

Chapter 1251: Lightning Penalty

After the silver-robed middle-aged man finished his sentence, he looked at Nangong Chen with a sneer. "Nangong Chen, your companion is going to bet with his life. Do you dare to participate?"

"Why wouldn't I!" Nangong Chen glanced at the silver-robed middle-aged man and said calmly, "We'll do as you said. I'll stake my life as well."

He trusted Duan Ling Tian unconditionally.

If Duan Ling Tian did not help him and his twin brother, Nangong Yi, half a year ago, they would have died. Duan Ling Tian had saved their lives.

Moreover, he had confidence in Duan Ling Ting. Even if he had no confidence in Duan Ling Tian, he would not publicly undermine Duan Ling Tian.

"Good, very well." The silver-robed middle-aged man smiled widely upon hearing Nangong Chen's words.

"If that's the case, the three of us will swear an oath." The silver-clad middle-aged man licked his dried lips as an anticipatory expression appeared on his face. It was as though he could not wait to see Duan Ling Tian and Nangong Chen being killed by the lightning penalty.

Following that, the three of them swore an oath under everyone's watchful eyes.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Twenty-seven consecutive claps of thunder reverberated in the sky in correspondence to Duan Ling Tian, Nangong Chen, and the silver-robed middle-aged man's oath. The deafening sound pierced the sky and entered everyone's ears.

"Since all of you are betting your lives... This time, only four of you will enter the Gravitational Stairs in the second round of selection." Zhong An said slowly.

After that, he looked at Song Ting next to him and asked with a smile, "Second Senior Brother, do you have any opinion about this?"

"I have no opinion," Song Ting responded coolly.

"Nangong Chen, you and this overconfident guy will be killed by the lightning penalty soon!" The silver-robed middle-aged man glanced at Nangong Chen and sneered.

He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said mockingly, "Boy, you'll find out soon... The bet you made will get you killed!"

Faced with the silver-robed middle-aged man's sarcastic remarks, Duan Ling Tian's expression remained indifferent as he responded, "I'll wait and see."

“Let’s go.” He called out to the Nangong Twins and took the lead to head to the Gravitational Stairs. The Gravitational Stairs with seven colors towered above them.

The red zone of the Gravitational Stairs was the closest to them. It was also the zone with the weakest gravitational force.

Hu!

Duan Ling Tian and the other two arrived at the bottom of the Gravitational Stairs along with the silver-robed middle-aged man. He still had a sneer on his face.

“You go first.” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at Nangong Yi as he spoke to him through Voice Transmission, “You don’t have to care about anything else... Just take your Spirit Weapon out and charge up with your fastest speed and full strength!”

“Ok.” Similar to Nangong Chen, Nangong Yi also trusted Duan Ling Tian unconditionally. After hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words through Voice Transmission, he immediately acted without saying another word.

Boom!

Nangong Yi released his Origin Energy and Profundities before he took his Spirit Weapon out and charged up the Gravitational Stairs.

“You’re overestimating yourself!” The silver-robed middle-aged man snickered. He slowly took a step up as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. “Boy, don’t say that I’m bullying the weak... You can go first.” The sneer on his face became even more apparent as he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian was not courteous to him. He climbed up and caught up to Nangong Yi.

Only after Duan Ling Tian entered the Gravitational Stairs did the silver-robed middle-aged man and Nangong Chen began to climb the stairs. They climbed the Gravitational Stairs at the same time.

Sou!

As the first person to enter the Gravitational Stairs, Nangong Yi, a Sixth Level Martial Monarch, arrived at the indigo zone of the Gravitational Stairs with his Spirit Weapon in his hands.

After the indigo zone was the violet zone. The violet zone was also the last zone. If they managed to pass through, they would be considered as successfully passing the Gravitational Stairs and the second round of selection.

However, Nangong Yi was currently stuck in the indigo zone. He could not enter the violet zone because the gravitational force was too strong.

“There’s no way.” Nangong Yi’s heart was filled with a sense of helplessness. He hated himself for being too weak.

He would never be able to forgive himself if Duan Ling Tian and Nangong Chen failed the Gravitational Stairs because of him and were killed by the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation’s lightning penalty.

When Nangong Yi thought of that, he hastened his speed. He rushed up in a frenzy, trying to enter the violet zone. "I must pass the Gravitational Stairs! I must pass the Gravitational Stairs!"

Boom!

Nangong Yi was surprised to find he managed to enter the violet zone with his Spirit Weapon in hand. In fact, he felt the gravitational force in the violet zone was quite weak. It was not even as strong as the gravitational force in the red zone.

Sou!

Nangong Yi was bewildered as he successfully broke through the last hurdle of the Gravitational Stairs. He became the first person to successfully pass the Gravitational Stairs today.

Hua!

After Nangong Yi rushed out of the Gravitational Stairs, the onlookers fell silent.

"Gulp."

"Gulp."

...

On the vast stone platform, the group of people participating in the Selection of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers gulped.

The scene before their eyes had shocked them.

Nangong Yi was no stranger to those martial artists between the Fourth Level Martial Monarch Stage and the Seventh Level Martial Monarch. They were in the same cultivation place for the last six months.

"Isn't he a Sixth Level Martial Monarch martial artist? He climbed the Gravitational Stairs like he was just playing a game?" They found it unbelievable.

The other group of people participating in the Selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers who were Seventh Level Martial Monarchs could tell Nangong Yi's cultivation base was not above the Seventh Level Martial Monarch Stage.

When they learned about Nangong Chen's actual cultivation base from the discussion in their surroundings, they felt it was odd.

"The Gravitational Stairs are formed by the Gravitational Stairs Formation... Could it be there's something wrong with the Gravitational Stairs Formation?"

"It's hard to say."

"Theoretically, even a Seventh Level Martial Monarch wouldn't be able to pass through the Gravitational Stairs so quickly, let alone a Sixth Level Martial Monarch martial artist! There's something wrong."

"It's weird indeed."

Many people felt that something was wrong

It was completely beyond their expectation that Nangong Yi successfully passed the Gravitational Stairs so easily.

“What happened?” Even Zhong An and Song Ting, the two Martial Emperor’s direct disciples, could not help but look at each other. Both of them saw the surprise in each other’s eyes.

They could clearly see Nangong Yi’s strength.

With that strength, it was unlikely for him to be able to enter the violet zone of the Gravitational Stairs, let alone pass through it.

For a time, they also felt that something must be wrong with the Gravitational Stairs Formation.

“That’s impossible!”

At the same time, the silver-robed middle-aged man in the Gravitational Stairs also noticed that Nangong Yi had successfully passed through the Gravitational Stairs and the second round of selection. Hints of shock and amazement could be seen on his face.

“Nothing’s impossible.”

In the next moment, a calm voice sounded by his ear. It was as loud as thunder.

When he recovered from his shock, he saw the purple-clad young man who had entered the Gravitational Stairs before him was climbing up at an outrageously fast speed. In fact, even Nangong Chen’s progress was incredibly fast.

In just a blink of an eye, he discovered the two people he could not wait to kill had successfully passed through the Gravitational Stairs after Nangong Yi.

At once, he was the only one left at that huge Gravitational Stairs.

“No!”

The silver-robed middle-aged man’s face changed suddenly. He did not have time to think about anything else. He could sense the imminent danger. He hurriedly took his Spirit Weapon out. He intended to quickly pass through the Gravitational Stairs.

He still had a shot.

Even if three of them passed the Gravitational Stairs, he would not die if he managed to pass.

Naturally, he would die if he could not pass the Gravitational Stairs.

“Passing through the Gravitational Stairs should be easy for me.”

Even at this moment, the silver-robed middle-aged man was still filled with confidence.

The way Duan Ling Tian and Nangong Chen passed through the Gravitational Stairs was as smooth as passing clouds and flowing water. They did not seem to be affected by the gravitational force within the Gravitational Stairs.

Both of them were as relaxed and impressive as Nangong Yi when they passed the Gravitational Stairs.

“There shouldn’t be a problem with the Gravitational Stairs, right?” Song Ting and Zhong An looked at each other again. Their eyes glinted with uncertainty.

Soon after, they realized that something seemed to be wrong with the Gravitational Stairs.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, all the gravitational force from the seven zones began to stir. They seemed to merge before they landed on the silver-robed middle-aged man.

Following that, everyone heard a shrill and bitter scream. “No!!!”

In the next moment, the silver-robed middle-aged man was enveloped by the gravitational force from the seven zones. His strength and his Spirit Weapon’s strength vanished in just an instant.

Boom!

Another loud bang sounded, the silver-clad middle-aged man abruptly fell off the Gravitational Stairs.

‘He’s dead!’ Many people thought to themselves when they saw the silver-robed man fell off the Gravitational Stairs.

Almost at the same time, the sky darkened as dark clouds gathered from all directions while the clear sounds of thunder were heard.

“No... No!!” When the silver-clad middle-aged man heard the thunder, he reacted as though he saw a ghost. He moved as if he intended to escape.

However, could he escape it?

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, the silver-robed middle-aged man was struck by the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation’s lightning penalty, even his Profundity Fragments were not an exception.

The only thing left was his Spatial Ring that solitarily fell to the ground.

The silver-robed middle-aged man died just like that.

Betting on his life!

An oath with the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation could not be violated. Once it was violated, the person would be killed by the lightning penalty no matter where he was.

“Duan... Duan Ling Tian, what happened there?”

Nangong Yi was baffled about him mysteriously passing through the Gravitational Stairs. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian and Nangong Chen had flashed through the Gravitational Stairs so quickly that it added to his doubts.

Although he knew both of them possessed the strength to pass the Gravitational Stairs, it was impossible for them to be so fast.

When he saw the silver-robed middle-aged man did not make it through the Gravitational Stairs and was killed by the lightning penalty, he became even more confused.

Chapter 1252: Lu Zhong's Death

Hu!

When Nangong Yi was speaking to Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian went to the place where the silver-robed middle-aged man was killed by the lightning penalty and kept his Spatial Ring.

His movement was as smooth as passing clouds and flowing water.

“Isn't it obvious? The three of us passed the Gravitational Stairs, and he didn't so he was killed by the lightning penalty,” Duan Ling Tian only responded to Nangong Yi after he returned to stand next to the Nangong Twins.

However, Nangong Yi could tell that Duan Ling Tian was brushing him off.

He felt more and more certain that the earlier incident, including him passing the Gravitational Stairs and the Gravitational Stairs' sudden movement that made the silver-robe middle-aged man who was stronger than him fall, had something to do with Duan Ling Tian.

However, he could see that Duan Ling Tian did not plan to explain anything so he did not persist in asking even though there were a million questions in his mind.

Hu! Hu!

When everyone was still in shock over the scene earlier, Song Ting and Zhong An, the two Martial Emperor's direct disciples, went to the Gravitational Stairs.

Currently, the seven colors of the Gravitational Stair that represented seven levels of gravitational force had returned to normal.

Sou! Sou!

Song Ting and Zhong An glanced at each other and moved simultaneously. They disappeared before everyone's eyes.

In the next moment, everyone saw their figures on the Gravitational Stairs as they quickly climbed up.

From the beginning to the end, they did not use much of their power. They did not even mobilize the Heaven and Earth Energy, let alone form the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

Hu! Hu!

When Song Ting and Zhong An reappeared, they were standing before Duan Ling Tian.

Song Ting looked at Duan Ling Tian with a piercing gaze as he asked in a deep voice, “What did you do earlier?”

However, Duan Ling Tian ignored Song Ting's question. He maintained his carefree expression as though he would remain indifferent even if Mount Tai collapsed in front of him.

"You're pretty good... If master is here, I'm sure he'll like you." Unlike Song Ting, Zhong An was quite friendly toward Duan Ling Tian as he sized Duan Ling Tian up with interest.

The master he was referring to was naturally Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, the master of Ling Xuan Peak.

Whether it was Zhong An or Song Ting, they did not find any abnormalities when they passed through the Gravitational Stairs.

