

SOVEREIGN 1421

Chapter 1421: Divine Dragon Phenomenon

After Duan Ling Tian experienced that incident that day, he felt a greater sense of pressure now.

In Dao Martial Saint Land, the law of the jungle was even more apparent compared to the Cloud Continent and the Overseas Saint Islands.

Zhou Qi, the direct disciple of Elder Liu Huan from the Moon Illumination Sect, had barged into the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City by himself and killed the two Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses of the Estate on the spot. Besides that, he even inflicted severe damage on the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

Duan Ling Tian, Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao were completely powerless to do anything in front of Zhou Qi who was swollen with arrogance all because the latter was very powerful!

The famous dictum "the strong ruled" would always apply everywhere!

Today, Zhou Qi had further proven this to Duan Ling Tian.

Without any hesitation, Duan Ling Tian began to cultivate after consuming a Three-Star Sensory Pill. "With the Three-Star Sensory Pill, I'd have more faith in breaking through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage before I enter the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect."

Somehow, a Saint Stone had also appeared in his hand.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, the Nine Dragons' Form!

As he started to operate his mental cultivation technique, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the air and the energy from the Saint Stone continued to gush into Duan Ling Tian's body endlessly, allowing the nine dragons to carry them as they completed the great Qi circulatory cycle.

After the great Qi circulatory cycle was completed, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy transformed to become True Energy and merged into the Qi Sea that was as huge as a basketball at the depth of the center between Duan Ling Tian's brows.

The True Energy in the Qi Sea was increasing by the second.

"It's so fast now!" Duan Ling Tian noticed that after the Three-Star Sensory Pill's medicinal efficacy started to activate, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy that he sensed was much richer than before. His cultivation speed had also become much faster now.

Under such cultivation circumstances, Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was increasing rapidly.

Of course, it was impossible for him to keep cultivating like that.

He would leave the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and the room to relax sometimes.

A month quickly went by.

This time, Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and Jin Yuan Bao had already made their decision as well. Ling Yun and Xiong Hu decided to enter the Moon Illumination Sect while Jin Yuan Bao chose to give up.

Under the watchful eyes of Duan Ling Tian, Ling Yun, and Xiong Hu, Jin Yuan Bao voiced out the reason he chose to give up. "I'm sorry, Master. I can't enter the Moon Illumination Sect. I'm not afraid of them, but I'm worried that they will find trouble with my clan."

Even though he decided to throw the towel in, Fang Hui did not blame him at all.

It was normal for Jin Yuan Bao to dread Liu Huan and his disciples.

"Master, I'll help you teach Su Qi, that traitor, a lesson in the future! And Zhou Qi too! I'll eventually catch up with him and even surpass him!" Xiong Hu pledged in all sincerity and seriousness. His tone was filled with resolute determination.

Seeing this, Fang Hui was, without a doubt, touched.

Although Ling Yun did not say anything, his sharp gaze was already more than enough to express everything he felt.

Duan Ling Tian would sometimes leave the City Governor's Estate to catch his breath, but most of the time, he would go to Hong Yu's house to visit the little girl, Sze Sze, and play with her.

Compared to before, Sze Sze seemed to have transformed into a whole other person; she was much more cheerful than before.

"Big Brother, let me perform a show for you!" The little girl waved her fists around excitedly as she danced around Duan Ling Tian while blinking her huge eyes.

"What do you want to show me?" Duan Ling Tian asked interestedly.

Then, he saw a scene that took him by utter surprise. With a whistle from the little girl, many figures swiftly came from all around the big mansion right away.

In just the blink of an eye, these few figures appeared around the little girl.

Upon closer scrutiny, Duan Ling Tian saw that they were mainly domesticated pets like cats and dogs. However, because Dao Martial Saint Land was a different environment, the cats and dogs there were different from those in the Mortal Continents.

The cats were as huge as the adult dogs in the Mortal Continents while the dogs were as great as the tigers in the Mortal Continents.

However, these cats and dogs appeared to be particularly docile around the little girl. Lying there, they allowed the little girl to ride on them before taking her for a joy ride.

"T-This..." Upon seeing this, Duan Ling Tian was bewildered.

Somehow, Hong Yu now stood beside Duan Ling Tian. Looking at the little girl who was riding an enormous dog as it lumbered across the huge courtyard, he said with a complicated look, "Sze Sze's innate talent in Beast Taming far surpasses mine."

"So, it turns out that she's actually gifted in Beast Taming." Duan Ling Tian finally understood. It was no wonder that a little girl like Sze Sze would actually be able to make these few cats and dogs turn to become so docile. She actually possessed the innate talent of a Beast Tamer after all.

At first, he even thought that the cats and dogs were raised by Hong Yu's household, but now he realized that these were all wild animals.

"Brother Ling Tian, I want to make Sze Sze a Beast Tamer," Hong Yu told Duan Ling Tian solemnly, "She really has this innate talent and I don't want her talent to be buried just like that."

"Big Brother Hong, I have no objections. I'm okay with anything as long as she's happy," Duan Ling Tian replied, "I just hope that she can stay carefree without a single worry like this forever. Everything else doesn't matter to me."

"Yeah," Hong Yu agreed.

"Big Brother Hong, I'll leave in three months. Before I leave Mound Hill City, I'll pay a visit to all of you again to bid farewell. In this period, I'll put my heart and soul into cultivating," Duan Ling Tian told Hong Yu who displayed his understanding too.

He knew that three months later, Duan Ling Tian would leave Mound Hill City to take part in the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect. As Duan Ling Tian's brother, he, of course, hoped that he would have a bright future.

After Duan Ling Tian had returned to the City Governor's Estate, he immersed himself in cultivating more.

"I've kinda underestimated the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage... The difficulty of breaking through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage from the Mastery Stage seems to be more than twice as difficult as breaking through to the Mastery Stage from the Intermediate Stage!" Originally, Duan Ling Tian had planned to break through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage before he entered the Moon Illumination Sect.

However, he soon noticed that making a breakthrough to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage was not something simple. At the very least, he had underestimated the difficulty in breaking through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

As time continued to pass by, he had already cultivated for a year on the second level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda but had yet to make a breakthrough.

Not only that, the True Energy in the Qi Sea deep in between his brows had now accumulated to become two-thirds full. He still needed a third more before filling the Qi Sea with True Energy completely.

One year inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda's second level was equivalent to four months outside.

There was only one more month to go before the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect took place.

Desperation permeated the space of time.

Somehow, another twenty-odd days had gone by. Duan Ling Tian, Ling Yun, and Xiong Hu had finally reached the day when they were supposed to depart to the Moon Illumination Sect.

In the morning, Fang Hui called for Duan Ling Tian, Ling Yun, and Xiong Hu and told them briefly. "Get prepared. We'll leave early morning tomorrow."

Duan Ling Tian did not have much to prepare.

Since he was going to leave the next day, he left the City Governor's Estate and went to Hong Yu's house before spending the day accompanying Sze Sze. It was only until the evening came that he finally got ready to go back.

"Sze Sze, I'll travel somewhere far away tomorrow and will only come back to see you after a while, okay?" Duan Ling Tian told the little girl.

"Please come back earlier, Big Brother." She was already now much more mature than before. Had it still been her younger self, she would have already long cried and thrown a tantrum.

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded. After patting Sze Sze's head, he looked at Hong Yu and his wife. "Big Brother Hong, Sister-in-law, I'll leave Sze Sze in your care then."

"Don't worry." Hong Yu and his wife nodded.

"Brother, have a safe journey. I believe that with your innate talent, it wouldn't take you long for you to carve your own path in the Moon Illumination Sect," Hong Yu called out.

The next morning, with the dew blanketing the dawn, Fang Hui, the City Governor of Mound Hill City, led Duan Ling Tian, Ling Yun, and Xiong Hu to fly out of the city.

After they left Mound Hill City, they were no longer restricted by the Flight Prohibiting Formation, so they were able to fly by themselves. They tailed behind Fang Hui as they headed towards the Moon Illumination Sect.

Soon, Duan Ling Tian noticed that even though he relied on his brute strength and True Energy in his body to fly, Xiong Hu was still able to chase up to him and Ling Yun. "Xiong Hu, since when have y-you made a breakthrough to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage?"

"Just a month ago." Xiong Hu chuckled brilliantly.

Fang Hui and Ling Yun did not seem to be surprised by this. It was apparent that they already knew about this.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier? If you told me earlier, we could have had a little battle with each other," Duan Ling Tian teased.

“Senior Brother Duan, I can’t even defeat Senior Brother Ling Yun, let alone you,” Xiong Hu replied with a dejected expression.

Now that Su Qi had left, Duan Ling Tian had already become the Great Senior Brother.

Of course, even if Su Qi had not left, Ling Yun and Xiong Hu still regarded Duan Ling Tian as their Great Senior Brother. They knew how Fang Hui would not allow the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Su Qi to take place either.

They comprehended that it was because their Master was worried that Su Qi was no match for Duan Ling Tian.

Since he needed to take care of Duan Ling Tian and the other two, Fang Hui deliberately slowed down.

Two days later, they finally arrived at the Moon Illumination Sect.

“After we’ve crossed the mountain range in front, we’ll be able to see the Moon Illumination Sect,” Fang Hui told them as they peered out at the mountain range that stretched out like a long, crawling dragon. The trio snapped back to reality as they awoke from their flying stupor.

Upon hearing that, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes towards the front.

In just one glance, he could not see much, but when he started to operate his left eye, the Strange Pupil, he quickly saw a huge monastery gate not far behind the mountain range that appeared to be incredibly majestic.

Above the monastery gate was a carving of exquisite calligraphy of three words: Moon Illumination Sect!

Just when Duan Ling Tian was about to take a closer look at the Moon Illumination Sect, a delighted exclamation rang by his ears. “I’ve succeeded!”

He could tell that this was Elder Huo’s voice.

“Elder Huo, what have you succeeded in?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

“I’ve successfully refined the dragon blood of that Little Devil Dragon!” Elder Huo replied ecstatically.

Upon hearing Elder Huo’s words, Duan Ling Tian seemed to remember something as his eyes lit up and his breathing turned rapid due to his excitement. “Elder Huo, have you really successfully refined it?” Duan Ling Tian’s voice was filled with enthusiasm as well.

Of course, he would be excited! Elder Huo had told him three months ago what was refining the Five-clawed Divine Dragon’s dragon blood implied.

“The Divine Dragon Phenomenon!” Duan Ling Tian’s heart jolted.

Chapter 1422: Variant Beast Phenomenon

Three months ago, Duan Ling Tian had deliberately asked Fang Hui, the City Governor of Mound Hill City, about the Martial and Dao Cultivators on the Saint Rudiment Stage.

According to Fang Hui, only True Energy alone would improve in the Early and Intermediate Stages of the Saint Rudiment Stage. The actual transformation would only take place when one had reached the Mastery Stage.

A person on the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage would be able to cast the True Energy Consolidated Weapon technique and when he was battling other people, he would be able to consolidate the Relic Phenomenon using part of his True Energy to attack the other party just like Zhou Qi, the inner court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect, who had come to the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City six months ago.

At that time, he had used solidified his True Energy into a giant hammer which was a Relic Phenomenon.

If he had not used his Relic Phenomenon, Fang Hui, who was at the Saint Rudiment Stage Intermediate Stage, would most likely still have been able to hold it out for a while.

The moment the Relic Phenomenon was unleashed, Fang Hui became completely powerless right away!

That scene was still deeply etched in Duan Ling Tian's mind.

When that Relic Gigantic Hammer Phenomenon slammed downwards, it was like a huge mountain that crushed down and could suppress everything.

The True Energy Consolidated Weapon was a technique from the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage.

Once one had entered the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage, one would be able to master another new technique, the True Energy Consolidated Beast!

When a person had merged with the blood essence of a fierce beast or a Saint Beast, one would be able to consolidate the phenomenon of the ferocity of the Saint Beast using his True Energy after he had broken through to the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage.

That Phenomenon was known as the Variant Beast Phenomenon.

If one managed to merge with the blood essence of a powerful fierce beast or a Saint Beast, the Variant Beast Phenomenon that one merged would be just as mighty.

Only a live fierce beast or Saint Beast would have blood essence. If it was already dead, the blood essence would evaporate and vanish without a trace.

That time, when Duan Ling Tian had killed the Five-clawed Devil Dragon, he did not know that there was such a thing pertaining to the Saint Rudiment Stage, so he did not think of getting its blood essence at all.

Of course, it did not mean that he would definitely be able to get it even if he wanted to.

