

Overlord 851

Chapter 851: Dividing Gains

Who would have thought that there would be three sovereign weapons and spring water embedded within the ancient stele? Everyone found what they saw inconceivable, and for a moment, they doubted their eyes.

They were all genius cultivators. Before entering the academy, they were all owners of emperor weapons, including high-quality emperor weapons. As for sovereign weapons, only a few of them had one before. These sovereign weapons served as trump cards that people wouldn't easily reveal. As for spring water, it was extremely rare and was usually treated as a treasure that could increase one's strength. Few of them had any in possession. Thus, everyone coveted the newly found treasures embedded in the stele.

Unfortunately, there were too many people here and too few treasures to share. Thus, Xiang Shaoyun's management skills were put to the test. The three sovereign equipment were respectively a golden sword, a golden armor, and a golden band. This was most definitely a majestic set of sovereign equipment.

The gold cultivators among them burned with desire. Even Tang Longfei's eyes were burning, and he wished for nothing more than to have this set of equipment for himself. But with Xiang Shaoyun present, nobody dared to fight for them. After all, all of them knew that their overlord had the final say.

As for the bottle of spring water, it was actually a bottle of dragon liquid. There was enough in the bottle to produce several thousand drops, enough for the many Emperors present to increase their strength.

One ought to say that these treasures prepared by the academy were indeed suited for these disciples at their current stage.

Xiang Shaoyun studied the treasures in his hand before turning and facing everyone. He said, "I hereby declare that this set of sovereign equipment will be rewarded to the ones who manage to enter the Dragon Phoenix List during this excursion. As for this bottle of dragon liquid, we can share it now."

Nobody objected. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was already displaying great magnanimity by sharing the dragon liquid. As for the sovereign equipment, he would reward them to the ones who managed

to get on the Dragon Phoenix List instead of keeping them for himself. He was indeed a qualified leader.

If someone was still unhappy with this way of handling the treasures, that person most definitely had a problematic mindset.

I will definitely get onto the Dragon Phoenix List! vowed the gold cultivators.

Apart from Xiang Shaoyun and Han Chenfei, the only ones among them who actually had a chance to get onto the Dragon Phoenix List were Tang Longfei, Xuan Yuantian, Mu Qingyu, Wang Xin, Yuan Xuefen, and a few other fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators.

Of them, Xuan Yuantian had the highest chance. He was two years younger than Tang Longfei but was already at the fifth stage. Moreover, he was a rather ambitious person who had once tried fighting for the position of deputy commander. If it wasn't for Xiang Shaoyun's subsequent return that had suppressed his stirring ambitions, he would have likely challenged Tang Longfei eventually.

Speaking of Xuan Yuantian, he was Ouyang Chuanqi's faithful admirer and had only joined the Overlord Legion because Ouyang Chuanqi was in it. Although Xuan Yuantian acknowledged Xiang Shaoyun's strength, he had always felt that Ouyang Chuanqi was stronger, and he thought that Ouyang Chuanqi should instead be their overlord.

In the past, he had suggested that to Ouyang Chuanqi. However, Ouyang Chuanqi reprimanded him for it, so he stopped creating trouble.

Xuan Yuantian greatly coveted the set of sovereign equipment, and he vowed inwardly, I must get on the Dragon Phoenix List. I will see if you will keep your word then, Xiang Shaoyun.

He was still somewhat dissatisfied with Xiang Shaoyun. In his opinion, Xiang Shaoyun was merely paying lip service, but the equipment would ultimately be given to Tang Longfei. Everyone knew how close Tang Longfei was with Xiang Shaoyun.

Naturally, Xiang Shaoyun was unaware of Xuan Yuantian's thoughts, but inwardly, he looked highly upon him. After all, Xuan Yuantian was the owner of a middle-grade eight-star physique. This was a much better physique than Tang Longfei's, and he had a much brighter future.

Xiang Shaoyun would be very happy to see Xuan Yuantian distinguish himself from the others. Each of them was given 10 drops of dragon liquid.

The group was no longer in a rush to go hunt the devilish plants. They settled down in the area and started cultivating in silence.

After all, they had all tempered themselves through numerous battles during the past six months. Their combat experience had increased greatly, and their strength had clearly grown. Even so, they would still grab any opportunity to continue growing. If they slacked, it would only be a matter of time before others surpassed them.

Xiang Shaoyun also selected a spot for himself. However, instead of entering a state of cultivation, he focused on their surroundings, guarding against any sneak attacks. Han Chenfei wanted to talk with Xiang Shaoyun, but after some hesitation, she decided against it.

Perhaps they could have an honest talk after some time had passed and their relationship was no longer as stiff.

Xiang Shaoyun had not increased his cultivation much during the past six months. He had merely pushed his draconic aura from 62 percent to 66 percent. Essentially, he had entered mid sixth-stage from early sixth-stage.

The reason for the slow growth wasn't his slow energy accumulation. Rather, he was intentionally slowing down to temper himself. After all, he had jumped three stages in the Blood Dragon Pool. His foundation had grown somewhat unstable from the rapid growth. After half a year of tempering, his body had fully acclimated to his new strength, and his foundation was now much firmer.

Although he wasn't focused on cultivation, he could still continue absorbing the energy around him rapidly with a mere thought. That was the benefit of comprehending the profundity of powers.

After about half a month, the group ended the short cultivation session. All of them had grown stronger, and they all seemed to be full of vigor and fighting spirit. They then spent their time hunting the devilish plants in the battleground. Everyone's individual points rose rapidly. Of course, some were also unlucky and suffered attacks from powerful devilish plants and were forced to withdraw.

Xiang Shaoyun was not omnipotent. He couldn't possibly take care of everyone. Some were too greedy for achievements without enough strength. It was natural that they would be eliminated.

Xiang Shaoyun was somewhat bewildered by the fact that even after all this time, he had yet to encounter Ouyang Chuanqi. After all, Ouyang Chuanqi was their deputy commander and was strong enough to face the academy's top freaks. If the group could join up with him, their overall strength would increase greatly.

Apart from Ouyang Chuanqi, even Lady Shura was nowhere to be found. He wondered if she had been eliminated. While worrying over them, Xiang Shaoyun encountered a powerful group led by someone he once met. Also within the group was someone who deeply hated him.

"Xiang Shaoyun, you bastard, I'm going to kill you!" a voice filled with hatred rang out.

Chapter 852: Meeting Lei Bao Again

The one making the declaration was none other than Situ Yan, Di Lin's senior sister. She was now a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Of course, Di Lin was once at the same cultivation level, but he ended up being killed by Xiang Shaoyun, who was only at the second stage back then.

Situ Yan only dared to challenge Xiang Shaoyun right now due to her strong companions, who granted her no small amount of confidence. The group's leader was Lei Bao, someone Xiang Shaoyun had met once before. As for the rest of them, Xiang Shaoyun had never seen them. There were more than 100 of them.

Xiang Shaoyun had met Lei Bao the first time he had entered the Purple Lightning Pool. At the time, Lei Bao had taken a liking to Money and had wanted to make Money his mount. But since Money already belonged to Xiang Shaoyun, Lei Bao had decided to give up.

In the subsequent years, the two had not met. The circumstance in which they finally met again was rather interesting.

Lei Bao was someone who didn't care for his appearance. His bright purple hair was extremely conspicuous, and his lofty body was half a head taller than Xiang Shaoyun. His surging aura displayed his extraordinariness.

