

SOVEREIGN 1371

Chapter 1371: 36 Guardians

“Li Han was No.12 among the Thirteen Gangsters. Now that he has been defeated by No.13, Guo Li. She’ll take his place while he falls one rank. In other words, they’re switching places.”

“If he’s defeated again, he’ll also be removed from the Thirteen Gangsters!”

“If he’s really removed... Hou Lin will definitely gloat. Li Han had mocked him when he was defeated by Guo Li earlier and was removed from the Thirteen Gangsters.”

All eyes quickly shifted from Duan Ling Tian to Li Han.

“It seems like this Duan Ling Tian came together with Guo Li,” someone said.

“That’s why Guo Li didn’t severely injure Li Han earlier... As it turns out, she’s giving Duan Ling Tian a chance to defeat Li Han and make him one of the Thirteen Gangsters.” Realization dawned on many people at this moment.

“You want to challenge me as well?” Li Han did not think he would be challenged again before he could even catch his breath.

This frustrated him. Did they really think he was a pushover?

Li Han’s eyes that were originally solemn flashed when he looked at Duan Ling Tian. If his gaze was a knife, Duan Ling Tian would have died without a corpse.

“Are my words not clear enough?” Duan Ling Tian asked as he stared at Li Han.

“Good, good... Very well.” Li Han’s breathing quickened. The steel claws on his hands that he had kept appeared again. It made for a mesmerizing sight as it gleamed coldly under the light.

“I want to see how you’re going to disqualify me!” As soon as Li Han finished his sentence, he moved and tried to gain the upper hand with a pre-emptive strike again.

That pair of steel claws left a trail of claw marks and a sky-full of claws shadows that shrouded Duan Ling Tian as though it intended to trap him.

Duan Ling Tian’s face remained unchanged faced with Li Han’s fierce attacks.

A bow quickly appeared in his hands. It was the Sun Shooting Bow.

The onlookers were staring unblinkingly at the battle happening before their eyes.

All of them wanted to know who would win in the end. Would it be Guo Li’s confident friend or the person who had fallen a rank and was currently ranked no.13?

Guo Li was the only one that had no expectation since she already knew who was going to win.

Duan Ling Tian was stronger than her. If she can defeat Li Han, naturally, there was not going to be any suspense in his and Li Han’s battle.

Unfortunately, Li Han was unaware of Guo Li's thoughts.

Currently, Li Han had already used all the moves he had. He only wanted to defeat Duan Ling Tian to regain the dignity he had lost to Guo Li. He found it humiliating to be defeated by a woman.

Without knowing when, Hou Lin had also walked out from the dilapidated cottage. His gaze landed on the high platform.

"Li Han, I want to see if you'll still remain one of the Thirteen Gangsters after today." A sneer crept up on Hou Lin's face. He noticed Guo Li's indifference and realized there won't be any suspense in the battle.

"Die!!" Li Han glided out, slamming the steel claws down from the sky as the skyful of claws shadows rained down on Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Li Han was in a frenzy, and he had completely forgotten about the rules in the Latent Dragon Camp.

A man stood at a pavilion next to the high platform. It was unknown whether he had just appeared or he had been there for a long time. It was a middle-aged man with a cold expression on his face dressed in silver armor. His body seemed to emit a cold aura as he stood there. He was one of the 36 Guardians of the City Governor's Mound Hill City. The weakest among the 36 Guardians was at the Perfection Stage of the Mortal Shedding Stage.

He was ranked 14th and was known as the Heavenly Harm Guardian.

Currently, the Heavenly Harm Guardian was silently looking at the battling figures on the high platform.

He did not interfere even though Li Han was in a killing frenzy and was ignoring the Latent Dragon Camp's rules... This was not because he did not care about the rules of Latent Dragon Camp, it was because he could tell Li Han could not injure the purple-clad young man.

"Li Han's going to lose in within three moves," the Heavenly Harm Guardian murmured.

However, his eyes instantly narrowed in the next moment when he saw what happened next.

The purple-clad young man did not hide or widen the distance and attack with his archery set when faced with Li Han's fierce attack like what the Heavenly Harm Guardian had expected. Instead, the purple-clad young man stood there, unmoving, with his hand on the bowstring.

When he saw Li Han was moving closer to him, he moved and pulled the bowstring before releasing it. He kept pulling and releasing the bowstring.

Qiang! Qiang! Qiang! Qiang! Qiang!

A series of noise that was similar to an unpleasant note reverberated in the air. With every note that sounded, a True Energy light blade swept out.

The True Energy light blades soared up and clashed with the skyful of claws shadows. Naturally, the claws shadows were destroyed by the True Energy light blades. The momentum of the light blades remained as it soared up to the sky before it finally disappeared.

For a time, the only thing that remained was Li Han's last attempt at an attack. He was like a fierce goshawk as he dove down from the sky. His bloodshot eyes and the steel claws on his hands were similar to a goshawk.

The sharp claws clawed through the air and almost tore Duan Ling Tian's head off!

Qiang!

When the sharp claws almost landed, a dull noise sounded.

The noise came from an arrow formed by the True Energy that was shot out from the Sun Shooting Bow when it collided with the steel claws on Li Han's hands.

Boom!

A loud bang sounded when the arrow formed by True Energy exploded.

In contrast, the steel claws on Li Han's hands were blown away. His hands were in a bloody mess.

If it was not for the steel claws, his hands would have been mangled.

"You lost," Duan Ling Tian said after he glanced coldly at Li Han who had fallen to the ground. His tone was calm and void of any emotion as usual.

Lost.

After Li Han heard his words, he jumped off the high platform and walked toward one of the dilapidated cottages. He looked somewhat distracted, there was a hint of despair on his face.

The original owner of the cottage avoided Li Han as though he was a ghost when he saw him heading over. He was sensible enough to willingly relinquish his claim on the cottage.

"Li Han, stop playing the fool... You didn't expect this to happen today, did you?" At this time, Hou Lin did not forget how Li Han had added salt to his injury earlier and mocked him in return.

When Li Han heard Hou Lin's words, his body trembled before he quickly sped up and entered the cottage.

Hou Lin's sight quickly shifted to the high platform again.

"Just be complacent... I'll break through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage in within three months! At that time, I'll defeat both of you one by one and redeem myself." After looking at the people who were in high spirits on the high platform, Hou Lin turned around and returned to the cottage to cultivate diligently.

Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li smiled at each other. Both of them were prodigies invited by Lin Qing Rong, and both of them simultaneously became part of the Thirteen Gangsters. It must be destiny.

“Guo Li, you’re entering the wrong one.” When Duan Ling Tian was about to enter cottage no.13, he discovered Guo Li had already gone in first. He was stunned.

“I didn’t enter the wrong one... This is where I belong.” After Guo Li entered the cottage, she turned around and smiled at Duan Ling Tian before she closed the door.

“What did Guo Li mean by that?” The onlookers were puzzled by it.

“What else... Guo Li must think that she’s not as strong as Duan Ling Tian, that’s why she’s willing to be No.13 and give the twelfth ranking to Duan Ling Tian.” There were a few people who understood what was going on.

“Duan Ling Tian is strong indeed... He defeated Li Han even though Li Han had fought with his life.”

“It’s not a big deal if he only defeated him... More importantly, he can actually avoid killing Li Han or injuring him when he was fighting with his life.”

When he was still being praised, Duan Ling Tian returned to cottage no.12 that was going to be his residence for the time being.

In the pavilion, the Heaven Harm Guardian’s eyes gleamed as he murmured to himself, “It seems like the Heavenly Hero Guardian brought them back.”

The Heavenly Hero Guardian he mentioned was Lin Qing Rong.

Lin Qing Rong was also one of the 36 Guardians of the City Governor of the Mound Hill City. He ranked No.9 among the 36 Guardians.

Only the top ten guardians of the 36 Guardian under the City Governor of Mound Hill City possessed two names. They were allowed to keep their original name.

The remaining 26 guardians only had one name, and they were all named after the 36 Heavenly Stars.

The Latent Dragon Camp did not quiet down after Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li’s departure, in fact, it became even livelier.

Within a day, two people in the Latent Dragon Camp’s Thirteen Gangsters were changed.

Many people would remember today.

Snap!

In the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, within an independent mansion, a middle-aged scholar sitting in a pergola had crushed the teacup in his hand after he listened to the report from a servant. It shocked the servants outside the pergola.

“Hahaha... Good! Good! Great job! Great job!”

After crushing the teacup, the middle-aged scholar laughed heartily. His laughter was carefree. “I’m not wrong about them... Duan Ling Tian, Guo Li, well done.”

He was naturally excited.

This time when the City Governor's Estate was recruiting prodigies from outside, apart from people the 36 Guardians sent, even the Revered Elder of the City Governor's Estate had also left to invite prodigies to join them.

He, Lin Qing Rong, the 9th Guardian of the 36 Guardians, the Heavenly Hero Guardian, had brought back two prodigies who became part of the Thirteen Gangsters on their first day in Latent Dragon Camp.

He could imagine it would not be long before he was summoned by the City Governor. Maybe he might even be generously rewarded.

"Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li really made me proud." The more Lin Qing Rong thought about it, the happier he was. He was so happy that he was smiling from ear to ear.

Although he was one of the ten most important guardians in the City Governor's Estate, there were always eight other guardians above him... Therefore, he felt particularly proud today.

Putting everything else aside, who else could compete with his foresight on the selection of prodigies for the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City this time?

Chapter 1372: High Grade Saint Stones

In cottage No.12 on the high platform at the Latent Dragon Camp, Duan Ling Tian leisurely lay in bed.

It was rare that he did not enter the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate.

Compared to the dilapidated cottages near the manure pit beneath the high platform, the cottage Duan Ling Tian was in was like a paradise on earth...

That was one of the benefits of being part of the Thirteen Gangsters!

Moreover, Duan Ling Tian also learned that even the lowest ranking person in the Thirteen Gangsters would receive 100 eighth-grade Saint Stones every month.

Since he ranked twelfth, he would receive 200 eighth-grade Saint Stones. Those who ranked in front of him would receive more Saint Stones.

The first among the Thirteen Gangsters would receive 1,300 eighth-grade Saint Stones... It was equivalent to 130 seventh-grade Saint Stones.

"130 seventh-grade Saint Stones are equivalent to 13 sixth-grade Saint Stones... All that in just one month." Duan Ling Tian stuck his tongue out. "However, the first among the Thirteen Gangsters is not only at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, but he's also the strongest among all five of the Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage in the Latent Dragon Camp."

'With my current strength, I can't even win against ordinary people at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, let alone the strongest person among the Thirteen Gangsters...' Duan Ling Tian really felt he was weak when he thought about this.

He had been in the Latent Dragon Camp of the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City for a few days now. During these few days, he had gained a certain understanding of Latent Dragon Camp.

Latent Dragon Camp was established by the City Governor of Mound Hill City. It was dedicated to recruiting and grooming young prodigies from the surrounding areas of Mound Hill City.

This round's recruitment of young prodigies began half a year ago.

There was an age restriction for the young prodigies recruited by the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City. Only Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators under forty years old were allowed to enter the Latent Dragon Camp.

The Latent Dragon Camp was also the reserve for the 36 Guardians under City Governor of Mound Hill City.

At the surrounding areas of Mound Hill City, there was almost no one who did not know about the 36 Guardians. They were the best of the best under the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

The weakest among them were also at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

It was said that the stronger ones were at the Paramount Stage. In fact, there were also a few who had entered the Saint Rudiment Stage.

Naturally, those were the rumors that Duan Ling Tian heard.

"However, Senior Lin is one of the 36 Guardians... That's surprising." Duan Ling Tian also learned that Lin Qing Rong was one of the 36 Guardians. He was ranked No.9, and he was known as the Heavenly Hero Guardian. "It's said that the top ten guardians among the 36 Guardians will become Revered Elders of the City Governor's Estate in a few years' time."

"At that time, there'll only be 26 guardians left... The remaining ten guardians will be selected from the Latent Dragon Camp." During these few days, Duan Ling Tian kept his ears open for information regarding the Latent Dragon Camp.

Naturally, he did not go snooping around.

It was very lively under the high platform. All he needed to do was crack open the door of his cottage to hear the noises coming from outside... Everything he heard was said by other members of the Latent Dragon Camp.

"Now, I can be considered as having settled down in the Dao Martial Saint Land," Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he muttered, "I wonder how the girls are doing... And then there's Xue Nai. She should've stopped looking for me right?"

Duan Ling Tian understood Han Xue Nai very well. She would not notify Half Moon Island of his disappearance before she found him because she was afraid his two fiancées and the three little fellows would worry.

Due to this reason, Duan Ling Tian did not have any plan of returning for now. Naturally, there was another reason as well. He was afraid! That's right, he was afraid!