After all, it was all thanks to the Devilseal Tablet that he was able to kill the Five-clawed Devil Dragon at that very critical moment. He did not have the chance to take the blood essence from the Five-clawed Devil Dragon at all.

“Fortunately, Elder Huo has a method of refining the regular blood in the Five-clawed Devil Dragon into blood essence. Otherwise, I’d have missed this opportunity already.” Duan Ling Tian secretly felt grateful.

Even though Elder Huo was a Three-legged Golden Crow, the divine sunbird of the ancient mythology from Duan Ling Tian’s past life, he did not know about this True Energy Consolidated Beast technique in this world since every mundane planet had their own cultivation methods.

Once he knew about this, he informed Duan Ling Tian that he would refine the ordinary blood of the Five-clawed Devil Dragon into the blood essence.

In fact, after Duan Ling Tian learned that the technique of a Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse was related to the blood essence of a fierce beast or a Saint Beast, he felt a little depressed.

This was because although he had the Five-clawed Devil Dragon’s body in his possession, he did not have its blood essence at all.

If he merged with the blood essence of the Five-clawed Devil Dragon, he would be able to consolidate the Divine Dragon Phenomenon to battle with his enemy when he entered the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage. On top of that, it was a Five-clawed Divine Dragon for goodness’ sake! He could not help but get excited just thinking about it.

It was a good thing that Elder Huo had a way of salvaging the situation. Otherwise, Duan Ling Tian did not know how discouraged he would get.

Right now, the moment he heard that Elder Huo had successfully refined it, he could not help but feel overwhelmed with excitement. This was, no doubt, thrilling news. It would affect how far his strength would reach in the future.

It was as though he could already see how he was going to consolidate the Five-clawed Divine Dragon Phenomenon to battle with his enemy.

“According to Teacher, in addition to having a shape and spirit, the Variant Beast Phenomenon that’s consolidated by a Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse would even have force! If I can consolidate a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Phenomenon, wouldn’t the other ordinary Variant Beasts scatter the moment they see the prowess of the dragon?” The second Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he practically trembled with excitement.

“Elder Huo, please keep the blood essence of the Five-clawed Devil Dragon first. I’ll only take it from you after I’ve landed in the Moon Illumination Sect.” Although he was itching to merge with the Five-clawed Devil Dragon’s blood essence immediately, he still suppressed the desire in his heart since there was no use for him to be that desperate for now.

He was still far away from accessing the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage.

When he snapped back to reality, he noticed that he was already in the proximity of the monastery gate of the Moon Illumination Sect. He could see that the scene behind the gate was completely painted by mist and fog which allowed them to see nothing at all.

After reaching the front of the monastery gate of the Moon Illumination Sect, Fang Hui motioned to Duan Ling Tian and the two others solemnly before descending. "We'll have to walk through the monastery gate."

Duan Ling Tian and the two others followed suit and descended as well.

Under Fang Hui's guidance, the three of them reached the monastery gate of the Moon Illumination Sect but were blocked by the two Moon Illumination Sect disciples who were guarding the gate.

Taking out an Order Token and waving it around in front of the two Moon Illumination Sect disciples, Fang Hui announced, "I, the City Governor of Mound Hill City, am here with these young talents from Mound Hill City to join the entrance assessment that the sect will hold tomorrow."

Other than the words "City Governor of Mound Hill City" and "outer court deacon" written on the Order Token, Fang Hui's name was printed on it too.

"Oh, it's Deacon Fang!" When the two Moon Illumination Sect disciples saw the Order Token, they smiled and welcomed Fang Hui right away.

Although the outer court deacon did not have much power within the sect, they were still only two outer court disciples, so they did not dare to act recklessly in front of an outer court deacon.

"The entrance assessment will only take place tomorrow, so take a good rest today and have a good night's sleep to recuperate and build up your energy so that you'll be able to perform in the entrance assessment tomorrow." Leading Duan Ling Tian and the two others as they walked inside, Fang Hui told them, "Given the strength within the three of you, it's not difficult for you to pass the entrance assessment and become the outer court disciples of the sect."

Soon, Fang Hui brought them to the peripheral area of the Moon Illumination Sect estate. There were simple, shabby houses that were built specifically for those who came to join the entrance assessment to stay in.

There was another row of houses that appeared to be more spacious and luxurious, but these houses were much fewer compared to those shabby houses. There were only eighteen of them.

After Fang Hui managed to find the person-in-charge and registered with him, he obtained four occupancy placards for four houses.

The occupancy placard was to be hung on the door. The word "inhabited" was written on it, indicating that that particular house was occupied so that other people would not enter it by mistake.

As a flash glimpsed across Xiong Hu's eyes, he asked in a deep voice, "Master, will Su Qi join the entrance assessment tomorrow?"

"Since he has already become Liu Huan's disciple, he doesn't need to join any assessment anymore. Besides that, he'll even be able to enter the inner court sect and become an inner court disciple under

Liu Huan's recommendation." Even though it had already been six months since the incident of Su Qi's betrayal took place, some peculiar emotions could still be seen on Fang Hui's face.

"Traitor!" Xiong Hu spat angrily.

"Xiong Hu!" Fang Hui frowned. "It's okay if you say these to yourself once you've entered the Moon Illumination Sect, but remember, if you say it out loud, Liu Huan's people will never let you go that easily."

"The sect doesn't allow us to kill each other, so why would I, Xiong Hu, have to be scared of them?" Xiong Hu snapped with his eyes as huge as saucers.

"All in all, make sure to keep a low profile as much as possible after the three of you have entered the sect... If Liu Huan's people find you three to be unperturbed, or if they feel you guys are boring, they'd then leave you alone," Fang Hui told them solemnly, "I don't wish to create a huge problem for you because of my sake."

"Temporary tolerance is best for the sake of a better tomorrow. If we want to take revenge for our Master, we'll first need to be more powerful. Otherwise, we'll just be bullied by the others," Ling Yun chimed in.

"That's right," Fang Hui expressed full agreement with Ling Yun's words.

Standing by the side, Duan Ling Tian did not comment. The brilliance shining in his eyes were difficult to be interpreted.

Tolerance?

A sneer slowly crept upon the corner of his mouth.

Duan Ling Tian placed the "inhabited" occupancy placard outside the room.

Being the earliest to arrive, all of the houses were still vacant, so he chose a house that had the best position and the best air flow.

"The house that Teacher stays in is different from ours... Eighteen houses... Could they actually correspond to the eighteen City Governors under the command of the Moon Illumination Sect?" After sweeping a glance across the eighteen spacious houses, Duan Ling Tian's heart gave a jolt as he speculated to himself.

At that moment, be it Fang Hui, Ling Yun, or Xiong Hu, all of them had entered their respective houses one by one and closed their doors. With the "inhabited" placard hung on their doors, they made it clear that the houses that they were in were already occupied.

Duan Ling Tian also opened his door and entered his house.

The house was simple and worn. Other than a small bed that could barely fit him, there was nothing else in the room.

It was apparent that this house was even shabbier than the wooden houses that the 13 Gangsters of the Latent Dragon Camp had stayed in in the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.

However, Duan Ling Tian was not concerned by it at all.

Compared to the extremely vile condition that he had stayed before in his past life, this was already like heaven.

After closing the door, Duan Ling Tian carefully inspected the house and noticed that the house was not completely airtight. Wind could blow in anytime in every corner of the house.

"In this case, it'd be hard for me to set the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda up," Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

As long as there was wind, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would be affected and he would be expelled from it.

"Fine then. Since it's only for a day, I might as well cultivate outside," Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

As long as he passed the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect the next day, he would then become the outer court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect. If he was capable, he would be able to stay in the standalone small yard in the outer court.

The reason "if he was capable" was used in that context was because the living conditions of the outer court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect was divided into various grades and ranks.

Fang Hui had told them about it during the journey before.

If one's ability was strong enough, then one would be able to stay in better conditions.

"Although I've yet to make a breakthrough to the Mortal Shedding Stage Perfection Stage, the True Energy stored in my Qi Sea is already more or less full now. With the help of my 52 Saint Veins, I can instantly mobilize all of my True Energy." Duan Ling Tian's heart skipped a beat. "Even someone at the Mortal Shedding Stage Paramount Stage wouldn't necessarily be able to surpass me when it comes to this. On top of that, I've also cultivated my defense technique, the Silver Shirt, to the highest level — the Impeccable Level... With my strength now, although I've yet to enter the Mortal Shedding Stage Perfection Stage, I can already overpower many Mortal Shedding Stage Paramount Stage Martial and Dao Cultivators."

Duan Ling Tian was confident about this.

Bang!

A loud explosion resonated and took him by surprise.

At the same time, a gust of wind blew past and snapped him back to reality. His face turned grave right away.

The loud bang came from somebody kicking the door while the wind was set off by the door being kicked open.

Somebody had just kicked open the door of Duan Ling Tian's house.

At the same time, an insolent voice boomed from outside. It was a particularly ear-jabbing voice. "Boy, I've taken a fancy on this house, so you'd better scram now!"

Chapter 1423: Thanks for the Opportunity to Brag

As Duan Ling Tian walked out of the house solemnly, he saw an arrogant young man standing at his house entrance at first glance. He looked like he was the mightiest person in the world.

Fang Hui, the City Governor of Mound Hill City, Ling Yun, and Xiong Hu heard the commotion when Duan Ling Tian walked out of the house, so they came out to check out what the fuss was.

A middle-aged man and three young men walked out the same time. They were undoubtedly strangers to Duan Ling Tian.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not have his attention on them. He was looking at the arrogant young man before him.

"You feel a sense of achievement for kicking my house door to get me out, don't you?" A cold gleam flashed through his eyes as he asked in his deep voice.

"So what if I do? Are you trying to go against my will? I, Xiao Zhui's, will?" The young man who called himself Xiao Zhui smirked while holding his head held like a king speaking to a peasant. He spoke in a condescending tone, "If I were you, I'd get the hell out of here instead of speaking nonsense."

The way Xiao Zhui looked at Duan Ling Tian was filled with disdain as he spoke. "It would be a disgrace for you to stay."

The other three young men whispered among themselves. It was clear that they came from the same city as Xiao Zhui did.

"It seems like Senior Brother Xiao's lonely everywhere he goes."

"That's right. Senior Brother Xiao Zhui has always behaved like this even back when he was in Luo Jiang City. I didn't expect him to stay the same even when he's here at the Moon Illumination Sect. Isn't he afraid that he'll put himself in an unfavorable situation for behaving like this?"

"Put himself in an unfavorable situation? You're underestimating Senior Brother Xiao Zhui! He's the No. 1 genius among the younger generation around Luo Jiang City's borders. He broke through to Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage when he was only 38!"

...

"Luo Yi!" Fang Hui looked at the middle-aged man nearby and said while frowning, "Isn't this disciple of yours too much? I don't think that my disciple has offended him."

Luo Yi was the City Governor of Luo Jiang City.

Luo Jiang City was one of the 18 cities under the rule of the Moon Illumination Sect and was on the same rank with Mound Hill City.

The City Governor's Estate of Luo Jiang City was also an eighth-rate force that owned an Eighth Grade Origin Stone reserve.

"Fang Hui, I heard Elder Liu Huan has taken your most remarkable disciple, Su Qi, as his direct disciple! Congratulations to you! With that extraordinary relationship, I suppose whatever misgivings you've had with Elder Liu Huan have been reconciled now?" Luo Yi said without holding back. As he grinned, he did not care about Fang Hui whose face was turning solemn gradually.

"Xiao Zhui's just interested in sparring with your disciple. Since people from both cities are here, isn't this the best thing to do to kill time?" A grin remained on Luo Yi's face. He was totally hiding a dagger behind his smile. "Fang Hui, don't tell me that you only have one disciple who's Su Qi?"

Fang Hui's face was turning more solemn as the way he looked at Luo Yi became fiercer and fiercer.

However, Luo Yi, who had never gotten along with Fang Hui, ignored the look on his face.

Seeing that Duan Ling Tian's attention was lingering on Luo Yi and the three other young men from Luo Jiang City, Xiao Zhui's face turned sour as he shouted, "I'm speaking to you, you piece of trash! Didn't you hear me?"

"Who's a piece of trash that you're calling?" Duan Ling Tian asked calmly as soon as Xiao Zhui was done speaking. His tone was cold.

"Calling you!" Xiao Zhui responded by instinct in rage.

"Ahh, so a piece of trash is calling me." Duan Ling Tian took a hard look at Xiao Zhui and nodded in all seriousness.