He was already a ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, stronger than even Huang Tianji. His advancement speed was truly impressive. His strength and talent were understandable, however. As a descendant of one of the academy's grand elders, he was one of the outstanding disciples from the academy's local faction.

With his strength, he was the leader of the faction he came from. His companions were all direct descendants of academy elders, each with an extraordinary background. There were also two eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators in the group. Evidently, they were all qualified to stand against the academy's top 10 freaks.

Xiang Shaoyun ignored Situ Yan and cupped his hands in greeting to Lei Bao. "It has been a while."

Xiang Shaoyun could sense Lei Bao's terrifying strength, but he had no fear. However, he had a decent impression of Lei Bao. Hence, he did not turn hostile immediately from Situ Yan's provocation. After all, it was always better to have one extra friend than one extra enemy.

The Overlord Legion was a rising faction, so it wasn't sensible to get into conflict with a local faction. Of course, if Lei Bao and the others intended to make an enemy out of them for Situ Yan's sake, there was nothing the Overlord Legion could do about it.

"Yes, it has really been a while. Seems like you have been growing quickly, kid," said Lei Bao with a smile.

He still remembered that Xiang Shaoyun was only a first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator when they had first met. In a short period of three years, he had reached the sixth stage. Thus, he was looking at Xiang Shaoyun with a whole new level of respect.

Before Xiang Shaoyun could reply, Situ Yan said, "Boss Lei, you need to uphold justice for your little sister. This Xiang Shaoyun had murdered my junior brother. We have to take revenge!"

The local faction members had strong unity. When any of them encountered trouble, the others would help. After all, they had all grown up together and were basically siblings. Even though they occasionally had some friction with each other, they would still work together against outsiders when required.

Because of that, Situ Yan hoped that Lei Bao would stand up for her. If he could help, Xiang Shaoyun would suffer.

With an annoyed look, Lei Bao said, "That is your junior brother. He is not a member of our circle. As far as I know, your junior brother was killed fair and square on a ring. There is nothing unfair about it. If you want to avenge him, go ahead. We won't stop you."

In the circle of locals, Situ Yan had a bad reputation. She was mean, unruly, and unreasonable. Nobody would be willing to associate with her if it wasn't for the sake of showing her grandfather respect. Among the group, a few admired Situ Yan, and they were the only reason Lei Bao had tolerated her joining them.

When Situ Yan heard his words, she paled. If Lei Bao was unwilling to help, she wouldn't have any courage to face Xiang Shaoyun.

"Boss Lei, you can't say that. No matter what, Sister Yan grew up with us. If we do not act after her sweetheart was killed, won't that dampen the spirits of our fellow brothers and sisters?" said an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator.

The speaker was Mo Xiaoqing, one of Situ Yan's admirers. As he grew in strength, they had drifted apart for some time. But prior to the opening of the battleground, Situ Yan had gone looking for him. After spending some time together, she was finally able to make him care more about her affairs.

Mo Xiaoqing was rather handsome, but he gave off a soft feeling. Even when he spoke, he was rather effeminate and did not sound like a man at all. In the past, many people would laugh at him for being effeminate. But as he grew in strength, he had taught a few people a lesson. From then on, nobody dared to speak about him being effeminate anymore.

"Sure, Xiaoqing, you can handle this," said Lei Bao indifferently.

Lei Bao was their leader. Thus, he couldn't blatantly side with Xiang Shaoyun. In any case, he did not have any relationship with Xiang Shaoyun. Thus, he decided to give Mo Xiaoqing the freedom to handle the matter. That way, he could do Mo Xiaoqing a favor at little cost.

However, the Overlord Legion was a force to be reckoned with. Despite Mo Xiaoqing's strength, he wouldn't be able to take Xiang Shaoyun down easily. He realized that as well, and he wasn't stupid enough to challenge the entire Overlord Legion by himself.

Pointing at Xiang Shaoyun, he demanded, "I won't make things difficult for you. Kowtow to my sister Yan, and I'll let the matter slide."

After saying that, he revealed his aura of an eighth-stage Emperor, intending to suppress Xiang Shaoyun and the Overlord Legion with his cultivation level.

To his surprise, Xiang Shaoyun replied with derision, "Are you stupid?"

Mo Xiaoqing's face fell as he shouted, "You're asking for it!"

"You need to check with the brothers and sisters behind me what they're asking for as well," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer. He then turned and asked, "So everyone, what are you asking for?"

"Violence!" they all answered uniformly.

Their voices overlapped and resounded in the air, forming a powerful aura that caused those from the local faction to shiver momentarily. As for Mo Xiaoqing, he even jumped. With the unity displayed by the Overlord Legion, he didn't even have a way of extricating himself from this matter gracefully.

"Y-You...audacious! Do you want me to expel all of you from the academy?" shouted Mo Xiaoqing.

"Wow, those are some big words. Are you the principal?" said Xiang Shaoyun as he dug his ears.

"He's not the principal, but he is a direct descendant of the previous principal," said Situ Yan.

Chapter 853: Thank You for the Praise

The Dragon Phoenix Academy had survived for tens of thousands of years. During the period, they'd had numerous principals. Mo Xiaoqing's ancestor was one of these ex-principals who had died due to some accident. Even so, the Mo Clan still wielded a great influence in the academy.

Because of that, regular disciples would show some respect the moment they discover Mo Xiaoqing's background. Otherwise, Mo Xiaoqing could very well use his influence to make cultivating difficult for the disciples or even outright expel them.

Sure enough, some Overlord Legion members had a change of expression when they heard of his background.

Situ Yan pushed on, "If you don't involve yourself in this and stay clear of Xiang Shaoyun's affair, I believe Brother Mo will not trouble you as well."

Mo Xiaoqing said, "That's right. Those standing by his side will be considered the Mo Clan's enemy. You better weigh your options carefully."

"I see. So it turns out the academy is run by your clan?" said Han Chenfei with a sneer.

At Han Chenfei's words, Mo Xiaoqing's expression changed greatly. The expressions of the other members of the local faction also shifted subtly.

"I never made that claim! But the influence I wield is enough to deal with the likes of you!" Mo Xiaoqing quickly argued.

These local faction disciples were all backed by different elders, some with backgrounds no weaker than the Mo Clan. Han Chenfei's words were clearly aimed at the local faction's internal friction.

Mo Xiaoqing was no fool. Of course he could see her aim.

"Hehe, you're denying it? There are hundreds of us here, and each of us has joined the academy after numerous tests. Feel free to expel all of us. I believe the future generations of our organizations will no longer enter the Dragon Phoenix Academy. After all, there is more than one ancient academy in existence," said Han Chenfei, still sneering.

She was right. If all of them were made to leave the academy at the same time, it would be a massive scandal. At that time, the Mo Clan would definitely suffer. Mo Xiaoqing had not expected Han Chenfei to have such a sharp tongue. He was infuriated, but he did not know what to say.

Beside him, Situ Yan shouted, "This is an affair between Xiang Shaoyun and us. It has nothing to do with all of you!"

"But he is our overlord, so this definitely has something to do with us," argued Han Chenfei unrelentingly.

Situ Yan couldn't win the argument with Han Chenfei, so she pointed at Xiang Shaoyun and scolded, "Xiang Shaoyun, you coward. If you have the guts, fight Brother Mo one on one!"