As such, there was only one possibility. The purple-clad young man before them had to be the cause of the earlier incident. Although they did not know how he did it, it was the only possibility.

"I wouldn't necessarily like him even if he likes me," Duan Ling Tian calmly responded when he heard Zhong An's statement.

For a time, the smile on Zhong An's face became a little bit forced.

Song Ting's face sank after hearing Duan Ling Tian's word. A fierce voice suddenly scolded, "How presumptuous!"

Following that, a figure appeared behind Song Ting. He glared at Duan Ling Tian and continued to scold in a deep voice, "Boy, you dare to disrespect the Lord Martial Emperor so rudely, you should be killed!"

The person who appeared was Lu Zhong.

Originally, he was extremely unhappy when he saw Duan Ling Tian won the bet, but he could only wait for the right opportunity to kill Duan Ling Tian.

He thought he would have to wait until the third round of selection before he would be presented with a chance to kill Duan Ling Tian.

He did not think Duan Ling Tian would dare to disrespect Ling Xuan Peak's Martial Emperor!

He instantly realized this was his opportunity to kill him. It was justified.

"What? You're in such a hurry to kill me?" Duan Ling Tian said calmly as he narrowed his eyes at Lu Zhong.

"I don't know what you mean by that... The only thing I know is you disrespected Lord Martial Emperor so you must die!"

Lu Zhong looked at Duan Ling Tian with a darkened expression. He turned to look at Song Ting and Zhong An and asked for permission respectfully, "Senior Brother Song, Senior Brother Zhong! Please let me kill this boy as a warning to the others so they won't follow his example!"

This time, Zhong An did not open his mouth. Although he thought Duan Ling Tian was pleasing to the eyes, his words had angered him.

Every dragon had a reverse scale, touch it and one must die!

His master was his reverse scale!

Hence, he acquiesced to Lu Zhong's request.

"Go." As for Song Ting, he looked Duan Ling Tian with a cold glint in his eyes as if he was waiting for the opportunity to devour him.

"Yes." When Lu Zhong heard Song Ting's words, his eyes lit up. He was very excited.

He finally had his opportunity.

He could finally avenge his brother!

Lu Zhong looked at Duan Ling Tian once again as he said through Voice Transmission, "Boy, you dared to kill my brother! I want your life today!"

However, he said something different outwardly.

"Boy, you dare to disrespect our Ling Xuan Peak's Lord Martial Emperor! Don't even think about being a Martial Emperor's disciple or follower... You'll leave this world today!"

"I, Lu Zhong, will kill you today and send you to hell for the pride of our Ling Xuan Peak's Martial Emperor!" Lu Zhong said with pseudo-righteousness as he stepped toward Duan Ling Tian. One step was faster than the other. The air turned turbulent and a series of air explosions sounded with every step he took.

"You just want to avenge your brother." Duan Ling Tian sneered as Lu Zhong charged toward him with a great momentum.

"It doesn't matter what you say... You're definitely dying today!" Lu Zhong did not care about Duan Ling Tian's words. The Origin Energy on his body surged suddenly as a variety of Profundities trailed after it like shadows. He charged out like the God of War, poised to attack.

Meanwhile, everyone's gaze, including the two Martial Emperor's direct disciples, Song Ting and Zhong An, landed on Duan Ling Tian and Lu Zhong.

Even the Nangong Twins were no exceptions. They had received a Voice Transmission from Duan Ling Tian asking them to stand further away. However, that did not stop them from staring intently at Duan Ling Tian and Lu Zhong.

"In addition to being Senior Brother Song Ting's right-hand man, Senior Brother Lu Zhong's strength is ranked in the top three among the Martial Emperor's disciples in Ling Xuan Peak... I'm afraid the purple-clad young man is unlucky today."

That was the inner thoughts of the group of Ling Xuan Peak's Martial Emperor's disciples and followers. They did not think Duan Ling Tian could win Lu Zhong.

Whereas the people who came to participate in the Selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and follower were staring expectantly at Duan Ling Tian. They hoped that Duan Ling Tian would win and bring honor to them.

After all, they were not Ling Xuan Peak's people yet.

Even the two Martial Emperor's direct disciples, Song Ting, and Zhong An, did not think Duan Ling Tian had the strength to win Lu Zhong even though they thought he was strange.

They knew about Lu Zhong's strength. He was ranked top three among all the Martial Emperor's disciples in Ling Xuan Peak.

"Boy, if there's a next life, remember that you can't just simply offend anyone as you please!" Lu Zhong's voice sounded again. This time it was laced with irritation.

He took out his Spirit Weapon and moved, disappearing before most people's eyes. He was so fast that it was shocking.

When he disappeared, the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon at the void above him also charged forward. Its' target was Duan Ling Tian.

Five ancient black dragons' silhouettes and 7,000 ancient horned dragons' silhouettes lunged at Duan Ling Tian with bared fangs.

That was Lu Zhong's strength!

Lu Zhong's speed was outrageously fast that it was difficult for most people, including the Nangong Twins, to catch.

However, in the eyes of Duan Ling Tian, Lu Zhong's speed was so slow that it was pitiful. It was so slow that he casually raised his hand and easily caught the Spirit Weapon in Lu Zhong's hand.

Pa!

He caught Lu Zhong's Spirit Weapon with his bare hands. The crisp sound caused the entire place to fall silent.

Many people had a shocked expression on their faces. They had a hard time believing the scene before them was true.

"Impossible!" As one of the people involved, Lu Zhong was the first to react. He stared at the purple-clad young man in horror as he shook his head woodenly.

"Nothing's impossible," Duan Ling Tian said faintly. As he responded, a five-colored energy that just appeared on his body suddenly surged. It was as though it had transformed into a five-colored beast with an opened mouth that devoured Lu Zhong.

In an instant, Lu Zhong was swallowed whole. There was nothing left of him. It seemed as though he had followed in his brother, Lu Yi's footsteps.

After Lu Zhong was reduced to ashes, only a few Profundity Fragments and a Spatial Ring were left. All of it was kept by Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian withdrew the five-colored energy on his body. It was as though it was never there in the first place.

In fact, the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon did not even have time to fully form from the time the five-colored energy appeared to the time it disappeared. That showed how fast Duan Ling Tian's attack was. Even the Heaven and Earth Energy did not have time to react.

Silence.

The scene was dead silent.

The only thing that could be heard was the sound of heavy breathing and gasping.

The Nangong Twins were dumbstruck by the earlier scene.

Although they noticed Duan Ling Tian's improvement in the past six months was huge, they did not think it would be this great.

Ling Xuan Peak's Martial Emperor's disciple, Lu Zhong, had mobilized the strength of five ancient black dragons and 7,000 ancient horned dragons with his Spirit Weapon. However, he was still killed by Duan Ling Tian with just a blow.

From the beginning until the end, not only did Duan Ling Tian not use his Spirit Weapon, but he did not even make any obvious movement. He had killed Lu Zhong with just the raging energy that rose from his body.

"He's too strong!"

"His strength! I'm afraid he's on par with the Martial Emperor's direct disciples."

"The way he killed Senior Brother Lu Zhong was so simple as if he was killing an ant."

...

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian naturally became the center of attention. This was because his strength was just too terrifying and shocking.

At this moment, Song Ting finally recovered from the shock and stared coldly at Duan Ling Tian. He asked sharply, "Who are you? What's your purpose for coming to our Ling Xuan Peak?!"

Meanwhile, his robe fluttered as Origin Energy rose from his body and Profundities followed like shadows. It was as though it had transformed into blazing bright-colored flame before it enveloped him.

Chapter 1253: The Tough Fight Against Two of the Greatest Martial Emperor Direct Disciples

When Song Ting asked his question, everyone's attention shifted to Duan Ling Tian.

Except for the Nangong Twins, everyone else was curious.

Yes.

This purple-clad young man's strength was not inferior to the Martial Emperor's direct disciples, and yet he came to participate in the Selection of Ling Xuan Peak's Martial Emperor's disciples and followers. It was really quite strange.

One had to know there were quite a few Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors who were stronger than Martial Emperor Ling Xuan on Cloud Continent.

Martial Emperor Ling Xuan's strength was at most average compared to all the publicly known Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors on Cloud Continent.

In their opinion, people like Duan Ling Tian with his strength at the peak of the Martial Monarch Stage could be the direct disciple of a stronger Martial Emperor or Demon Emperor.

"What purpose could I have?" In the face of Song Ting's question, Duan Ling Tian merely glanced at him coldly. He shrugged lazily and said, "You're overthinking things."

"It seems like you won't talk if I don't attack." Song Ting's face sank, and his tone became colder.

"What? You still want to attack me?" Duan Ling Tian smiled brightly. He narrowed his eyes as he smiled.

"Do you think you're invincible just because you're able to kill one of our Ling Xuan Peak's member? You should know that the Lu Zhong you killed was merely a normal Martial Emperor's disciple of Ling Xuan Peak."

Song Ting's voice held a hint of certainty. "I'll admit you're quite strong. However, if you think I'm as useless as Lu Zhong, then you're really stupid!"

No matter what, Lu Zhong was one of his people.

As the saying went, 'One has to look at the master before beating the dog'. The purple-clad young man had killed Lu Zhong in front of him. That was equivalent to hitting him in the face. It embarrassed and angered him.

At this moment, he seemed to feel the mocking gazes directed at him from all directions.

Even Zhong An who stood at the side was shocked.

He did not think the purple-clad young man would kill Lu Zhong, Song Ting's crazy dog.

He had to admit he was a little pleased.

"Zhong An, I'm afraid this person with a mysterious identity came to our Ling Xuan Peak to participate in the Selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers with an ulterior motive... You and I should join hands to force him to tell us his purpose for coming to Ling Xuan Peak. We'll kill him if he refuses to say anything to save trouble in the future!" Song Ting sent a Voice Transmission to Zhong An.

Zhong An frowned slightly.

To be honest, he was not unwilling to fight together with Song Ting. However, the identity of the purple-clad young man was too mysterious.

Although he and Song Ting were usually on opposite sides, they were still united in important matters regarding the safety of Ling Xuan Peak. Therefore, he flew out and stood beside Song Ting.

Both of them were going to fight Duan Ling Tian together.

“Senior Brother Zhong An is going to join hands with Senior Brother Song Ting?” That scene shocked many people.

“That Duan Ling Tian... He actually...” In the distance, Qiao Zhong was dumbstruck. He could not recover from the shock for quite a while.

When Duan Ling Tian easily killed Lu Zhong, he was shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s strength. Although he knew Duan Ling Tian was strong, he did not think his strength would be so great.

When he saw the Martial Emperor’s direct disciple whose side he was on, Zhong An, had joined hands with Song Ting to fight Duan Ling Tian, he could not help but feel excited.

Duan Ling Tian could actually make the two Martial Emperor’s direct disciples, who were usually as incompatible as fire and water, join hands and fight him.

“I’m afraid his luck is really bad.”

“Regardless if it’s Senior Brother Song Ting or Senior Brother Zhong An, they’re both Ling Xuan Peak’s Martial Emperor’s direct disciples... The purple-clad young man’s strength is at most on par with a Martial Emperor’s direct disciple. He might win one of them, but it’s impossible for him to win when it’s two against one.”

“How do you know his strength is at most on par with a Martial Emperor’s direct disciples?”

“Hpmh! As we all know, Martial Emperor’s direct disciples are already at the peak of Martial Monarch Stage... Those stronger than Martial Emperor’s direct disciples are only Martial Emperor powerhouses. Do you think he’s a Martial Emperor powerhouse?”

...

The group of Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers were whispering among themselves. None of them thought Duan Ling Tian had the advantage facing the two greatest Martial Emperor’s direct disciples in Ling Xuan Peak.

“Your strength is admirable... I’m Zhong An, the third direct disciple under Ling Xuan Peak’s Martial Emperor. I would like to know why you’re participating in our Ling Xuan Peak’s Selection for the Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers with your strength?”