"Haha... Senior Ling Yun, did you hear that? That brat just admitted that he's a piece of trash!" Xiong Hu guffawed out loud. His maniacal laugh broke the silence.

A smile appeared on the edge of Ling Yun's lips.

The three young men from Luo Jiang City looked at Xiao Zhui a little awkwardly.

"This kid's dead.," However, there was sympathy in their eyes when they glanced at Duan Ling Tian. They seemed to be able to see him being tortured by Xiao Zhui.

"Fang Hui, is this direct disciple of yours only good in twisting words?" Luo Yi glanced at Fang Hui as he taunted.

"I think your disciple's the one who's been talking non-stop since the beginning until now," Fang Hui mocked him back.

Luo Yi's face turned solemn and he subsequently looked at Xiao Zhui while speaking to him through True Energy Voice Transmission, "Xiao Zhui, teach this brat a lesson! From what I know, among Fang Hui's disciples, Su Qi's the only one who has broken through to Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage, but Elder Liu Huan took him away. This brat's definitely no match for you."

“Brat, you’re bringing death upon yourself!” Xiao Zhui, on the other hand, finally reacted after hearing Luo Yi’s True Energy Voice Transmission. He was furious as he dashed towards Duan Ling Tian in an instant.

At that moment, True Energy spread all over Xiao Zhui’s body as if he put on a layer of azure coat. Everywhere he passed by seemed to turn into sea waves beating at Duan Ling Tian.

Facing Xiao Zhui who was coming at him ferociously, Duan Ling Tian did not have the intention to dodge. Instead, he stood where he was while his face was as composed as ever.

“I’d love to see how long you’ll be able to hold up with that face!” Xiao Zhui looked threatening when he saw that Duan Ling Tian did not flinch. He slapped his palm towards him like the Five Fingers Mountain pressing down on him.

The rumbling airwaves that came from Xiao Zhui’s palm shook the flowers and plants even ten meters away.

“Hmph!” Duan Ling Tian finally moved as he scoffed coldly.

As the 52 Saint Veins in his body rotated, the True Energy traveled from his Qi Sea to his arm in a destructive manner. He attacked with his palm with silver rays dazzling from it.

“Fighting back with his palm against a person on Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage? He’s digging his own grave!” A smirk appeared on Luo Yi’s lips as he witnessed that. He thought that this purple-clad brat from Mound Hill City overestimated himself. Did he really think he was Su Qi?

Bang!

As a loud thud exploded, Duan Ling Tian’s palm collided with Xiao Zhui’s. A rampant airwave swept out with the two palms as its center point, seeming like a gush a strong wind was blown.

Both of them stepped back in a flash at the same time.

Duan Ling Tian took five steps back while Xiao Zhui retreated four steps back.

‘No wonder he’s so arrogant! So, he’s quite powerful himself.’ Xiao Zhui glanced at Duan Ling Tian in surprise, but disdain soon appeared on his face. “I’ll prove to you that you people from Mound Hill City are destined to be under my Luo Jiang City’s folks’ feet!”

A sword appeared in Xiao Zhui’s hand as soon as he was done speaking. It was obvious that he was going to use a Saint Weapon to get it over with.

“Huh!” The four Luo Jiang City people were astonished by the minor impact the collision of Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Zhui’s palms made.

The three of them from Mound Hill City, on the other hand, seemed not to be surprised at all.

“Fang Hui, I didn’t expect you to have such an outstanding genius Martial Cultivator with you since Su Qi left Mound Hill City.” Luo Yi looked at Fang Hui and threw him a cold blanket, noticing the smirk on his face. “But this meager ability’s no match for Xiao Zhui... Xiao Zhui’s best with his swordsmanship.”

Best with his swordsmanship?

Fang Hui was secretly laughing.

Did this Luo Yi think that Duan Ling Tian was best with his palm skill?

'Although Xiao Zhui's arrogant, he's really quite powerful. He's an even match for Su Qi whom I met half a year ago. The attack containing 80% of my strength only caused a breeze.' Duan Ling Tian was secretly shocked.

Through the collision of the palms earlier, he was sure that without using any weapons or performing any Saint Grade Martial Tactic techniques, the best outcome he and Xiao Zhui would have was a fair match.

"You're digging your own grave!" However, he was glad to see Xiao Zhui bringing out a Saint Weapon in hopes of defeating him with that.

One must know that his weapon was the major reason why he was confident of defeating many Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators. To be precise, his weapon was the Sun Shooting Bow.

Although the Sun Shooting Bow would not be performing at its peak, it could not be compared with a mere Human Rank Saint Weapon.

"A swing of a sword is all I need to defeat you, trash of Mound Hill City!" Xiao Zhui swung his sword at lightning speed as he shouted. As his body synchronized with the speed of his sword, he seemed ethereal. It was hard to determine if his existence was real at that moment. Wherever the sword ray passed by, it seemed like blooming white flowers, seeming dazzling and beautiful.

"Plum Blossom Sword!" Xiao Zhui mumbled softly while sparks were emitted from the sword ray of the sword in his hand. The sparks looked like plum blossoms during the cold winter. They were racing at Duan Ling Tian like a sky full of stars toward his vulnerable body parts.

Body and Arrow Synchronization!

Duan Ling Tian placed an arrow on a bow and shot the arrow. The Body and Arrow Synchronisation looked like it turned into a lightning bolt which allowed him to dodge Xiao Zhui's sword skill like a piece of cake.

"Synchronous Shadow Sword!" Xiao Zhui proceeded to mutter as he chased Duan Ling Tian who dodged his attack. The sword in his hand was like an enemy that was impossible to shake off; it would never leave Duan Ling Tian alone.

However, that was something that happened at the beginning. Soon, Duan Ling Tian managed to stay a distance away.

Xiao Zhui lost him when it came to the speed of the body movement technique.

'Oh no!' Witnessing that, Luo Yi who was full of confidence had a drastic change of expression. He initially thought that since Mound Hill City had lost Su Qi, nobody would be a match for this disciple of his.

Never had he expect that Mound Hill City would have such a freak with them since they lost Su Qi.

In the world of martial arts, there was almost no impregnable defense. Only swiftness was invincible!

Swiftness shattered tens of thousands of techniques!

As the City Governor of Luo Jiang City, how would he not know the importance of speed?

'Xiao Zhui's in danger.' Luo Yi looked at Fang Hui again, he could not help but have envy in his eyes.

He wondered what had Fang Hui done to deserve Su Qi at first and for Su Qi to be taken away from him.

Could Mound Hill City be in such insane luck?

Clang!

"Hmph!"

Luo Yi had a bad feeling and his expression changed hearing the sound of colliding weapons accompanied by a deep groan.

When he snapped back to his senses, he realized that his disciple, Xiao Zhui, whom he was proud of, was defeated by that purple-clad young man. Duan Ling Tian shot the sword in Xiao Zhui's hand with an arrow.

Not only that, the bowstring in Duan Ling Tian's hand was now placed right in front of Xiao Zhui's neck.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian plucked the bowstring, Xiao Zhui's head would definitely be detached from his body!

"Don't show off when you don't have the ability to! Do you think you can prove how powerful you are by provoking me to gain others' attention and then defeat me? Is that going to feed your pride?" Duan Ling Tian looked disdainfully at Xiao Zhui who seemed terrible and said without holding back, "Actually, I have to thank you. Thank you for coming to me and giving me the opportunity to brag!"

Chapter 1424: Entry Assessment

The reason why Xiao Zhui was fighting over Duan Ling Tian's house was firstly due to the ideal location of the house. Secondly, his master did not get along with the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

He was eyeing Duan Ling Tian's house when he realized that the people from Mound Hill City were the only ones who had come earlier than they had.

Unfortunately, things did not go as he wished.

Never had he thought the Mound Hill City disciple that he picked on was someone beyond his abilities, a person that he, Xiao Zhui, was no match against.

"Get lost!" Duan Ling Tian shouted in his deep voice and kicked the sallow Xiao Zhui away without any mercy.

'Even the nicest person has their limits!'

It made sense that Xiao Zhui would have to pay the price for advancing toward him and provoking him. Otherwise, people would think that he was a pushover.

“Hmph!” Just when the three young men from Luo Jiang City changed their expressions, Luo Yi scoffed coldly and took a step forward. He was walking towards Duan Ling Tian. “Brat, how dare you hurt my man from Luo Jiang City?”

“Luo Yi!” Fang Hui stopped him as soon as Luo Yi took a step forward.

“Tsk tsk... Are you, the City Governor of Luo Jiang City, bullying a junior? If I remember correctly, I think you said earlier that they’re sparring just to kill time. You agreed to that, didn’t you?” Fang Hui’s words sobered Luo Yi up.

He really did say that earlier.

“What? You said that earlier because you thought my Mound Hill City man is no match for your man from Luo Jiang City. Now that your man has lost, are you denying what you said?” Fang Hui mocked. He was not afraid of Luo Yi since they were both outer court deacons of the Moon Illumination Sect.

“Fang Hui, I’d never thought you’d have such great luck to have picked up such a freak after losing Su Qi... I hope he won’t be like Su Qi for parting ways with you and go to Elder Liu Huan after becoming your disciple,” Luo Yi scoffed in his deep voice as he gazed deeply into Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. “I suppose... If Elder Liu Huan knows that you have such a disciple, he’ll definitely not let go of him.”

Luo Yi smirked as he spoke while Fang Hui’s expression changed drastically.

To be honest, he was really concerned about that.

He turned to Duan Ling Tian by instinct and noticed that the latter was looking at him too. He was relieved when he saw the determination in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes.

“It depends if he’s capable of doing that!” Fang Hui glanced at Luo Yi and said while he smirked.

“Why don’t you pick a house to heal yourself? Do you still want to embarrass yourself here?” Luo Yi looked at Fang Hui coldly and subsequently looked at Xiao Zhui who was in a terrible condition as he said solemnly.

Xiao Zhui took a deep breath in and glared at Duan Ling Tian ferociously before getting himself a vacant house. Xiong Hu took pleasure in his misery and teased him as he did that.

“So, this is all a Luo Jiang City genius has got,” Xiong Hu chuckled and said.

What he said caused the people from Luo Jiang City to grow incredulous but they were speechless.

They could not fight back since the truth had been presented before their eyes.

Unsure if Xiao Zhui embarrassed Luo Jiang City, or if they embarrassed themselves, or if they were fearful of Duan Ling Tian, the three young men from Luo Jiang City returned to their houses respectively.

Meanwhile, Luo Yi did not stay out for too long and he returned to his house too.

However, he glanced at Duan Ling Tian in all seriousness before he entered the house. A cold gleam with the will to kill flashed deep in his eyes.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian noticed the murderous intention in Luo Yi's eyes. However, he did not care.

"His name's Luo Yi and he's the City Governor of Luo Jiang City." At that moment, Fang Hui revealed Luo Yi's identity. "He was Liu Hui's lackey in the sect back then. Because of Liu Huan, we've never gotten along."

Duan Ling Tian and the other two came to a realization upon hearing what Fang Hui said.

"It seems like that Xiao Zhui provoked Duan Ling Tian on purpose. Unfortunately, he bit off more than he could chew." Xiong Hu snickered as he took pleasure in Xiao Zhui's misery.

Ling Yun, on the other hand, said nothing but his expression was serious.

Xiao Zhui was a young genius from Luo Jiang City and he was on Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage. The fact that Xiao Zhui had such a cultivation base pressured him to a certain extent.

He was only on Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage after all.

"Ling Yun, don't stress about it... I heard that Xiao Zhui's 38 now while you're only in your early 30's. You'll definitely surpass him when you're 38!" Fang Hui seemed to notice that Ling Yun was deep in thought, so he comforted him.

"Hmm." Ling Yun's face relaxed after hearing Fang Hui's comforting words.

That was right.

Xiao Zhui was already 38 while he was only 31.

In seven years' time, Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage aside, he would even have the confidence to break through to Saint Rudiment Stage!

"Luo Yi thought he could get his disciple to trample us just because we Mound Hill City don't have Su Qi anymore. It's liberating whenever I think of his expression that he had earlier." Fang Hui grinned, which was a rare phenomenon, as he recalled what happened earlier.

As time passed by, more and more people were coming.

These people were either the City Governors coming from the 16 cities under the rule of the Moon Illumination Sect together with the young geniuses that they brought or the young geniuses the outer court elders and deacons of Moon Illumination Sect brought.

At that moment, the housing area became crowded.

Although Duan Ling Tian heard the noise out there, he did not have any intention of joining the crowd.