Right after she said that, Xiang Shaoyun turned into a gust of wind and approached her rapidly. Using the profundity of wind, footwork intent, and the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps, he pushed his speed to a level surpassing a Sovereign. Not even a third-stage Sovereign could compare with him in terms of speed. Before anyone could react, several slaps struck Situ Yan's face.

Pa! Pa!

Xiang Shaoyun left as fast as he had arrived. Before everyone even knew what was happening, he had returned to his original position. Situ Yan was completely dumbstruck, and the burning pain on her face caused her to tear up. She looked incredibly pitiful, but she couldn't even find out who had slapped her.

"Yes, I am a coward. I don't have the guts to fight him. What, you want to beat me up? Ask the brothers and sisters standing behind me, vixen," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

Finally, Situ Yan realized that Xiang Shaoyun had to have been the one who had slapped her. Looking at Mo Xiaoqing, she demanded, "Brother Mo, kill him for me, and I will be yours."

But before Mo Xiaoqing could reply, Tang Longfei shouted, "If you want to touch the overlord, you have to go through the Overlord Legion!"

The others also shouted, "To touch the overlord, you have to go through the Overlord Legion!"

Their voices resounded in the air, their vigor overflowing. Those from the local faction were given a fright. They had never expected such cohesiveness in the Overlord Legion. Their unity was truly surprising.

Even Mo Xiaoqing and Situ Yan were greatly shocked. For a moment, they even had an impression that the Overlord Legion was already attacking. Under the suppression of their overflowing vigor, Mo Xiaoqing and Situ Yan would be akin to eggs clashing against stone if they continued challenging Xiang Shaoyun.

"I thought you were challenging me. If you insist, my brothers and sisters will face you together," said Xiang Shaoyun with a toying tone.

"You...you're shameless!" Mo Xiaoqing said sullenly.

"Thank you for the praise. If that is all, we will be taking our leave. You're more than welcome to come challenge us at any time," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Without bothering to say anything else, he then began to leave with the Overlord Legion.

"Brother, don't be in such a rush to leave," Lei Bao suddenly said.

"Anything I can do for you?" Xiang Shaoyun asked curiously.

"Do you have any stone keys in your possession?" Lei Bao asked.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded. "Yes. Do you?"

"Haha, I have one," said Lei Bao with a hearty laugh.

Hearing that, a complicated expression formed on Xiang Shaoyun's face. There were five stone keys in total. The one that could assemble all five would be able to open the secret door. The battleground's most valuable treasure was definitely waiting there.

The reason Xiang Shaoyun had spread the news regarding the stone keys was so other key holders would show up and he could in turn snatch those keys. Little had he imagined that the first opponent he encountered would be those from the local faction. It was not good news.

He did not fear them, but they were definitely no easy opponents. Moreover, offending the local faction would only bring them more trouble in the future. Lei Bao seemed to have seen through Xiang Shaoyun as he asked, "Brother, are you planning to snatch the key?"

Xiang Shaoyun rubbed his nose and said, "Yes, that was my plan. But it seems like I have no choice but to change my plan."

Lei Bao had not expected such a frank reply. His respect for Xiang Shaoyun increased.

"The secret door is not something that can be monopolized by a single person. In fact, it is enough for everyone to share. I advise you to forget your plan. The best method is to work together," suggested Lei Bao seriously.

Xiang Shaoyun gave it some thought and said, "I don't mind a cooperation, but how are we supposed to split the gains?"

"Simple. After opening the door, we can compete. What one can get will depend on one's capabilities," said Lei Bao.

After giving it more thought, Xiang Shaoyun agreed. Since Lei Bao was from the local faction, he definitely had a deep understanding of the battleground's secrets. He wouldn't have made such a proposal otherwise.

Perhaps the difficulty of getting the treasures behind the secret door was much greater than he had imagined.

Chapter 854: Zhan Wushuang

After the talks of cooperation, the two groups calmed down and seemed to have forgotten their earlier hostility. Together, they had two keys in possession. However, the whereabouts of the remaining three keys were still unknown. Xiang Shaoyun had no idea how long it would take to gather them all.

At this time, Lei Bao smiled and said, "In fact, it is a simple matter to find the other keys."

"What do you mean?" Xiang Shaoyun asked curiously.

"Channel some energy into the stone key, and you will be able to sense the other keys. That was how I found out about the key in your possession," said Lei Bao.

Xiang Shaoyun was hit by a realization. He had initially thought that Lei Bao had only come for him because of the news he had spread. So it turns out that there was such a method. Xiang Shaoyun could only blame himself for not properly studying the key.

"Let's not waste any time and look for the other keys," said Xiang Shaoyun with excitement.

"That's exactly what I have in mind," said Lei Bao with a smile as he took out his key.

Xiang Shaoyun did the same. The two channeled energy into the keys at the same time. Then, the keys shone, forming rays of light that pointed in a certain direction.

Lei Bao's voice rang out, "The key will generally only sense the nearest key. We can only sense the other keys after obtaining that key."

"Shall we move together?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Of course. We have less than half a year remaining. Gathering all five keys won't be easy. We need to work together. After gathering all five, we need to open the secret door immediately," said Lei Bao.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded in agreement without wasting any time. To the side, Mo Xiaoqing and Situ Yan had ghastly expressions, feeling extremely gloomy. They were unwilling to work with Xiang Shaoyun, but they did not dare to speak up against Lei Bao. Thus, they had no choice but to obey silently. Of course, they were still secretly planning to deal Xiang Shaoyun a fatal attack after opening the secret door.

The Overlord Legion and the local faction started traveling together. Although they were temporarily working together, they still maintained some distance from each other. There weren't many exchanges between the two parties.

However, Lei Bao was quite interested in Xiang Shaoyun. He kept conversing with Xiang Shaoyun, who similarly wished to befriend Lei Bao. Befriending Lei Bao would help him reduce the amount of trouble during his coming days. After all, both the Flaming Sun and the Royal Army had joined hands against him. If the local faction joined in as well, the Overlord Legion would be even more troubled.

A few days passed, and they finally found the third key's holder. The holder was none other than Zhan Wushuang from the Crushing Sky. This was Xiang Shaoyun's first meeting with Zhan Wushuang, and this meeting left him with a deep impression.

Zhan Wushuang only wore a simple singlet without any armor. His wide back was clearly revealed; his bulging muscles seemed to brim with power. Scars were crisscrossed on his hard face, but they made him look even more attractive and not ugly. His pair of eyes seemed to gaze disdainfully at

the entire world, but the most dazzling part of him was the pair of golden gloves that shone with a brilliant gold radiance.

This was someone who had defeated Ouyang Chuanqi in five punches. He was indeed someone extraordinary. When Lei Bao saw Zhan Wushuang, a purple radiance started flickering around his body as his battle intent surged. It was clear how much he wished to have a fight with Zhan Wushuang.

However, standing behind Zhan Wushuang were over 1,000 Crushing Sky members. If they fought, the local faction would be completely destroyed.

Xiang Shaoyun also noticed the two women beside Zhan Wushuang. One was An Lulu the Lady Violence, and she was glaring at Xiang Shaoyun furiously. The other was Xia Yunxi, and she was exuding incomparable grace. She acted with complete tranquility, as though she had not noticed Xiang Shaoyun.

An Lulu was now at the seventh stage. Her growth had been rapid. Xia Yunxi had been growing at a decent speed as well. She was now at the fifth stage, catching up to the previous Di Lin. One ought to know that Xia Yunxi was the same age as Xiang Shaoyun.