When he came, he encountered many life-or-death situations because he lost his way. It made him realize the strength and horror of the wild beasts in the vast ocean and made him realize how valuable life was.

In the past, in order to become strong enough to protect himself, he went into closed-door cultivation on the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda for three years and successfully opened up 15 Saint Veins and broke through to the Early Mortal Shedding Stage.

However, even with his cultivation base at the Early Mortal Shedding Stage, he was still almost killed by several Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage wild beasts.

Fortunately, Lin Qing Rong was there and had saved him. Therefore, he did not plan to return to Cloud Continent until he had sufficient strength to protect himself.

“Strength... I’m still too weak right now.” Duan Ling Tian sighed and stood up to close the door... At once, the noises outside sounded softer, it was almost negligible.

After closing the door, Duan Ling Tian retrieved the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda in the cottage.

With a thought, Duan Ling Tian entered the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

“Elder Huo, give me a reminder after two and a half months.” After greeting Elder Huo, Duan Ling Tian went up to the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Naturally, when Duan Ling Tian said two and a half months, he meant two and a half months inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda time.

Two and a half months inside the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda were equivalent to nearly one month in the outside world.

At that time, it would be the day that members of the Latent Dragon Camp’s receive their Saint Stones.

He was rank No.12 among the Thirteen Gangsters so he would receive 200 eighth-grade Saint Stones.

Although 200 Saint Stones were nothing compared to the thousands of high-grade Saint Stones Xue Nai had given to him in the past, one had to know that even the smallest mosquito had meat.

After Duan Ling Tian arrived at the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he was not in a hurry to cultivate. Instead, he began to study his current strength.

‘With my current strength and the Sun Shooting Bow, there shouldn’t be a lot of opponents that can beat me among the Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.’ A thought flashed in Duan Ling Tian’s mind.

Naturally, he did not dare to guarantee he could defeat all of the Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

He would not be a match for them if they were at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage and had cultivated the Saint Grade Martial Tactic or Dao Method to an extremely high stage.

“Compared to other Martial or Dao Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage, my current advantage, apart from having a body stronger than the Five-Clawed Divine Dragon, is the Sun Shooting

Bow... Although I can't fully utilize the strength of the Sun Shooting Bow with my current strength, it is still far ahead compared to Human Rank Mediocre Saint Weapons wielded by those at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage."

A few days ago, Duan Ling Tian had seen Guo Li, Hou Lin, and Li Han use their Human Rank Mediocre Saint Weapons... That was why he was so certain about this matter.

'As for the advantages from my Saint Veins... It'll only be obvious among Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators at the same level as I am,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

After all, he only opened up his Saint Veins when he became a Martial Cultivator at the Mortal Shedding Stage.

"However, the True Energy in my Qi Sea is limited. If I can break through to the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage... I'm confident that even without my physical strength or the Sun Shooting Bow, I can easily defeat Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage even if they unleash their full strength!" Duan Ling Tian was very confident about this.

At that time, the number of Saint Veins in his body would be beyond comparison to other Martial and Dao Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

If he went against a Martial or Dao Cultivator at the same level, his True Energy would have been used by his ridiculous number of Saint Veins before his opponent could even utilize the True Energy in their Qi Sea.

As long as he made the first move, his opponent would be defeated before they can even utilize their True Energy.

'Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage... I don't know how long it'll take me to break through to that stage.'" Duan Ling Tian's heart was filled with anxiety as he prepared to cultivate.

He retrieved the Saint Stones Han Xue Nai had given to him. They were fifth-grade Saint Stones... It was his first time cultivating with the Saint Stones given to him by Han Xue Nai.

Previously, when he broke through from the peak of the Martial Emperor Stage to the Early Mortal Shedding Stage, he had been using ninth-grade Saint Stones to cultivate during that three years... During that time, he had almost depleted all his ninth-grade Saint Stones.

Those ninth-grade Saint Stones were the leftovers from Half Moon Island.

Duan Ling Tian did not want to waste them so he had decided to use the low-grade Saint Stones in his hands first.

He had used up the ninth-grade Saint Stones to break through to the Early Mortal Shedding Stage.

Currently, he only had the high-grade Saint Stones given to him by Han Xue Nai for cultivation.

Among the thousands of Saint Stones given by Han Xue Nai to him, 90% of them were fifth-grade Saint Stones, and 10% were fourth-grade Saint Stones.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, Nine Dragons Form!

Duan Ling Tian closed his eyes as he held a fifth-grade Saint Stone.

At the same time, he began to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda's second level to cultivate.

Although the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City was very dense, it was only comparable to the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at the first level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was far denser than the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.

While absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy at the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he was also absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from the fifth-grade Saint Stone... After he circulated a great Qi circulatory cycle, Duan Ling Tian opened both his eyes suddenly.

"The speed of cultivation by absorbing a fifth-grade Saint Stone isn't much faster than absorbing a ninth-grade Saint Stone... However, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy contained in it is indeed much more than a ninth-grade Saint Stone." Duan Ling Tian looked at the fifth-grade Saint Stone in his hands. He could see the substantial amount of Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy that was flowing from the fifth-grade Saint Stone into his body.

"According to what Xue Nai said, a fifth-grade Saint Stone will last longer than a ninth-grade Saint Stone... With my current cultivation speed, I'll deplete a ninth-grade Saint Stone in just a day." Naturally, this was also because of Duan Ling Tian's ridiculously fast cultivation speed.

Duan Ling Tian had 15 Saint Veins to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy for cultivation. His cultivation speed had even surpassed most of the Martial Cultivators at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

After all, the factor that affected the absorption rate of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was the number of Saint Veins.

Due to that reason, one's cultivation speed would be faster the more Saint Veins one had.

If an ordinary Martial or Dao Cultivator at the Early Stage of the Mortal Shedding Stage were to compare their cultivation speed with Duan Ling Tian, they would definitely feel like dying.

"Normally, a Martial or Dao Cultivator at the Early Mortal Shedding Stage has to cultivate a few days before they'll deplete a ninth-grade Saint Stone."

"Throughout the cultivation process, if they keep changing Saint Stones, it'll affect their cultivation speed to a certain extent... Hence, it's best to use high-grade Saint Stones when cultivating if it's possible so they don't have to change it so often." Duan Ling Tian discovered one of the benefits of a high-grade Saint Stone.

Chapter 1373: Extortion

'Xue Nai gave me fourth-grade Saint Stones as well... The durability of a fourth-grade Saint Stone is equivalent to 10 fifth-grade Saint Stones according to the conversion ratio between the various grades of Saint Stones in the Dao Martial Saint Land,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

'With my current cultivation base and cultivation speed, a fifth-grade Saint Stone will still have a lot of leftover energy even after helping me to break through from the Early Mortal Shedding Stage.' Soon after, Duan Ling Tian closed his eyes again to cultivate.

The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and the fifth-grade Saint Stone kept flowing into his body...

The Tenth Form of the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, Nine Dragons Form cultivation method, had transformed into nine dragons and carried the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy along the 15 Saint Veins to circulate the great Qi circulatory cycle before it transformed into True Energy and integrated with the Qi Sea in the middle of Duan Ling Tian's eyebrows.

The True Energy kept increasing in the Qi Sea that was as big as a pigeon's egg.

Although the increase was minimal, sooner or later it would be full after it had accumulated.

The day it was completely filled would be the day Duan Ling had broken through to the Intermediate Stage of the Mortal Shedding Stage.

"To cultivate from the Early Mortal Shedding Stage to the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage is much easier than breaking through from the peak of the Martial Emperor Stage to the Early Mortal Shedding Stage..." Duan Ling Tian knew this very well.

After all, the latter had to integrate the Profundities into the Origin Energy and then transform it into True Energy. Moreover, it had to open up the Saint Veins. It was extremely inconvenient.

The former was much simpler. It would be done once the Qi Sea was completely filled with True Energy. He would then break through and open up his Saint Veins.

Time passed by very quickly when one was cultivating. In just a blink of an eye, two and a half months had passed. Duan Ling Tian who was roused by Elder Huo left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and returned to cottage No.12.

After keeping the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, Duan Ling Tian opened the door. It did not take long before Guo Li showed up in front of his door.

"Duan Ling Tian, we should go and receive our Saint Stones," Guo Li said to Duan Ling Tian.

"It's today?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"From today onward, we have three days to pick them up... The place where they are distributing Saint Stones is very near. It's at the pavilion next to the Thirteen Gangsters' cottages," Guo Li said.

"That pavilion?" Duan Ling Tian was surprised. He remembered seeing that pavilion when he first arrived at the Latent Dragon Camp.

Back then, he had wondered what that place was.

It seemed like that place was where the powerhouse from the City Governor's Estate resided. That powerhouse was also responsible for guarding the members of the Latent Dragon Camp.

There were rules in the Latent Dragon Camp after all, and rules only worked when there were supervision and enforcement.

"Let's go." Duan Ling Tian stepped out of his room and walked toward the pavilion with Guo Li.

During the journey, both of them caught a lot of people's attention.

"That's Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li?"

"That's right! A month ago, they entered the ranks of the Thirteen Gangsters."

"They seem like a perfect match... Are they a couple?"

...

Many people saw Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li and began to gossip about them. Some of them even thought they were a couple.

Duan Ling Tian did not take the remarks to heart and merely laughed it off...

However, it was different for Guo Li as she began to blush.

"Hi! Duan Ling Tian." When they arrived near the pavilion, Duan Ling Tian heard someone greeting him. Upon closer inspection, he discovered it was Zhu Lang.

"Zhu Lang, why are you alone? Where's Hu Jie?" Duan Ling Tian asked, puzzled, when he realized Zhu Lang was alone.

"Hmph! He has climbed the social ladder... The person ranked No.5 among the Thirteen Gangsters, that Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse, is his distant cousin brother." Zhu Lang said with a snort.

"Isn't that good? You're pretty close to him, right? He can look out for you in the future," Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"Look out for me? It'll be good enough if he doesn't kill me." Zhu Lang laughed self-deprecatingly and looked at Guo Li before he said, "Guo Li, you're also from a ninth-rate family, you'll know better... Maybe Hu Jie and I are close because we were in the same boat, but once he found protection, how do you think he'll treat me?"

"Kill you for his family," Guo Li said bluntly.

Zhu Lang and Hu Jie were a bit like her and Ye Man, the prodigy of the Ye Clan from Fuyu Town, whom Duan Ling Tian replaced.

"Anyway, I'll go first." Zhu Lang jumped down from the high platform and returned to his cottage after he greeted both of them.

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and entered the pavilion with Guo Li.

The person responsible for distributing the Origin Stones was the person who was guarding the Latent Dragon Camp, the Heavenly Harm Guardian... The Heavenly Harm Guardian ranked No.14 among the 36 Guardians.

“Guo Li. 100 eighth-grade Saint Stones.”

“Duan Ling Tian. 200 eighth-grade Saint Stones.” The Heavenly Harm Guardian’s face was solemn from the beginning until the end as he handed Saint Stones woodenly to Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li. Both of them received the Origin Stones and thanked him.

“Perfection Stage of the Mortal Shedding Stage?” During that period of time, Duan Ling Tian used the Divine Eye to probe the Heavenly Harm Guardian and discovered his strength.

In this regard, Duan Ling Tian was not surprised.

Without a cultivation base above the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, he would not be able to guard the Latent Dragon Camp... At least, he would not be able to overpower the top few Thirteen Gangsters.

Duan Ling Tian did not notice that when he and Guo Li turned to leave, the Heavenly Harm Guardian had actually lifted his head to look at him. He looked different from before.

After Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li left the pavilion, they went back.

“Duan Ling Tian, the members of Latent Dragon Camp will have a chance to go out once every three months... Are you preparing to go out as well?” Guo Li asked as she looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“No.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head. “I have nothing to do even if I go out.”

“I don’t plan to either... Who knows if the two clans sent anyone to lurk outside of the City Governor’s Estate to kill me,” Guo Li said.

“They dare to kill you in Mound Hill City?” Duan Ling Tian was surprised.

“Why wouldn’t they... If they have the chance, they’ll even sneak into the City Governor’s Estate to kill me,” Guo Li replied.

“They aren’t afraid of the punishment from the City Governor’s Estate?” Duan Ling Tian frowned.

As far as he knew, Fuyu Town was under the jurisdiction of Mound Hill City.

“Punishment?” Guo Li shook her head. “Currently, I’m still not qualified to ask the City Governor’s Estate for any favor... Even if I am killed now, the City Governor’s Estate won’t blame the two largest clans of Fuyu Town just because of me.”

“I’ll be truly safe only when the City Governor’s Estate acknowledges my worth,” Guo Li continued saying.