He lay on the bed quietly while thoughts were flying in his head.

Out of the blue, he was thinking of his two fiancées and the children in their wombs that were yet to be born.

He thought of his parents and wondered where they were right now.

He thought of Han Xue Nai and questioned if that girl was looking for him.

At that same time, he thought of the three little fellas. He thought of Ling Tian Sect, the Overseas Saint Islands and the Cloud Continent.

As time went by, he recalled his past life.

It seemed like his past life of blood and sweat was far away from him as he recollected it now.

‘There’s always someone better no matter where you are... I’ve always thought Martial Emperor ruled the world back then! I only found out that what I knew back then was just a joke when I came to the Cloud Continent.

‘Martial Emperor’s the equivalence of the Innate Void Restoration Stage Martial Cultivator... It’s worth nothing when someone like that is placed on Dao Martial Saint Land. Also, the environment of Dao Martial Saint Land has a major difference compared to the Mortal Continents.

‘It’s hard to imagine that the two places are on the same planet!’ Duan Ling Tian exclaimed secretly.

The sky turned dark without him even realizing it.

Duan Ling Tian did not cultivate that night. Instead, he had a deep sleep. He slept all the way to the next morning until he heard Xiong Hu calling him outside.

“Senior Brother Duan, it’s time to leave!” Duan Ling Tian saw Xiong Hui waiting for him outside when he opened the door. “Where are Teacher and Ling Yun?”

“Teacher and Ling Yun are waiting for you over there,” Xiong Hu said.

Duan Ling Tian left the house and noticed that many people had departed their houses one after another. They were going towards the Moon Illumination Sect Estate together. There were middle-aged and old people among the crowd.

There were more young people, less than a tenth of whom were women.

Duan Ling Tian could understand that.

No matter whether it was on the Cloud Continent or Dao Martial Saint Land, females were born to be weaker and were not as good as males in some aspects. Naturally, there were also female geniuses who were more powerful than many male geniuses.

However, the number of female geniuses was far behind male geniuses when compared.

After meeting Fang Hui and Ling Yun, Duan Ling Tian realized they were the last batch to depart. Most of the people were already ahead of them, heading towards the Moon Illumination Sect.

“Teacher, why aren’t you guys flying?” Xiong Hu asked curiously.

At that moment, Duan Ling Tian also noticed that nobody was flying. Everyone was walking on the ground like everyone else.

He was not taking the young ones into account. They were not on the Saint Rudiment Stage or above after all, so they were more or less limited by the Moon Illumination Sect's Flight Prohibiting Formation. Duan Ling Tian had found out about the Flight Prohibiting Formation yesterday.

Entering the door of the Moon Illumination Sect would mean entering the Flight Prohibiting Formation.

"The Flight Prohibiting Formation in this sect's even more advanced than the one in our Mound Hill City! You have to be a Saint Stage powerhouse to be able to fly in the sect," Fang Hui explained.

"I see." Xiong Hu came to a realization as Duan Ling Tian got the answer to his question too.

'The Flight Prohibiting Formation is magical... Saint Stage? There seems to be only a handful of them in the entire Moon Illumination Sect. That means there's only a few of them who could fly in the Moon Illumination Sect's air.'

Eventually, they arrived at a vast square after following the crowd.

There was a high stone platform in the middle of the square. The stone platform was massive; it was as big as a football field from the planet where Duan Ling Tian lived in his past life. There were an old man and two middle-aged men standing on the stone platform at the moment.

The two middle-aged men stood behind the old man while the old man took the lead.

'So many people?' Duan Ling Tian looked around when he arrived near the stone platform. He noticed many people gathering around. There were close to 200 people.

Apart from the City Governors from the 18 cities, the 180 or so people were the young geniuses who were there to participate in the entry assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect. They were exuberant and confident.

On average, each city brought ten young geniuses.

"Master, did Mound Hill City bring too few people? Luo Jiang City too... They seem to have only brought four young geniuses," Xiong Hu commented while feeling a little puzzled.

"Not all of these young geniuses come from the 18 cities," Fang Hui said while shaking his head, "More than half of them are the young geniuses found by the sect's outer court elders and deacons."

"They sure worked very hard to have found so many young geniuses," Xiong Hu gushed after his jaw dropped.

"The young geniuses that they found will be their outer court disciples as long as they pass the assessment. They'll be given a massive amount of Merit Points from the headcount. Why wouldn't they work hard?" Fang Hui did not find that surprising.

Merit Points!

Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up upon hearing Fang Hui.

He had heard much earlier that the Merit Points in Mound Hill City could be used in the Moon Illumination Sect too. Moreover, the items and the Saint Grade Martial Tactics that were exchangeable in the Moon Illumination Sect were even more advanced than those in Mound Hill City.

It made sense when one thought about it.

Mound Hill City was only an eighth-rate force after all while the Moon Illumination Sect was a seventh-rate force. Not only that, it was a seventh-rate force that ruled Mound Hill City.

Chapter 1425: Devil Cultivator Ye Man

“Look! It’s the fellas from Luo Jiang City!” Xiong Hu’s eyes were sharp and he pointed out loudly when he noticed them.

Duan Ling Tian and the other two of them looked towards Xiong Hu’s line of sight and saw the five of them from Luo Jiang City standing far away. Their City Governor Luo Yi was the leader of the pack.

Luo Yi seemed to notice them watching him, so he turned around. He squinted when he noticed that it was them looking. Soon, a cunning grin appeared at the edge of his lips.

Fang Hui saw that grin which caused his heart to drop.

He knew Luo Yi well enough that he was not someone to underestimate. He must be plotting against his three disciples to be grinning like this.

“Please be cautious when the three of you get into the sect. Although killing is prohibited in the sect, there are millions of ways for people to harm all of you,” Fang Hui reminded Duan Ling Tian and the other two after inhaling a deep breath.

The three of them nodded.

“Yo! Isn’t that Duan Ling Tian?” Suddenly, a voice came from far away and was getting closer and closer.

When Duan Ling Tian turned around skeptically, he realized that a young man had already arrived before him. It was a young man in black robes whose face seemed cool while an eerie aura lingered all over his body.

His aura made people feel uncomfortable.

After taking a good look at the young man before him for a while, Duan Ling Tian asked feeling unsure, “Are you... Ye Man?”

The young man was vastly different from the young man from his memories.

Therefore, he was not sure if he was the person he thought.

“It seems like your memory’s not that shabby after all, for you to remember me, Ye Man. What? Isn’t Guo Li here?” Ye Man’s lips curved into a spooky grin while a horrifying, cold gleam shone in his eyes.

Ye Man was one of the first human Martial Cultivators Duan Ling Tian had met when he arrived near Dao Martial Saint Land back then. He had been with Guo Li and Lin Qing Rong at that time.

He was also the most outstanding disciple of the Ye Clan in Fuyu Town whereby his cultivation base only lost out to Guo Li among the younger generation in the town.

Initially, Lin Qing Rong was going to bring Guo Li and Ye Man back to the City Governor's Estate of Mound Hill City.

However, appearing halfway, Duan Ling Tian had gotten Ye Man disqualified from Lin Qing Rong's list since he had a limited quota and had to follow the rules of picking the winner over the loser.

Never had Duan Ling Tian thought he would see Ye Man here.

One must know that Ye Man's ability was lower than Guo Li's.

Where did he get his confidence from?

Curiously, Duan Ling Tian activated his Divine Eye. One glance was all it took to make his heart pump fast.

'How is this possible!? Ye Man... has already broken through to the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!' Duan Ling Tian was filled with shock and disbelief.

He remembered that Guo Li and Ye Man were both Martial Cultivators on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage when they had met a year ago.

Today, even Guo Li was only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. Meanwhile, how could Ye Man, whose talent was below Guo Li's, have broken through to the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage?

'This Ye Man doesn't seem like he's just broken through to the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage... I'm afraid his ability surpasses even Xiao Zhui from Luo Jiang City! Even Su Qi might not be a match for him.' Truth be told, Duan Ling Tian was a little terrified.

If he were to fight the current Ye Man out of nowhere, he did not dare to say he had the confidence to do that.

It was hard for Duan Ling Tian to imagine that the person who he had defeated in a single blow a year ago would have the ability to scare him a year later.

What exactly happened to Ye Man throughout the past year?

"Eh? Does he know Guo Li?" Xiong Hu was a little surprised. "Duan Ling Tian, is he a friend of yours and Guo Li's?"

"Yes, we're old friends... Old friends who haven't seen each other for a long time, especially Duan Ling Tian. I've missed him a lot throughout the year that we parted ways." Ye Man smiled a little eerily, giving one goosebumps.

At that moment, even Xiong Hu noticed that something was off.

Fang Hui looked at Ye Man with the slightest fear and asked while frowning at the moment, "A Devil Cultivator?"

Devil Cultivator?

What Fang Hui said made Ling Yun and Xiong Hu's expressions change slightly.

Duan Ling Tian, on the other hand, only revealed a flash of surprise on his face. He realized that there was a commotion happening within the Devilseal Tablet when he exerted his conscious into his Spatial Ring. The tablet seemed to have detected something.

At that moment, Duan Ling Tian was sure of that Ye Man had gone on the path of Devil Dao and become a Devil Cultivator.

Everything made sense now.

A Devil Cultivator's cultivation speed was beyond logic.

At that very second, the fear Duan Ling Tian had for Ye Man disappeared.

It was no joke!

With his current cultivation base, he might be able to put a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator to an end with the help of the Devilseal Tablet, let alone a Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage Devil Cultivator!

"I supposed this is City Governor Fang from Mound Hill City?" Ye Man looked pointedly at Fang Hui and grinned. "City Governor Fang, your underling Lin Qing Rong let me go a year ago... I wouldn't be who I am today if Lin Qing Rong hadn't let me go back then.

"That's why I've made up my mind to take good care of your Mound Hill City people after getting into the Moon Illumination Sect." Ye Man's eyes were observing Xiong Hu and Ling Yun in an amusing manner as he spoke. It caused Xiong Hu's expression to change while Ling Yun looked serious.

Devil Cultivators always had a rapid cultivation speed and they were known for their tyrannical character.

Even they were afraid of him.

Moreover, they could feel that the Devil Cultivator before them had a powerful ability that they were no match for.

Fang Hui, on the other hand, was frowning.

He felt Ye Man's ill intentions at that moment.

"Since we know each other, I'll take good care of you too," Duan Ling Tian glanced at Ye Man calmly and said with a wry smile.

Fang Hui and the other two could not help but be stunned by Duan Ling Tian's response.

"You'll take care of me?" Ye Man was amazed at first and subsequently, he smiled. His smile was even more frightful now. "I'll be anticipating it then. Unfortunately, Guo Li isn't here. It'd be perfect if she were."

Ye Man ignored Duan Ling Tian after he was done speaking and left, pivoting around.

Although he could not wait to tear Duan Ling Tian into a million pieces, he knew it was not the best time to do anything to him. Otherwise, he might be disqualified from participating in the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect.

Furthermore, the City Governor of Mound Hill City was there. It was hard for him to kill Duan Ling Tian at that moment.

Therefore, he did not rush things.

Would Duan Ling Tian not be a piece of meat on his chopping board where he could cut him however he wanted when they got into the Moon Illumination Sect?

Xiong Hu felt like a cloud of haze had lifted when Ye Man left. He could not help but ask Duan Ling Tian while looking at him, "Senior Brother Duan, how do you and Guo Li know this Devil Cultivator?"

"It happened a year ago..." Duan Ling Tian told him everything about meeting Lin Qing Rong, Guo Li, and Ye Man a year ago. He even told him the details of their relationship without holding back.

"You mean that Ye Man wasn't a Devil Cultivator back then?" Fang Hui asked while frowning.

"Definitely not." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "He was like a completely different person compared to a year ago! I couldn't recognize him at first when I saw him just now. The changes are too drastic."

"It seems like he's gotten into Devil Dao which caused his cultivation base to skyrocket," Xiong Hu commented while looking petrified, "But does the Moon Illumination Sect take Devil Cultivators?"

At that moment, not only Xiong Hu but even Duan Ling Tian and Ling Yun were also gawking at Fang Hui.

They were curious about that too.

"The sect doesn't usually reject Devil Cultivators as long as they aren't outrageous. There are actually quite a few Devil Cultivators in the sect," Fang Hui said.

Soon, Fang Hui snapped back to his senses and said through True Energy Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, although Ye Man was no match for you a year ago, since he's a Devil Cultivator now, you can't judge him using logic! His abilities might've surpassed yours now.