It was apparent that both these women were not only talented but also possessed great fortune. Or perhaps they had received Zhan Wushuang's help. Zhan Wushuang was also at the ninth stage, and he was already at the late ninth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. For someone that had just reached 30, this was an impressive cultivation level.

It was no wonder that Ouyang Chuanqi had been defeated by only a few punches.

"Are you here to deliver the stone keys to me?" asked Zhan Wushuang indifferently.

His gaze was focused on Lei Bao. He had completely disregarded Xiang Shaoyun. Despite Xiang Shaoyun's fame and the fact that he was the first overseer of his generation, Xiang Shaoyun still wasn't impressive enough for Zhan Wushuang.

"Bold words, but I am more interested in seeing you hand over your key," said Lei Bao.

Lei Bao had never been someone with a good temper. His very bones radiated arrogance. He had long heard of Zhan Wushuang's name and had long wanted to battle him. With an opportunity presenting itself, he did not intend to let it go.

Zhan Wushuang's eyes glowed with a golden radiance as he said, "If you can withstand three punches from me, I will hand over my key voluntarily."

It was a domineering declaration filled with the faith that he was undefeatable. Lei Bao was completely infuriated. Like a lightning dragon, he roared and readied himself for a fight.

At this time, Xiang Shaoyun stepped forth and released his aura as he shouted, "Brother Lei, calm down. Our focus should be on gathering all five keys."

With Xiang Shaoyun's strength, he wouldn't be able to stop Lei Bao and Zhan Wushuang if they wished to fight. However, his filthless soul was extremely powerful, matching a fourth-stage Sovereign. Thus, when he combined his presence with his soul power, he could create a pressure that felt as though an actual Sovereign had descended. He successfully caught the attention of Lei Bao and Zhan Wushuang.

The two looked at him in astonishment, evidently surprised by the feeling he was giving them as a sixth-stage Emperor.

"Interesting," said Zhan Wushuang with a nonchalant smile. "Are you willing to become my follower? I am willing to make you my deputy chief."

Although Zhan Wushuang now thought higher of Xiang Shaoyun, he was still of the opinion that this level of strength only qualified Xiang Shaoyun to be his subordinate.

Chapter 855: Four Stone Keys Gathered

Those words were no doubt viewed as an insult by the Overlord Legion members. One of them shouted unhappily, "Bullshit. You should be our overlord's subordinate instead."

Right after that person spoke, Zhan Wushuang shot him a sharp gaze. The speaker had an illusion that a barbaric dragon was pouncing on him. He was sent flying away, spewing blood from his mouth. By the time Xiang Shaoyun realized what was happening, the one who had spoken up was already seriously injured.

"Trash," said Zhan Wushuang, his voice laced with contempt. He refocused on Xiang Shaoyun and said, "Sure, you have decent combat strength, but it's still not enough to be my enemy. You should be honored to be my deputy."

At this time, An Lulu chipped in, "Xiang Shaoyun, what are you waiting for? Kneel down and thank the chief!"

Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter, "Haha, bold words. However, I don't have the habit of being someone else's subordinate. This time, we are here to seek cooperation. Me and Brother Lei have a stone key each. You have one as well. We only need two more to open the secret door. This is our common goal."

Xiang Shaoyun's actions were befitting of someone who had awakened the Light of Wisdom. In a pragmatic way, he changed the topic back to what they had come for.

"Why should we work with you? Hand over your keys, and I will spare you. Otherwise, our Crushing Sky will trample over you," said Zhan Wushuang with contempt.

In his eyes, Lei Bao and Xiang Shaoyun were unworthy of his attention. Perhaps only that sword-wielding fellow could stimulate the fighting intent within him.

"Zhan Wushuang, you are too arrogant," Lei Bao said unhappily.

Xiang Shaoyun persuaded, "Brother Lei, calm down. Let me have a talk with him."

He looked at Zhan Wushuang and said, "Zhan Wushuang, you are strong. That is publicly acknowledged. But have you thought about it? Even if you manage to open the secret door alone, with just the Crushing Sky, can you handle all the dangers hidden within? Even if you are confident, the brothers and sisters behind you definitely aren't capable of that. Or perhaps you're confident you can take care of everyone? Or are you planning to keep everything there for yourself?"

"With our strength, we can deal with any danger thrown our way. The treasures inside are enough for us, so we don't need too many people sharing them with us. Trying to sow dissent like this is pointless," replied Zhan Wushuang with no trace of politeness.

"Yes, you're right. Looks like all my words are pointless," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sigh. He could see that Zhan Wushuang was an incomparably stubborn person. He had thought that he could convince him with his glib tongue, but he was mistaken.

"It's good that you're aware of your limits. Now, time to hand over your keys," demanded Zhan Wushuang with a tone that allowed no refusal.

"Haha, since we can't work together and chances are slim that we will be able to snatch your key, I will just destroy my key. None of us will get anything," said Xiang Shaoyun as he laughed with insanity. He took out a key, and it looked like he was really going to destroy it.

"You dare?" Zhan Wushuang roared and dashed at Xiang Shaoyun.

Zhan Wushuang had terrifying speed. He moved like a barbaric dragon and instantly reached Xiang Shaoyun, trying to snatch the key.

Alas, Xiang Shaoyun was not as weak as he had expected, and it was especially true in terms of speed. Xiang Shaoyun was confident he wouldn't lose to anyone when it came to speed. Before Zhan Wushuang could even get near him, he moved hundreds of meters away.

"Your combat strength might be greater than mine, but it definitely won't be easy to catch me," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sneer.

At this moment, Lei Bao seemed to have understood Xiang Shaoyun's intention. He voiced his agreement, "That's right. Since we can't cooperate, everyone shall end up with nothing!"

Zhan Wushuang was placed in an awkward position. He knew that behind the secret door were great treasures that could help him enter the Soul Foundation Realm. If the stone keys were destroyed, he would need much more time to reach the Soul Foundation Realm.

Left with no choice, his tone softened as he asked, "How do you want to cooperate?"

Even if he was confident he could capture Xiang Shaoyun relatively quickly, he had no confidence he could do the same for Lei Bao. After all, Lei Bao had the same cultivation level as him and cultivated the power of lightning. If Lei Bao decided to destroy the stone key with lightning, Zhan Wushuang would have no hope of saving the key.

Although he could see that Xiang Shaoyun and Lei Bao were merely boasting, it was still better to be safe. Even a cornered dog would jump over the wall. If he pushed them too hard, things would be troublesome.

Hence, he had no choice but to concede. After all, he was confident he would hold the advantage over others after opening the secret door.

"You should say it, Brother Lei," said Xiang Shaoyun. He did not wish to waste his breath speaking to someone that so obviously looked down on him.

Lei Bao repeated what he told Xiang Shaoyun to Zhan Wushuang, who then agreed when he found the plan feasible.

And thus, an alliance of three parties was formed. They continued their search for the remaining stone keys. Of course, they still killed a large number of devilish plants during their search to increase their points, and they gathered any rare materials they found.

It was practically impossible for the three parties to actually work together. They maintained a certain distance from each other. That way, they could avoid friction between their members.

After a few days of searching, the fourth key revealed itself. This time, the key holder was also heading toward them. Thus, they were able to quickly meet the holder. The holder was none other than Yu Ziyang from the Flaming Sun. Behind him was a group of Flaming Sun members, and they looked as impressive as the Crushing Sky.

