enough because you're saying so? No, I'm in charge here!" said Xiang Shaoyun arrogantly. Inwardly, he cursed, Trying to fool me? Dream on!

One reason Xiang Shaoyun was forcing them to withdraw was so he could reduce the number of Royal Army people who would work with the Flaming Sun against them in the future, which they still needed to watch out for.

When Huang Tianji saw that Xiang Shaoyun was unhappy, he had no choice but to allow his people to continue withdrawing. Finally, only half of them were left.

"Release her!" Huang Tianji demanded furiously.

Xiang Shaoyun released his grip around Huang Xiaoyue's neck, but he did not send her over to Huang Tianji immediately. He said, "In the future, remember to distance yourself from the Overlord Legion. Otherwise, I won't be so kind next time."

He then sent Huang Xiaoyue over. He had released her so readily because the Royal Army only had half their members left. They would no longer pose the Overlord Legion any threat, and he believed Huang Tianji wouldn't be stupid enough to attack them right now.

Huang Tianji wanted to rip Xiang Shaoyun apart, but he also knew his current situation well. Gnashing his teeth, he said, "Pray that you never land in my hands. Otherwise...hmp. Everyone, let's go."

After leaving behind a warning, Huang Tianji left gloomily with the Royal Army. Before leaving, Huang Xiaoyue shot Xiang Shaoyun one last glance with a complicated look. It was unknown what she was thinking.

The Overlord Legion cheered, "Nicely done, Overlord. Long live the overlord!"

Although they held a slight advantage over the Royal Army, they would still suffer great losses if they wanted to eliminate all the Royal Army members. But by himself, Xiang Shaoyun had the entire situation under his control and reduced their losses to the minimum. He had even snatched the place from the Royal Army. What he did was worth their cheering.

In the eyes of Han Chenfei and the Han Clan sisters, they felt like they didn't know Xiang Shaoyun anymore. In the past, Xiang Shaoyun had a mild temperament and radiated a sense of just. Now, he was willing to even kidnap a young lady to achieve his goal. It was something no real man should do, something extremely despicable. They couldn't see through him at all. Their sense of guilt deepened as they felt responsible for this change.

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't be bothered with what they were thinking. He said to everyone, "Everyone, let's not waste time. Clear all the snake vines first. Watch out for the poisonous miasma. If you have any antidotes, keep them in your mouths. We will focus on getting the ancient stele."

The Overlord Legion did as told and moved against the snake vines without any hesitation. Numerous attacks bombarded the snake vines, and after two days, they fully cleared the snake vines. Even the poisonous miasma had been cleared as well.

However, one particular stalk of ancient snake vine was left guarding the stele. It was coiled around it, its tip swaying about in the air, blocking all the incoming attacks. The vine was also the lair of some vipers that were currently madly attacking the Overlord Legion.

If it wasn't for the legion's numerical advantage, they would have been forced to retreat even if they managed to reach the stele. Under their hard work, they cleared one obstacle after another. And finally, the stele was revealed before them.

Their eyes became burning hot when they saw that the stele did not contain a battle technique, cultivation method, or stone key. Rather, there were three sovereign weapons and a bottle of spring water.