"If you see him again, avoid him as much as you can. Never fight him forcefully," Fang Hui reminded patiently, "I have a feeling that his ability's even more powerful than Xiao Zhui's from Luo Jiang City."

Although he did not use the Spiritual Secret Tactic to check Ye Man's cultivation base, Fang Hui could roughly estimate Ye Man's cultivation base judging from the aura on his body.

"He's on the Saint Rudiment Stage?" Xiong Hu exclaimed.

"If he isn't on the Saint Rudiment Stage, he should be on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage! However, if he's a Devil Cultivator, it's a piece of cake for him to get to the Saint Rudiment Stage," Fang Hui said while shaking his head. His judgment and wisdom were revealed as he spoke.

“But his ability’s even more powerful than Xiao Zhui’s from Luo Jiang City,” Fang Hui looked serious as he conversed further.

“Is he that powerful?” Xiong Hu inhaled sharply while Ling Yun looked terrified.

Duan Ling Tian was the only one who looked calm. It was as if he would behave the same even if Mount Tai were to collapse before him.

To him, whether Ye Man was a Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage or a Saint Rudiment Devil Cultivator, there was no difference since he would be crushed to smithereens when Duan Ling Tian activated the Devilseal Tablet.

“Duan Ling Tian, please don’t be reckless,” reminded Fang Hui while frowning when he saw that Duan Ling Tian was so calm. He thought that Duan Ling Tian was underestimating his foe.

“Everyone, please be quiet.” Suddenly, an old voice rang out. It contained True Energy which took over the noisy ambiance. The scene regained its silence temporarily. It was so quiet that they could hear if a needle were to drop on the ground.

At the same time, everyone including Duan Ling Tian was looking at the old man standing on the vast stone platform.

He was surrounded by the two middle-aged men like a celebrity.

“Welcome to all of you who are participating in our Moon Illumination Sect’s entrance assessment! I won’t beat around the bush. I’ll be announcing the assessment’s rules, I’ll make it short.” The old man proceeded to speak after hushing the crowd, “Our Moon Illumination Sect’s entrance assessment is divided into two sections. The first section will involve us performing the Spiritual Secret Tactic to check on the participants’ age and cultivation base.

“Geniuses below 40 with a cultivation base on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage and above will pass the first section of the assessment immediately.

“Those below 40 who are on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage can skip the second section of the assessment and pass directly to become our outer court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect!”

Chapter 1426: A Thought Is All One Needs to Become A Devil

“Since we’re done with the rules, I’ll introduce myself now. My name’s Dong Chong and I’m the outer court elder of the Moon Illumination Sect. My main responsibility is to coordinate the transfer of the outer court members,” the old man said slowly.

‘The rules...’ Hearing the rules Dong Chong listed, Duan Ling Tian could not help but frown. ‘They’ll be examining the participants with the Spiritual Secret Tactic. Only those who are below 40 and on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage will pass the first section of the assessment.’

Although his current battling abilities could be compared to an ordinary Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator, his cultivation base was only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

There was nowhere for him to conceal his cultivation base if he was being examined with the Spiritual Secret Tactic!

“Senior Brother Duan, your cultivation base’s only the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. According to the rules that old man shared, doesn’t that mean that you won’t even pass the first section?” Xiong Hu frowned and said in a condemning manner, “What kind of stupid rules does this Moon Illumination Sect assessment have whereby they judge on just one’s cultivation base and not one’s battling abilities? Isn’t that a rip-off?”

Both Xiong Hu and Ling Yun knew that Duan Ling Tian had broken through to the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

Naturally, they also knew that despite their Senior Brother Duan’s cultivation base only being on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage, his battling ability was undefeatable if he were to fight anyone below the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

Even an ordinary Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage person might not be a match for their Senior Brother Duan.

Ling Yun could not help but frown too. If their Senior Brother Duan could not even pass the entry assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect, that would be the biggest joke anyone had ever heard.

“Don’t worry,” Fang Hui reassured while smiling at Duan Ling Tian and the other two who were frowning. “Duan Ling Tian might not be able to pass the first section of the assessment, but it isn’t hard for him to pass the second section.”

“The second section?” Duan Ling Tian and the other two looked at Fang Hui doubtfully upon hearing what he said.

Since Dong Chong had yet to ascertain the exact contents of the second section of the assessment, they had no idea what it was going to be.

“In order not to stifle any talents, the sect gives young geniuses below the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage a chance. Even if they fail the first section, they’ll be able to enter the sect as long as they pass the second section of the assessment,” Fang Hui said.

“Those who are on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage don’t have to go for the second section. Meanwhile, those who are on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage will have to go to the second section as a ‘target’. Those who fail the first section will go to the second section to challenge the ‘target’. As long as they defeat the ‘target’, they’ll pass the assessment and get into the sect directly,” Fang Hui continued.

“Meanwhile, those on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who are challenged and defeated will lose their opportunity to enter the sect.” Fang Hui took the lead to explain the assessment rules to them before Dong Chong did.

When Dong Chong was done speaking, the bunch of young geniuses gasped. ‘Gasp!’

The 18 City Governors including Fang Hui, on the other hand, did not find it surprising as they knew the rules much earlier.

“That means that people on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage only stand one chance. Will they be disqualified when they’re defeated and lose their opportunity to enter the Moon Illumination Sect?”

“That’s incredibly cruel! There are no more chances for those who are defeated.”

“That’s understandable. A person who has a mediocre cultivation base and doesn’t have the ability to defeat a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator is proven to have a pathetic future.”

“But it’s quite impossible for such a situation to happen... It’s usually impossible for a person below the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage to defeat someone on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.”

“That’s true. If the person’s defeated by someone else below the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, that’d mean he lacks skills. He deserves to be disqualified.”

...

Everyone discussed among themselves, slowly coming to accept the rules.

“That’s more reasonable.” Duan Ling Tian was relieved to find out about the second section of the assessment.

To him, it was not difficult to defeat people on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

Soon, the entry assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect officially started the moment the outer court elder Dong Chong officiated it.

The young geniuses recommended by each of the City Governors from the 18 cities under the ruling of the Moon Illumination Sect as well as those recommended by the Moon Illumination Sect outer court elders and deacons walked up to the stone platform one after another.

They were divided into groups of ten while being examined by the two middle-aged men behind Dong Chong.

The two men were the outer court deacons of the Moon Illumination Sect.

Naturally, they looked like they were examining them on the surface. In reality, they were checking the young geniuses’ age and cultivation base with their Spiritual Secret Tactic.

“36, Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage. Pass.”

“34, Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage. Pass.”

...

The first ten young geniuses passed the first section of the assessment.

“Don’t tell me that I’m the only Martial Cultivator who isn’t above the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage among these bunch of young people?” Duan Ling Tian could not help but force a smile facing the results.

“There should be quite a number of Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators.” As a person who had been through this, Fang Hui knew much more than Duan Ling Tian did. “In Dao Martial Saint

Land, there are many talented Martial Cultivators who can defeat people whose level are above theirs... But those Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators that I've seen before could only defeat ordinary Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators."

Fang Hui gazed deeply into Duan Ling Tian's eyes as he spoke.

He seemed to be telling Duan Ling Tian that not every Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivators were as freaky as Duan Ling Tian who could defeat people on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

Just like what Fang Hui said.

There were two people on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage among the second batch of young geniuses who did not pass the first section of the assessment. However, they did not give up hope; it was clear that they saw that coming.

Their goal was the challenge in the second section.

Only the participants who were disqualified in the first session would stand a chance to take the challenge in the second section.

There were more people on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage among the third batch of young geniuses which occupied half of them.

There were even less in the fourth batch.

Xiong Hu exclaimed absurdly when the fifth batch of young geniuses went up, "It's that fella!"

Hearing Xiong Hu exclaim, Duan Ling Tian and the other three looked at the stone platform in front of them and noticed Ye Man among the ten of them.

Ye Man stood there with an eerie aura lingering around his body which made him seem out of place compared to the other nine young geniuses. The other nine young geniuses deliberately kept a distance from him.

"A devil Cultivator?"

"This young man's a Devil Cultivator!"

"Tsk tsks... Devil Cultivators' cultivation bases usually defy logic. I wonder how old he is and what's his cultivation base."

"His age and cultivation base must be shocking. Let's see."

...

A lot of attention focused on Ye Man.

An uproar broke among the crowd as one of the middle-aged men following the outer court elder, Dong Chong, spoke, "30, Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage!"

The middle-aged man was talking about Ye Man.

“He lives up to the Devil Cultivator’s name! He’s only 30 and he has already broken through to Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.”

“Marvelous! Simply marvelous!”

“He’s even more powerful than I imagined.”

...

The event came to its climax at the moment.

Ye Man was the first Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage in the Moon Illumination Sect’s entry assessment today. He was placed in the limelight as expected.

Besides the other nine young geniuses who were standing with them, even the young geniuses who passed the first section of the assessment dimmed in his presence.

Ye Man looked smug and arrogant as he stood on the stone platform. He enjoyed being in the limelight.

At the same time, his condescending eyes were trained on Duan Ling Tian. He was looking down on him.

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re destined to be under my feet throughout your life!” Ye Man spoke through True Energy Voice Transmission, as cocky as ever.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not bother as his expression remained the same. He only glanced at Ye Man lightly, unable to be bothered by him.

To him, Ye Man was just a man that he had defeated.

He was just a man that he had defeated in the past, now and even in the future.

Who was he to boast since he was just a man Duan Ling Tian had defeated?

Duan Ling Tian’s behavior caused Ye Man to look completely solemn. Never had he expected Duan Ling Tian to dare to ignore him even now.

At that moment, Ye Man felt that the raging fire in him would explode anytime.

“Duan Ling Tian, I swear I’m not a man if I don’t kill you!” A ferocious gleam filled Ye Man’s eyes as he mumbled softly while clenching his teeth.

Since Ye Man was on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage, he skipped the second section of the assessment directly. An outer court disciple brought him to the outer court area of the Moon Illumination Sect’s estate.

Ye Man was the first among the crowd of young geniuses to pass the entry assessment and become a disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect.

“Senior Brother Duan, Ye Man was looking at you as if he couldn’t wait to eat you! How huge of a rivalry are the both of you in exactly?” Although Ye Man was not looking at him, Xiong Hu felt chills running up his spine anyway.

“To a petty person, even the smallest conflict could be treated as vengeance as though his father had been killed or his wife was being taken away... How big of a rivalry do you think we have?” Duan Ling Tian asked him back.

Xiong Hu was speechless.

The murder of one’s father and one’s wife being taken away was the biggest vengeance in the world!

“Duan Ling Tian, be careful of Ye Man when you get into the sect... There are no kind souls among the Devil Cultivators, especially since he might have turned himself into a devil because of you!” Fang Hui said in all seriousness, “If Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators are going into Devil Dao for a certain obsession, then they only have two paths ahead of them.”

“The first path is to get rid of the obsession and go on with their lives! If they don’t manage to get rid of the obsession, they’ll either go into psychosis or if the situation’s serious, be engulfed by Devil Qi and killed.”

Fang Hui had taken the effort to learn about Devil Cultivators back then.

He even had the thought of going into Devil Dao and becoming a Devil Cultivator for the sake of taking revenge when his wife died because of Liu Huan back then. He had that thought because that was the only way he could take revenge.

However, his wife seemed to have guessed what he had in mind, so she wrote him a note before committing suicide. She asked him to never go into Devil Dao. Otherwise, she would not die in peace.

No matter how much hatred Fang Hui had and how much he wanted to take revenge, he could not bring himself to go against her death wish since she had died in such a devastating way.

“I’ve heard of that before.” Xiong Hu looked at Duan Ling Tian. “If his obsession of going into Devil Dao is to kill Senior Brother Duan, then Senior Brother Duan’s his enemy for life. He would either kill Senior Brother Duan or kill himself if he doesn’t achieve his goal.”

Chapter 1427: The Second Section

“That’s the insane part about Devil Cultivators. It’s also the scariest thing about Devil Cultivators!” Xiong Hu was serious as he spoke.

“Enemy for life?” However, Duan Ling Tian had disdain written all over his face when he heard what Xiong Hu said. “He’s not worth it!”

Duan Ling Tian had just expressed a genuine thought. He was a Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator with a Deviseal Tablet.

As long as he did not encounter a powerful Devil Cultivator above the Saint Stage, given his current cultivation base, he could easily kill any Devil Cultivator by activating the Deviseal Tablet.