When Yu Ziyang saw that the keys he detected were actually held by three different parties, he realized that things did not look well for him. Once again, Lei Bao acted as the ambassador and proposed his plan to Yu Ziyang. Without any hesitation, the decisive Yu Ziyang agreed.

After the agreement, Yu Ziyang gazed at Xiang Shaoyun and said, "After the door is opened, I will personally teach you a lesson."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "I'll be waiting."

Xiang Shaoyun had noticed that Yu Caidie wasn't with the Flaming Sun's group. Perhaps she was still hiding somewhere and had yet to gather with the Flaming Sun people. The thought of her made him recall his previous life's memories.

Yu Caidie looked exactly the same as the woman he loved most in his past life. It was no wonder that he had the feeling of love at first sight the moment he had first seen her. In his past life, she was fiercely loyal to him. During the great war, they fought side by side. Ultimately, they died together. He still remembered how she had promised to still be with him in the next life.

"Are they really the same person?" Xiang Shaoyun couldn't help wondering.

Chapter 856: News of the Fifth Key

After Xiang Shaoyun, Lei Bao, Zhan Wushuang, and Yu Ziyang gathered four keys together, locating the final key was supposed to be much easier. But when they tried detecting the final key with their keys, they received no response, unlike their previous attempts.

While everyone was confused, Lei Bao said with a frown, "The final key has either been destroyed or sealed by someone using a unique method. This is troublesome."

"Wait, so we won't be able to gather all five keys because of this?" Zhan Wushuang asked.

"If we keep failing to get a response, finding the fifth key will be harder than scaling the sky," said Lei Bao.

Everyone's expression turned ghastly. It hadn't been easy for them to gather four keys. They had thought that the final key would come easily, but they were disappointed. It was understandable that they would be upset.

While everyone was at a loss, a small group of people suddenly appeared near them. This group wasn't big, and they had about 20 people. However, they were extremely conspicuous since they were led by the only twin sisters in the academy, He Yuyuan and He Ziyuan.

The two were great beauties as pretty as the Han Clan sisters. Some would even say that the twins were prettier. Of course, they were still somewhat lacking compared to Yu Caidie and Han Chenfei. But when the seductive identical twins were standing side by side, they could still make one's imagination run wild.

They were dressed in fine satin outfits, showcasing their perfect figures well. Each had a sword hanging on her back, looking rather carefree. Both were tested to have eight-star physiques during the academy's test. It was clear they had excellent cultivation talents, but they had always maintained a low profile in the academy. No breaking news about them had ever spread in the academy.

Everyone knew that they had joined the Sword Society early on, and with the Sword Society's protection, nobody dared to mess with them. It seemed like the twins were currently approaching the alliance of four.

"He Yuyuan (He Ziyuan) greets the senior brothers," said the two as they cupped their hands in greeting.

"Where is Baili Yixiao? What is the meaning of sending you two to us?" asked Zhan Wushuang with a frown. Among all the disciples, Baili Yixiao was the only one he had attached any importance to. Nobody knew that he had known Baili Yixiao long ago, and the two were long-time rivals. In fact, it was Baili Yixiao who had left the scar on his face during the only defeat Zhan Wushuang had ever suffered.

Zhan Wushuang had also received special recruitment from the True Martial Academy, but upon finding out that Baili Yixiao had selected the Dragon Phoenix Academy, he had decided to join the Dragon Phoenix Academy as well. He hoped that he could wash his previous shame clean in the academy.

But over the past few years, Baili Yixiao had been completely focused on swordsmanship. Both of them were advancing as fast as the other, and because of that, Zhan Wushuang had never found the confidence to challenge Baili Yixiao again.

However, he knew very well that if he met Baili Yixiao in the battleground, a victor would be decided between them once again.

"The society master is inviting everyone to meet," said He Yuyuan.

"What is the meaning of this?" questioned Lei Bao.

"Our society master holds the fifth key," said He Ziyuan.

Everyone stirred. Just earlier, they were still all vexed over the location of the fifth key. And now, it was revealing itself before them. However, all of them were arrogant individuals. It might seem fine for them to follow He Yuyuan and He Ziyuan to meet Baili Yixiao, but in truth, it would give the impression that they were all answering his summons. The thought of it was hard for them to swallow.

Since Baili Yixiao could seal the stone key and make it undetectable, it proved he had extraordinary tricks up his sleeve. They had no choice but to go with the twins unless they were willing to give up on the key.

The twins could see their unhappiness, but they were acting on orders. Thus, they did not bother giving any other explanations and stood silently, awaiting their reply.

"Since we have no other choice, lead the way," said Xiang Shaoyun, breaking the silence.

The others were too arrogant to say yes, but Xiang Shaoyun did not care. It wasn't that he did not have a spine, but he was more pragmatic. He knew it was not the time to act according to their emotions. Their priority should be in opening the secret door. Everything else could be set aside for now.

By speaking, Xiang Shaoyun was giving them a chance to alleviate their embarrassment. After all, it was someone else who had agreed, not them.

"Fine. Let me see how amazing this Smiling Swordsman is to be acting so arrogantly," said Lei Bao.

With Xiang Shaoyun and Lei Bao agreeing, Zhan Wushuang and Yu Ziyang gave their tacit agreement as well. The group thus followed the twins toward Baili Yixiao's location. But before they arrived, they encountered the Royal Army.

When Huang Tianji saw all those people gathered together, he immediately guessed that they might be planning something. Thus, he decided to stick with them. Of course, he first needed an excuse.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I have yet to settle the issue of you bullying my little sister," said Huang Tianji as he took large strides toward Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun shot him a glance and said, "Your Highness, you sure have balls. You think with the few people you have, you can fight the Overlord Legion?"

Huang Tianji ignored Xiang Shaoyun and said to Yu Ziyang, "Brother Ziyang, we previously agreed to work together. I now invite you to work with me and eliminate Xiang Shaoyun. I will definitely repay you handsomely after this."

Yu Ziyang hesitated for a bit and said, "Your Highness, we need to set that aside for now. We can talk about it later."

Huang Tianji said, "If that is the case, I will travel with you. When you're done with your business, we'll deal with him together."

"Haha, the great prince is actually playing a petty trick like this? How laughable," Xiang Shaoyun roared with laughter.

"Hmph. Your turn to suffer will come," said Huang Tianji without shame.

Yu Ziyang wanted to say something, but he ultimately decided to shut his mouth. He still wanted to befriend Huang Tianji, so he decided to let Huang Tianji stick with him. They would decide on what to do if Baili Yixiao disagreed later. In any case, Lei Bao and Zhan Wushuang had not objected to it.

With the inclusion of the Royal Army, the group grew larger. The devilish plants they encountered along their way were no longer a threat. After about half a day, they reached their destination.

This was the very first time Xiang Shaoyun was meeting the Dragon Phoenix Academy's number one disciple, Baili Yixiao.

Chapter 857: Baili Yixiao

Under a tall tree, a youth in gray was seated cross-legged. His black hair was tied up neatly, with some strands drooping on the sides of his face. He radiated elegance, his temperament nicely matching his handsome face. His skin was as fair as a baby's, making him look only 15 or 16 years old. His eyes were shut in rest, and a crude sword lay on his legs. No sharp aura could be detected from him. He looked like a completely ordinary sword cultivator.

This was Baili Yixiao, the Dragon Phoenix Academy's number one disciple, the Smiling Swordsman.