Zhong An looked at Duan Ling Tian solemnly and asked, “As far as I know, most of the cultivation places of Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors in the Inner Land of Cloud Continent are also holding the Selection of the Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers.”

“Why do you ask so many questions! I know he’s bad with just a look.” Before Duan Ling Tian could respond, Song Ting sneered again with a cold gleam in his eyes. Then, he disappeared with a ‘Hu’ sound and reappeared in front of Duan Ling Tian.

Boom!

A loud explosion reverberated in the air, causing airwaves to sweep out in all directions.

The airwaves set off a series of air explosion that sounded like exploding mines. It created a flurry of hurricane that caused everyone, apart from Zhong An, to squint.

Although they did not clearly see what had happened, they knew Duan Ling Tian was fighting with Song Ting.

“Song Ting...” Zhong An’s face sank. He did not expect Song Ting to be so eager.

Naturally, he knew of Song Ting’s intention. He wanted to kill the other party without giving the other party a chance to speak to vent his anger.

Sou!

Although he guessed Song Ting’s intentions, he still could not stand by and watch because he could see that Song Ting was not a match for his opponent.

Naturally, he intended to fight, but he did not plan to go along with Song Ting’s plan to kill the other party.

He would cooperate to suppress the other party and force him to tell him his purpose for coming to Ling Xuan Peak. If his purpose was not malicious, who knew if there would be a fourth Martial Emperor’s direct disciple in Ling Xuan Peak.

When Zhong An thought about how the other party might become his Junior Brother, he was so excited that he held back his attacks and movement.

However, he quickly discovered that the opponent’s strength did not allow him to hold back.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

A burst of deafening explosion reverberated in the air again. Duan Ling Tian was already in a fight with both Martial Emperor’s direct disciples, Song Ting and Zhong An.

Both Song Ting and Zhong An had taken out their Spirit Weapons.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian remained empty-handed. However, it did not seem like he was at a disadvantage. In fact, he seemed to have a slight advantage.

Xiu!

Zing!

Song Ting and Zhong An used a sword and a blade respectively. They still could not win the battle after a while. Feeling embarrassed and angry, they finally decided to unleash their full strength.

As Ling Xuan Peak’s Martial Emperor’s direct disciples, their blade’s ray and sword’s shadow cooperated seamlessly with each other and headed straight for Duan Ling Tian with a great momentum.

Wherever the blade’s ray and sword’s shadow passed, the onlookers evaded.

The group of people who stood on the stone platform behind also had to evade it.

When the blade's ray and sword's shadow fell, the vast stone platform was cut into countless pieces like a tofu.

The stone platform with countless cracks was swept by their strength. In a blink of an eye, it began to fall apart.

Moreover, with their attacks, some of the broken stones from the ruined vast stone platform flew up in the air.

When both of them attacked, the Heaven and Earth Energy stirred and eventually formed a vast Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

At the void above them, there were seven ancient black dragons' silhouettes respectively. It meant each of their attacks contained the strength of seven ancient black dragons.

"God! He... He's also so strong?" While many people fawned over the strength Song Ting and Zhong An displayed, someone's shout caught the people's attention.

On the other side, stood a purple-clad young man.

The purple-clad young man stood there as his robe billowed in the wind. His long black hair was also fluttering in the wind since his hair band was shattered by the powerful force.

There was a five-colored flame blazing on the purple-clad young man's body. It exuded a chilling aura.

At the void above him, there were seven ancient black dragons' silhouettes that indicated he was not inferior to Song Ting and Zhong An.

"That's why Zhong An and I couldn't capture him... It turns out he has been using the strength of seven ancient black dragons from the beginning."

Song Ting was not shocked when he saw the scene. Instead, he laughed. "However, with me and Zhong An unleashing our full strength, anyone of us would be on par with him."

The killing intent in Song Ting's eyes intensified when he thought about this.

"What kind of person is he? He can mobilize the strength of seven ancient black dragons without utilizing his Spirit Weapon!" Many onlookers exclaimed in shock.

Their exclamations were heard by Song Ting, and it shocked him. He seemed to have noticed something before his face changed dramatically.

Yes.

The strength their opponent displayed was before he utilized his Spirit Weapon.

"Third Junior Brother, we have to kill him before he takes his Spirit Weapon out... Otherwise, we'll be the ones dying today!"

Song Ting hurriedly sent a Voice Transmission to Zhong An who was fighting Duan Ling Tian with him.

After Zhong An heard Song Ting's Voice Transmission, Zhong An trembled for a moment before he reacted.

Earlier, he was also stunned by the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed without even using a Spirit Weapon. At this moment, he knew their opponent's strength was greater than theirs.

When he heard Song Ting's reminder, his expression turned solemn. He no longer dared to be negligent.

If their opponent took out his Spirit Weapon, he and Song Ting would be defeated!

At that time, not only Song Ting, but he would also be at the mercy of the other party.

For a time, both Zhong An and Song Ting's strength seemed to increase a little. They headed straight for Duan Ling Tian with great momentum.

Chapter 1254: Martial Emperor Ling Xuan's First Direct Disciple

Despite facing the two incoming most powerful Martial Emperor's direct disciples who were as fast as lightning, Duan Ling Tian still remained calm.

He only moved when the both of them were inches away from him as the gleam of the overwhelming blade and the shadow of the sword covered him.

More accurately, he did not actually move, but the blazing five-colored flames surged forward.

Boom!

The five-colored flames billowed and caused the air to stir. Suddenly, a deafening air explosion burst, shaking many of the people.

As Song Ting and Zhong An's attack almost landed on Duan Ling Tian, in that split second, the surging five-colored flames around him took on the shape of a sword.

In an instant, Duan Ling Tian seemed to have transformed into a huge five-colored sword and struck down at the both of them who were heading towards him as if he was separating heaven and earth.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Wherever the huge sword passed, the air became turbulent and a burst of deafening loud bangs popped.

The rolling waves seemed to transform into a hurricane and swept in all directions.

"Mercy, please!"

Before anyone had the time to react, an earnest cry from a distance was heard. Many people glanced up in surprise as they wanted to see who it was.

At that very second –

Boom!!

They merely saw a figure appearing in front of Duan Ling Tian beside Song Ting and Zhong An. They heard an even more frightening noise before they could clearly see the figure.

A loud bang reverberated as if the sky was falling and the earth was being shattered.

From where the bang was heard, the rolling shockwave spread out in all directions, knocking the surrounding people down.

The group of Martial Emperor's disciples was still doing fine. They merely took a dozen steps backward.

On the other hand, the Martial Emperor's followers and people who came to participate in the selection were sent flying quite a distance away.

Those with a lower cultivation base even turned ashen and spat blood as they suffered quite severe injuries.

"Such powerful strength!"

"The two colliding forces created a shock wave... That kind of strength goes beyond the strength of a Martial Monarch!"

...

Many of the Martial Emperor's disciples were shocked as they stared ahead.

They discovered that both Song Ting and Zhong An were also sent flying away. Their faces paled and the corners of their mouths were stained with blood.

Two people stood at the epicenter of the shock wave.

In addition to the purple-clad youth, there was another man in plain clothes. As they saw him standing there, it seemed as if he was one with the power to command heaven and earth.

He looked like one could not differentiate him in a crowd.

However, he looked a bit gray right then.

"Pu!" Finally, he could not suppress it anymore and spat out a mouthful of blood while taking two steps backward. He looked at the purple-clad youth in front of him with an alarmed expression. "You... Are you a Martial Emperor powerhouse?"

Without a doubt, the purple-clad youth was Duan Ling Tian.

Earlier, he had been prepared to kill both Song Ting and Zhong An, the Martial Emperor's direct disciples of Ling Xuan Peak with a single strike.

In that split second, the middle-aged man in front of him appeared just in time and saved both of them.

"First Level Martial Emperor Stage... Are you Martial Emperor Ling Xuan?" Duan Ling Tian asked the middle-aged man in front of him calmly.

Obviously, he could tell what his opponent's cultivation base was.

If the middle-aged man was Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, then he was really disappointed because he was completely different from the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan that Duan Ling Tian had imagined.

First Level Martial Emperor Stage!

Martial Emperor Ling Xuan!

After Duan Ling Tian finished his sentence, everyone's attention was drawn to the man.

"He's the Lord Martial Emperor?"

A group of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers gawked at the middle-aged man with surprise as their eyes were laced with suspicion.

They were not very convinced.

Their Ling Xuan Peak Lord Martial Emperor lost to a person who came to participate in the selection of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers! It was too ridiculous.

"Is he Martial Emperor Ling Xuan?"

As for the group of people who came to participate in the selection of Ling Xuan Peak Martial Emperor's disciples and followers including Nangong Chen and Nangong Yi, all of them were stunned while they stared at the middle-aged man.

"I don't think that's possible."

"If he is Martial Emperor Ling Xuan... Does that mean the purple-clad youth can beat Martial Emperor Ling Xuan in a battle?"

"Yes. The middle-aged man lost earlier after all."

"As far as I know, shock waves can only be created when Martial Emperor powerhouses' attacks collide with each other... Perhaps they are both real Martial Emperor powerhouses."

"If the purple-clad youth is a Martial Emperor powerhouse, then what's he doing here at the Ling Xuan Peak selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers?"

"Maybe he came to crash the party... Who knows?"

...

While they were discussing, puzzlement and confusion were apparent on their faces.

"Martial Emperor powerhouse?"

The Nangong Twins glanced at Duan Ling Tian and then saw the shock in each other's eyes.

"Is he really a Lord Martial Emperor?" The group of Ling Xuan Peak Martial Emperor's disciples and followers looked bitter. If the middle-aged man really was Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, then it would really be humiliating for Ling Xuan Peak.

Even though they were Martial Emperor's disciples and followers of Ling Xuan Peak, they had never seen the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, which was why they were not certain if the middle-aged man was the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan or not.

However, from the performance earlier, it was obvious that the middle-aged man had lost to the purple-clad youth. If he really were the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, the incident today would be a laughing stock.

Everyone would say that Martial Emperor Ling Xuan of Ling Xuan Peak was not as talented as someone who participated in the Ling Xuan Peak selection of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers.

How ironic!

"Is or isn't he the Lord Martial Emperor... Among all of us here, I'm afraid only Senior Brother Song Ting and Senior Brother Zhong An would know," said one of the Martial Emperor's disciples. The rest of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers shifted their gaze to Song Ting and Zhong An, looking expectantly at them.

At that point, they finally recuperated from their grave injuries after consuming some healing pills.

Lingering fear was still apparent on their faces. When they looked up at the purple-clad youth in the distance, they were stunned.

"Martial Emperor powerhouse... He's actually a Martial Emperor powerhouse!"

They never thought that the purple-clad youth who came to participate in Ling Xuan Peak's selection of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers was an actual Martial Emperor powerhouse.

A Martial Emperor powerhouse who came to participate in the Ling Xuan Peak selection of Martial Emperor's disciples and followers?

They could not think of a reason for him to do so even after they racked their brains.

Soon, their eyes shifted away from the purple-clad youth and landed on the middle-aged man as they greeted respectfully, "First Senior Brother!"

First Senior Brother!

The group of Ling Xuan Peak Martial Emperor's disciples and followers finally relaxed after they heard Song Ting and Zhong An's address. "So, it turns out to be the Lord Martial Emperor's first direct disciple, Senior Brother Zhou Di."

"It's my first time seeing Senior Brother Zhou Di!"

"Senior Brother Zhou Di is famous at Ling Xuan Peak to be as elusive as the Lord Martial Emperor... I never expected Senior Brother Zhou Di to be a Martial Emperor powerhouse!"

"According to the purple-clad youth, Senior Brother Zhou Di is a First Level Martial Emperor Stage."

“However, we still don’t know the background of this purple-clad youth... Even Senior Brother Zhou Di, whose cultivation base is at First Level Martial Emperor Stage, lost to him.”

...