Even if it were a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator, unless he lost the opportunity to use the Deviseal Tablet, he could definitely kill the latter as well.

The Devilseal Tablet was listed as one of the ten Super Saint Weapons among the Ten Great Saint Weapon ranking. It gave Duan Ling Tian undefeatable confidence.

However, since Fang Hui did not know about the existence of the Devilseal Tablet, he reminded Duan Ling Tian immediately seeing that he seemed to ignore Xiong Hu, "Duan Ling Tian, please don't be reckless."

Duan Ling Tian was his sole hope. He did not want anything to happen to him as a result of underestimating Ye Man.

Meanwhile, Ling Yun gazed deeply into Duan Ling Tian's eyes. He saw a steadfast determination in his eyes. It was a tenacious kind of confidence.

'I wonder what Senior Brother Duan has for him not to take Ye Man seriously.' Although Ling Yun noticed Duan Ling Tian was up to something, he would never have expected Duan Ling Tian to have the Devilseal Tablet which was one of the Ten Great Saint Weapons in Dao Martial Saint Land.

The first section of the assessment went on.

There were many Martial Cultivators on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage since Ye Man but they were all above 35 years old and their talents were incomparable to Ye Man's.

"The fellas from Luo Jiang City are up too." Xiong Hu's sharp eyes noticed the four young geniuses from Luo Jiang City, including Xiao Zhui, go up the stone platform.

Duan Ling Tian turned to look too.

It was a piece of cake for Duan Ling Tian to find out the trio's cultivation base apart from Xiao Zhui's with the help of the Divine Eye. Two of them were on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage while the other was on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

Xiao Zhui, on the other hand, was a Martial Cultivator on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage. Not only did he pass the first section of the assessment, but he also did not even have to participate in the second section. He passed the assessment immediately and become an outer court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect.

As for the other three, the two on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage passed the first section while the one on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage failed.

The City Governor of Luo Jiang City, Luo Yi, saw that coming, so he was not surprised by the results.

At the moment, among the four young geniuses from Luo Jiang City, Xiao Zhui left with the outer court disciple of the Moon Illumination Sect while the two on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage stayed on the stone platform. On the other hand, the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator returned to Luo Yi.

"It's time for those who are from Mound Hill City to go up." A fierce gleam flashed through Luo Yi's eyes as he looked at the people from Mound Hill City including Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian, Xiong Hu, and Ling Yun were among the people from the last batch to go up. They were the nineteenth batch and there were only seven people in that batch.

“What?! He... He’s only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage? How... How’s that possible!?” Luo Yi’s jaw dropped when the results of the examination for Duan Ling Tian and the rest was announced.

Apart from Luo Yi, the young genius from Luo Jiang City standing next to him was flabbergasted too. Was the young genius from Mound Hill City who defeated Xiao Zhui only a Martial Cultivator on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage just like him?

Oh God.

Could they be dreaming?

The two Martial Cultivators on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage from Luo Jiang City standing on the stone platform froze.

The day before that, they had witnessed Duan Ling Tian defeat Xiao Zhui with their very own eyes.

Xiao Zhui was the No. 1 genius among the younger generation in Luo Jiang City. His cultivation base had broken through the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage, but he had been defeated by Duan Ling Tian.

Before this, they were almost sure that Duan Ling Tian was a Martial Cultivator on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

However, the truth gave them a tight slap.

Such a young genius from Mound Hill City was only a Martial Cultivator on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

Apart from the few of them from Luo Jiang City, the rest did not find it odd. After all, there were 55 of them on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage among the 187 participants of the entrance assessment.

The remaining 132 of them were above the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, 12 of whom were on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

The 120 people on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage stood on the stone platform while waiting for the second section of the assessment to take place.

Most of the 55 Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators below the stone platform were ready to fight as they observed the 120 Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators on the stone platform one by one to pick the target that they wanted to challenge.

At that moment, they were determined to look for a target who they were confident to defeat.

After all, they were only given one chance for the challenge.

Once they failed, they would have to bid farewell to the Moon Illumination Sect.

If they succeeded, they would pass the entrance assessment of the Moon Illumination Sect and become the outer court disciple of the sect.

Their destiny depended on this fight.

The atmosphere gradually became heavy.

Almost all of the young geniuses on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage who dared to go there had complete confidence in themselves.

Otherwise, they would not be there.

Therefore, some of the 120 young people on the stone platform were anxious although they were on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, especially because they had just broken through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage recently.

They did not have much of an upper hand when it came to True Energy and they only had a slight advantage in terms of the amount of Saint Veins in their bodies.

'How is that possible? How is it possible that he's only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage? There must be a mistake with the Spiritual Secret Tactic!' The four from Luo Jiang City thought to themselves again and again as their eyes lingered on Duan Ling Tian.

They still could not believe that this young genius from Mound Hill City was only a Martial Cultivator on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

"Now, everyone below the platform, please stand on the right. Please empty the left for the young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who have to leave the stone platform after their defeat," instructed the outer court elder, Dong Chong, loud and clear from the vast stone platform.

At that moment, everyone moved to their right, leaving a gaping, empty space on the left.

"I'll be explaining the details of the second section of the assessment. The young geniuses who are disqualified in the first section can come up to the stone platform to pick your opponent. You'll pass our entrance assessment and become our outer court disciple as long as you defeat your opponent."

"Of course, everyone who gets onto the stone platform isn't allowed to pick young geniuses from the same city that they come from. I hope everyone can understand that we do this to avoid participants from the same city giving in to each other."

"Also, those young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who are defeated will blow their chance with the Moon Illumination Sect for the next five years. Unless you're still below 40 years old in five years, then you're welcome to participate in our Moon Illumination Sect entrance assessment by then."

"Otherwise, you'll have no luck with our Moon Illumination Sect for the rest of your life!" Dong Chong's deafening voice spread out and was heard by everyone.

The young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage standing on the stone platform would lose their chance with the Moon Illumination Sect as soon as they were beaten. That unnerved many young geniuses on the stone platform.

"What is there to be afraid of!? They're just a bunch of fellas who haven't even broken through to the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, so why are you guys worried that you'll be defeated by them?"

“That’s right! If you can’t even defeat those fellas below the stage, you’re embarrassing those who are on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.”

“No matter what, I have the confidence to crush anyone below the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.”

...

Many of the young geniuses on the stone platform were confident about themselves. They thought it was impossible that the young geniuses below the stone platform who were disqualified in the first section to be a match for them.

“When the second section of the assessment commences, the young geniuses below the platform will come up one by one. If you win the challenge, someone will bring you to register as an outer court disciple of our Moon Illumination. If you fail, please go to the area on the left,” Dong Chong proceeded to speak.

The area on the left was the space that was made vacant earlier. It was empty at the moment.

It would be a clear differentiation for the losers to go there.

“Now, I shall announce that the second section of the assessment has officially begun” As soon as Dong Chong was done speaking, a young genius below the platform dashed onto the stone platform. He stood there and glanced at the 120 young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

“I’ll challenge you!” Soon, he picked his target. It was a young genius who was the same age as him.

However, he was overthrown in less than ten hits.

“Ahh, I’m in such bad luck! Can’t believe I picked a tough one!” The Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young genius forced a smile after being defeated and subsequently admitted that he had lost. He jumped off the high platform and stood on the area on the left.

One person stood in the disqualification zone on the left now.

Subsequently, more and more young geniuses dashed onto the stone platform. By activating his Divine Eye, Duan Ling Tian realized that all of these young geniuses were on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage.

There was nobody on the Intermediate Mortal Shedding Stage, let alone the Early Mortal Shedding Stage.

‘It makes sense... It’s almost impossible for people below the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage to pass this entrance assessment if they participated.’ Duan Ling Tian did not find that odd.

As time passed by, high-spirited young geniuses on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage went up to the high platform one after another to challenge the young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

Soon, all 23 young geniuses on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage lost the challenge without any exception.

“Hmph! They’re just on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage. It’d be impossible if they could defeat us since we’re on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage.

“We’ll defeat all of those who come to us no matter how many there are.”

...

The bunch of young geniuses on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who had yet to taste failure on the stone platform were still pumped up.

At the moment, none of the young geniuses on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage below the stone platform had gone up the platform.

The failed attempts of the 23 people affected their will to a certain extent.

“These people on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage are just tiny little ants... Ants that should be stomped under our feet without any hopes of getting up forever!” A young man in green with a graceful face and a high-pitched voice glanced at the young geniuses below the platform in disdain while holding a hand fan.

“Ants? Being stomped under your feet? Without any hopes of getting up forever?” As the young geniuses below the platform flew into a rage, a cold gleam flashed through Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He smirked mockingly and subsequently raced onto the stone platform as if he had turned into a bolt of lightning.

Duan Ling Tian was put in the limelight that very second.

Chapter 1428: Worse Than A Piece of Crap

“Come, stomp on me below your feet so that there’s no hope for me to get up forever,” taunted Duan Ling Tian as he stood on the stone platform, looking at the green-clad young man who had been boasting earlier.

It was obvious that the young man who looked graceful did not expect anyone to get up onto the stone platform because of what he said. After a moment of seeming lost, he stepped forward while smirking arrogantly.

“Confidence is awesome. But if you have too much of it, that would turn into arrogance! Do you think you’re that different from the other 23 who took the challenge earlier? Do you think you can defeat me and pass the Moon Illumination Sect’s entrance assessment?” The young man in green ridiculed in his high-pitched voice, “Brat, it’s not that I look down on you... A Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator like you isn’t even worth my attention at all! I called you an ant as a favor. To me, you’re just a piece of crap!”

The green-clad young man teased Duan Ling Tian fearlessly without holding back, “Tsk tsk... A Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator attempting to defeat a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator. What nonsense is that?!”

“All of you are embarrassing yourself no matter how many of you come up to challenge us! Do you think we Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators are just clay that you can play with?”

“The difference in cultivation base is an obvious proof of the difference in our abilities.”

...

The bunch of Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators on the high platform stared at Duan Ling Tian in disdain. They did not think that there was a difference between him and the other 23 young geniuses on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage who had challenged them earlier.

To them, this purple-clad young man would definitely turn out to be like the 23 young geniuses whereby he would be destined to fail the challenge and miss his opportunity with the Moon Illumination Sect.

Naturally, four of them among the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators thought otherwise.

They were Ling Yun, Xiong Hu, and the two young geniuses from Luo Jiang City.

Below the high platform, apart from the City Governors of Mound Hill City and Luo Jiang City as well as the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young genius from Luo Jiang City, the rest of them doubted Duan Ling Tian.

The City Governor of Mound Hill City knew about Duan Ling Tian very well. He was well-versed with Duan Ling Tian’s ability.

Meanwhile, the City Governor of Luo Jiang City and the young genius next to him had witnessed Duan Ling Tian’s ability the day before. They knew about Duan Ling Tian’s powerful ability which was incomparable with anyone on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage at all.

“A piece of crap?” Upon hearing what the young man said, instead of getting mad, Duan Ling Tian was grinning. “I’m very curious... What kind of expression would you have when you’re defeated by a piece of crap? What are you if you’re worse than a piece of crap?”

“Stop your foolish nonsense! What you said would never happen,” mocked the young man with scorn on his face. “A piece of crap like you... It’ll take me three hits at the most to defeat you!”

“Really?” The smile on Duan Ling Tian’s face was getting wider and wider. He subsequently took a step forward and initiated the attack without waiting for the young man to fight him.

Silver Shirt!

At that moment, a layer of faint silver ray flashed on Duan Ling Tian’s body as if his body was covered by a silver armor.

Due to the True Energy carried by his 52 Saint Veins, everything happened in an instant.

As soon as the silver ray flashed all over his body, Duan Ling Tian stomped and exploded towards the young man in green like a cannon.

The boost in his strength that came from the Silver Shirt caused his True Energy to be unleashed without him holding back.

Even without having to perform any movement technique, Duan Ling Tian's speed was terrifying.

He arrived inches away from the green-clad man in the blink of an eye.

Witnessing Duan Ling Tian's speed, the young man was horrified. It was clear that he did not expect a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator to display such speed.

His speed was similar to Duan Ling Tian's even if he gave all he had as well as performed a movement technique.

"Being swift doesn't mean that you have a powerful attack ability! I'll show you the difference between Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage and Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage now. How dare you compare your insignificant ability to mine?" The young man growled in his deep voice and advanced towards Duan Ling Tian.

He shook his hand fan which was covered with a layer of True Energy in a flash and subsequently tossed it towards Duan Ling Tian. "I'd love to see how you're going to take this attack from me!"