He had a good reputation in the academy. He was always polite, and he had a mild temper with a kind heart. Because of that, the moment he founded the Sword Society, numerous disciples joined him, making the Sword Society the biggest faction in the academy.

In truth, establishing the Sword Society was not his idea in the first place. Rather, he did it under the persuasion of his best friend, Long Shi. Like Wang Yufeng, Long Shi had a high-grade eight-star physique. He had impressive combat strength, and he practically ran the Sword Society.

Long Shi was a tall and buff male; his body was sturdy while his face was firm. He somewhat resembled Zhan Wushuang physically, but he was slightly less muscular. He was clad in high-grade armor and wielded a massive sword in his hand. His eyes constantly radiated arrogance, as if he disdained the entire world.

Long Shi was already an eighth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, comparable to Han Chenfei. He occupied the ninth spot on the Dragon Phoenix List and was only weaker than the academy's eight freaks. He was much stronger than Green Youth Ye Linshan, Lady Violence An Lulu, and the others on their level. He wouldn't be qualified to become the Sword Society's deputy master otherwise.

Currently, he was leading a group of 500 who were standing on guard around Baili Yixiao. Although a majority of the Sword Society members were sword wielders, some wielded other weapons. They weren't so inflexible that they would only recruit sword wielders.

When the twins arrived with the others, Baili Yixiao slowly opened his eyes. His eyes were slightly curved, akin to a pair of crescent moons. His lips were slightly curled as a genial smile formed on his face. The moment he smiled, the world around him seemed to come alive. The change was extremely striking.

"Human heaven unity!" the many disciples cried out in alarm when they saw that.

Only upon reaching the human heaven unity would one be able to influence one's surroundings with one's emotions, and it was something all cultivators pursued. It was completely different from the profundity of power that focused on the manipulation and control of powers.

On the other hand, the human heaven unity focused on one's comprehension of the dao, and it was a state rarely seen in a cultivator. Even if one managed to enter this state, one would only be able to stay in it for a limited period of time. If one was interrupted, it wouldn't be so easy to enter the state another time. Everything relied on one's fortune and perception.

Baili Yixiao had not only entered the state in front of so many people—he could also enter and leave it as he wished. It was clear how proficient he was at it.

When He Yuyuan saw that Baili Yixiao had awakened, she quickly stepped forth and said, "Society master, they are here."

Baili Yixiao waved his hand at her and stepped forward. He cupped his hands in greeting and smiled as he said, "Thank you for coming, fellow disciples. My apologies for troubling you all to make this trip."

Xiang Shaoyun had never imagined Baili Yixiao to be such a polite person. He looked completely sincere, as though he fully meant each word.

"Baili Yixiao, your politeness is always annoying," said Zhan Wushuang, showing no politeness. Of the people present, Zhan Wushuang was the only one who dared to speak like that to Baili Yixiao.

Baili Yixiao did not mind. He replied, "Brother Wushuang, looks like I have embarrassed myself before you. There must be some misunderstanding. I don't want to slow everyone's search down. That was why I had Yuyuan and Ziyuan invite you all here. This place happens to be closer to the secret door."

"What? You already found the secret door?" Lei Bao asked in shock.

Lei Bao and the others had the keys in their possession, but they still had no idea where the secret door was. And yet Baili Yixiao had found it before them. It was truly shocking.

"I don't know the exact position, but my instincts are telling me it is near," said Baili Yixiao with a calm tone.

Although he used an uncertain tone, everyone found his words believable.

"Since that is the case, please take your key out," said Lei Bao.

"Here," said Baili Yixiao. With a flick of his wrist, a stone key appeared in his hand.

World within sleeve! Everyone could see the depth of the trick Baili Yixiao had just used, but they could not understand how that trick had managed to seal the key. There had to be some secret they were unaware of at work here. They did not care much about the trick, as they cared more about the secret door.

"Take all the keys out, and we will probably be able to locate the secret door," said Lei Bao.

Right this moment, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Hold on. Don't you think that those without a key should move away now?"

His words were clearly aimed at Huang Tianji. Huang Tianji's expression shifted greatly. He knew very well that the people here were making a move on the battleground's most desired secret. If he couldn't partake, it would be a great loss. It might even be a turning point pulling all the other geniuses far ahead of him. He wasn't willing to see this opportunity slip from his hands.

Hence, he countered shamelessly, "I don't have a key, but I have formed an alliance with Brother Ziyang. It's enough for him to have a key."

Such shamelessness from a prince caught Yu Ziyang by surprise. He sighed inwardly, To achieve major feats, one truly can't be too mindful about matters of little significance.

"But you still need to gain our permission. Am I right, Brother Lei?" said Xiang Shaoyun.

Lei Bao nodded. "That's right. Each of us holds a key, and it is only rightful that our five parties are the ones to share the secret. Everyone else should leave."

He spoke without holding anything back, showing Huang Tianji no respect. His response caused Huang Tianji's face to turn ghastly, but the only thing Huang Tianji could do was look pleadingly at Yu Ziyang.

Before Yu Ziyang could say anything, Baili Yixiao said, "Don't continue to argue. All fellow academy disciples have the right to share in the secret."

Chapter 858: Secret Door Opened

With Baili Yixiao saying his piece, the others had no choice but to respect his opinion, Xiang Shaoyun included.

Xiang Shaoyun intended to throw a few more insults at Huang Tianji, but Yu Ziyang spoke before he had the chance. "Baili Yixiao is right. We won't know what's hidden behind the secret door. The more help we get, the more strength we will have. As for the actual share of the treasures, it will depend on our capabilities."

Those words were obviously his way of extending a kind gesture to Huang Tianji. After going through the secret door, he would have an ally by his side, and he would have a greater chance at getting the treasures inside. He was confident Huang Tianji would know what to do then.

"Cut the nonsense. Take the keys out," said Zhan Wushuang impatiently.

They each took out their respective key.

Swish! Swish!

All five stone keys started shining radiantly. The rays of light seemed to blend together as the five keys flew away from their hands and fused into a brand new stone key. The new stone key shone dazzlingly as it soared into the sky. Everyone still remaining in the battleground saw it. The key then flew in a certain direction.

"Follow it!" Lei Bao shouted.

Everyone followed the key, their eyes filled with expectation. They couldn't wait to see the secret hidden behind the door. At this time, numerous figures were rushing rapidly toward the key from different corners of the battleground.

One of them was dressed in a black outfit and mounted on a black qilin. He moved the fastest among the ones chasing the key. In a few seconds, he greatly shortened his distance and approached the key from far away.

"For it to create such a fuss in the battleground, a big secret is definitely being unveiled," muttered the youth in black excitedly.

In a different direction, a youth in green was also rushing toward the key. A green sword hung on his back, and each step he took brought him hundreds of meters forward. The devilish plants around him were all moving out of his way for some reason. Anyone witnessing this sight would be thoroughly shocked.

These plants would usually attack anyone they saw. Who was this youth in green, for him to make these plants avoid him?

From yet another direction was a specter-like figure. The figure ran without stop, his entire body radiating a sinister aura that looked like numerous skulls were floating around him. He wore a ghostface mask with a female captive in hand. His evil laugh resounded in the forest as he traveled.

If the Overlord Legion were there, they would be able to see that the woman was none other than Lady Shura, who had been missing all this while. Currently, she was unconscious. Fortunately, her clothes still seemed intact. But if nobody appeared to save her, it was obvious things wouldn't end well for her.