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“You’re Duan Ling Tian? The one who defeated Li Han and became the new No.12 of the Thirteen Gangsters? Give me half of the Saint Stones you received.” Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li had just arrived at the cottage when a voice sounded from nearby.

Following that, both of them saw a black-clad youth from cottage no.6 walking toward them.

The black-clad youth was tall and muscular. His gait was similar to a dragon's gambol and a tiger's prowl.

"It's Zhang Ji Long! He's ranked No.6 among the Thirteen Gangsters."

"This Zhang Ji Long usually extorts the Thirteen Gangsters ranked behind him for Saint Stones with his strength... However, doesn't he usually start with the last one?"

"It's probably because she's a female that's why he's showing compassion."

...

At this time, the eyes of the youths beneath the high platform landed on Duan Ling Tian, Guo Li, and Zhang Ji Long.

Many people came out from their cottages regardless if they were on the high platform or below the high platform. They had heard the commotion and came out to watch the show.

Duan Ling Tian was calm even when he was faced with Zhang Ji Long who came bearing ill-intention.

He silently opened the Divine Eye.

Zhang Ji Long, 32 years old. His cultivation base was at the Intermediate Stage of the Mortal Shedding Stage.

"Why should I give it to you?" Duan Ling Tian sneered as he glanced at Zhang Ji Long.

"I don't just want you to give me half of it now... I want all the Saint Stones you received earlier! 200 Saint Stones. Hand it over." Zhang Ji Long stood in front of Duan Ling Tian calmly, but his tone was insolent and domineering.

"Idiot!" Duan Ling Tian spat out the word as he stared at Zhang Ji Long coldly.

Idiot!

There was an uproar after Duan Ling Tian spoke.

"Is this Duan Ling Tian crazy?"

"He... he dares to call Zhang Ji Long an idiot? I'm not dreaming, am I? Ah! It hurts! Why did you pinch my thigh?"

"Let's watch something fun!"

The group of young men and women beneath the high platform were looking at the high platform with great interest.

Usually, they would only cultivate. It was quite boring... They were always in high spirits whenever conflicts arose.

On the high platform, apart from the top five Thirteen Gangsters at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, the rest of the Thirteen Gangsters at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage also came out of their cottages.

They watched the confrontation between Duan Ling Tian and Zhang Ji Long with great interest. Similar to the group of youth beneath the high platform, they also came out to watch the action.

Naturally, these people had one thing in common.

That was... they were all victims of Zhang Ji Long's extortion.

They had given half of the Saint Stones they received today to Zhang Ji Long.

They were also unwilling to give up their Saint Stones. However, they had no choice but to comply. Otherwise, they would definitely be beaten up by Zhang Ji Long and would not be able to get out of bed for a month. That would only impede their cultivation. In this case, the loss outweighed the gain.

Therefore, they would honestly give half of the Saint Stones they received to Zhang Ji Long every month.

"Boy, don't think you're so amazing just because you defeated Li Han a month ago... In front of me, Li Han won't even last half a move." Zhang Ji Long looked at Duan Ling Tian calmly. Although he spoke calmly, people who were astute could detect his anger.

If one were to say Zhang Ji Long was a volcano, then currently he was a volcano on the verge of erupting.

In his eyes, no matter if it was Li Han or Duan Ling Tian, they were not worth mentioning at all.

However, today, one of them dared to disobey him!

He felt as though his dignity was challenged!

"So what?" Duan Ling Tian still had a sneer on his face. "Come and get it yourself if you want the Saint Stones in my hands... If you dare not, then just get out of my sight."

"No... Don't get out of my sight. I almost forgot. You... You're ranked No.6 among the Thirteen Gangsters, right?" Duan Ling Tian suddenly asked. He seemed to have recalled something.

Chapter 1374: Heavenly Leader Guardian

When Duan Ling Tian first started to speak, the onlookers were already dumbfounded.

Duan Ling Tian was too fearless, daring to provoke Zhang Ji Long like that!

Furthermore, what did he mean by his last sentence?

Why would he ask whether Zhang Ji Long was No. 6 among the Thirteen Gangsters?

Unless... He wanted to...

The onlookers did not dare to continue that thought. They all felt chills travel up their spines, thinking that Duan Ling Tian was crazy! Insane!

The Latent Dragon Camp gathered the top prodigies from the surrounding area of Mound Hill City.

Zhang Ji Long was capable of being the no. 1 person at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage in the Latent Dragon Camp. To a certain extent, he would be considered the top person at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage around the surrounding area of Mound Hill City.

How could Duan Ling Tian dare to provoke someone like that?

Did he think he could defeat Zhang Ji Long?

Where did he get such confidence?

Currently, even Guo Li who was absolutely confident in Duan Ling Tian could not help but worry for him. She spoke to him through True Energy Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, why don't you give him the 200 Grade Eight Saint Stones?"

"I still have 100 Grade Eight Saint Stones with me. I can give you 50 which would be enough for your cultivation," Guo Li suggested.

"That's right! I ranked No. 6 at the Latent Dragon Camp's Thirteen Gangsters... Why? Do you want to challenge me?" When he heard Duan Ling Tian's words, Zhang Ji Long was so angry that he cackled. He was boiling with unquenchable anger.

"It seems that you're more than an ordinary idiot! Wasn't what I said obvious enough? The others could see it, but you couldn't? You still had to ask?" Duan Ling Tian mocked in disdain.

"Do you want to die?!" Zhang Ji Long was not an even-tempered person ordinarily, what more now that he was repeatedly provoked by Duan Ling Tian?

Boom!

He jumped with his legs, transforming into a cannonball and shooting towards Duan Ling Tian.

"He should've attacked a long time ago." Facing the incoming Zhang Ji Long, Duan Ling Tian snorted.

In a split second, he retrieved the Sun Shooting Bow.

Moreover, he also used True Energy to form an arrow in his right hand.

Body and Arrow Synchronization!

Noticing that Zhang Ji Long was only a few meters away from him, Duan Ling Tian pulled open the Sun Shooting Bow slightly while raising his hand.

Naturally, he exerted his full strength.

Therefore, the arrow that flew out was still outrageously fast even though the Sun Shooting Bow was only slightly pulled open.

Duan Ling Tian stepped on the arrow and passed across the incoming Zhang Ji Long. They almost brushed against each other's shoulders...

The speed he displayed was as fast as Zhang Ji Long.

“Zhang Ji Long does indeed have something up his sleeves... His speed is about the same as mine.” Duan Ling Tian who shot out with his arrow and exchanged positions with Zhang Ji Long had turned and looked at the latter who turned at the same time. The surprise was apparent on his face.

Zhang Ji Long had a plan to become the no. 1 person at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage in the Latent Dragon Camp.

Zhang Ji Long was just as surprised as Duan Ling Tian.

“This boy’s speed... He was as fast as me?” Zhang Ji Long was utterly shocked.

Ever since he broke through to the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage, apart from people who were at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, he had not met any Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator who could catch up with him.

As the saying went, “in the martial skills under the heavens, only speed is unbeatable”!

Zhang Ji Long could command respect among the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators mostly because of his speed.

He so fast that he became undefeatable.

Coupled with his attacks which were formidable, he had never met an evenly matched opponent among the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators.

“Did he catch up with Zhang Ji Long?” Now, the pavilion which gave out Saint Stones was already closed. On the balcony of that pavilion, one of the 36 Guardians of the Governor’s Estate in Mound Hill City, the Heavenly Harm Guardian, was watching the confrontation in astonishment. His attention was focused on the purple figure.

“Did you guys see that?” The few other Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Thirteen Gangsters looked at one another in the eyes and saw shock.

All of them had lost to Zhang Ji Long before.

They had battled with Zhang Ji Long, so they naturally knew the reason he could beat them was that of his outrageous speed.

And now, there was another Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator who could catch up with Zhang Ji Long’s speed!

How was it not shocking to them?

“Was another Zhang Ji Long born?” They were conflicted.

Realizing how fast Duan Ling Tian was earlier, they knew that they were likely to be defeated if they went up against him. He was simply so swift that he could be compared to Zhang Ji Long.

“Such mind-blowing speed! Duan Ling Tian actually had some reservations when he defeated Li Han a month ago.”

“If he had revealed such speed then, I think Li Han would’ve been defeated before he had the chance to attack.”

“Oh, God! His speed was about the same with Zhang Ji Long’s!”

...

The group of youth beneath the high platform were fanatical as they all stared intently at Duan Ling Tian.

“Such breakneck speed...”

In the corner of the crowd, Li Han stood there with a distorted expression. “It seems that unless I break through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, I wouldn’t be able to redeem myself.”

“I must break through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage before he does!” As he thought of that, Li Han returned to his wooden house and started cultivating while holding a Saint Stone.

You would be amused wondering what expression he would have if he knew that Duan Ling Tian was merely an Early Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator right now!

“Two months... Two more months at the most, then I’ll definitely defeat you!” Although Hou Lin was also horrified by Duan Ling Tian’s speed, he was still filled with confidence because he was sure he could break through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage in two months’ time.

By then, not only would he defeat Guo Li to redeem himself, but he also wanted to defeat Duan Ling Tian to prove his strength to everyone in the Latent Dragon Camp.

“No wonder you’re so arrogant! You had the capital to do so. However, do you think you can defeat me just by being able to catch up with me?” Zhang Ji Long said coldly.

“I’d have to try to know whether I can defeat you or not,” Duan Ling Tian said faintly.

“Alright! Then, I shall do you that favor!” Once Zhang Ji Long finished his sentence, his whole body shot out while his legs swept towards Duan Ling Tian like a whirlwind. Wherever he passed, it was like there was a tornado. He headed straight for Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian had long discovered that Zhang Ji Long’s Saint Weapon was his pair of boots. Regardless of his speed or his attack, all he relied on were his legs just as Duan Ling Tian depended on the arrow in his hands for his speed and his attack.

Facing the tornado caused by Zhang Ji Long’s legs, Duan Ling Tian shot upwards. He nocked the arrow and drew his bow while his eyes locked onto Zhang Ji Long. Then, he let go of the bowstring.

Qiang!

Instantly, the arrow, which was formed by True Energy, shot out across the sky towards Zhang Ji Long, leaving behind an arrow trail.

“Hmph!” Zhang Ji Long snorted, his legs becoming quicker while the tornado turned fiercer as it swept towards the True Energy arrows shot by Duan Ling Tian.

Finally, a loud bang erupted when the tornado met the arrow.

Boom!

A vast airwave swept out and moments later, the tornado slowed down and disappeared.

Zhang Ji Long's body trembled and he was blown away by the airwaves.

At the same time, barely able to stand still, he felt something stuck in his throat.

His face was slightly pale as he forcefully swallowed the blood in his throat back. His pride forbade him from spitting blood out at a time like this.

Once he spat out blood, it was undoubtedly an announcement that he, Zhang Ji Long, had lost to Duan Ling Tian!

"Such a proud person." Duan Ling Tian, who landed firmly, was unscathed. He looked over at Zhang Ji Long. The others might not know the force of his arrow, but he did.

Although it was offset by Zhang Ji Long's movements, the airwave cause by the clash was sufficient to injure him.

If he had been nearby at that time, he would have been injured too.

However, because he used the arrow, which was a long-range weapon, it was destined that he would not be affected by the airwaves. In that regard, he had an advantage.

No matter their attack or their speed, Zhang Ji Long and him were evenly matched.

However, he was destined to beat his opponent in an actual battle because his weapon of choice was an archery set.

Zhang Ji Long's injuries were so well hidden that even the several Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Thirteen Gangsters did not notice it.

If none of those people realized that, what more the one beneath the high platform or those behind the manure pit?

Duan Ling Tian continued confronting Zhang Ji Long and asked, "Hey, Zhang Ji Long, is it? Do you still want to continue?"

"Wa!"

Having heard Duan Ling Tian's words, Zhang Ji Long became mad again and the blood which he had swallowed came up only to be spat out savagely.

The blood stained the ground like a dazzling red rose.

Hua!!

The scene became deadly silent.

“Zhang Ji Long was injured?” The audience was aghast. They really did not see that coming.

If there was someone who was not surprised, it would be none other than Duan Ling Tian and the person in the pavilion, the Heavenly Harm Guardian.

“Huh?” Suddenly, the Heavenly Harm Guardian in the pavilion frowned as if he sensed something and then he looked at the sky into the distance.

From afar, a figure was controlling the air and flying towards him at a speed so quick that he could only catch a glimpse of the person.

In the blink of an eye, that person was already standing beside him.

A middle-aged man in green appeared beside the Heavenly Harm Guardian. He was average in size but lean.

When he stood there, he inconspicuously exuded a lot of pressure.