The group of Ling Xuan Peak Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers were discussing it as their gaze landed on Duan Ling Tian in unison, making him the center of attention again.

The Nangong Twins also turned to look at Duan Ling Tian after glancing at Zhou Di.

“It isn’t Martial Emperor Ling Xuan... However, Zhou Di would undoubtedly be the strongest person in Ling Xuan Peak after Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, yet he lost to Duan Ling Tian.”

“Did he really come to participate in the Ling Xuan Peak selection of Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers?”

“If he did... I’m afraid the strongest person in Ling Xuan Peak after the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan is now someone else.”

...

Many people were whispering among themselves, while some smarter ones glanced at the Nangong Twins.

Some of them more or less knew the Nangong Twins.

“Nangong Chen, you seem to know him.”

“Nangong Yi, I remember the first time that I saw you all, you were with him from then on... Did you all know that he was a Martial Emperor powerhouse?”

...

Many people were curiously asking the Nangong Twins.

The Nangong Twins felt speechless and shocked while they looked at each other.

“Did Duan Ling Tian have any reservations back then?”

“He couldn’t have obtained the strength equivalent to a Martial Emperor powerhouse within half a year, could he?” In both of their hearts, only their shock remained.

Both Duan Ling Tian and Zhou Di had reserved their strength after the shock wave spread, therefore there was no Heaven and Earth Phenomenon.

Therefore, the people could only speculate that their strength was equivalent to a Martial Emperor powerhouse’s through their conversation from the shock wave that had appeared earlier.

“He... He’s a Martial Emperor powerhouse?!” Qiao Zhong who stood at a distance finally recovered from the shock, and immediately he broke out in a cold sweat.

He did not expect the purple-clad youth who he had personally received six months ago would turn out to be a Martial Emperor powerhouse!

Thinking of his cold shoulder towards him, Qiao Zhong felt a chill run down his spine; he had been so close to death.

At that minute, Zhou Di said faintly, "Both of you, come here," obviously calling out Song Ting and Zhong An.

The both of them did not dare to dawdle. They hurried to Zhou Di's side with their heads down and greeted respectfully again, "First Senior Brother."

Before Zhou Di, both of them were as gentle as a cat.

"Both of you, apologize!" Zhou Di ordered them while looking at Duan Ling Tian.

"Apologize?" Song Ting and Zhong An could not help but be stunned when they heard him.

Chapter 1255: Martial Emperor Ling Xuan

After that, the duo came to their senses and realized that their First Senior Brother had asked them to apologize to the purple-clad youth before them.

"First Senior Brother, he..." Although Song Ting was stunned by the strength displayed by Duan Ling Tian, he still could not apologize to him.

Naturally, he would not resign to that.

However, he was interrupted by Zhou Di before he finished his sentence. Zhou Di calmly said, "He is Master's guest." Zhou Di emphasized the word "guest".

Master's guest?

Song Ting was astonished after he heard Zhou Di.

"Sir, sorry for offending you. We didn't know that you're Master's guest. I hope you'll forgive us." At that point, Zhong An had already bowed to Duan Ling Tian and apologized.

Although Duan Ling Tian looked mind-blowingly young, the strength he presented was sufficient for Zhong An to bow to him and apologize.

Moreover, who knew if he was a Demon Emperor powerhouse?

Song Ting took a deep breath and followed suit. Now, he would not dare to be reckless.

What kind of joke was this?

First Senior Brother Zhou Di had said that he was Master's guest. If he still continued to act recklessly, it would mean that he was disrespecting the Master.

For that reason, he would never dare to do so.

However, Duan Ling Tian ignored their apology as he looked at Zhou Di and asked puzzledly, "Martial Emperor Ling Xuan knows me?" U.p..dated by BoxNo vel.com

Duan Ling Tian also knew that the middle-aged man in front of him was not the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, but his first direct disciple.

“You’re kidding, aren’t you? If the Master didn’t know you, he wouldn’t have asked me to come and invite you for a gathering,” Zhou Di said to Duan Ling Tian, “Please follow me.”

He left after that.

Duan Ling Tian raised his eyebrows and followed closely with his heart full of curiosity and confusion.

After Duan Ling Tian left with Zhou Di, above the spacious stone platform which was ruined was dead silent although there were many people. The silence was terrifying.

After a while, they slowly came to their senses, their faces and their eyes were filled with shock.

“Guest?”

“That purple-clad youth is the Lord Martial Emperor’s guest?”

...

Everyone was shocked.

“Song Ting, you seem to be a little off today... As if you can’t wait to kill him! Is it because you have some deep hatred for him? I’ve been totally dragged down by you today.”

Zhong An looked at Song Ting and complained through Voice Transmission, “Don’t tell me it’s because of Lu Zhong’s death.”

When he heard Zhong An’s Voice Transmission, Song Ting, who was a little wooden, finally recovered from the shock. Unconsciously, a bitter smile hung from the corner of his mouth.

At first, he wanted to kill him because of Lu Zhong’s death.

To be more precise, it was because of the death of Lu Zhong and his brother.

One should look at the master before beating the dogs!

By killing his men, he felt challenged which was why he wanted to kill the other party so badly.

Who knew that the other party had the strength equivalent to a Martial Emperor powerhouse? In fact, the other party was stronger than First Senior Brother and was a guest of his master’s.

If he had known all that, he would not have made it difficult for the other party and consequently, be bogged down deeper and deeper.

“I hope Master won’t blame me for this.” At that moment, Song Ting started to be afraid.

“Martial Emperor Ling Xuan’s guest?”

“Why I have never heard of that from Duan Ling Tian?”

...

The Nangong Twins looked at each other, their eyes filled with confusion and doubts.

However, they felt another surge of shock when they remembered the strength he showed.

Eventually, Zhong An announced after he recovered, "We'll continue with the second round of selection."

The others also slowly came back to their senses from the earlier surprises and shifted their focus to the second round of selection.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian was following Zhou Di with a slight frown while doubt filled his heart.

"I don't seem to know that Martial Emperor Ling Xuan," he thought to himself.

Following Zhou Di's lead, he finally saw Martial Emperor Ling Xuan in a mist-shrouded stone platform on the side of the Ling Xuan Peak's summit.

Behind the mist, there was a little stone platform, and on it was a simple and neat house with a courtyard.

In the courtyard, a stone table stood quietly with two stone benches on each side.

"Master, the guest has arrived." After Zhou Di brought Duan Ling Tian here, he bowed to the person who sat at the stone table with a very respectful tone.

The person who sat there was a youthful man. When he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian, his face was also on display for all to see and Duan Ling Tian could not help but be stunned.

"It's... It's you!" Looking at the familiar but strange face before him, he was slightly surprised because it was not the first time they had met.

The youthful man was Martial Emperor Ling Xuan. He looked at Duan Ling Tian while exclaiming, "I originally said that you've got the chance to comprehend the Sword Profundity... It seems that I was wrong about you. You already comprehended the Sword Profundity early on."

Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian was following Zhou Di, the Sword Profundity was on the surface of his body. As a Sword Cultivator, the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan could easily notice that.

"Me too, I've overlooked it... It turns out that you're Martial Emperor Ling Xuan." Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled.

Martial Emperor Ling Xuan was no other than the person whom he had met at the summit of Ling Xuan Peak back then.

Yang Hui!

He still remembered the first time when he saw Yang Hui. The Martial Emperor had been controlling the sword with his spiritual energy.

At that time, he thought that Yang Hui was an Inscription Master, so he had not checked his cultivation base with his spiritual energy.

Looking back, Yang Hui was not necessarily an Inscription Master.

Martial Emperor powerhouses could send out their spiritual energy. Apart from controlling the sword with spiritual energy, they could even attack with the same spiritual energy and battle with it. It was nothing to them.

“It was because of your pointers then that I could finally improve my Sword Profundity by a level... And coincidentally, my cultivation base also broke through to the next level after I improved my Sword Profundity.”

Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, Yang Hui’s gaze on Duan Ling Tian was filled with kindness without the haughty air of a Martial Emperor powerhouse.

“Sit.” After that, Yang Hui gestured to Duan Ling Tian to sit at the stone table.

Zhou Di who was standing aside was stunned. Although he knew that the purple-clad youth was his master’s guest, he never imagined that the purple-clad youth would have given tips to his master and help him break through his Sword Profundity and cultivation base.

“Congratulations, Master.” After Zhou Di recovered from the surprise, he quickly congratulated Yang Hui while feeling a little excited.

His master was originally a Third Level Martial Emperor, so this breakthrough must have catapulted him to the Fourth Level Martial Emperor Stage.

In addition to the breakthrough on the Sword Profundity, his master’s current strength was sufficient to be considered upper-mid level among the Martial Emperor powerhouses and Demon Emperor powerhouses on the surface of the Cloud Continent.

“Hmm.” When he heard Zhou Di’s congratulations, Yang Hui nodded faintly. “Leave us.”

“Master.” However, Zhou Di did not move when he remembered the incident earlier. He decided to tell his master all about it. Who knew if his master’s guest would put the blame on his Junior Brothers or not?

After listening to Zhou Di’s narration, Yang Hui frowned as he cried out, “Those two blind bastards!”

Following that, Yang Hui looked at Duan Ling Tian and apologized, “Brother Ling Tian, I’m sorry that my two direct disciples have offended you. I hope you can forgive them.”

If they were ordinary Martial Emperor’s disciples or followers, he would not have felt anything even if he executed them.

However, the problem was that both Song Ting and Zhong An were his direct disciples.

He only had a total of three direct disciples. Hence, obviously, he would be reluctant to lose them.

“You don’t have to apologize... Just do me a favor,” Duan Ling Tian said calmly.

“I remember that you said you needed my help back then, Brother Ling Tian... What is it, Brother Ling Tian? What can I help you with?” Yang Hui nodded and asked curiously.

"I want to know where I'm from," Duan Ling Tian revealed.

"Where you're from?" Yang Hui could not help but be stunned. "Brother Ling Tian, don't you even know where you're from?"

"My soul was injured for some reason and I've lost some of my memories... including where I'm from. You're a well-known Martial Emperor powerhouse on the Cloud Continent, adept in currying favors. I'm pretty sure you can help me with this."

"I see... That's not a big deal." Yang Hui nodded and then looked at Zhou Di who was leaving. "Order the others to do it and be sure to get it done properly."

As a Martial Emperor powerhouse on the surface of the Cloud Continent, Yang Hui controlled Ling Xuan Peak and owned an intelligence team. With a single order, there would be many intelligence personnel working for him.

"Yes," Zhou Di answered respectfully and then he left.

"Brother Ling Tian, don't worry. With Ling Xuan Peak's intelligence, we'll be able to know where you're from very quickly... I believe you're definitely not a mediocre nobody with such strength," Yang Hui assured.

As a Martial Emperor powerhouse, he did not need a Demon Revelation Mirror to know that the person before him was not a demon.

Because he could see that Duan Ling Tian was not a demon, he understood how outstanding he was.

"Thank you." Duan Ling Tian nodded towards Yang Hui.

"Brother Ling Tian, you're so courteous... I wouldn't have broken through my Sword Profundity so quickly if it weren't for your pointers. Moreover, my cultivation base improved because of the opportunity from the breakthrough I made with the Sword Profundity."

"Speaking of which, I should thank you," Yang Hui said while smiling.

"Earlier, I heard from Zhou Di that Brother Ling Tian could easily defeat him... Brother Ling Tian, if you don't mind me asking, you don't seem to be a Martial Emperor..." Yang Hui sized up Duan Ling Tian and trailed off puzzledly.

Ever since Yang Hui had broken through to the Fourth Level Martial Emperor Stage, his spiritual energy underwent a qualitative change. He could sense whether a person was a Martial Emperor powerhouse or not.

According to the sense of his spiritual energy, the purple-clad youth in front of him did not seem to be a Martial Emperor, but merely a Martial Monarch.