Quite a lot of people still remained on the battleground. They all wanted to reach the bright radiance, but they needed to first break free of whatever situation they were tangled in first.

The completed key reached a nearby forest. Within the forest was a huge boulder overrun with moss. The boulder looked completely ordinary, yet it suddenly shone brightly. A slit opened in it, a slit with the exact shape as the key. The key then shot toward the slit.

Rumble! Rumble!

Abruptly, the radiance surrounding the boulder intensified. It started splitting into two. The ground under their feet opened up, slowly revealing a gorge radiating an ancient aura. From far away, it was as if the mountain had split apart. It was a peculiar sight.

As for the disciples that were there, their eyes were wide open and filled with excitement. Their heartbeats accelerated.

"Is this the secret door? There must be a lot of treasures waiting for us inside!"

"Is this the battleground's ultimate secret? It will definitely help us grow stronger!"

"I keep having a feeling that the treasures can't be gained so easily. I'm afraid dreadful dangers are waiting for us inside. We need to be careful."

"Whatever. The treasures are mine! Charge!"

...

Before the mountain finished opening up, some people were already charging forward and roaring madly. The others weren't able to keep calm either. They all rushed toward the split with all their strength, afraid that others would reap the treasures before them.

Some of the Overlord Legion members also couldn't control themselves and charged forward. Xiang Shaoyun commanded with a deep tone, "Everyone, don't move without orders, or suffer the consequences for disobedience."

Xiang Shaoyun still maintained his rationality. He was able to sense that the fissure was not as simple as it seemed. Sure enough, those charging ahead of them were directly sent flying away by the powerful aura roiling out of the fissure.

"Roar!" "Hreeee!"

Two different sounds rumbled out of the fissure. A dragon rushed out with its fangs bared and claws brandished. A phoenix also flew out with its wings opened wide. This was the scene of a conflict between a dragon and a phoenix.

The scene made the disciples finally feel that the battleground was compatible with its name, the Dragon Phoenix Battleground.

The disciples grew even more excited. They suspected that perhaps a large amount of dragon liquid and phoenix bladders were waiting for them within the fissure. Those were rare treasures that could greatly increase a cultivator's strength.

But after the dragon and phoenix appeared, a large number of odd vines crawled out of the crack. They were scarlet red, looking like blood tentacles. They also had numerous eyes and exuded a blood-red devilish aura that gave off a monstrous sensation.

In addition to them, a withered tree suddenly grew, its dried branches spreading everywhere. It radiated an extremely peculiar ash-gray aura. One ought to know that although withered trees could still grow, they would grow out green buds, not dead branches like what this tree was doing.

Evidently, the massive vines and the dead tree were the secret door's main guardians. To get through the door, the academy disciples had to first get through these guardians.

When the disciples saw the terrifying vines and the dead tree, they paled. It was obvious that these two devilish plants were difficult opponents.

Someone recognized the two plants and shouted in alarm, "That is a blood devil vine and an immortal dead tree!"

Chapter 859: Blood Devil Vine and Immortal Dead Tree

The blood devil vine was an extremely rare type of devilish plant capable of growing countless vines from its main body. The eyes on each vine could emanate a thick devilish aura that was not only corrosive but also poisonous. Furthermore, the vine itself was extremely tough.

This particular plant had survived for tens of thousands of years, and it was at least a peak Devil Sovereign. Regular sovereign weapons would have a hard time cutting off one of its vines. In other words, if the disciples wanted to deal with it, regular weapons and combat strength would not be enough.

The immortal dead tree was an odd tree from ancient times. Any of its branches had the characteristics of immortality. The moment a branch encountered life force, instead of growing with green buds and leaves like regular trees, it would start growing immortal branches devoid of life force.

These branches were comparable with the best of weapons. If one could collect some of them, forging top-tier sovereign weapons from them was a real possibility. And if one was struck by one of these branches, one's life force would be immediately drained away, causing a cultivator's vitality to be negatively affected.

Both plants were highly unusual and sinister. Having them as the guardians was the same as making things difficult for these disciples. Some of the more confident disciples charged ahead, disregarding what happened to those before them. Fully armed, they pushed forth with all their might in an attempt to pave a path of blood through the guardians.

However, when their attacks touched the vines, they failed to cause any damage. Instead, the vines erupted with clumps of highly poisonous toxins and started sweeping everywhere. It was as though a super expert was attacking, catching the charging disciples by complete surprise.

"Ahhhh!"

The many disciples wailed in pain. Some were directly smashed into pulp before they could even crush their protective jades. When the others saw, they finally stopped their charge. Nobody dared to move rashly anymore. Terrifying devilish plants like these definitely couldn't be dealt with by only a few disciples.

"I think we should work together and take out these plants before anything else," Baili Yixiao proposed.

"Brothers and sisters of the Crushing Sky, with me!" Zhan Wushuang commanded without as much as acknowledging Baili Yixiao's suggestion. Leading his own people, he started pushing toward the immortal dead tree.

He planned to create a point of breakthrough from his current position. Yu Ziyang did not delay either. He gathered the Flaming Sun and charged toward the blood devil vine from a different direction. The Royal Army naturally followed alongside them.

As for Lei Bao's group, despite their smaller numbers, they had the arrogance of being members of the local faction. Thus, they also disdained working with others. They too charged from a different direction.

"Overlord, let's go as well!" Tang Longfei said.

"Um. Follow my lead. We'll be charging from this direction," said Xiang Shaoyun.

The entire crack between the mountain was occupied by the blood devil vine and immortal dead tree. Whichever direction the disciples charged from, they would need to face the two devilish plants' attacks. How far they could go would depend on how capable they were.

Rumble! Rumble!

Attacks rained down at the two plants, each with a strength to crush mountains. However, the two plants were no ordinary plants. They were extremely powerful, sweeping everywhere with their vines and branches, blocking the numerous incoming attacks. The two even had the time to either entangle the disciples or send them flying.

This was most certainly a difficult charge for the disciples. Some of them were forced to crush their protective jades and withdraw after getting tangled in the vines, but some managed to break through.

The first to break through was none other than Zhan Wushuang. His domineering fists forced the branches to retreat again and again. In the most barbaric manner, he forced his way through.

Baili Yixiao was naturally not going to fall behind others. With a sword in hand, he severed vine after vine, his sword dancing amid whatever opening he found amid the plants, advancing in an extremely clean manner.

As for Yu Ziyang, using the power of flame, he transformed into a bright sun that created a path of flame as he burned his way through.

Huang Tianji wasn't any slower than the others. Wielding a top-quality spear, he swept the plants aside and found his own way through.

Apart from these freaks, about a dozen disciples who had always maintained a low profile also unleashed their true strength and broke through.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was still working with the Overlord Legion people to deal with the vines in their way. In truth, with his speed, he could very well charge in before anyone else. But he did not do so since he needed to take care of his people, protecting them from any fatal injuries.

"Overlord, ignore us and go through yourself!" someone shouted.

The others also started saying the same thing.

Xiang Shaoyun's brain raced as he said, "I'll send the 10 strongest among you through. As for the others, you'll have to rely on yourself."

He grabbed Tang Longfei's arm and transformed into a gust of wind as he traveled through the openings among the vines. He was able to cleanly avoid all the vines and the poisonous gas as he danced amid the forest of vines.

After getting through the outer perimeter of vines, he stopped advancing and said, "Big Brother Tang, there are still dangers ahead of us. Take care!"