“Fourteen.” Eventually, he spoke while looking towards the Heavenly Harm Guardian with a slight smile.

“Eldest Brother!” The Heavenly Harm Guardian took a deep breath and bowed respectfully towards the middle-aged man in green, not daring to slight him.

His eyes were laced with excitement.

That was his eldest brother!

The leader of the 36 Guardians, the Heavenly Leader Guardian!

At the same time, his eldest brother was among the few powerhouses of the 36 Guardians who had entered the Saint Rudiment Stage.

“Eh? Who’s that? Did he defeat Zhang Ji Long?”

The Heavenly Leader Guardian’s gaze was fixed on the purple figure below as he said in surprise, “I don’t think I’ve seen him before... Is he new?”

“Ninth Brother brought him back,” the Heavenly Harm Guardian said.

“Ninth Brother brought him back?” The Heavenly Leader Guardian was even more surprised. “Is he that Duan Ling Tian? The prodigy Martial Cultivator from the Mortal Continents?”

Chapter 1375: The Leader Of The Thirteen Gangsters

After Zhang Ji Long, who had been defeated by Duan Ling Tian, swallowed a Healing Medicinal Pill, he snapped at Duan Ling Tian with a solemn face, “Duan Ling Tian, I’ll avenge the shame that I feel today!”

His eyes were gleaming with a ferocious luster.

At that moment, Duan Ling Tian felt like as though he was being glared at by a poisonous snake, causing his heart to sink as he realized that this Zhang Ji Long was a dangerous character.

“What? Do you refuse to admit your defeat?” Duan Ling Tian smirked.

Just as Zhang Ji Long was about to say something, a whistling reverberated in the wind and in the next instance, everybody present at the scene noticed that someone had just appeared on the high platform. It was a middle-aged man in silver armor.

This person was not unfamiliar to most of them.

“It’s Lord Heavenly Harm Guardian!”

“He’s one of the 36 Guardians of Lord City Governor! Lord Heavenly Harm Guardian, who’s also ranked 14th, is also the Overseer for our Latent Dragon Camp.”

...

A series of whispers entered Duan Ling Tian’s ears.

“He’s also one of the 36 Guardians under the command of the Governor of Mound Hill City?” Duan Ling Tian recognized the silver-armored man. He was the person who had distributed the Saint Stones to them, but it had never crossed his mind that he was also one of the 6 Guardians under the command of the Governor of Mound Hill City.

On top of that, he was ranked 14th too.

“Lord Heavenly Harm Guardian!”

“Lord Heavenly Harm Guardian!”

...

Many people bowed towards the Lord Heavenly Harm Guardian.

“Heavenly Leader Guardian, the leader of the 36 Guardians, gave out an order that all of the 13 Gangsters are required to go to the assembly hall at the City Governor’s Estate now. All of you must be present!” The Heavenly Harm Guardian announced. When he reached the end of his sentence, the True Energy contained in his voice exploded like a blast and spread out to the entire Latent Dragon Camp.

“He’s reminding the five out of the 13 Gangsters who have reached the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage.” Duan Ling Tian could tell the intentions of the Heavenly Harm Guardian.

Right now, other than the five Martial or Dao Cultivators who were at the Mortal Shedding Stage Master Stage, almost all of the rest of the 13 Gangsters were already in attendance.

“Haha... Now that the Heavenly Leader Guardian has asked for a meeting in the assembly hall personally, it looks like there must be something interesting going on then.” A peal of hearty laughter reverberated as a figure shot out of the second wooden house. Soon, it left the campsite of the Latent Dragon Camp at a speed so fast that even Duan Ling Tian could barely catch it.

“How fast! As expected from the second strongest person among the 13 Gangsters.” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback.

In the next instance, Duan Ling Tian saw someone shoot out of the wooden houses with the numbers 3, 4, and 5 each respectively. They followed behind the person who came out of the second wooden house and left the Latent Dragon Camp.

It was apparent that they were heading to the assembly hall.

Whoosh!

At that very second, the Heavenly Harm Guardian had returned to the multi-story pavilion. He had already finished making his announcement.

After Zhang Ji Long threw a cold glance at Duan Ling Tian, he also descended from the high platform and left the Latent Dragon Camp. The other few members of the 13 Gangsters also left one by one.

At once, there were only Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li left.

“Let’s go.” Guo Li motioned.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. However, when he left, he could not help but glance at the first wooden house a few times. Soon, he realized that there still seemed to be no sign of movement at all from that wooden house. Nobody came out of it even after a long time.

“Don’t tell me that the owner of the first wooden house, the leader of the 13 Gangsters, dares to obey the order given by the Heavenly Leader Guardian, the leader of the 36 Guardians?” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

After Duan Ling Tian left with Guo Li, a commotion broke out in the entire Latent Dragon Camp as all of them were no longer in fear.

“The Heavenly Leader Guardian, the leader of the 36 Guardians, personally asked the 13 Gangsters to assemble. I wonder what’s actually going on...”

“It’s been quite some time since I reached this Latent Dragon Camp and I’ve only seen the Heavenly Harm Guardian before out of all of the 36 Guardians... Let alone Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian, I’ve never even seen any other Lord Guardians before.”

“Who told you to not cultivate harder? Otherwise, you could be part of the 13 Gangsters and go to see Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian together too.”

...

Just as the group of Latent Dragon Camp’s members buried their heads in a discussion, Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li had also reached the assembly hall in the City Governor’s Estate. After they entered, they noticed ten people already standing inside.

Out of the ten people, other than the four new faces, Duan Ling Tian had some impression towards the other six. He had seen them before in the Latent Dragon Camp’s campsite earlier. They were the few Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage Martial and Dao Cultivators of the 13 Gangsters.

“Oh? New faces?” Right at this moment, a sturdy, stocky, young man with an imposing build, who appeared to be crude and slipshod, looked at Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li in astonishment. “Are you two the new members of the 13 Gangsters?”

“Xiong Hu, it looks like you really have shut yourself in the room and are oblivious to whatever happens outside. The two of them are none other than the new Latent Dragon Camp members who replaced Hou Lin and Li Han a month ago.” A young, sturdy man, who looked as though he took a cynical attitude towards life, smiled as he chimed in.

“Not bad, not bad.” Xiong Hu cast a glance at Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li as he nodded.

“Is he the person who ranks second among the 13 Gangsters?” Looking at Xiong Hu, Duan Ling Tian could tell that the voice of the person who came out of wooden house Number 2 just now was exactly identical to this person. It was apparent that they were the same person.

“Good day to you guys. I’m Jin Yuan Bao who ranks third among the 13 Gangsters, just second only to that freak and that this big block right here.” Fanning himself, the luxuriously-clad young man introduced himself as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“Guo Li, the 13th of the 13 Gangsters.” Seeing how the person who ranked third among the 13 Gangsters took the initiative to introduce himself, Guo Li neither dared to act highly nor slack.

“Duan Ling Tian, the sixth of the 13 Gangsters,” Duan Ling Tian continued to introduce himself after Guo Li. He was sort of fond of Jin Yuan Bao who was exceptionally friendly. He was the kind of person who was usually open and poised.

“The sixth of the 13 Gangsters?” Upon hearing that, Jin Yuan Bao could not help but be taken aback. “Isn’t the sixth of the 13 Gangsters Zhang Ji Long?”

Then, he instantly looked at Zhang Ji Long and asked in surprise, “Zhang Ji Long, were you... actually defeated by a newbie?”

Even though Zhang Ji Long was reluctant, he still had no other choice but to nod his head in admission. At the same time, he did not leave out his explanation, “If his weapon had not been the archery set, he could’ve only come to a draw with me at the most.”

After battling it out with Duan Ling Tian, of course, Zhang Ji Long knew his weak point. It was also for this reason that he was very dissatisfied.

“Hmph! A loss is a loss... Why do you wanna find so many excuses for? Don’t tell me that if you’re killed, you can still revive yourself and seek revenge on him!” A plain-clothed, young man who stood at the side snorted in a low voice and snapped in disdain.

“Haha... Sun Ge, Zhang Ji Long is already pissed that he’s been defeated, so why did you need to pour salt on his wound again?” The young man, whose eyes had never left Guo Li ever since she entered the door, finally retracted his gaze and shifted it towards the ordinary-clad young man. With a burst of deep laughter, he piped up.

“Zheng Jian, don’t be a busybody!” Sun Ge snorted.

“Are those Sun Ge, the fourth of the 13 Gangsters and Zheng Jian, the fifth of the 13 Gangsters, who is also Hu Jie’s distant cousin too?” Duan Ling Tian could still remember Sun Ge and Zheng Jian’s silhouettes.

They were none other than the people who had come out of wooden houses Number 4 and 5.

“Junior Sister Guo!” Somehow, Zheng Jian had already gone to stand in front of Guo Li and greeted her with enthusiasm without the temperament of a Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage Martial Cultivator at all. However, there was a horny luster beaming in the depths of his gaze, revealing signs of his evil intentions.

Of course, Guo Li noticed this. Coldly, she replied, “I don’t know you.”

“You don’t know me, but I know you.” Zheng Jian grinned. “You’re the darling daughter of the Guo Clan in Fuyu town and not only that, but you’re also the strongest among the young generation of Fuyu Town too... I was lucky to have had the opportunity to accompany my father to visit your estate before.”

“So?” Guo Li’s reaction remained as calm as just now.

“Junior Sister Guo, let me introduce myself first. I’m Zheng Jian, the eldest son of the Zheng Clan in the New South Town who also ranks fifth among the 13 Gangsters of the Latent Dragon Camp,” Zheng Jian introduced himself patiently.

This time, Guo Li completely ignored him. No matter how much sweet talk Zheng Jian poured out, she completely ignored him nevertheless. In the end, Zheng Jian’s expression changed to become extremely grave.

“You bitch! Don’t force me to get rough with you!” Frostiness leaked out of Zheng Jian’s eyes as he snapped in his heart.

“Haha... Zheng Jian, I realize that you can be quite despicable, huh? Can’t you see that Miss Guo Li isn’t interested in you at all? Yet, you can still talk so much... I really admire you, dude!” Jin Yuan Bao threw his head behind as he guffawed unscrupulously, mocking Zheng Jian.

“Jin Yuan Bao, don’t you push me too far!” The moment Jin Yuan Bao’s words left his mouth, Zheng Jian was so pissed that he glared at him ferociously with an extremely sour expression.

“Don’t push you too far? So what if I push you too far? Come on, I’ll give you a chance to defeat me. How about that?” Upon hearing Zheng Jian’s words, Jin Yuan Bao released a peal of brilliant laughter.

With just one sentence, he pissed Zheng Jian off so much that his body kept trembling. His face was completely flushed and his eyes were bloodshot as though he was about to erupt anytime.

Whoosh!

Right at this moment, a draft blew into the assembly hall and caused the robes on the twelve people to flutter for a while before they finally stopped.

The next instant, a figure appeared in the assembly hall. It was a plain-looking young man who carried a long sheathed sword on his back.

Standing right there, he was extremely quiet. He did not make any sound at all.

“Is h-he the leader of the 13 Gangsters?” When the young man in green made his appearance, Duan Ling Tian did not sense anything at all prior and even when the wind blew past, he did not notice that it was actually a person. Instead, he thought that it was really just the wind.

At once, he was taken by astonishment.

The Divine Eye!

In his curiosity, Duan Ling Tian looked at the green-clad man and narrowed his eyes.

30 years old.

Mortal Shedding Stage... Perfection Stage!

Upon probing the young man’s age and cultivation base, Duan Ling Tian was completely astounded.

Mortal Shedding Stage Perfection Stage at 30 years old?

What kind of freak was this?

“Freak! You finally came... And here I thought that you were going to disobey Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian’s order.” The friendly Jin Yuan Bao squinted his eyes at the man in green and smiled.

“I’m not a freak,” the man finally responded. His voice was so cold that it seemed to be able to turn water into ice.

Freak?

Upon hearing Jin Yuan Bao greet the green-clad young man, Duan Ling Tian could not help but be reminded by the sentence that Jin Yuan Bao had uttered earlier: “Good day to you guys. I’m Jin Yuan Bao who ranks third among the 13 Gangsters, just second only to that freak and that this big block right here.”

The “big block” in this sentence was none other than Xiong Hu, the person who ranked second among the 13 Gangsters.

“He’s Ling Yun, the leader of the 13 Gangsters!” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally got his confirmation.

Chapter 1376: The Five-Rated Forces

“I thought the first five of the 13 Gangsters are at Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage!” Duan Ling Tian gasped.

“Could Ling Yun have just made a breakthrough recently?” In the end, Duan Ling Tian could only come up with such a conclusion.

He also realized that the moment Ling Yun appeared, other than the friendly Jin Yuan Bao, all the others including Xiong Hu, who ranked second among the 13 Gangsters, had dread in their eyes when they looked at him.