Chapter 1256: Overseas Saint Islands

"That's right. I'm still a distance away from the Martial Emperor Stage." Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised that Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, Yang Hui, could see that he was not a Martial Emperor. At the

same time, he could guess that Yang Hui's cultivation base must be above the Fourth Level Martial Emperor Stage.

Only someone above the Fourth Level Martial Emperor Stage could sense whether he was a Martial Emperor or not.

"Still a distance away from the Martial Emperor Stage and you've already comprehended the Sword Profundity... Brother Ling Tian, you're really a bizarre genius in Sword Art," Yang Hui mused.

He had long seen Duan Ling Tian's attainment in the Sword Art before. Amazement and admiration rose from the bottom of his heart.

Upon hearing Yang Hui's amusement, Duan Ling Tian merely let out a faint smile before asking curiously, "I've heard that it's not only Ling Xuan Peak that holds the selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers. Other cultivation places of other Martial Emperors hold such a selection too, don't they?"

"That's right." Yang Hui nodded. "As long as they're well-known Martial Emperors or Demon Emperors in the Cloud Continent, they've all been recruiting disciples and followers recently too... Of course, like Ling Xuan Peak, their ultimate intention is to get their hands on outstanding Martial Emperor's disciples and even direct disciples!"

A Martial Emperor's disciple would have to have at least the strength at the peak of the Martial Monarch Stage.

The requirement for the Martial Emperor's direct disciples would be even higher. They would usually have to have at least half a foot in the Martial Emperor Stage already.

"Let me guess. There's a reason all of you recruit outstanding Martial Emperor's disciples with such flourish, isn't there?" Duan Ling Tian voiced out his speculation.

"You guessed correctly, Brother Ling Tian. We do have a reason." Yang Hu nodded before turning glum a little. "Actually, this time, the reason we recruited Martial Emperor's disciples and followers in such a way is that of an edict we received from the Overseas Saint Islands."

"Overseas Saint Islands? Edict?" Duan Ling Tian was perplexed. "What's that?"

"The Overseas Saint Islands are always very mysterious. It's no surprise that you've not heard of it before," Yang Hui explained.

"The Overseas Saint Islands are islands that are situated far away in the sea north of the Cloud Continent... Of course, there are many islands in the sea, but there are only four islands that are truly spacious and house rich Origin Stone resources. They are the Four Great Overseas Saint Islands! Of all the Four Great Overseas Saint Islands, one of them is the majestic one, with the remaining three Overseas Saint Islands surrounding it belonging to its affiliation... And this time, all of the Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors active on the surface of the Cloud Continent have all received an edict from one of the affiliated islands that's the closest to our Cloud Continent. That affiliated island is known as the Hidden Fog Island... Several years ago, the Hidden Fog Island already sent its messenger here to ask us to bring our ten most outstanding disciples to join the Hidden Fog Martial Competition a few years later. Not long before this, the messenger of the Hidden Fog Island came again, telling us that the Hidden Fog Martial Competition will be moved forward a year earlier. For this reason, we've held our

selection of the Martial Emperor's disciples and followers a year earlier than planned," Yang Hui continued.

"Is the Hidden Fog Island scary? It can actually order all of you around!" Duan Ling Tian commented.

"The Hidden Fog Island is indeed scary... However, the reason we go along with the Hidden Fog Island's edict isn't because of how scary it is. Instead, we're targeting the rewards promised by the Hidden Fog Island for the Hidden Fog Martial Competition. If the Martial Emperor or Martial Demon's disciple performs outstandingly in the Hidden Fog Martial Competition, he or she will be able to get the Saint Stone." The moment Yang Hui mentioned the Saint Stone, his breathing became slightly more rapid right away.

"Saint Stone?" Duan Ling Tian was confused.

"That's right. The Saint Stone." Yang Hui nodded. "To a certain extent, the Saint Stone is like the Origin Stone... However, even a supreme grade Origin Stone is far less precious than a Saint Stone. If a Martial Emperor gets his hand on the Saint Stone, his cultivation base will advance at a tremendous pace with huge giant strides... I'll give you an example. If a First Level Martial Emperor gets his hand on a Saint Stone and absorbs all of the energy inside it, he'd be able to make a breakthrough to the Second Level Martial Emperor in one fell swoop. Not only that, he would make it in no time at all," Yang Hui introduced.

"It's that amazing?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned. This was his first time hearing about this Saint Stone.

Although his mind contained a broad and profound memory, there was no record about the Saint Stone at all. Now that he heard about the function of the Saint Stone, he could not help but be taken by surprise.

Just one Saint Stone could allow a First Level Martial Emperor to make a breakthrough to the Second Level Martial Emperor in one fell swoop in a short period.

That was basically heaven-defying!

"That's exactly how amazing it is!" Yang Hui's eyes were filled with longing. It was only when he looked at Duan Ling Tian again that he retracted the lust in his eyes. "By now, you must understand why we're so concerned about this edict issued by the Hidden Fog Island now, don't you?"

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. After finding out about the Saint Stone's function, he could understand the emotions of the group of Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors including Yang Hui.

Which Martial Emperor and Demon Emperor did not want to raise their cultivation base rapidly?

For the sake of this alone, let alone getting people to join the Hidden Fog Martial Competition, even if they were asked to do some other difficult things, they would not so much as frown at all.

"Where does this Saint Stone come from?" Duan Ling Tian was very curious.

"I don't really know as well where exactly... But one thing I'm sure of is that the Saint Stone isn't a product of the four Overseas Saint Islands. I've even asked the Hidden Fog Island's messenger about this before," Yang Hui replied.

Even though he still had a thousand questions about the Saint Stone, Duan Ling Tian knew that he was far from even scratching the surface of that level yet.

Therefore, he did not proceed to ask any more questions.

He believed that once he had reached that level, all of the questions in his heart would finally be answered.

"How much do you know about the Hidden Fog Island?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"I've only heard about the Hidden Fog Island after I broke through to the Martial Emperor," Yang Hui replied, "The Hidden Fog Island is situated at the far north of the Cloud Continent's north pole... It'd take six months for even a First Level Martial Emperor Stage to reach the Hidden Fog Island from the Cloud Continent even if he flew at his fastest speed."

"Six months for even a First Level Martial Emperor Stage at his fastest speed?" Duan Ling Tian was amazed. "That far?"

"Distance isn't the main problem here... The main problem is the ocean that you'd have to cross on your journey to the Hidden Fog Island. You'll sometimes come across many Demons in the sea and some of them are even on the Demon Emperor Stage. Besides that, once the Martial Emperors in our Cloud Continent have raised their strength to a certain level till there's nothing left for them to pursue anymore, they'll usually go to the Hidden Fog Island and start a new journey there. For this reason, there are a lot of powerhouses on that island... Like me, even though I'm a Fourth Level Martial Emperor, I'd still have to be humble if I go to the Hidden Fog Island."

...

Yang Hui continued to explain and introduce everything about the Hidden Fog Island to Duan Ling Tian.

"Have the Martial Emperors in the Cloud Continent been to the Hidden Fog Island before?" Duan Ling Tian asked. Right at this moment, he only felt that a mysterious world seemed to be opening its door gradually, waiting for him to enter.

"That's right." Yang Hui nodded before he continued again, "Casting aside all other people, just the messenger from the Hidden Fog Island who came to find me some time ago alone used to be a Martial Emperor who was very well-known in the Cloud Continent! By the time his name was spread all over the Cloud Continent, I've only just made my breakthrough to the Martial Emperor Stage."

As Yang Hui reached the end, he sighed a little as if he recalled his own past.

"Since the Hidden Fog Island is willing to present the Saint Stone to all of you, it means that this Hidden Fog Martial Competition must be no ordinary martial competition... Do you know the main purpose of the Hidden Fog Island?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

Since the Saint Stone was so precious, he doubted that anyone on the Hidden Fog Island would be so kind-hearted. There must be a huge conspiracy behind this Hidden Fog Martial Competition. Updated by

"I've never heard of this before... But I guess the Hidden Fog Island must be seeking something," Yang Hui answered.

As a Martial Emperor, of course, he was no idiot and could easily pinpoint this out.

"Is there any requirement for the people who enter this Hidden Fog Martial Competition?" Duan Ling Tian asked again.

"Yes." Yang Hui nodded. "According to the Hidden Fog Island's messenger, everyone who joins the Hidden Fog Martial Competition must have their age measured using the Age Measuring Pearl."

"Participants must be below seventy years old?" Duan Ling Tian had some knowledge about the Age Measuring Pearl. He knew that it could measure someone's age up till seventy years old at the most.

It could not measure the age of somebody who was over seventy years old.

"Yes," Yang Hui affirmed again.

Then, the two of them continued with idle chat. After that, Yang Hui arranged for accommodation for Duan Ling Tian to stay in, just right beside his own residence. It was a small, stand-alone courtyard on a tiny stone platform.

There was a little house in the courtyard.

Sending Duan Ling Tian all the way to the door of the little house, Yang Hui told Duan Ling Tian, "Brother Ling Tian, I'll do my utmost best to help check your origins... However, I hope you won't spread the story about the Saint Stone. In fact, even my first direct disciple doesn't know about the existence of it at all."

"I understand." Of course, he knew Yang Hui's intention of keeping the Saint Stone a secret. It was because he did not want to let the Martial Emperor's disciples under his command think that he asked them to risk their lives for the stone.

"In that case, I'll bid my goodbye first." Yang Hui proceeded to leave.

"Wait a minute." However, Duan Ling Tian suddenly called out to him in a timely manner.

"Yes, anything else?" Yang Hui asked.

"There's one thing that I hope you could help me with," Duan Ling Tian answered.

"Just tell me," Yang Hui straightforwardly said.

"There's a pair of twin brothers with the surname Nangong among the people joining the selection of the Martial Emperors' disciples and followers... Right now, they've already passed the second round of the selection and it's already certain that they'll become your Martial Emperor's followers. If possible, I'd like to ask you to take care of them," Duan Ling Tian told Yang Hui.

“They’re your...” Looking at him, before Yang Hui could finish his question, he was already cut off by the young man in purple. “They’re my friends.”

“Since they’re your friends, it means that they’re my friends too... Don’t worry, Brother Ling Tian. I won’t mistreat them,” Yang Hui quickly replied.

Chapter 1257: Demon Emperor’s Beast Core

After Yang Hui left, Duan Ling Tian sat in front of the stone table in the courtyard and muttered to himself, “The Hidden Fog Martial Competition...”

Earlier, when Yang Hui mentioned the Hidden Fog Martial Competition, he had intended to ask him to join it on behalf of Ling Xuan Peak. In addition to that, Yang Hui was willing to give all the Saint Stones that he had obtained to him.

In the case of Yang Hui, other than obtaining the Saint Stones in the Hidden Fog Martial Competition, he wanted Ling Xuan Peak to overpower the people of the other Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors from the Cloud Continent.

There were many strong Martial Emperors and Demon Emperors in the Cloud Continent. Of course, this would mean that they would always compare among one another a lot.

Especially now that Yang Hui’s strength had been greatly elevated, he would be a walking joke if the disciples under his command did not perform well in the Hidden Fog Martial Competition.

For a Martial Emperor, prestige was always very important.

“Bastard, do you know about the Saint Stone?” Duan Ling Tian asked the soul hidden inside his body, Wang Ba’s soul.

He had a feeling that Wang Ba would know about it.

However, no matter how he called for him, Wang Ba did not respond at all. It was as though he had entered a deep slumber. “That’s weird... I haven’t heard from that guy for more than six months already.”

Seeing that Wang Ba did not respond for a long time, Duan Ling Tian stopped calling him and stood up before going back to his room and sat on his bed cross-legged to start his cultivation.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique — Divine Dragon Form!

The Divine Dragon Form was the ninth and last form of the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique. It could assist its user to boost his Martial Monarch Stage cultivation base to the Martial Emperor Stage.

In the past six months, Duan Ling Tian had re-cultivated his cultivation base and right now, his cultivation base was even greater than it had been in his prime time.