The air seemed to be rent like a piece of paper wherever the hand fan passed. A rapid fan ray was dashing towards Duan Ling Tian.

Body and Arrow Synchronization!

Duan Ling Tian took out his Sun Shooting Bow slowly and shot an arrow as he lifted his arm. As he performed the Body and Arrow Synchronization, he disappeared from the young man's field of vision in the blink of an eye.

"That's impossible!" The young man's pupils shrunk as shock and disbelief appeared on his face.

The man on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage in purple seemed to vanish from his sight without a trace. He could not capture his trail at all.

"Nothing is impossible." Subsequently, he heard a voice coming from behind him. Although the voice was calm, he was so terrified that his soul seemed to escape his body.

'When did he get behind me?' Just as he thought of that, he felt a gush of majestic energy pressing on his back like a giant hammer. He felt like he was being buried by a collapsed mountain.

In the next second, he felt his body shudder while his organs experienced a violent tremor. Subsequently, he felt like he was shot across the sky without control over his body.

Bang!

The young man in green fell below the platform. He happened to fall not far away from the 23 Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses who had been disqualified earlier.

High-spirited earlier, his face was now filled with dirt and dust.

The 23 Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses who had been disqualified were initially embarrassed by the teasing earlier, but now they were taking pleasure in the green-clad man's misery. The most boastful man had been defeated!

"Tsk tsk... Calling us Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage ants and a piece of crap? It seems like you're worse than an ant or a piece of crap!"

"Weren't you boasting just now? And now you're disqualified?"

"So, you lost because you underestimated us Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage cultivators? Your jaw must be on the floor now, am I right?"

...

The 23 Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses mocked the green-clad man one after another.

At that moment, most of them below and on the platform had their eyes fixed on Duan Ling Tian.

Even the outer court elder of the Moon Illumination Sect, Dong Chong, and the other two outer court deacons were dumbstruck. It was clear that what happened shocked them as well.

Duan Ling Tian had defeated a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator in the blink of an eye!

Was that really the doing of a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator?

The other City Governors from the 16 cities were discussing among themselves while looking at Fang Hui enviously, elevating Fang Hui to cloud nine.

"Marvellous!"

"I think I've seen him before. He was standing next to the City Governor of Mound Hill City, Fang Hui. Seems like he's a young genius from Mound Hill City."

"Among the young geniuses from Mound City Hill, the only powerful one I know is Su Qi. Could he be Su Qi?"

"He isn't Su Qi! I heard that Elder Liu Huan's direct disciple, Zhou Qi, took Su Qi away half a year ago, so Su Qi should be their inner court disciple now."

"I can't believe that the City Governor of Mound Hill City has gotten such a freak after losing Su Qi."

...

"Duan Ling Tian." Fang Hui looked at the purple silhouette on the stone platform with fondness in his eyes.

Many of the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses on the stone platform snapped back to their senses after a moment of being dumbstruck and shouted at Duan Ling Tian.

"That must be staged!"

“It’s impossible! Even if a Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator is capable of defeating a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, it’s impossible that he could’ve been defeated in such a ridiculous way... I understand now! The fella must have given way to him on purpose.”

“I want the both of them disqualified!”

“That’s right! Disqualify the both of them!”

...

Naturally, some of the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses who had great abilities figured what was going on.

“His speed was insanely fast!”

“That speed... Is that what a Master Mortal Shedding Stage is capable of performing? Even I, having the ability of a peak level Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage cultivator, don’t have a speed as fast as his.”

“If he’s really on Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage... Isn’t that wild?”

...

Those who had spoken were Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses who had an acute sense of judgment and ability.

The young man in green managed to stand up strenuously after consuming a Healing Medicinal Pill. He glared viciously at Duan Ling Tian again. “How dare you disqualify me, Deng Yu? You’re dead! Dead to me!”

Although Deng Yu knew that his ability was far behind Duan Ling Tian’s from the fight earlier, that did not stop him from resenting him.

Duan Ling Tian had gotten him disqualified. Duan Ling Tian had ruined his dreams of getting into the Moon Illumination Sect!

“Uncle, this can’t be happening! This can’t be happening! I’m already 37 this year... I’ll be more than 40 when the Moon Illumination Sect’s entrance assessment takes place again five years later. I won’t be able to participate,” said Deng Yu through True Energy Voice Transmission as he looked at one of the middle-aged men next to Dong Chong. His tone was filled with reluctance. “Uncle, there must be something that you can do. There must be something that you can do, am I right?”

“Little Yu, I’m just an outer court deacon. I don’t have the right to take people who are disqualified into the sect,” The middle-aged man was one of the outer court deacons standing next to Dong Chong. His name was Deng Wei.

“Uncle, I don’t accept this! I don’t!” Deng Yu’s face was filled with grief.

“Little Yu, don’t you worry... Although I can’t get you into the sect, avenging you is a piece of cake! Even if the fella from Mound Hill City gets into the Moon Illumination Sect, I won’t let him live for long.”

“Destroying you would mean destroying our Deng Clan’s future... I definitely won’t let him go!” A cold gleam flashed through Deng Wei’s eyes as he spoke fiercely through True Energy Voice Transmission.

“Yes! Kill him, kill him!” Hearing what Deng Wei said, the grief on Deng Yu’s face faded away slowly.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Deng Yu coldly and did not bother to look at him any longer. Instead, he looked at the outer court elder of the Moon Illumination Sect, Dong Chong. “Elder Dong Chong, I’m considered to have passed the entrance assessment, am I right?”

“Yes! Yes!” Dong Chong finally snapped back to his senses hearing what Duan Ling Tian said. The entire scenario just now made him lost for a while.

As a Moon Illumination outer court disciple went up to the stone platform to escort Duan Ling Tian away, Dong Chong looked at him while smiling. “Little fella, I’d like to take you as my direct disciple. Are you willing to do that?”

The ability Duan Ling Tian displayed earlier made him want to keep the purple-clad man to himself.

Gasp!

Everyone gasped as soon as Dong Chong said that.

Chapter 1429: Moon Illumination Sect’s Outer Court

Who was Dong Chong?

He was the elder of the Moon Illumination Sect!

Although he was just an outer court elder, his position in the Moon Illumination Sect was just a rank lower than the supreme elder, the Sect Leader, the Vice Sect Leader, and some inner court elders.

At that moment, the eyes that were focused on Duan Ling Tian were filled with envy and jealousy.

‘Damn it!’ Deng Yu had a drastic change of expression.

Meanwhile, Deng Wei who stood next to Dong Chong looked aghast too.

He had just promised his nephew that he would definitely kill Duan Ling Tian, yet now his immediate superior, Elder Dong Chong, wanted to take the man in as his direct disciple?

If Duan Ling Tian really became Elder Dong Chong’s direct disciple, he would not dare to do anything to him even if he had the guts to.

Although he could do it secretly, it would be alright if everything went well, but it would be beyond redemption if the attempt failed!

“Elder Dong Chong, thank you so much for your kindness... But I don’t plan to have a master at the time being,” Duan Ling Tian said while smiling in an apologetic manner.

The people who were shocked by Dong Chong declaring his intention to take Duan Ling Tian as his disciple took a while to snap back to their senses. They then froze hearing what Duan Ling Tian said.

“This brat’s so ungrateful!”

“That’s right! Elder Dong Chong’s taking him as his disciple because he values him. I can’t believe he rejected the offer!”

...

Many of them condemned him. All of them thought Duan Ling Tian was being rude.

“I, the scoundrel, win!” A gleam flashed through Deng Yu’s eyes as Duan Ling Tian’s rejection of Dong Chong’s request made him relieved.

Deng Wei was assured too.

As long as this purple-clad young man did not become Elder Dong Chong’s direct disciple, Duan Ling Tian would be merely a piece of meat on his chopping board to whom he could do whatever he wanted when the opportunity arose in the future.

Perhaps he might not even have to do the dirty job by himself.

‘These people from Mound Hill City... Elder Liu Huan would never let them off easily.’ Deng Wei grinned secretly.

Dong Chong was stunned for a moment as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s direct rejection. He only snapped back to his senses after a while and smiled embarrassedly. “I realized that I’ve misbehaved. I wonder what’s your name, little friend?”

Little friend!?

The people were dumbstruck upon hearing Dong Chong call Duan Ling Tian “little friend” instead of being mad at his rejection.

What was happening?

In such a situation, should Elder Dong Chong not revoke the purple-clad young man’s eligibility to get into the Moon Illumination Sect especially after the agitation that he was feeling?

“I’m Duan Ling Tian.” Duan Ling Tian did not expect Dong Chong to be reasonable either. He responded while grinning at that moment. At the same time, he began to have a good feeling about Dong Chong.

“Duan Ling Tian...” Dong Chong nodded and smiled lightly at Duan Ling Tian. Subsequently, he looked at the Moon Illumination Sect outer court disciple who had arrived next to Duan Ling Tian. “Bring Duan Ling Tian to register at the outer court.”

“Yes, Sir,” the outer sect disciple responded before leaving the stone platform with Duan Ling Tian. They headed towards the sect’s outer court.

While following the outer court disciple, Duan Ling Tian turned around to take a glance at the City Governor of Mound Hill City and nodded at him. He then glanced at Ling Yun and Xiong Hu.

“I’ll be waiting for the both of you at the outer court,” Duan Ling Tian said to them through True Energy Voice Transmission.

Both of them nodded.

Duan Ling Tian knew Ling Yun and Xiong Hu's abilities, so he was sure that they would definitely pass the Moon Illumination Sect entrance assessment and become the sect's outer court disciple.

What Duan Ling Tian did not know was that there were two dark horses among the over thirty Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses after he left the sect's entrance assessment venue. The two dark horses defeated two Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage young geniuses.

The two dark horses passed the sect's entrance assessment successfully and became outer court disciples.

"Junior Brother Duan, I'm surprised that you have such a powerful ability when your cultivation base is only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage... It's shocking!" The Moon Illumination Sect outer court disciple could not help but exclaim when he was leading Duan Ling Tian towards the outer court area.

Duan Ling Tian smiled lightly without responding. He had no idea how he should respond at that moment.

The Moon Illumination Sect's outer court disciple who walked ahead of Duan Ling Tian proceeded to speak, "What was even out of everyone's expectations was that Elder Dong Chong asked you to be his direct disciple publicly! Junior Brother Duan, it was wise of you to reject Elder Dong Chong. With your talent and ability, as long as you stand out in the sect, it's possible for the inner court elder to take you as his direct disciple. Elder Dong Chong's position is higher than the inner court deacons since he's the outer court elder. However, he's lower than inner court elder when you compare their ranks."

"Do you think I rejected Elder Dong Chong so that I could be the disciple of the inner court elder?" Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded. He did not expect people to perceive his rejection towards Elder Dong Chong as looking down on the man.

"Isn't it?" The outer court disciple asked him back.

"Of course not!" Duan Ling Tian shook his head vehemently. "I've never thought of becoming inner court elder's disciple."

"Junior Brother Duan, you've such lofty goals. I hope you'll make it," sighed the outer court disciple.

"Lofty goals?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned. "You know what my goals are?"

"Of course!" The outer court disciple nodded. "Since your goal isn't to make the inner court elder your master, you must be going for the disciple position of the Vice Sect Leader, the Sect Leader or even the supreme elder... But Junior Brother Duan, I must remind you that it's impossible for the three of them to take you as their disciple unless you have a freaky talent."

"The same applies even though you can defeat people whose level is higher than yours. They'll look at talents that last, not abilities that are temporary," said the outer court disciple to Duan Ling Tian patiently, seeming to have kind intentions.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was dumbstruck.

Was he, Duan Ling Tian, someone who fawned over powerful people to this outer court disciple?

He did not bother to explain himself at that second because he knew that he would only complicate the situation further if he did.

Duan Ling Tian arrived at the Moon Illumination Sect outer court area with the guidance of the outer court disciple. He also got his personal token from the outer court disciple. There was no uniform when it came to attire.

He had found out about that much earlier.

No matter whether it was the Moon Illumination Sect outer court elder Dong Chong, the two outer court deacons, or the outer court disciple, all of them dressed casually.

However, each of them had a significant token tied around their waist on their casual attire. It was the Moon Illumination Sect's identity token.

Apart from the words 'Outer Court Disciple' carved on top of the personal token, there were three words that had just been carved on the personal token that Duan Ling Tian received. It was his name.

"Junior Brother Duan, I'll bring you where we outer court disciples live." The outer court disciple brought Duan Ling Tian to the place the outer court disciples lived after calling out to him.