“Good. All of you are here now.” A voice echoed in the assembly hall, taking everyone including Duan Ling Tian by surprise.

Ling Yun was the only person standing right there unwavering like a mountain as though he was a statue.

“Ling Yun is so steady that it’s absolutely bloodcurdling,” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Just at the second when the voice echoed in the air, a green figure also appeared in the main seat in the assembly hall. It was a middle-aged man clad in green.

The moment the man appeared, a gush of powerful aura swept out from him and caused the surroundings to dim in color.

“Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian!” At once, everybody including Ling Yu bowed towards him.

Duan Ling Tian and Guo Li bowed as well.

Had it been only the two of them, they would not have been able to recognize this person at all.

“Is he the Heavenly Leader Guardian? One of the 36 Guardians under the command of the Governor of Mound Hill City?” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback secretly. After he raised his head, he began to study the middle-aged man. Before him stood the Heavenly Leader Guardian who was also the leader of the 36 Guardians.

“I asked all of you to come because I want to announce something,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian did not beat around the bush as he announced, “In three months, Lord City Governor will come out of his closed-door cultivation and by that time, he will pick two to three disciples among the thirteen of you.”

Was Lord City Governor going to pick his disciples?

The moment these words left the Heavenly Leader Guardian’s mouth, other than Duan Ling Tian, everyone’s eyes lit up right away.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City was a powerful person who was at the Saint Rudiment Stage. He was the strongest person in the area encompassing Mound Hill City!

If one became his disciple, one would definitely be able to rise directly to a high position without fail.

Other than that, it would also be equivalent to obtaining powerful protection. Being the disciple of the Governor of Mound Hill City, one would definitely be able to roam free around the city.

Deep breaths filled the entire assembly hall at once.

Other than Duan Ling Tian who maintained his calm, only Ling Yun among everyone else appeared to be more collected. However, desire could be seen pooling in his eyes as well.

As for Duan Ling Tian, it seemed like he did not give a damn at all.

He was not putting a facade on. Instead, he really did not give a damn at all.

Duan Ling Tian's field of vision was completely different from the group of young geniuses there. In the opinions of these young geniuses, the Governor of Mount Hill City who was on the Saint Rudiment Stage was someone they needed to look up to and fear.

On the contrary, in Duan Ling Tian's opinion, the Governor of Mound Hill City was merely an ordinary Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator.

Heavenly Leader Guardian did not miss Duan Ling Tian's composure and he could not help but praise in his heart, "This little guy from the Mortal Continent that Ninth Brother has found isn't bad... He's yet to see the world, but he can still be this calm even after he heard that Lord City Governor is looking to recruit disciples."

One could easily imagine that if Duan Ling Tian knew what the Heavenly Leader Guardian was thinking right now, he would most likely itch to take his Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda out and blow it up in size before slamming it violently on his head.

Did he actually think that he had never seen the world before?

"Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian, may I ask how will Lord City Governor choose his direct disciple later on?" Zhang Ji Long asked in excitement.

"Three months later, Lord City Governor will come out of his closed-door cultivation and will run a test on each of you. Of course, I have no idea what the test is going to be either," the Heavenly Leader Guardian replied, "The reason I asked all of you to come is to remind you that within these three months, work as hard as you can so that you can build your strength as much as possible. Three months later, whoever is eliminated from the 13 Gangsters will have no chance to become the City Governor's disciple."

After the Heavenly Leader Guardian had finished, he waved his hand and said, "Alright, go back now."

Right away, the remaining eleven people including Duan Ling Tian and Ling Yun immediately disappeared from the assembly hall in just a flash, heading back towards the Latent Dragon Camp. They were rushing back to cultivate.

After Ling Yun cast a peculiar glance at Duan Ling Tian, he flew out as well.

"Guo Li is also another one... Even if you really want to elevate your strength, there's no need to be in such a mad rush, is there?" Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly before walking out of the assembly hall leisurely. He was not interested in becoming the disciple of the Governor of Mound Hill City. Therefore, he was in no hurry to go back to cultivate.

"Wait a minute!" Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to cross the threshold of the assembly hall, a voice echoed from behind him. It was none other than Heavenly Leader Guardian's voice.

"Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian, did you call for me?" Looking at the Heavenly Leader Guardian, Duan Ling Tian asked.

To be honest, he was the most curious about the Heavenly Leader Guardian, this leader of the 36 Guardians under the command of the Governor of Mound Hill City. Just now, he had actually attempted to use his Divine Eye to probe the Heavenly Leader Guardian.

However, the moment he remembered that Senior Lin, who was ranked ninth among the 36 Guardians, was already at the Mortal Shedding Stage Paramount Stage, he quickly dismissed his idea again.

Duan Ling Tian even suspected that this leader of the 36 Guardians was actually at the Saint Rudiment Stage just like the City Governor of the Mound Hill City.

Of course, this was all his own speculation.

"I heard that you came from the Mortal Continent. Is that true?" Looking at Duan Ling Tian, the Heavenly Leader Guardian asked.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian was not surprised that he knew about his origins. After all, he had reported his background before to Senior Lin, telling him that he was from the Mortal Continent.

"Which Mortal Continent are you from? As far as I know, there are three Mortal Continents outside of Dao Martial Saint Land but only two of them have Martial Cultivators."

"I came from the Mortal Continent that only houses Martial Cultivators," Duan Ling Tian replied honestly.

"I heard of that Mortal Continent before... It's called the Cloud Continent." The Heavenly Leader Guardian nodded his head wisely. "It looks like you're not from the same Mortal Continent as the City Governor's disciple. If you two were from the same Mortal Continent, you two would definitely know each other."

"The City Governor's disciple?" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback. "Is he from the Mortal Continent too?"

"That's right." The Heavenly Leader Guardian nodded as he smiled. "Not only is he from the Mortal Continent, but he also possesses a remarkable one-of-a-kind talent. You'll definitely have the opportunity to come across him in the future."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian!" Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian was reminded about something. "Can I ask you a question?"

"Sure."

"Do you know whether there's a Han Clan among the five-rated forces in the Dao Martial Saint Land?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

Five-rated force!

The moment Duan Ling Tian's words left his mouth, the Heavenly Leader Guardian's expression had already turned glum... A five-rated force! To him, that was a presence that he could only watch from far away.

“Lord Heavenly Leader Guardian, what’s wrong?” Duan Ling Tian could see that there seemed to be something wrong with the Heavenly Leader Guardian, so he was perplexed. He did not understand why the Heavenly Leader Guardian would change to become sullen so suddenly. Was there anything wrong?

It was actually because the Saint Stones that Xue Nai had given him were mostly made up of Fifth Grade Saint Stones and a small part of them were Fourth Grade Saint Stones. Because of this, he suspected that the force behind her must be a fifth-rated force in Dao Martial Saint Land.

Of course, the reason he made such a speculation was also because of Guo Li’s words.

According to Guo Li, her Guo Clan that she was in from Fuyu town was a ninth-rated force and they owned a Ninth Grade Saint Stone Reserve. The City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, on the other hand, was an eighth-rated force and they owned an Eighth Grade Saint Stone Reserve.

The Ninth Grade Saint Stone Reserve could produce some eighth grade Saint Stones.

On the other hand, the Eighth Grade Saint Stone Reserve could produce some seventh grade Saint Stones.

It was exactly by this deduction that he felt that the force that Xue Nai was in must be a fifth-rated force in Dao Martial Saint Land.

“Duan Ling Tian, why did you ask this?” Taking a deep breath, the Heavenly Leader Guardian finally eased his turmoiled feelings and asked.

“When I was in the Mortal Continent, I heard my grandfather tell me that when he was still young, he came across a man before. That man had the surname ‘Han’ and he claimed that he came from a fifth-rated force from Dao Martial Saint Land,” Duan Ling Tian randomly fabricated a story. He did not dare to reveal that he knew someone with the surname Han and who most likely came from a fifth-rated force from Dao Martial Saint Land.

He did not want to bring too much complications for himself.

On top of that, if he said that he knew somebody from the fifth-rated force, he would be doomed if it elicited greediness from somebody else who felt that he had obtained some goodies from that particular somebody from the fifth-rated force.

After going through two reincarnations, along with the two reincarnations’ memory of the Rebirth Martial Emperor, Duan Ling Tian could be said as a person who had been through four reincarnations. Of course, he would take everything into account.

“Oh, I see.” Upon hearing that, the Heavenly Leader Guardian breathed a sigh of relief, “Last time, many people went to the Mortal Continent for a trip. However, they said that the conditions there are very poor and many people found it difficult to stay there for long.”

Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly.

Compared to Dao Martial Saint Land, of course, the conditions of the Mortal Continent was much worse.

Casting aside all the others, the cultivation environment and resources in just the Guo Clan that Guo Li was in alone, which was the ninth-rated force of Fuyu Town in Dao Martial Saint Land, already far surpassed all of the places in the Cloud Continent.

“As for the fifth-rated force, I don’t really know either. Even our City Governor’s Estate of our Mound Hill City is also only an eighth-rated force. Even that huge sect above our Mound Hill City is also only a seventh-rated force,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian replied, “The fifth-rated force is just too far away from us... However, one thing I’m sure of is that there are many strong powerhouses in a fifth-rated force. There are at least a hundred over Saint Stage powerhouses in it.”

The moment the Heavenly Leader Guardian mentioned the Saint Stage powerhouse, respect sparked on his face; it was respect that rose from the bottom of his heart.

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. At the same time, he could not help but be taken aback. “Wow, is the force that Xue Nai is in actually this strong? There are more than a hundred over Saint Stage powerhouses in it! Isn’t this a little too far-fetched?” Duan Ling Tian was completely consumed by bafflement.

In the next instant, Duan Ling Tian bade farewell to the Heavenly Leader Guardian and proceeded to leave the assembly hall.

“What a rare genius! He’s been cultivating all this while in the Mortal Continent, and he’s able to enter the Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage by 35 years old! If that disciple of Lord City Governor hadn’t come here to Dao Martial Saint Land together with Lord City Governor earlier, he wouldn’t have been able to even measure up to him,” the Heavenly Leader Guardian thought to himself.

In the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, of course, he as the most trusted leader of the 36 Guardians, would understand about Lord City Governor the most.

Chapter 1377: A Terrifying Old Man

When Duan Ling Tian went back to the Latent Dragon Camp, he noticed that the other twelve gangsters other than him were all cultivating quietly in their room.

As for the people who were living in the tattered wooden house underneath the high platform, they were still as laidback as before.

However, two people from two wooden houses did not come out for a very long time.

Those were the wooden houses that Hou Lin and Li Han dwelled in.

Duan Ling Tian did not notice this at all because after he went back, he had gone straight to his wooden house too. Of course, the wooden house that he was staying in now was wooden house Number 6.

Having defeated Zhang Ji Long, he now replaced him and became the sixth member of the 13 Gangsters, with merely five people on Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage in front of him.

“Wait a minute! It’s actually one of them on Mortal Shedding Stage Perfection Stage and the other four on Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage!” Right at that moment, Duan Ling Tian was reminded of Ling

Yun, the young man in green who carried a long sheathed sword on his back and was also the leader of the 13 Gangsters.

Duan Ling Tian had to admit that when he saw Ling Yun, he was reminded of Su Li, his best friend from his past. Unfortunately, he had never seen Su Li at all even up to when he left the Cloud Continent.

The reason he was reminded of him was that Ling Yun was similar to Su Li. Of course, this was in terms of clothing only.

After he had shut his door, Duan Ling Tian entered the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

“Elder Huo, please wake me up nine months later if I haven’t roused yet,” Duan Ling Tian told Elder Huo and then rose up to the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate.

Being inside the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was the equivalent of three months outside.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City would come out of his closed-door cultivation three months later. Then, he would perform some test and recruit two to three disciples or something.

Duan Ling Tian had no interest in that at all.

Still, it was inconvenient for him to pull out of this, so he had no choice but to accompany Guo Li to join in the fun and maybe add this to his chest of experiences.

If he accidentally became the disciple of the Governor of Mound Hill City, well then, he would just let nature take its course.

If the other members from the 13 Gangsters knew about Duan Ling Tian’s thoughts, they would slap him hard. Even Guo Li would do that too!

The reason they were cultivating to their utmost right now was to perform their best during the test that the Governor of Mound Hill City set three months later, was it not?

Becoming the disciple of the Governor of Mound Hill City was one of their dreams come true.

When Duan Ling Tian thought of Guo Li, he instantly sighed to himself, “He must really want to become the direct disciple to the Governor of Mound Hill City.”