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had only been on the Fourth Level Martial Monarch Stage. In contrast, after six months of cultivation, his cultivation base improved swiftly with the help of the Rebirth Pill’s tyrannical medicinal efficacy.

Today, he had already reached the Sixth Level Martial Monarch Stage. The Seventh Level Martial Monarch Stage now beckoned to him as a lamp did to a moth.

Of course, the reason his cultivation base could have such a great elevation was not entirely due to the tyrannical medicinal efficacy of his Rebirth Pill; it was mostly because of the construction after the destruction took place.

“Construction after destruction” was a difficult concept to grasp, but Duan Ling Tian could clearly feel the great changes these three words brought him.

After his Dantian was restored, his cultivation had indeed yielded twice the results with only half the effort.

It was even more extraordinary after adding the Rebirth Energy’s medicinal efficacy.

Of course, the most extraordinary elevation Duan Ling Tian’s strength underwent these six months was not actually his cultivation base. Instead, it was the two Profundities that he comprehended: the Fused Profundity and his Sword Profundity.

“Perhaps it’s because my soul has been suppressed by the Soul Remnant Energy from the Soul Devil Seal Tablet to the point that it went through some transformation. As a consequence, my effort to comprehend the two Profundities ended up yielding twice the results with half the effort.” In the end, Duan Ling Tian could only come up with such a conclusion. This seemed to be the only plausible reason.

Slowly, Duan Ling Tian did not overthink anymore. He continued to cultivate and comprehend his two Profundities.

He believed that with the cultivation speed that he had now, it would not take long for him to make a breakthrough to the Martial Emperor Stage.

While he was cultivating, Ling Xuan Peak had also started to activate its intelligence channel to check for Duan Ling Tian’s origins. As the center of knowledge, they carried out an inch-by-inch probe.

As for the selection of the Martial Emperor’s disciples and followers of Ling Xuan Peak, it was still in an ongoing process.

What was worth mentioning was that when Nangong Chen and Nangong Yi were about to join the third round of the selection, Zhong An brought them away.

As the Nangong Twins followed behind him, Nangong Yi asked anxiously, “Lord Zhong An, where are you bringing us to?”

He was worried that Zhong An would make his move on the twins just to seek revenge on Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing Nangong Yi’s words, Zhong An started in surprise before he hastily shook his hand. “Brother, please don’t call me ‘Lord’. I can’t bear that at all... Not only that, I know that you both have the surname ‘Nangong’, but I wonder what your names are.”

At the same time, he looked at the Nangong Twins again with a friendly expression.

What a joke!

The twins were guests that his master, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan of Ling Xuan Peak, had asked him to bring over.

If his master found out that these two addressed him as “Lord”, he would have a hard time later.

Zhong An’s friendliness took the twins by surprise. Nevertheless, after some time, they finally returned to their senses and introduced themselves separately.

“Nangong Chen.”

“Nangong Yi.”

Right then, they could faintly guess in their hearts that the reason this Martial Emperor’s direct disciple, Zhong An, was so polite towards them was most likely because of Duan Ling Tian.

“Oh, so you’re Brother Nangong Chen and Brother Nangong Yi... If you two have such a high opinion of me, call me Big Brother Zhong then. What do you think?” Zhong An grinned.

“Big Brother Zhong, are you bringing us to see Duan Ling Tian?” Nangong Yi who had guessed why Zhong An was so polite towards them felt at ease and justified right away. At the same time, he could not help but ask curiously.

“No.” Zhong An shook his head.

“No?” Not only Nangong Yi, but even Nangong Chen was also taken aback.

“Just now, Master told me to bring you over to see him,” Zhong An explained.

Boom!

The moment these words left Zhong An’s mouth, it was like thunder had struck down on the Nangong Twins, stunning them.

Without a doubt, the “Master” that he was referring to was none other than the owner of Ling Xuan Peak, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan.

Right now, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan wanted to see them?

When the two of them finally snapped back to reality, they exchanged glances with each other and saw the astonishment in each other’s eyes.

Nangong Chen was still slightly more collected.

Nangong Yi, on the other hand, had a horrified expression on his face. Although he really wanted to meet Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, it had never crossed his mind that he would be able to meet him so quickly.

Of course, he knew that all of this was thanks to Duan Ling Tian.

At the south of the Inner Land, two figures rose up into the air all the way to a dangerously steep mountain peak in the distance, Ling Tian Peak.

Ling Tian Peak was where the Ling Tian Sect was.

Soon, the two figures arrived at Ling Tian Peak and their identities became clear at once. One was a teenage girl in daffodil yellow while the other one was a little girl in white.

The eyes of the teenage girl were gleaming with a mischievous luster.

As for the little girl, her cute, little, naive face was taut, making her look like a miniature adult.

“Sister Xue Nai, what should we do now? How should we find Brother?” Looking at the teenager, the little girl asked.

She was none other than the small white python, Little White. The teenage girl in yellow was Han Xue Nai.

After they had received some news about Duan Ling Tian in the Lost Stone Forest, they proceeded to search around, but could not find any trace of him at all.

In the end, they had no choice but to give up temporarily and search for some other alternatives.

“Let’s go look for Little Gold and Little Black... Perhaps it’s time for us to make a slightly bigger commotion now.” A brilliance flashed across Han Xue Nai’s mischievous eyes.

“A bigger commotion?” Little White was perplexed, but she still followed Han Xue Nai to look for Little Gold and Little Black.

She knew that once she met Little Gold and Little Black, she would know what she was the “bigger commotion” Sister Xue Nai meant.

After Han Xue Nai gathered together with the three little fellows and plotted their scheme, a plan that would take the entire Cloud Continent by surprise started to form.

When Luo Ping and Zhang San knew about this plan, the two Vice Sect Leaders of Ling Tian Peak, they were so taken by shock that they could not utter a word for a long time.

This plan eventually started to be put into action soon.

Han Xue Nai, Little White, Little Black, and Little Gold went separate ways and left the Cloud Continent, each going in different directions.

Not long after that, a series of shocking news started to spread out.

One by one, many first-rate forces started to announce that they would become the affiliated force of the Ling Tian Sect. Other than having to hand over a great amount of Origin Stones to the Ling Tian Sect every year, each of them would also hand their most outstanding disciple to them.

These outstanding disciples from every force joined the Ling Tian Sect one after another and became a member of the sect.

The Ling Tian Sect that was originally empty became busy with activity right away.

“T-Those four little ancestors... T-They’re really...” When Zhang San and Luo Ping, the two Vice Sect Leaders of the Ling Tian Sect, got together, their faces did not have any other expression except for shock.

“How did Duan Ling Tian come to know these little freaks?” After Chen Shao Shuai found out about them, he could not help but let out a wry smile as well.

“Young Master, the Ling Tian Sect is no longer the same as before... I think that soon after this, Miss Han Xue Nai, Little Black, Little White, and Little Gold will be able to unify all of the first-rate forces in the south of the Inner Land.” At the summit of Ling Tian Peak, Xiong Quan stood muttering to himself, “Now, we’ll just wait for you and Miss Tian Wu to come back.”

“That’s right, Master. Please come back as soon as possible.” Standing beside Xiong Quan, the Gold Thug was also waiting for his master, the Sect Leader of Ling Tian Peak, to come back.

“Hi, Gold Thug boy!” Suddenly, a voice resonated from afar. When the Gold Thug and Xiong Quan returned to their senses, someone was already standing right in front of them.

It was a little girl dressed in gold.

“Little Gold!” Upon seeing the newcomer, Xiong Quan’s eyes brightened up right away.

As for the Gold Thug, he shivered for no reason and asked with a long face, “Young Miss, is there any reason you’re looking for me?”

He was afraid of this little girl in gold from the bottom of his heart.

“Of course, it’s for a good reason!” She was none other than Little Gold, the jade-eyed Heavenly Mouse who used to follow Duan Ling Tian the last time.

“G-Good reason?” The Gold Thug looked at her, full of doubt.

Slap!

However, before he could realize what was happening, Little Gold had already given him a good slap on his forehead. “C’mon, Gold Thug boy, you still don’t believe me?”

“N-No of course not!” The Gold Thug immediately recoiled in fear before answering faintly. In front of Little Gold, despite being a Hell Golden Hound, he turned as docile as a house cat.

“Take this.” With a lift of her hand, Little Gold handed a shining pill-like item that dazzled brilliantly to the Gold Thug.

“Y-Young Miss, t-this is...” The Gold Thug was stunned at first. However, after he carefully studied the item that Little Gold passed to him, his eyes could not help but narrow right away. His body began to tremble for no reason as well.

“B-Beast Core?” He gaped at Little Gold, trembling. “Y-Young Miss, t-this is a D-Demon Emperor’s B-Beast Core?”

Chapter 1258: Clan Suppressing Martial Skill

Usually, a Beast Core could only be formed in the body of a powerful fierce beast or a Demon Beast.

However, usually, only a fierce beast or the Demon beast who stood at the summit of the Cloud Continent, which was also known as the Demon Emperor, could have left a Beast Core behind upon its death.

Everyone knew that once a fierce beast broke through to the Void Prying Stage, it would undergo a transformation to become a Demon Beast.

The moment the fierce beast transformed into a Demon Beast, the Beast Core in his body would form a tight bond with its body's energy that could also be referred to as a symbiotic relationship.

If one did not make a breakthrough to the Martial Emperor Stage, this symbiotic relationship would not be able to be called off.

For this reason, even if an ordinary Demon beast was killed, it would not leave behind a Beast Core because at that very second, the Beast Core would be shattered along with the dissipation of its energy.

Only a powerful Demon beast who had made a breakthrough to the Martial Emperor could separate the Beast Core and its body's energy. By that time, if it were killed, the Beast Core would become a gift to somebody else as well.

If a Demon Emperor's Beast Core was consumed by a Demon Monarch, it would allow him to raise his cultivation base at a swift speed.

As long as the Demon Monarch, whose cultivation base was originally high, could comprehend the Emperor Stage Profundity, it would not be difficult for him to make a breakthrough to the Demon Emperor Stage with the help of the Demon Emperor's Beast Core.

Of course, only a Demon Monarch could consume the Demon Emperors' Beast Core directly.

If a human Martial Monarch wanted to consume it, he could just ask a grade one alchemist to spend some time to make it into a pill along with some other ingredients.

Of course, the success rate of forming such a pill was very low as well even if it was created by a very outstanding grade one Alchemist.

For this reason, the boost that a Demon Emperor's Beast core offered to a human Martial Monarch was not as great as what a Demon Monarch would receive.

"That's right. This is a Demon Emperor's Beast Core!" In the face of the excited Gold Thug, Little Gold nodded her head. At the same time, she passed the Demon Emperor's Beast Core to the Gold Thug.

When the Gold Thug had taken the Beast Core in his hands, both of his hands trembled even more violently.

"Demon Emperor's Beast Core?" By the side, Xiong Quan was astonished. "L-Little Gold, you've killed a D-Demon Emperor?"

“Yes,” Little Gold nodded and answered casually, “I killed a brainless fella.”

“Wasn’t your target the first-rate force of the south of the Inner Land? Why did you attack a Demon Emperor instead?” Xiong Quan was confused.

“Well, my target was indeed a first-rate force... but that Demon Emperor seemed to have owed a favor to that force since many years ago. For this reason, it rushed out in a timely manner, wanting to protect that force. He dared to actually cast an attack at me first but in the end, I killed him instead,” Little Gold answered as though she was reciting in an unimportant manner.

“I can’t believe that a first-rate force actually has a Demon Emperor protecting them!” Xiong Quan mused.

“Well, it’s only a First Level Demon Emperor,” Little Gold answered nonchalantly. Although she did not make it clear, one could still hear the disdain in her tone.

“Only a First Level Demon Emperor?” Upon hearing Little Gold’s words, Xiong Quan and the Gold Thug, who had just returned to his senses, exchanged glances with each other. They both stood rooted to the ground in a daze.

To them, even a First Level Demon Emperor was already enough to crush them with just one finger.