He then tossed Tang Longfei downward into the gorge. The Overlord Legion members who were watching were completely dumbstruck. They had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would bring someone through just like that.

One ought to know that it was extremely difficult for any of them to get through. The difficulty was even higher if one wished to act like Xiang Shaoyun and bring someone through, and yet Xiang Shaoyun had accomplished it so easily. It was quite an eye-opener.

Soon, Xiang Shaoyun appeared outside again and grabbed Xuan Yuantian before diving into the midst of the vines again. Xuan Yuantian had not expected that he would be one of the 10 chosen. A sense of shame welled in his heart since he had looked down upon the overlord.

Before he could even recover from his thoughts, he was already brought through the outer perimeter. Xiang Shaoyun vanished again after leaving behind the words, "Take care, brother."

Xuan Yuantian was immediately filled with battle intent as he roared, "I will make the Overlord Legion proud!"

Traveling back and forth, Xiang Shaoyun brought the strongest members of the Overlord Legion through.

But when bringing the last person through, Xiang Shaoyun made a lapse of judgment and caused Yuan Xuefen to be struck by the poisonous gas. If she hadn't been able to move away in time, things would not have ended well for her.

During the moment of crisis, Xiang Shaoyun stood behind her and pushed her through the opening amid the vines while he himself was swallowed by a cloud of poison.

"Overlord!"

Chapter 860: Breaking Through by Force

When the Overlord Legion saw the poisonous gas swallow Xiang Shaoyun, they cried out in alarm. Yuan Xuefen felt extremely guilty. He wouldn't have been swallowed if he hadn't tried to save her. She wanted to rush over and help Xiang Shaoyun, but more vines were heading toward her, forcing her to abandon that thought and instead continue to advance through the opening.

Overlord, I will not let you down! Yuan Xuefen swore inwardly and started concentrating on the dangers around her, focusing on getting the treasures hidden in the fissure.

Xiang Shaoyun, who had been swallowed by the poisonous gas, was actually still alive. He had swallowed an antidote in advance as a safety precaution. Although the antidote couldn't fully clear the poison, when the antidote worked alongside his lightning energy, the poison invading his body couldn't do too much harm.

However, the slight delay upon being swallowed by the poisonous gas had caused him to be completely tangled up by the encroaching vines. The vines were exceptionally tough and could even absorb one's blood essence. If Xiang Shaoyun couldn't free himself immediately, death would be the only thing waiting for him.

Xiang Shaoyun was someone with rich combat experience. The moment the vines wrapped around him, the Radiant Saint Sword appeared in his hand. He cut through the vines around him and kept them away.

"Trying to stop me? Dream on!" Xiang Shaoyun roared as he started swinging the Radiant Saint Sword left and right. Instantly, numerous vines were severed. The area surrounding him immediately became a temporary safe zone. He turned around and shouted, "If you want to get through, do it now!"

He waited no longer and jumped downward, heading deeper into the gorge. A large amount of dragon phoenix aura was leaking out of the gorge, giving rise to the disciples' greed. All of them were madly trying to head down into the gorge's depths.

However, the roots of the blood devil vine and immortal dead tree were down there as well. Just by delving into the gorge, it did not signify that one would get the treasures. Rather, they would be subjected to an even more relentless assault.

Xiang Shaoyun pushed his speed to the limit and moved as he dodged the vines and branches coming his way. His Nether Soul Domain was fully activated as he sent and spread his senses all around him. Soon, he was able to detect that there was a specific place down under the gorge where the dragon phoenix aura was leaking out from. As long as he could reach that place, he would be able to harvest what he wanted.

Xiang Shaoyun had always tried to hide the saint weapon in his possession, but he was left with no choice. After all, the other freaks were ahead of him while he had wasted time bringing 10 of his people in. If he did not increase his pace, there would be nothing left for him.

Of the people charging through the vines and branches, Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang revealed a combat prowess matching that of a mid-stage Sovereign. Their every move was brimming with power, and they sent vines and branches flying everywhere as they advanced one step at a time.

If they hadn't been too busy watching out for the poisonous gas and devilish fog, they would have reached their destination long ago. People like Lei Bao, Yu Ziyang, Huang Tianji, Han Chenfei, Long Shi, and An Lulu were moving through the obstacles rapidly. Some of them were even catching up to Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang.

As for the others, their situation remained dangerous, with people being forced to withdraw one after another. At this time, several powerful disciples arrived. They were Yu Caidie, Ouyang Chuanqi, Xiao Xie, and Ye Linshan.

Yu Caidie was mounted on a phoenix, looking like a fairy descending upon the mortal world. The disciples around her were momentarily dazed just by looking at her.

The Flaming Sun members greeted in surprise, "Holy maiden!"

Yu Caidie gave no reply as she dove right into the gorge with her phoenix. On the other hand, the Overlord Legion members all greeted Ouyang Chuanqi and told him that the overlord had already jumped into the gorge.

Ouyang Chuanqi wasted no time and jumped down as well. The vines and branches were unable to harm him. People like Xiao Xie, Ye Linshan, and the others also demonstrated their martial might and moved deftly into the midst of vines and branches.

Those with sharper eyes would also notice that a certain specter with a captive in hand had also jumped into the gorge.

"Who is that person? His captive seems to be Lady Shura?" Pan Yun from the Overlord Legion shouted as he pointed in a certain direction.

"That's not possible, right? Who's brave enough to kidnap Lady Shura? Is that person tired of living?" said someone else.

"Maybe I saw wrongly," said Pan Yun. Then, with a resolute look on his face, he jumped into the gorge as well.

An energy barrier shaped like a tortoiseshell had formed around him. He was relying on this barrier, hoping that it could protect him from the vines and branches. Even as he tried dodging the vines and branches, he was still struck. Thus, he advanced as he staggered along, his barrier protecting him.

Behind him, the other disciples cried out in astonishment, "That works?"

They had thought that the vines would smash Pan Yun into nothingness, but he actually got through using such a method. It was truly surprising.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun caught up with the few freaks in the lead with his impressive speed.

But the deeper the disciples went, the thicker the poisonous gas and the devilish fog. At this point, they were finding it harder and harder to resist the poison and devilish energy.

Xiang Shaoyun barely hung on. After all, his body had been tempered by lightning, fire, and several types of vicious and corrosive energies before. Thus, his flesh was greatly resistant to the elements.

What troubled him more were the great numbers of vines and branches. If it wasn't for the Radiant Saint Sword he was holding, his advance would be much harder. After a series of struggles, Xiang Shaoyun and the other freaks arrived before a cave.

The cave was akin to an underground palace, its entrance akin to the jaws of an ancient beast giving off great pressure. It was as though one would not be able to leave upon entering.

However, people like Baili Yixiao, Zhan Wushuang, and Yu Ziyang seemed to know no fear. They charged into the cave unhesitatingly. The others did the same, afraid that nothing would be left for them if they were any slower.

Xiang Shaoyun was also charging ahead at his top speed, but he halted when he reached the cave entrance. He was able to sense a terrifying aura coming from inside the cave.

Sure enough, the moment he stopped, he saw those ahead of him fleeing out haphazardly. Only Baili Yixiao and Zhan Wushuang remained inside.

"Damn it. Something even more troublesome is inside. I refuse to believe I can't get through this," Yu Ziyang roared and charged ahead once again.

The others took a brief pause before doing the same.

Only Xiang Shaoyun still remained passive, standing there blankly as he exclaimed inwardly, This is way too scary, right?