In his opinion, Guo Li was no doubt a pitiful person. She was a woman, yet she possessed an innate talent that was in no way inferior to men. Apart from that, she had to carry the heavy burden of expectations from her clan.

All of these came at a price as well.

No matter where she went, she was always in trepidation, fearing that somebody would make a sneak attack on her and kill her.

If she could become the direct disciple of the Governor of Mound Hill City, she no longer would need to live in fear anymore.

“If I could help you, I definitely would,” Duan Ling Tian muttered.

Guo Li was one of the earliest people he had met when he arrived at Dao Martial Saint Land... That time, he had killed a hundred over Obsidian Pangolins in that ocean near Fuyu Island and before he attracted even more ferocious wild beasts, Guo Li had given him a warning.

Even though Guo Li’s warning was in vain in the end, he still felt grateful towards her.

After getting along with each other and after finding out more about her, he realized that she was actually a very kind girl. He did not wish to see such a sweet girl perish from this world.

Even if such a day really came, he wished that it would be the day when her lifespan ended.

“With my cultivation speed, there’s no doubt that I’d be able to break through to the Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage in nine months’ time! This time, after I’ve made a breakthrough, I’ll still need to spend some time cultivating the techniques in the Saint Grade Martial Tactic Colossal Aerolite Arrow,” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Soon, Duan Ling Tian sat cross-legged in the air and began to cultivate with a Fifth-Grade Saint Stone in his hand.

The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy originating from the Fifth-Grade Saint Stone continued to be absorbed by Duan Ling Tian into his body before they were carried by the nine dragons to go pass across the fifteen Saint Veins.

After passing through the fifteen Saint Veins, it could already be considered that a great Qi circulatory cycle had been completed. After completing the great Qi circulatory cycle, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was also transformed into True Energy and entered Duan Ling Tian’s Qi Sea.

The True Energy in the Qi Sea increased a little.

Such a cycle repeated again and again as though it did not know the meaning of exhaustion.

Cultivation was always so dry.

Only by experiencing the most arduous hardship could one rise above the ordinary!

Just when Duan Ling Tian was doing his best cultivating and barging into the Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage, a group of people roamed across the sky in an overbearing manner in mighty contingents to the south of Dao Martial Saint Land. There were more than 300 of them.

Their speed was so fast that it was horrendous.

“My goodness! What are those?!” At the same time, many people also saw the sky being blotted out by them and were all taken by surprise.

“What insane speed! My cultivation base is the Mortal Shedding Stage Paramount Stage, but my speed is nowhere close to theirs!” Someone at the Mortal Shedding Stage Paramount Stage muttered. There was only bafflement on his face.

“Saint Rudiment Stage! All these hundreds of people are at the Saint Rudiment Stage... My goodness! There are so many Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses! Which six-rated force has come swarming out like hornets from a nest?”

“There are so many of them... It looks like they’re planning to make it out to the ocean. I wonder what are they doing there though.”

“I kinda want to follow them and see what they’re up to actually, but the problem is that given my speed, I can’t chase them at all!”

...

Many people looked up at the sky and stared as the hundreds of figures disappeared in the horizon, vanishing before their eyes.

It took a long time for the anxiety in their hearts to be suppressed.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

The swarm of people, who moved like a great flood, soared across the sky, entering the ocean region from the south of Dao Martial Saint Land.

Leading the swarm was a gigantic bear-type wild beast. The bear-type wild beast’s eyes were completely red and its gigantic body was like a small mountain.

This wild beast had speed so quick that in just the blink of an eye, it had already left the southern land of Dao Martial Saint Land.

On the back of this wild beast stood a yellow-clad girl. The childish look on this ultimately beautiful, delicate face on this girl had diminished. It was obvious that she was an unparalleled beauty who was going to leave her teenage years soon.

However, the expression on the girl’s face was glum.

There was another peculiarly dressed middle-aged man by the side of the wild beast. His facial features were perfect but the vicissitudes of life still left some signs behind on his face. Right then, looking at the teenage girl on the back of that wild beast, he smiled and reassured, “Xue Nai, don’t worry. Your Brother Ling Tian will be okay.”

“Uncle Mu, thanks for accompanying me to look for Brother Ling Tian.” This girl in yellow was none other than Han Xue Nai.

“Silly girl, there’s no need to thank me.” The middle-aged man shook his head before adding again, “As long as Brother Ling Tian doesn’t go to Dao Martial Saint Land, I’ll definitely help you to find him.”

Great confidence reverberated in the middle-aged man’s words.

What a joke!

This time, on just this trip alone, he had brought fifty powerhouses who were at the Saint Stage and above with him.

There were at least another 260 people who were at the Saint Rudiment Stage and above.

Even if these people searched the entire sea region between Dao Martial Saint Land and the Cloud Continent, it would not take them very long. Well, of course, this was mainly because these people were extremely fast.

“Alright.” Han Xue Nai nodded, worry still apparent in her eyes.

“Brother Ling Tian, please be safe. Otherwise, I, Xue Nai, will never forgive myself forever!” Han Xue Nai thought secretly to herself. A young man’s voice and expression kept appearing in her mind. It was none other than her Brother Ling Tian.

This formidable array of more than 300 people swept across and wherever they flew past, they continued to set off a series of raging waves on the surface of the sea. These waves then splashed downwards and caused the wild beasts near to the ocean surface to be giddy and dazzled.

Not far behind them, a hoary figure followed closely behind them like a shadow.

This was an old man in gray who was skinny with just skin over his bones. However, his eyes seemed to be gleaming with dark green flames, making him look gruesome and unsettling.

The old man was holding a cane that was made of some unknown material and the dark green luster that was covering it matched his eyes, giving off a sense of bloodcurdling aura.

“Are these people from the fifth or the sixth-rated force? What are they actually doing heading to the south with such flourish? The south seems to be the Mortal Continent where the Young Master was in,” the grey-clad old man muttered as a chill could be heard in his voice. “I wonder how much has the Young Master grown now. Master asked me to wait for him at the southern part of Dao Martial Saint Land, but he still has yet to come till now. I heard that the cultivation speed of the Mortal Continent people is extremely slow. Perhaps, I still need to wait for a bit more then. However, these people are actually heading to the Mortal Continent that the Young Master is in, so I must go and ask about their purpose, I can’t possibly let them disrupt the Young Master’s growth.”

As the old man muttered, he vanished on the spot right away as though he had just disappeared into thin air.

At the same time, a figure emerged in front of the contingent of 300 over people with the bear-type wild beast leading them. It turned out to be none other than the old man in gray who was following them just now.

Boom!

With just a raise of his hand, the cane on the old man’s hand trembled as he pointed at the sky.

Right away, vast energy exploded in the air and a barrier that descended from the sky spread out as though it was connecting the heaven and the earth together. At the same time, the contingent of people had also reached near him.

“Shit!” The peculiarly dressed middle-aged man who was by the side of the bear-type wild beast had also noticed the barrier that suddenly appeared in front of them. His pale face turned horrified right away.

“Stop!” With a sharp order from the middle-aged man, the massive contingent started to slow down, but they still made some distance forward due to the inertia.

The one who slowed down first was the bear-type wild beast. After it had stopped, it threw his head back and roared. Sound waves rolled out and caused a gush of solid impact wave to appear in the sky.

Bang!

The impact wave exploded in the air, causing the space to quake a little.

“Heavenhell Bear?” An old voice cried out in surprise.

Chapter 1378: Azure Cloud Mansion

In the next instance, an old man in gray who was holding a cane appeared in front of the contingent of three hundred over people.

With just his own strength, he made the battalion consisting 50 Saint Stage powerhouses and more than 200 Saint Rudiment Stages powerhouse to come to a halt. Just from this, one could easily see just how formidable this old man was.

“Old man, who are you?” Han Xue Nai, who was standing on the back of the wild beast, had now snapped back to reality and was glaring angrily at him. “Why are you blocking our way?”

“Little girl, how rude of you... Haven’t the adults in your house taught you some manners?” The old man’s eyes that were gleaming brilliantly with dark green flames stared fixedly at Han Xue Nai.

“Ah!” Right at this moment, Han Xue Nai finally saw the devilish gleam in his eyes. At once, she was struck with fear until the color drained from her face. Even her body could not help but start to tremble right away.

One could easily imagine just how dreadful this old man was to the point that he could make her, who was nicknamed the Little Devil, to be struck with fear like that.

“Xue Nai, watch your manners!” Right at that moment, the peculiarly dressed middle-aged man who traveled in front with Han Xue Nai flew to the front and came to a stop in front of the gray-clad old man before bowing slightly.

Taking a deep breath, the middle-aged man called out unhurriedly, “Senior.” His tone was filled with respect.

“You aren’t bad... There are originally not many remarkable Beastriders in Dao Martial Saint Land and on top of that, it’s even rarer to see a Beastrider who could tame a wild beast such as the Heavenhell Bear.” The old man looked at the younger man and nodded before quickly looking at the Heavenhell Bear again.

Being scrutinized by the old man, the Heavenhell Bear was struck with fear that it started to tremble too, so much so that it almost caused Han Xue Nai to fall off. Fortunately, the peculiarly dressed man snarled out in time and made the Heavenhell Bear regain its calmness once again.

Looking at the middle-aged man again, the old man said nonchalantly, "Tell me, what's your name? Perhaps, I've heard of you before."

"Senior, I'm called Mu Yi," replied the middle-aged man respectfully.

"Mu Yi? I think I've heard of you before... Are you that genius Beastrider from the Greenwave Han Mansion?" After pondering for a moment, the dark green flames in the old man's eyes flared as he asked.

"You flatter me by calling me a genius Beastrider. However, I, Mu Yi, am indeed from the Greenwave Han Mansion," Mu Yi responded humbly.

"There's no need to be humble. The reason I blocked your way is to just ask one question. What is the reason for you, the Greenwave Han Mansion, to head to the south with such fanfare?" The old man in gray asked without beating around the bush.

"To be honest, Senior, the reason we came here is to help our Miss search for a friend of hers. Her friend has gone missing in the vast ocean and till now, we still haven't heard from him yet," Mu Yi replied honestly.

"Is she the daughter of that Han Mansion Master from the Greenwave Han Mansion? Hmph! She really lacks manners!" The old man looked at Han Xue Nai again and snorted.

If it were another person who was speaking to her like that, Han Xue Nai would have long been pissed off. However, this old man gave her a feeling as though she was wandering around the gates of death.

On top of that, a person who could elicit such respect from her Uncle Mu meant that he must not have been somebody simple.

For this reason, she chose to remain silent.

Boom!

Without warning, the old man raised his hand and pointed towards the sky again.

At once, the barrier that seemed to connect the heaven and the earth disappeared without a trace as though it had never once appeared.

"Mu Yi, boy, I'll trust you this time... If, in the future, I find out that you've actually deceived me, I'll make a visit to the Greenwave Han Mansion." With that, his figure began to turn blurry.

"Senior, may I ask who you are?" Seeing the gray-clad man about to leave, Mu Yi quickly asked.

"I'm from the Azure Cloud Mansion," the ancient voice resonated again, only entering Mu Yi's ears alone. In the next second, his figure soon dissipated into nothingness.

“T-The Azure Cloud M-Mansion?!” Upon hearing the reply, Mu Yi’s eyes narrowed right away, “He’s from the Azure Cloud Mansion? D-Don’t tell me that that was actually h-him? My goodness! What is he doing here?!”

Mu Yi’s heartbeat sped up and was so fast that he felt like passing out. It was only after a long time that he was finally able to calm down again.

“No wonder he could perform such a technique that could cover the entire sky with just a raise of his hand... So, he’s actually a powerhouse from the Azure Cloud Mansion!” Gasping, Mu Yi was still trying to catch his breath.

This time, Han Xue Nai realized that the old man had left and she finally dared to raise her head again. However, after she saw how her uncle was beyond himself, she could not help but ask, “Uncle Mu, what did the old man say to you?”

She knew that that old man must have said something to him.

Otherwise, given his temperament, he would have never lost his cool like that.

“Xue Nai, you have to remember the next time if you happen to encounter him again, you must respect him. Even if your dad sees him, your dad would have to call him ‘Senior’ politely too,” Mu Yi told her. The moment he recalled her reckless behavior just now, cold sweat broke out on his skin right away.

“My dad needs to call him ‘Senior’ too?” Han Xue Nai frowned. “Uncle Mu, just tell me... Who is he actually? He must have told you, didn’t he?”

Upon hearing her question, Mu Yi smiled wryly.

This girl was too smart.

“Xue Nai, I can tell you, but you must first promise me that if you happen to come across him again, you must be polite,” Mu Yi added.

“I don’t want to meet him again!” Han Xue Nai snorted. “That old man is so ugly! My Brother Ling Tian is much better looking!”