“Young Miss, I’ll go back and cultivate first.” After receiving the Demon Emperor’s Beast Core, Gold Thug was itching to go back to cultivate. He believed that it would not take him long to make a breakthrough to the Ninth Level Demon Emperor Stage successfully with the help of this Demon Emperor’s Core Beast.

Once he had comprehended the Emperor Stage Profundity, he would be able to make a breakthrough to the Demon Emperor Stage in one fell swoop and become a Demon Emperor.

“Alright, go cultivate as soon as possible then... After you’ve made your breakthrough to the Demon Emperor Stage, I’ll bring you out abroad for some trips. There are many Demon Emperors abroad and when we reach there, you can get yourself more Demon Emperor’s Beast Cores.” Little Gold nodded. As she reached the end of her sentence, her eyes gleamed brightly.

“Yes!” Upon hearing this, the Gold Thug’s blood was boiling with excitement as well. Hastily, he left and quickly went to cultivate.

After the Gold Thug left, Xiong Quan studied Little Gold up and down and asked curiously, “Little Gold, you can even kill a First Level Demon Emperor now... What level is your cultivation base now actually?”

It had never crossed his mind that the plain-looking little gold mouse last time had now come to achieve such an achievement. She elicited an inexplicable sense of amazement from the bottom of his heart.

“Young Master, please come back as fast as possible... Come back and look at the three little fellas and Miss Xue Nai as well,” Xiong Quan muttered in his heart.

In the face of Xiong Quan’s question, Little Gold merely smiled mysteriously and did not answer.

Whoosh!

The next moment, Little Gold vanished from the air in front of Xiong Quan. It was apparent that she had already left.

Upon seeing this, Xiong Quan only smiled as he shook his head.

With the move from Han Xue Nai, Little Black, Little White, and Little Gold, the first-rate forces in the south of the Inner Land were subdued one by one. Each of them soon became affiliated forces of the Ling Tian Sect.

At once, the Ling Tian Sect's fame became very influential in the southern area of the Inner Land in the Cloud Continent like the sun in mid-sky.

As for the rest of the first-rate forces that had not fallen yet, each of them was overwhelmed with fear for they knew that not long in the future, the Ling Tian Sect would make its move on them.

"The Ling Tian Sect is crazy! Does it intend to unify the entire southern area of the Inner Land?" At every part of the southern area of the Inner Land, people from all over the place speculated.

Indeed, the crazy Ling Tian Sect did intend to do that right then.

However, just as the first-rate forces in the south of the Inner Land were frightened out of their wits, Han Xue Nai and the other three had returned to the Ling Tian Sect in unison as though they had already planned it out.

Indeed, they had already planned it beforehand.

"In the next period, all of you mustn't be careless. You must patrol everywhere of the Ling Tian Peak more... Calculating the time now, I think they'll make their way here soon," Han Xue Nai told Little Black, Little White, and Little Gold.

In her words, it was as though she was worried that somebody would come to attack the Ling Tian Sect.

"Yes, Sister Xue Nai." Little Black and the other two nodded their heads obediently. Compared to their decisiveness to kill outside, they seemed to have transformed into other people.

Time continued to pass by quietly.

Seven days quickly passed by in just the blink of an eye.

Whoosh!

The air whirled outside Ling Tian Peak as a figure appeared out of thin air.

This was a plain-looking old man in gray. However, his eyes were brimming with radiating vigor and his face was very calm as though he would not even bat an eye even if a mountain collapsed in front of him.

Suddenly, his gaze turned sharp instantly as he glared at the dangerously steep peak not far away before he muttered, "Ling Tian Sect?"

The next second, he disappeared again and by the time he showed up, he was already on the other side of the Ling Tian Peak.

“Hold it right there!” However, before he entered Ling Tian Peak, he was already blocked by somebody. The voice that had shouted out loudly at him was a young little girl’s voice, stunning him for a while.

By the time he had already returned to his senses, he noticed that the person who blocked his pathway was an inconspicuous little girl in gold.

“Demon Emperor?” However, he did not look down on her although she appeared to be just a little girl in front of her. Instead, his face turned grave right away.

In the face of his questioning tone, Little Gold did not give a damn at all. Instead, she asked nonchalantly, “Are you the old man from the Han Clan?”

“Are you the one who killed Han Jing?” Cold brilliance shone from his eyes as he asked in a deep voice.

“Han Jing?” Little Gold was taken aback at first before returning to her senses. “Looks like you’re really the old man from the Han Clan... Are you here to avenge the brainless guy?”

As she reached the end of her sentence, her eyes gleamed brilliantly with chilliness.

“No matter who you are, if you kill a member of my Han Clan, you’ll have to pay the price!” He said nonchalantly, his words filled with a tone that allowed no doubt.

Before Little Gold returned to her senses, an apathetic voice resonated from far, “Really?” By the time the voice entered the ears of the old man and Little Gold, a figure had already appeared in a timely manner.

It was a teenage girl in yellow who appeared to be about fifteen or sixteen years old. The face that appeared to be slightly childish-looking was pretty. In just one glance, one could easily know that this girl would grow up to become a beauty so enchanting that she would topple nations.

She had a pair of mischievous eyes. One could easily see that she was a playful person.

However, right now, her expression was slightly glum as though the sky was filled with clouds and was about to rain.

“It’s better for an unrelated person to leave now... Don’t blame me if the city gates catch fire!” Looking at the teenage girl, the old man in gray warned in a calm tone. His words were filled with threats.

“Unrelated person?” After the teenage girl studied him for some time, she finally replied calmly, “What if I was the one who killed that person that you said?”

At once, his expression changed in a flash. Murderous intent radiated from his face as though he was about to devour somebody.

“Sister Xue Nai, leave this old man to me,” Little Gold looked at the yellow-clad teenage girl and said in anticipation.

The yellow-clad teenage girl was none other than Han Xue Nai.

As Han Xue Nai had said, Han Jing, the Han Clan’s powerhouse, did indeed die in her hands that time.

“I’ll give him to you if you want him,” Han Xue Nai replied as though she was not at all concerned that she was not the one going against the old man in gray by herself.

“Thank you, Sister Xue Nai.” Upon receiving Han Xue Nai’s approval, Little Gold’s eyes lit up right away. Then, staring at the old man glaring fixedly at Han Xue Nai, she snarled coldly, “Hey, old man! I’m your opponent!”

The moment the words left her mouth, she made her move. As though she had transformed into a golden lightning bolt, she blasted out towards the old man who snapped back to reality and started to be locked in a battle with Little Gold.

Both of them were evenly matched in first in the battle.

However, as time continued to pass, Little Gold soon fell into a disadvantageous position and appeared to be very wretched. The grey-clad old man, on the other hand, seized this chance to pursue and cast his attack on her, intending to kill Little Gold, the little girl who looked not more than ten years old.

“Help me, Sister Xue Nai!” At once, Little Gold asked Han Xue Nai for help hastily. This was not a time to be playful now. If she really got killed at that second, it would mean that everything would be over for her now.

“Hmph!” Almost at the second Little Gold’s words left her mouth, Han Xue Nai snorted in a low voice and raised her hand. No other movement could be seen from her.

Bang!

A loud bang resonated. The old man who was pursuing Little Gold suddenly was sent flying by a blast. As he flew out, he left behind a trail of blooming bloody flowers. It was blood that gushed out of his mouth.

“The Air Shadowless Palm! H-How did you know my Han Clan’s Clan Suppressing Martial Skill?” Soon, horror dawned on the old man who had finally managed to come to a halt with difficulty after being sent flying.

Chapter 1259: Saint Grade Martial Tactic

The Shadowless Air Palm was the Clan Suppressing Martial Skill from the Ancient Han Clan in the Cloud Continent.

This set of martial skills dominated all Heaven Rank Advanced Martial Skills. Not everybody in the Han Clan could cultivate it.

As one of the strongest people in the Han Clan, the old man in gray was very sure about this. He was also one of the few people in the Han Clan who had cultivated the Shadowless Air Palm.

Not only did he know that the Shadowless Air Palm was a powerful martial skill that ruled all other Heaven Rank Advanced Martial Skills, but he also knew that this set of martial skills could be considered a Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

The Saint Grade Martial Tactic was a saying passed down in the Han Clan a long time ago. It was said that it originated from a faraway land and referred to martial skills that prevailed over Heaven Rank Advanced Martial Skills.

The old man, who was awfully pale, was filled with astonishment and disbelief as he glared directly at Han Xue Nai

“Shadowless Air Palm?” Upon hearing the old man’s words, Han Xue Nai was first stunned before giving him a disdainful smile. “Are you sure that the one that I cast was the Shadowless Air Palm?”

The moment her words left her mouth, without waiting for the old man to respond, Han Xue Nai made her move once again. A cold aura spread out in the air and burst into a biting cold as piercing iciness radiated across.

At the same time, gales of cold wind brushed past them as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

A series of loud bangs resonated. The light shield rose from around the old man’s body and crumbled like dried leaves. In just a heartbeat, he was already swept by the gale of icy aura coming from all directions, transforming him into an ice sculpture.

One could faintly see that there was a streak of clear palm prints around the old man’s body in the ice sculpture as though he had been slapped many times.

“Right now, do you still think that this is the Shadowless Air Palm?” Han Xue Nai asked nonchalantly.

At the same time, she gradually lifted a hand up. The ice sculpture around the old man’s body began to melt into nothingness as if it had never once appeared.

“Spurt!”

“Barf!”

...

The moment the ice sculpture around his body disappeared, the old man shuddered before he opened his mouth and blood gushed out of it. Staggering as though he was about to fall, he teetered at the gates of death.

It was only until he took out a pill and swallowed it that color started to creep upon his face once again.

If Duan Ling Tian had been here, he would definitely have been able to tell that this Healing Medicinal Pill that the old man in gray just consumed was none other than the Quasi Royal Grade Resurrection Pill that he was very familiar with.

“It isn’t the Shadowless Air Palm!” As Han Xue Nai’s words resonated by his ear, the old man in gray could not help but shiver as he looked at her with a horrified expression. His heart was completely consumed with shock. “Even though it looks like the Shadowless Air Palm, it’s a martial skill that’s much more powerful than the Shadowless Air Palm! It’s a Saint Grade Martial Tactic! A freaking Saint Grade

Martial Tactic! A Saint Grade Martial Tactic that's even more powerful than the Shadowless Air Palm! Who is she? As far as I know, only the two great ancient clans in the entire Cloud Continent, including our Han Clan, have the Saint Grade Martial Tactic! But she actually knows a Saint Grade Martial Tactic too! Not only that, it's a Saint Grade Martial Tactic that's far more powerful than our Han Clan's Shadowless Air Palm... D-Don't tell me she actually came from t-that place!"

As thoughts raced through the old man's mind, he seemed to have recalled something. He appeared to be looking at a ghost as he stared at the teenage girl.

As one of the two great ancient clans in the Cloud Continent that had a legacy of 10,000 years, the Han Clan knew a lot of things that other ordinary Cloud Continent powerhouses did not.

There were other continents other than the Cloud Continent.

Besides that, there was a secret journal that was passed down to every generation of the Han Clan. It held journal records that only a disciple from the Han Clan lineage was qualified to read.

According to the journal, the first Clan Leader of the Han Clan who was also the ancestor that established the Han Clan did not actually originate from the Cloud Continent. Instead, he came from another continent.

According to that Han Clan ancestor, where he originated from, even a Martial Emperor was stood only at the peak of the Mortal Stage.

Many people transcended the Mortal Stage in that continent, which was called Dao Martial Saint Land.

"I've heard from Qing Nu a while ago that there's a clan here in the Cloud Continent that can roughly be considered as part of our clan's branch. It's also known as the Han Clan." Somehow, Han Xue Nai had started speaking nonchalantly and nobody knew whether she was talking to the old man in gray or to herself. "The fact that the Shadowless Air Palm has been passed down means that this person who founded the Han Clan must be a collateral disciple of our clan no matter how useless he was!"

Boom!

The words that Han Xue Nai seemed to mutter to herself entered the ears of the old man, striking him like a thunderbolt.

He trembled all over as he asked, "M-Miss... D-Did you just s-say that our Han Clan's a-ancestor was actually y-your clan's collateral d-disciple?"

As a lineal disciple of the Han Clan and the former clan leader, his knowledge about the Han Clan surpassed anyone else in the clan.

"According to the record written in the journal the ancestor left behind, when he was still in the D-Dao Martial Saint Land or something, he was indeed a collateral disciple of a large clan. Although the ancestor didn't describe the clan in detail, he did mention that the huge clan carried a big weight in the Dao Martial Saint Land." The moment he thought about this, his body started to quiver in fear when he looked at Han Xue Nai again.

After undergoing the Saint Grade Martial Tactic that this teenage girl cast, he faintly suspected that this person must have come from the mysterious Dao Martial Saint Land.

The Saint Grade Martial Tactic that she cast was even more powerful than the Saint Grade Martial Tactic that their Han Clan and the other ancient clan possessed.

The Saint Grade Martial Tactic that both clans possessed originated from the mysterious Dao Martial Saint Land.

That was the reason why he would come to such a conclusion.

After hearing her mutter to herself and the message recorded in the journal that their Han Clan ancestor left behind, he assumed that she must have come from the huge clan just like his ancestor.

Not only that, the Saint Grade Martial Tactic that she cast had some resemblance of the Shadowless Air Palm although it appeared more like an upgraded version.

Connecting all these points together, he had no choice but to suspect Han Xue Nai's identity. He felt that she might really be related to their Han Clan ancestor and even their Han Clan.

"What? Do you think I'd be so utterly shameless to forge a connection with your Han Clan?" Upon hearing the old man's query, Han Xue Nai snapped in disdain, "If I remember correctly, given your strength, even if you aren't the most powerful person in your clan, you must be at least in the top three... Do you think that my strength isn't even comparable to the strongest powerhouse in your Han Clan?"

Her sentence dripped with sarcasm.

"No! I didn't mean that... Miss, I really didn't mean that!" The old man became panic-stricken right away.

As she said, although his strength was not the most powerful in the Han Clan, he was still among the top three.

However, even if she faced the strongest person in the Han Clan, he would not turn out to be so weak to the point that he could not attack her at all.

"Sister Xue Nai, why are you talking so much to him? If I were you, I'd have killed him directly," Little Gold stood by the side and piped up nonchalantly. At the same time, she glared at the old man. "Hi! Didn't you want to avenge Han Jing? My Sister Xue Nai is right here now. Go on. Make your move hurry!"

Upon hearing Little Gold's words, the old man's cheeks that had just returned to its normal pallor turned white again. Hastily, he quickly replied, "I-It's a misunderstanding! It's a misunderstanding! The reason I came here is just to learn how Han Jing died... Since you killed him, Miss, I'm sure that's because he was the one who dug his own grave! He deserved to die!" Looking at Han Xue Nai, he said with a horrified expression.

“On top of that, we Han Clan can be said to be closely related to you as well, Miss. Please forgive me this time for the sake of our Han Clan ancestor!” He pleaded.

“Is your surname Han?” Han Xue Nai asked coolly.

“Yes! Yes! I’m called Han Tong!” The old man hastily replied, not daring to slack at all.

“Well, alright. I can do that! But you must make up for your mistakes,” she retorted.

“Miss Xue Nai.” Upon hearing Han Xue Nai’s words, Little Gold frowned for no reason. She itched to exterminate this old man who had almost killed her just now.

“Little Gold, there’s still some use keeping him alive,” Han Xue Nai reassured.

Little Gold nodded. Despite still being slightly unhappy, she dared not disobey Han Xue Nai at all.

“Miss, please tell me. Please tell me how, Miss!” Han Tong begged humbly as though he was afraid that she would regret her decision.

“Activate your clan’s forces and help me search for someone,” Han Xue Nai replied.

At Ling Xuan Peak, another two stand-alone wooden houses were erected on the tiny platform beside Martial Emperor Ling Xuan’s residence. It was evident that they had been newly erected not long ago.

The occupants of the two wooden houses were none other than the two brothers, Nangong Chen and Nangong Yi.

Ever since the last time they came to meet Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, they had started staying here.

According to Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, since they were both Duan Ling Tian’s friends, they were then his friends too. For this reason, he found it awkward to keep them as his disciples or followers but he allowed them to remain in the Ling Xuan Peak as guests.

Though they were the guests, they were allowed to enjoy all of the benefits of a Martial Emperor’s direct disciple.

This took the two Nangong Twins by shock and joy.

Shock by just how highly Martial Emperor Ling Xuan thought of Duan Ling Tian and joy for being able to stay at the Ling Xuan Peak to enjoy all of the benefits of a Martial Emperor’s direct disciple.

According to the Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, they could stay at the Ling Xuan Peak for as long as they liked. If they did not want to stay anymore, they could leave anytime they wanted.

Even after they had left, they could come back anytime they wanted to.

The other wooden house erected on the stone platform not far away was the residence of Duan Ling Tian.

However, ever since the Nangong Twins arrived here, they had never seen Duan Ling Tian coming out of his residence before. For this reason, they had never been able to meet with him all along

Days continued to pass.

Today, Yang Hui, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan, left his own residence and came to the front of Duan Ling Tian's residence.

"Brother Ling Tian," Yang Hui called out as a greeting.

The next instance, the door to the wooden house that Duan Ling Tian was opened wide before he flew out of it. Standing in front of Yang Hui, he asked, "Yes? Is there any news now?"

Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened right away.

Chapter 1260: Heading To The Hidden Fog Island

In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, the fact that Yang Hui had taken the initiative to look for him at his residence most likely meant that he had managed to find out about his origin.

However, he soon realized that he had overestimated Yang Hui.

"No, not yet." Yang Hui knew what he was asking about. Therefore, he immediately shook his head. "Brother Ling Tian, I'm sure you know it just as well as I do. Just the Inner Land of the Cloud Continent alone already occupies a vast area of land. I'd need more time to explore your origin."

Duan Ling Tian nodded his head in slight disappointment before asking again, "Then, is there anything you've come looking for me for?"

"Yes," Yang Hui nodded before he replied, "I'm here to give you a heads-up, Brother Ling Tian... We'll be making our move in ten days."

"Making our move?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned at first before he finally realized what he was talking about. Quickly, he asked, "The Hidden Fog Island?"

"Yes."

"Alright then," Duan Ling Tian responded. Then, seeing that Yang Hui did not go any further, he proceeded to return to his own room and continue his cultivation, working on the two Profundities.

His strength was making progress at a breakneck rate.

Ten days was not a long stretch for an ordinary person, let alone Duan Ling Tian who was cultivating all night and all day. In just the blink of an eye, ten days flew by.

Walking out of the wooden house, Duan Ling Tian shook his heavy head as he muttered to himself, "I've regained more of my memory now... But I still don't seem to be able to recall who I am yet."

"Duan Ling Tian!" Not long after he had stepped out of the wooden house, two familiar voices rang in his ear immediately. As he squinted to look at the direction of the voice, he realized that it was Nangong Yi who was calling him

There was another cool and aloof figure standing right beside Nangong Yi. It was none other than Nangong Chen.

"Why are you two here?" Upon seeing them, Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback.

“It’s all thanks to you that we’re able to cultivate here.” Nangong Yi beamed before telling him about the story of how Zhong An, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan’s third direct disciple, brought them there and how the Martial Emperor had given them special care.

“Oh, I see.” Duan Ling Tian finally understood. “That’s quite good too. You two can stay here in Ling Xuan Peak as you wish and with the way the Martial Emperor’s direct disciple is treating you, I’m sure your achievements will go far in the future.

“Duan Ling Tian, we heard that Lord Martial Emperor is going to bring ten people, including his three direct disciples under his command, somewhere far today... Now that you’ve come out of your house at this time, does it mean that you’re going with him too?” Nangong Yi asked in curiosity.

“Brother Ling Tian, it’s time for us to go now.” Before he had the time to reply, a familiar voice resonated from the sky.

“Yes, Lord Martial Emperor!” The Nangong Twins immediately could tell that this voice belonged to Martial Emperor Ling Xuan. At the same time, they were also sure that Duan Ling Tian would indeed be going away with the Martial Emperor.

After bidding goodbye to the twins, Duan Ling Tian proceeded to fly towards the voice.

Soon, he saw the owner of Ling Xuan Sect. It was Yang Hui, Martial Emperor Ling Xuan.

Yang Hui stood right there with three more people following behind him.

Duan Ling Tian was no stranger to these three. They were none other than Yang Hui’s three direct disciples who were also the only three direct disciples of the Ling Xuan Sect.

They were Zhou Di, Song Ting, and Zhong An.

Another six people followed behind the trio. These six were all unfamiliar faces to Duan Ling Tian as he did not seem to have seen them before.

Of course, even if he did, he might have forgotten about them already.

Seeing Duan Ling Tian approaching, Yang Hui welcomed him to stay by his side with a friendly gesture.

As for the three direct disciples behind him, Zhou Di and Zhong An both nodded and smiled at him by way of greeting.

Only Song Ting maintained a glum face ever since he showed up.

It was already good enough that he did not battle it out with him.

“Lord Ling Tian.”

Following Zhou Di’s order, the remaining six people also bowed and greeted Duan Ling Tian courteously. They even called him “Lord” in a respectful manner.

Right then, Duan Ling Tian was indeed worthy to be called that title, at the very least, in front of these people.

“Let’s go!” As Yang Hui motioned, a tremendous and vast invisible energy spread out tyrannically and soon enveloped everyone, including Duan Ling Tian in just the blink of an eye. The energy did not leave anybody out.

In the next instance, Duan Ling Tian saw a blur in front of his eyes. A second later, he felt his body flying out without him even having to control it.

Only then did he realize that Yang Hui was guiding him and the rest on their journey, which made sense to him.

If they made their journey at a speed that followed the one with the weakest cultivation base, let alone the fact that they had no idea how long it would take them to reach the Hidden Fog Island, they did not even have an inkling how long it would take them to leave the Cloud Continent.

Compared to Duan Ling Tian’s temporary shock, the rest of the people other than Zhou Di and the other two Martial Emperor direct disciples froze in shock for a long time the second they were brought flying into the air.

“Brother Ling Tian, I think the next time when we come back here, you’ll be able to find out about your origin soon!” Yang Hui exclaimed on the journey.

Yang Hui actually felt a little guilty about not being able to help him find out his origin after so long.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Having been mentally prepared for a while, he did not find it surprising.

“My memory is slowly recovering as time goes by... Perhaps like what Bastard told me, my memory will automatically fully recover after a year,” he thought to himself.

“The Hidden Fog Island... The Overseas Saint Islands... I’m looking forward to it!” Somehow, his thoughts got carried away. As a flash of brilliance appeared in his eyes, he was thrilled to explore the place they were heading to.

“And that exquisite jade box that the cheapskate father left for me... I should be able to open it with my strength now, shouldn’t I?” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Then, raising his hand, a delicate jade box appeared in his palms.

Just as he tried to open the jade box, a series of figures rose in the north of the Inner Land of the Cloud Continent, where snow covered everything.

There were a total of eleven people, all of them women.

“Let’s go!” The chief announced. At the same time, an invisible energy gushed out of her body and enveloped the ten women behind her, leading them towards the north at a rapid speed.

Among the ten women, the most seductive-looking and enchanting woman who had an unparalleled beauty with a provocative body told her companion, “Ke’er, it’s all thanks to your Frost God’s Sword Technique. If it hadn’t been for it, we wouldn’t have been able to become the Martial Emperor’s direct

disciples the moment we arrived at You Han Valley, let alone have this opportunity to go see the foreign world abroad.”

Her companion’s beauty was in no way inferior to the former, but her temperament was a completely different story.

Unlike the allure and the rapture of the former, she appeared to be more like a beautiful girl-next-door.