The moment she mentioned the word “Brother Ling Tian”, she could not help but sigh again.

However, soon, she broke out of her reverie as she looked at Mu Yi. “Uncle Mu, hurry up and tell me who exactly is that old man?”

“Xue Nai, if you don’t promise me, I won’t tell you,” Mu Yi shook his head and snapped a little.

At once, the bear underneath Han Xue Nai’s feet flew out in an alarming manner as though it had transformed into a gigantic cannonball.

“Let’s go!” At the same time, Mu Yi issued his order to the 300-odd powerhouses and continued to make their journey.

“Uncle Mu, I’ll promise you. Hurry up and tell me now. That old man... No, that Senior, I mean. Who exactly is he?” Han Xue Nai turned around to look questioningly at Mu Yi who had chased up with her. Right then, she had completely given in to him.

“He’s from the Azure Cloud Mansion,” Mu Yi revealed using his True Energy Voice Transmission.

“Azure Cloud Mansion?!” Upon hearing that, Han Xue Nai’s eyes narrowed as her face was completely covered in shock. “My goodness! What is the freak from the Azure Cloud Mansion doing right here?”

“I have no idea either... However, there seems to be something that he cares about in the south. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have asked us what we were doing. This time, no matter whether we can find your Brother Ling Tian or not, we must go back!” Mu Yi replied.

“We’ll definitely find Brother Ling Tian!” Han Xue Nai answered with determination.

Just as Han Xue Nai led the group of powerhouses from the Greenwave Han Mansion to search the boundless ocean on an inch-by-inch search, the person that they were looking for was quietly staying in a city by the sea in Dao Martial Saint Land.

That city was called Mound Hill City.

At the Latent Dragon Camp in the City Governor’s Estate in Mound Hill City.

In wooden house Number 6, a small pagoda that had transformed to become the size of a dust speck was sitting modestly by the corner of a bed. Nobody would expect that such a small pagoda would actually have a world of its own inside.

On the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

A purple-clad young man was sitting cross-legged in the air. Streams of clearly distinguishable Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy were merging into his body along with the air and became part of his body.

The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy stored in the Fifth-Grade Saint Stone in his hand stretched out almost in a solid manner and entered his body too.

Time continued to pass by quietly.

After an indefinite amount of time, the entire physique of the young man sitting cross-legged on the bed started to rotate slowly. Gushes of faint True Energy halo lit up around his body.

“It’s finally full now. This Qi Sea that’s only as big as a pigeon egg is actually like a bottomless pit... By the time I make a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage, what should I do with the Qi Sea that would be as big as the size of a chicken’s egg then?”

Somehow, Duan Ling Tian had regained his consciousness and was no longer repeating his cultivation steps again and again numbly.

Right at that moment, the Qi Sea between his brows that was as large as a pigeon egg had finally been filled. On top of that, even the fifteen Saint Veins in his body had also been filled with True Energy as well.

“Right now, it’s time for me to start opening new Saint Veins... As long as I can open the Saint Veins, the Qi Sea will then be complete,” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself and he began to mobilize the True Energy in the fifteen Saint Veins.

One must admit that opening the Saint Veins was a tedious process.

Even though Duan Ling Tian had experienced it once before, he still could not get used to it yet. Now, he was going through it again for the second time and all he felt was agony.

“Ahhhh! It’s too painful!” Opening Saint Veins was a good thing but the process of opening the Saint Veins was heart-rending. “I wonder which one would actually be more painful: this or giving birth?”

Duan Ling Tian had no idea why he would suddenly have this kind of thought.

However, the moment this thought rose up in his mind, he quickly suppressed it. “I forgot... In this world when the woman gives birth, as long as the mother’s cultivation base is high, she can use her strength to reduce the unnecessary pain.”

Just as Duan Ling Tian was thinking about this, his sixteen Saint Veins were successfully opened.

Opening a Saint Vein was like switching on a light that guided the group of people in the dark to move forward. Gradually, the second Saint Vein, the third Saint Vein, the fourth... They were opened one by one.

“Seventeen Saint Veins!” When all of the Saint Veins were fully opened, Duan Ling Tian’s excited body gave a jolt and caused the True Energy to slightly miss the path, sending him into another series of heart-wrenching pain all over and causing him to go silent again.

“Seventeen Saint Veins! Seventeen!” However, Duan Ling Tian’s heart was still filled with excitement.

During his Mortal Shedding Stage Early Stage, he had opened fifteen Saint Veins in his body.

In his Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage, he had opened seventeen Saint Veins in his body.

That was not the most important thing.

“I’ve opened fifteen Saint Veins in my Mortal Shedding Stage Early Stage and another seventeen in my Intermediate Stage. In the future, I’ll open at least eighteen Saint Veins in my Mastery Stage, nineteen in my Perfection Stage and twenty in my Paramount Stage!”

Chapter 1379: Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage

“Total them up altogether. I’ll be able to open 89 Saint Veins when I reach the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!” The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, his emotions that were originally calm started to stir in turmoil again.

He knew that the opening of the seventeen Saint Veins on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage had given him a fresh, new future.

Originally, he thought that by opening sixteen Saint Veins on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage and so on in the future, he would accumulate a total of 85 Saint Veins which was already remarkable enough.

In fact, even Gautama Buddha, the person who had opened the most Saint Veins among the natives on Yan Huang Planet, had also achieved 85 Saint Veins in total.

However, right now, the mutation that took place when he broke through to the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage had provided him an even better — or one could even say a freakier — future.

So far, he could open at least 89 Saint Veins when he reached the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!

“If another mutation happens when I make a breakthrough to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage and another during the Perfection Stage, and an even greater mutation at the Paramount Stage, I’ll be able to open up to 99 Saint Veins in the end in the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!” Duan Ling Tian kept dreaming about this to himself.

However, soon, Duan Ling Tian snapped back to reality again. “It looks like it’s time for me to carry out the final step.”

In a heartbeat, he began to cultivate the tenth form of the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique — the Nine Dragons Form. As he rapidly absorbed the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy and transformed it into True Energy, the True Energy in the Qi Sea began to gush out as well.

At once, all 32 Saint Veins in Duan Ling Tian’s body began to be filled with True Energy. Carried by the nine dragons, they performed great Qi circulatory cycles again and again as though they did not know the meaning of exhaustion.

The speed of the nine dragons carrying the True Energy became faster and faster.

In the end, the 32 Saint Veins almost caught fire due to the constant friction.

“Now!” Gasping, Duan Ling Tian’s heart jolted.

At that instant, the True Energy in the 32 Saint Veins in his body rushed into the Qi Sea that was the size of a pigeon egg with immense power and right away, the Qi Sea swelled.

“Ahhhh!” Intense pain spread throughout Duan Ling Tian’s brain nerves, causing him to growl uncontrollably.

He was already clamping his teeth down in pain.

Otherwise, he would already have cried out shrilly at the top of his lungs.

However, after the intense pain, a wave of pleasure washed over him. Perhaps, it was the epitome of the saying “all sufferings have their rewards”.

With a surge of his Spiritual Energy, Duan Ling Tian quickly noticed that the Qi Sea between his eyebrows had undergone an earth-shattering transformation. Originally as big as a pigeon egg, it had now become the size of a chicken egg.

However, although the Qi Sea had become as large as a chicken egg, the True Energy it contained was transported over from the Qi Sea that was the size of a pigeon egg. Now that it was inside the chicken egg-sized Qi Sea, it appeared to be very minute.

“It’s another long and tedious process to fill the Qi Sea that’s the size of a chicken egg... However, by the time the Qi Sea that size is completely filled, I’d have made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Master Stage then,” Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Right at that second, Duan Ling Tian’s body that was sitting cross-legged stopped rotating and as his eyes flew open wide and something flashed across them.

After the Qi Sea that was as large as a chicken egg appeared, Duan Ling Tian had now completely made a breakthrough to the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage. Precisely then, Duan Ling Tian felt that it seemed like not only his Qi Sea had undergone a transformation.

Even his body seemed to have undergone an earth-shattering transformation too.

After giving it a try, Duan Ling Tian realized that his strength was perfect on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage.

Even if an Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator had developed his technique of the Human Rank Top Saint Grade Martial Tactic to the highest stage, Duan Ling Tian still had the confidence to defeat him in just the blink of an eye.

Now that all his 36 Saint Veins were operating the True Energy together, he had come to possess a body that was even much stronger than an Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Five-Clawed Divine Dragon.

This was Duan Ling Tian’s biggest force!

“Right now, my strength must be near the peak of the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. Even an ordinary Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage powerhouse is no match for me!” After another round of attempt, he mastered an even more profound understanding of his own strength.

“When I was at the Mortal Shedding Stage Early Stage, my strength was on par with that Zhang Ji Long who was at the peak of the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage. However, with the help of the advantage of my archery set, I was still able to defeat him. Unless it’s a Dao Cultivator or a Martial Cultivator who excels in long-ranged attacks, not many people who are at the peak of the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage would be able to become my match.” The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, a brilliant smile flashed across his face.

“For now, it’s time for me to cultivate the techniques inside the Colossal Aerolite Arrow, particularly that offensive technique, the Aerolite Shower. Only when I manage to hone the Aerolite Shower to the highest stage, then I can start cultivating the defensive technique in the Colossal Aerolite Arrow, the Colossal Arrow Bell.” Duan Ling Tian was looking forward to learning more about the Colossal Arrow Bell.

According to Xue Nai, all of the Human Rank Top Grade Saint Grade Martial Tactics like the Colossal Aerolite Arrow that he cultivated would have a technique which basis depended upon the highest stage of the other technique.

The strength of that kind of technique would be in no way inferior to the strength of an Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

Only a Saint Stage powerhouse could cultivate the Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

Now that Duan Ling Tian had such fierce determination, he immediately acted upon it. He flew out and the Sun Shooting Bow appeared in his hand immediately. With a raise of his right hand, he shot out a True Energy arrow and slid it onto the bowstring before releasing it.

Aerolite Shower!

As True Energy arrow soared up to the sky and then descended downwards, a True Energy arrow shower that blotted out the entire sky fell as though a meteor shower had just occurred.

Other than the Aerolite Shower, Duan Ling Tian did not forget to cultivate the other techniques either.

He was soon lost in time, cultivating his techniques.

Without even noticing, half a year had already gone by since he entered the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Of course, this span of half a year was the time spent on the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Half a year was equal to six months.

Three days on the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was equal to one day outside.

In other words, two months had gone by outside.

“Hahahaha... A breakthrough! I’ve finally made a breakthrough!” After two months time, a burst of laughter broke the silence in the Latent Dragon Camp, taking many young men and women in the tattered wooden houses by surprise. They walked out but nobody in the new wooden houses above the high platform was taken by surprise at all.

The soundproofing of the wooden houses the 13 Gangsters stayed in was much better.

“Who’s the one yelling?”

“How noisy! Can’t you just let us cultivate in peace?”

...

Many of the young men and women who walked out of the tattered wooden houses complained loudly.

However, when they saw who walked out of the tattered wooden house laughing so ecstatically, they quickly shut their mouths up and did not make any more sound.

This person who had just walked out of the tattered wooden house laughing was no stranger to them.

It was none other than Hou Lin!

Hou Lin used to be one of the 13 Guardians, but three months ago, he was defeated, so he was eliminated from the 13 Guardians. Now, after three months, did he just say that he just made a breakthrough?

He was originally a Martial Cultivator at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage and now that he had broken through, he was now at the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

“Did Hou Lin make a breakthrough to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage?” At once, many people began to realize what was happening and cried in surprise.

“This is shocking news! Now that Hou Lin has made a breakthrough to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, not only has his Qi Sea undergone another transformation, but the number of Saint Veins must have also increased by a fair amount too. No Martial or Dao Cultivator on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage will be able to defeat him now!”

“Given Hou Lin’s strength now, in addition to being able to enter the 13 Guardians again, it would pose no problem for him to become among the six strongest too!”

“That’s right! Duan Ling Tian, who’s currently ranked sixth among the 13 Guardians, is only a Martial Cultivator at the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage. Even though he has defeated Zhang Ji Long, his strength is still only at the peak of the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage at the most.”

“The peak of the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage and the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage are two completely different levels.”

...

The young men and women from the tattered wooden houses continued to stream out non-stop and discussed among one another. All of them were waiting to watch the fun.

They understood Hou Lin’s personality very well.

He could not do anything the last time for he was no match for anyone among the 13 Guardians, but now that he had made a breakthrough to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, he would never be willing to sit still and would definitely enter the 13 Guardians again.

Soon, Hou Lin’s actions affirmed the suspicions of the group of young people present.

Boom!

With both his feet stomping on the ground to the point that the ground cracked and formed fissures that appeared to be like spider webs, he flew up to the high platform and soon stood in front of the wooden house Number 13.

“I, Hou Li, will challenge Guo Li who is ranked 13th among the 13 Guardians!” Standing in front of the wooden house, Hou Lin announced unhurriedly. His voice was as loud as thunder and with True Energy boosting it, it spread into the wooden house.

In the next second, the door opened.

Guo Li walked out from the inside.

However, her expression appeared to be slightly glum. No matter who it was, anybody would have a sullen face if one was being disturbed in the midst of their cultivation.

“Hou Lin, do you want to challenge me?” Looking at Hou Lin, Guo Li asked in a deep voice.

“That’s right! Today, I’ll regain my reputation and defeat you, you little b*tch!” Hou Lin grinned.

“So, you’ve made a breakthrough...” As a flash glimpsed across Guo Li’s eyes, she muttered with a slightly pale face.

“Since you know that I’ve already broken through, don’t you think you need to admit defeat? You must know that it’s basically impossible for an Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage to fight a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.” Hou Lin grinned proudly.

Although his words seemed to be earnest with sincere intentions, nobody but he knew what his true intentions were.

“Admit defeat?” Guo Li snorted in a low voice. “I, Guo Li, have never admitted defeat!”

“Don’t blame me for being ruthless against a woman then!” The smile on Hou Lin’s face turned even wider. Guo Li’s answer was exactly what he wanted to hear. If she had just admitted her defeat right away, he would have found it boring.

Not admitting defeat was the best outcome he could possibly hope for.

This could allow him to vent his enmity that had been accumulated for three months to his heart’s content.

The moment he recalled how he was eliminated from the 13 Guardians because of this little b*tch, rage and hatred filled his heart right away. He needed to release it out!

“I’ve now made a breakthrough to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. I won’t bully you either, so it’s better for you to make your move first,” Hou Lin announced nonchalantly.

His words rendered the onlookers by the side speechless. All of them felt that he was shameless for having the guts to say such words.

The fact that a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator was going up against an Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator was already an act of bullying.

Chapter 1380: A Ridiculous Gap

Even though Guo Li refused to admit defeat, her loss had already been destined from the very start when she faced Hou Lin who had broken through to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage.

For this reason, it only took one blow for him to defeat her.

After he beat her, she did not become dejected as being defeated by the hand of a Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage Martial Cultivator was not something shameless. As long as she could make a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage, she had faith that she would be able to regain her standing again.

“Guo Li, you’ll soon see that your companion, Duan Ling Tian, will be defeated by my hand too.” After defeating Guo Li, Hou Lin smirked and then flew out. When he landed in front of the wooden house Number 6, his voice resonated in the air. “Duan Ling Tian, I, Hou Lin, challenge you!”

The sound that contained True Energy entered the house.

The sound wave rushed into the wooden house through the gap of the wooden house and set off a series of faint breeze which blew and happened to sweep across the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda that was as tiny as a speck of dust.

Right away, the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda turned turbulent for a moment.

Duan Ling Tian, who was cultivating in the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, could suddenly feel the earthquake. In the next instant, he realized that he was already expelled out by the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

The first thing he felt was how terrible it was.

“Who’s that?!” When Duan Ling Tian returned to his senses, a blaze rose in his heart right away. By right, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda that was in the wooden house should not be disturbed.

Then, there was only one plausible reason.

Somebody must have disturbed the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to push the door open to go out and take a look at the culprit who made him expelled from the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, the voice outside resonated again.

“Hou Lin!” Upon hearing the magnified voice from Hou Lin posing a challenge to him and seeing how the sound wave contained in the voice set off a series of faint breeze, Duan Ling Tian knew that it was the draft set off by Hou Lin’s sound wave that had disrupted the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Because of that, he was expelled.

At once, Duan Ling Tian’s face turned very grave. That time, after he had gone through the experience of being expelled from the pagoda, he had made up his mind that he would never try it again unless it was absolutely necessary.

However, right now, Hou Lin had made him go through such an upsetting feeling again.

When Duan Ling Tian pushed the door open and stepped outside, the onlookers by the surroundings including Guo Li could see his extremely ominous expression. Of course, nobody could guess the real reason behind his expression.

“Duan Ling Tian’s face seems to be very grave... Even worse than how Guo Li looked when she just first appeared.”

“Well, duh! Now that he’s being challenged by Hou Lin who has just made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage, I think he probably wishes he’s dead now!”

“He only came out after hesitating for a moment. It looks like he originally didn’t want to at first, but after Hou Lin’s constant calling, he had no choice but to come out in the end.”

“The strength of the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage is insanely powerful! It appears that although Hou Lin has just made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage today, he’s already going to become the top six among the 13 Gangsters.”

...

Many people buried their heads in a discussion. All of them felt that it was basically a given for Hou Lin to defeat Duan Ling Tian.

"I was wondering why you, Hou Lin, would have such impressive guts suddenly... So, it turns out that you've actually made a breakthrough. Not bad... Not bad!" After Duan Ling Tian walked out of the wooden house, he looked at Hou Lin standing not far away and laughed in rage.

"Duan Ling Tian, I first challenged Guo Li and she didn't even admit defeat even though she's a woman... You won't admit your defeat either, will you?" Looking at him, Hou Lin mocked.

His implied meaning was obvious. He did not want Duan Ling Tian to just admit defeat right away. And now that he had said such words aloud, there was no doubt that Duan Ling Tian would just be admitting that he was much inferior to a woman if he surrendered now.

"What? Do you think I'll lose?" Of course, Duan Ling Tian could see through Hou Lin's intentions as he burst out laughing. Hou Lin had kinda overestimated himself a little, had he not?

"It's good that you won't then." Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Hou Lin flashed a dazzling smile. "In this case, I'll let you make your move first just like Guo Li, so that you won't say that I, at the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage, actually bullied the two of you who are at the Mortal Shedding Stage Intermediate Stage," Hou Li repeated the words that he had told Guo Li earlier.

At once, the eyes of the onlookers who looked at Hou Lin were filled with contempt at once. They found Hou Lin to be absolutely shameless! How could he actually have the audacity to repeat such shameless words twice!?

"Let me make my move first? Are you sure?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed as he asked nonchalantly.

"That's right." Hou Lin nodded. At the same time, an iron staff appeared in his hand. It was his weapon that was an inconspicuous Human Rank Mediocre Saint Weapon.

Even though he said that he would let Duan Ling Tian make his move first, he still did not dare to be reckless, so he held his Saint Weapon in his hand.

"That's great! Great!" As a brilliance flashed across Duan Ling Tian's eyes, he took out a Sun Shooting Bow and solidified his True Energy into an arrow. Nodding his head, he said unhurriedly, "Since you've let me make my move first, it's not nice for me to decline, so, I will do as you wish!"

Almost at the same time that the "wish" word was emphasized as he spat it out, he had already released his arrow.

Body And Arrow Synchronization!

Duan Ling Tian's arrow was shot out without any reservations. It contained all of his brute strength and the True Energy from the Qi Sea also erupted on the spot through the 36 Saint Veins.

One could say that just the moment Duan Ling Tian made his move, he had already demonstrated the fastest speed that he could cast.

As for how fast it was, it was evident from the fact that Hou Lin could not catch what was happening at all even though he had already arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian that he was blindingly swift.

Hou Lin was originally holding an iron staff as he looked at Duan Ling Tian vigilantly, but it had never crossed his mind that although he was so alert, Duan Ling Tian could still reach in front of him before he could even realize what was happening. He felt like as though Duan Ling Tian had just taken a stride to overcome the gap between them in just the blink of an eye.

Fast!

It was at breakneck speed!

This was the only thought remained in Hou Lin's mind at that time.

He did not even have the time to think as the iron staff in his hand trembled and he was about to cast the technique of the Saint Grade Martial Tactic. However, it had never crossed his mind that just when his iron staff shook and before he could even make his move, he was already enveloped by a powerful energy.

It was Duan Ling Tian who had reached in front of Hou Lin. Holding up his bow, without even performing any technique, he smashed it heavily upon the iron staff in Hou Lin's hand.

Right at that moment, blood spouted out of both Hou Lin's hands, stewing everywhere in all directions.

"Hmph!" As he grunted, despite the iron staff still being held in his hand, his grip had loosened a lot now.

Clang!

At that moment, a stifling thunderous sound exploded. It turned out that Duan Ling Tian had plucked the bowstring of his Sun Shooting Bow, allowing it to be pulled into a slight arch before releasing it towards the iron staff.

This time, Hou Lin could no longer hold on to the iron staff anymore. With a clang" it fell from his grip.

The pain from Hou Lin's hand sent a heart-rending pain to his brain. However, he still held it down without even grunting, but terror could be seen in his eyes now.

"Has Duan Ling Tian made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage too? It must be so! It has to be!" This was the only thought in his mind

After removing the iron staff from Hou Lin's hand with a clang, Duan Ling Tian retrieved his Sun Shooting Bow and straightaway launched a body attack using his punches and kicked at Hou Lin. Without the help of his Saint Weapon, Hou Lin remained powerless to fight back under Duan Ling Tian's punches and kicks.

What a joke!

The strength that Duan Ling Tian displayed now could be comparable to a Martial Cultivator who was at the peak of the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage.

He could basically take down Hou Lin — this rash fellow who had just made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage — easily and was able to do anything that he liked to him.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

...

Duan Ling Tian's every punch and kick went deep into his body. As a series of dull thuds resonated in the air, it sent chills into the spines of the crowds watching by the side.

Duan Ling Tian's attack was very precise. Neither did he kill Hou Lin nor cripple him.

"Barf!"

"Ughhh!"

...

Throughout this process, Hou Lin continued to spit out mouthfuls of blood again and again. In the end, he spat out so much that his soul almost left his body.

Every time when he wanted to open his mouth to surrender, Duan Ling Tian's punches would land on his chest, crashing into him until he could not make any sound at all. Gradually, he started to think that maybe it was better off dead.

Right at this moment, even the Heavenly Harm Guardian on the multi-story pavilion could not take it anymore, so he voiced out to stop them, "That's enough!"

Upon hearing that, Duan Ling Tian did not dare to disobey the Heavenly Harm Guardian's reputation. Kicking his leg out, his blow landed on Hou Lin's abdomen violently and sent him flying away.

Hou Lin was beaten up so badly that he could barely move. At the mercy of the strength from Duan Ling Tian's kick, he was sent flying in a perfect parabolic curve before crashing directly onto the... manure pit.

Splash!

With a faint sound, Hou Lin fell into the manure pit. His entire body was covered in night soil.

Whether it was because of the humiliation or because he could not stand the smell of the manure pit, Hou Lin was so pissed off that his eyes bulged widely before he suddenly passed out in the manure pit.

The entire scene turned to become deadly silent.

Whoosh!

At that moment, the Heavenly Harm Guardian left his multi-story pavilion and landed on the high platform. With a raise of his hand, True Energy swept out and he used it to pull Hou Lin out of the manure pit before throwing him below the high platform.

He had no choice but to do that. Otherwise, Hou Lin who had already passed out would definitely be drowned by the night soil in the manure pit.

After doing all this, the Heavenly Harm Guardian glared at Duan Ling Tian and frowned. "Duan Ling Tian, you're merciless in your attack!"

The moment the Heavenly Harm Guardian's words left his mouth, the crowd who threw up upon seeing the night soil on Hou Lin began to return to their senses one by one.

They deeply agreed with the Heavenly Harm Guardian's words. At that moment, they could only feel fear when they gaped at Duan Ling Tian again.

"Merciless?" Duan Ling Tian snorted. "If it weren't because we're in the Latent Dragon Camp, he'd have already been crippled, if not dead!"

The moment Hou Lin disturbed the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and caused the pagoda to expel him, Hou Lin's outcome had already been destined not to have a good ending.

"Duan Ling Tian, h-have y-you made a breakthrough?" Guo Li who retracted her gaze from Hou Lin stared at Duan Ling Tian and demanded in surprise.

The moment Guo Li's words left her mouth, the Heavenly Harm Guardian and the group of Latent Dragon Camp members were quickly reminded about this. Earlier, Hou Lin who was beaten to almost death by him seemed to be at the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage, was he not?

"Yes, I just broke through." Duan Ling Tian smiled and confirmed in the face of Guo Li's query.

Upon hearing him acknowledge it personally, a commotion broke out again. "My God! Duan Ling Tian has actually made a breakthrough too!"

"Duan Ling Tian has just made a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Mastery Stage, but when he faced Hou Lin who's also made the same breakthrough to the same stage, Hou Lin didn't even get a chance to make his attack at all! D-Don't you think this gap is just too ridiculous?!"

"Freak! Duan Ling Tian is incredibly freaky!"