"Senior Brother Yang, I've heard from my teacher before that the Moon Illumination Sect's accommodation is divided into three classes: the third, the sixth and the ninth. The more powerful a person's ability is, the better their accommodation is whereas the weaker the person is, the poorer their accommodation is." Duan Ling Tian asked along the way, "Is that true?"

Duan Ling Tian familiarized himself with the outer court disciple along the way. He learned that his name was Yang He.

Yang He had entered the Moon Illumination Sect five years ago.

He was 43 this year and his cultivation base was on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

"That's right." Yang He nodded. "The accommodation we outer court disciples are living in are divided into three classes. The best one has an individual compound. Not only is there a quiet room for cultivation, but there's also a vast courtyard to cultivate your Saint Grade Martial Tactic too.

"The second one would be an individual stone house. Its environment's much worse compared to the individual compound as there's no space to cultivate the Saint Grade Martial Tactic. Outer court disciples who stay there can only cultivate the Saint Grade Martial Tactic at the training field.

"The poorest one would be the individual cottages. Those that have just been refurbished are fine but some of them haven't been maintained for a long time and leak whenever it rains," Yang He told Duan Ling Tian about the third, sixth, and ninth-class accommodation areas in one breath.

"An individual compound!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes lit up and he mumbled softly to himself. He had a goal in mind.

He would not have to worry about the space to cultivate his Saint Grade Martial Tactic if he were to stay in the stone house that was poorer than the individual compounds because the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would serve that purpose.

However, it was only natural that he wanted the best if it was available.

“Junior Brother, don’t tell me you’re eyeing the individual compound!” Yang He’s ears were sharp as he heard Duan Ling Tian’s soft mumble and could not help but ask with his eyes opened wide.

“Is there a problem with that?” Duan Ling Tian asked, noticing Yang He’s surprise.

“Of course, there is.” Yang He forced a smile. “Junior Brother Duan, you must know this... Although I’ve broken through to the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage half a year ago, until now, I’m still no match for the weakest person staying in the individual compound.”

The accommodation where the Moon Illumination Sect outer court disciples lived were assigned based on their personal ability.

One could replace another as long as their ability was more powerful.

The rule was exactly the same back at the Latent Dragon Camp in the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City. Those with a powerful ability would have better accommodation while the weaker ones would live in a dreary environment.

“Are the individual compounds limited?” Duan Ling Tian asked. He could not believe that Yang He who had gotten into the Moon Illumination Sect five years ago and was on a cultivation base of Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage had yet to move into the individual compound.

“It’s not exactly limited — there are a total of a hundred of them,” Yang He explained.

“A hundred? That many?” Duan Ling Tian exclaimed in surprise, “You mean you can’t get any although there are so many individual compounds?”

“A hundred isn’t that many,” Yang He replied, forcing a smile, “The sect recruits outer court disciples every five years and they recruit more than a hundred of them each time. It’d be considered great if half of those outer court disciples pass the inner court assessment and become inner court disciples.

“Among those outer court disciples, many of them are stuck on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage for ten years, 15 years or even 20 for a variety of reasons... Since they’re unable to break through to the Saint Rudiment Stage and can’t pass the inner court assessment, they’ve remained in the outer court until now.”

“Some of the older outer court Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters are close to 100 years old,” Yang He sighed.

“Close to 100 years old?” Duan Ling Tian was astounded by what Yang He revealed.

“Yes,” Yang He affirmed, “There’s a rule in the sect. If one hasn’t entered the inner court before they turn 100, they’ll be expelled from the sect. Naturally, many outer sect disciples realize they have no hope of getting into the inner court, so they leave the sect on their own.”

“Even so, there are still many elderly outer court disciples who decide to stay.”

Chapter 1430: Ceng Zhi

The journey of Martial Dao was like a boat sailing against the currents. You either kept forging ahead or you would fall behind.

Breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage was just a matter of time for many Martial Cultivators and Dao Cultivators who had great talent and comprehension ability.

Meanwhile, for cultivators who had mediocre talent and low comprehension ability, they might never break through to the Saint Rudiment Stage for the rest of their lives.

“In the outer court disciples’ accommodation area, there has always been 100 compounds and 300 stone houses. However, the amount of cottages isn’t fixed.” Yang He gave Duan Ling Tian a rough idea about the living situation of the Moon Illumination Sect outer court disciples.

According to Yang He, the Moon Illumination Sect outer court disciples who were living in the compounds were the best of the best among the people on the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage.

Meanwhile, almost half of those who were living in the 300 stone houses were outer court disciples on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage. Apart from that, there were some outer court disciples at the peak level of the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage who had celebrated abilities among them.

Following Yang He, Duan Ling Tian soon arrived near where the outer court disciples lived. They were looking out at a vast training field.

The accommodation which had a distinct difference was behind the training field.

The cottages were the closest to the training field and the gaps between them were minimal.

There were both new and old cottages among them, the latter seeming like they would collapse anytime.

“The outer court disciples who are staying in the cottages are those who have poorer abilities, but the weakest among them is on the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage,” Yang He said, “In the cottage area, it makes sense that those closest to the training field are noisier. The stone house area is behind the cottage area. Although it’s better, they can still hear the commotion from the training field.

“The compound area behind the stone house area is the quietest where the residents almost can’t hear anything that’s happening at the training field,” Yang He explained everything in one breath.

Duan Ling Tian looked ahead when he heard that and saw rows of stone houses behind the rows of cottages.

Meanwhile, there were compounds far away behind the stone houses, and there were exquisite little houses in each of them. Plants grew all over the compounds which were refreshing.

“Those compounds!” At that very second, Duan Ling Tian’s desire for the compound was even stronger. He was determined to stay in one of those compounds.

There were many outer court disciples cultivating Saint Grade Martial Tactics on the vast training field. However, they were only touching base when they sparred with each other.

The rules in the Moon Illumination Sect were strict since it was a seventh-rate force; killing and crippling were prohibited in the sect. Naturally, crippling referred to injuries that could not be recovered with the consumption of Healing Medicinal Pills.

Although Duan Ling Tian was lucky that he had obtained an Immortal Spirit Herb before which could regenerate a severed arm and leg, it was a legendary medicinal herb after all. It was scarce even in Dao Martial Saint Land.

Even a Nine Star Healing Saint Grade Pill which was the highest grade that existed could not regenerate a severed limb.

“Hahahaha.... This must be our Junior Brother who’s just passed the entry assessment, am I right? Yang He, why don’t you introduce him?” A voice rang out, snapping Duan Ling Tian back from his thoughts.

Duan Ling Tian turned to the source of the voice and saw three people coming towards him in an instant.

A middle-aged man was the leader among the three. Two middle-aged men followed behind him and were clearly his underlings.

It was the leading middle-aged man who had been laughing maniacally earlier.

‘Damn it! We’ve been targeted!’ Yang He had a slight change of expression but he regained his composure very soon. He glanced between the middle-aged man who arrived before him and Duan Ling Tian prior to greeting him rather respectfully, “Senior Brother Ceng Zhi.”

“Duan Ling Tian, this is Senior Brother Ceng Zhi. Senior Brother Ceng Zhi ranks No. 85 among our outer court disciples,” Yang He introduced to Duan Ling Tian after greeting the middle-aged man.

After the introduction, he secretly said to Duan Ling Tian through True Energy Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, Ceng Zhi’s an outer court disciple who is staying in the compound. His cultivation base is close to the peak level of the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage! He became the sect’s outer court disciple 20 years ago, so he’s considered an old-timer in the sect’s outer court.

“He’s always blackmailing outer court disciples below the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage for Saint Stones. He’ll definitely ask for Saint Stones from you later. Pretend to be poor and just give him some to get rid of him. He’ll come for you again in the future if you give him too much.” There was fear in Yang He’s voice. He was apparently afraid of Ceng Zhi.

Duan Ling Tian took a glance at Ceng Zhi and greeted him coldly, “Senior Brother Ceng Zhi.”

Ceng Zhi took a hard look at Duan Ling Tian for a while and said maliciously, “Is your name Duan Ling Tian? What an obnoxious name! Judging by your name, I’m sure you come from a rich family. You should have many Saint Stones with you. You’re new to the sect, so you must know what to do to respect Senior Brothers like us. Understand?”

Duan Ling Tian was shocked to learn that someone could actually sugar-coat blackmail in such a way.

“Understand what?” Duan Ling Tian asked coldly as if he really did not understand.

“Duan Ling Tian!” Yang He did not expect him to not only ignore what he said but to also play dumb now. He could not help but stare incredulously at the moment while there was a concern in his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian might have impressive talent, but he was only on the Mastery Mortal Shedding Stage after all. Even though he had defeated an ordinary Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage, it was impossible for him to fight an outer court disciple who was close to the peak level of the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage like Ceng Zhi.

To him, Duan Ling Tian would lose big time!

“Playing dumb?” As expected, Ceng Zhi’s face turned completely solemn hearing Duan Ling Tian. He said in his deep voice, “Brat, I’ve met many rude hotheads like you throughout the 20 years that I’m here. Do you know what happened to them?”

“Let me tell you! Those who got it least severe were bedridden for exactly a month,” There was a dangerous glare shooting out of Ceng Zhi’s eyes as he spoke while a terrifying aura rose from his body. It swept out and pressed on Duan Ling Tian like a tornado.

However, Duan Ling Tian remained still.

“Why are you telling me all these? Are you trying to tell me that you haven’t become an inner court disciple despite being in the sect for 20 years?” Duan Ling Tian asked while grinning with his eyes narrowed.

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian’s retort was like a striking lightning bolt, shocking Yang He and the two outer court disciples behind Ceng Zhi.

Even Ceng Zhi was dumbstruck now.

He had yet to break through to the Saint Rudiment Stage and become an inner court disciple after being in the sect for 20 years. Undoubtedly, it was the biggest pain in Ceng Zhi’s heart and was the biggest scar that he bore.

Never had he thought that someone would dare to reveal his scar that very day.

Apart from that, the person who revealed his scar was a hothead who had just gotten into the sect!

“Brat! I, Ceng Zhi, swear that I’m not human if I don’t make you bedridden for three months!” Ceng Zhi responded with a solemn face before Yang He and the two outer court disciples managed to react. He was almost screaming as he spoke.

His rumbling voice echoed above the training field like an explosion, causing the bunch of outer court disciples on the training field to stop what they were doing and look over.

“It’s Senior Brother Ceng Zhi!”

“Tsk tsk! Hearing Senior Brother Ceng Zhi’s tone, someone must’ve triggered him.”

“In the outer court, nobody dares to trigger Senior Brother Ceng apart from the Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters who he shouldn’t offend... This fella who has triggered him must’ve just entered the sect today.”

“Haha! Seems like this hothead’s in bad luck. Let’s go! Let’s see what’s happening.”

...

The Moon Illumination Sect outer disciples surrounded Duan Ling Tian one after another.

“Did I say anything wrong?” Duan Ling Tian said while smirking facing the enraged Ceng Zhi. He did not seem to notice that Ceng Zhi was losing his mind.

“The both of you, watch Yang He... If Yang He dares to help, I’ll make him bedridden for ten days to half a month! I’ll teach this brat a lesson!” Ceng Zhi instructed the two outer court disciples behind him. He then glared at Duan Ling Tian ferociously, the raging fire in his body seeming like it would explode anytime.

“Senior Brother Ceng, Duan Ling Tian didn’t mean to offend you. Please forgive him!” Yang He had a drastic change of expression.

It was he who had brought Duan Ling Tian in. If something happened to Duan Ling Tian, although he would not be punished, he would not be able to forgive himself.

“Yang He, are you still thinking of others when you can hardly protect yourself now?”

“That’s right! Don’t blame me for the things that I’m going to do to you if you dare to move!” The two outer court disciples behind Ceng Zhi stepped forward and blocked Yang He’s left and right as they warned while grinning.

Yang He’s face turned gravely solemn.

‘Duan Ling Tian, things would’ve been great if you hadn’t reject Elder Dong Chong earlier and become his direct disciple. At least, Ceng Zhi won’t dare to do anything to you under my watch if you became Elder Dong Chong’s direct disciple,’ Yang He’s heart was filled with bitterness. There was nothing that he could do to help Duan Ling Tian’s current situation.

The only thing he could do was hope that Ceng Zhi would show mercy. However, he knew that was impossible.

What Duan Ling Tian said earlier was a taboo to Ceng Zhi, infuriating him completely.

It was his first time seeing Ceng Zhi this furious ever since he got into the Moon Illumination Sect five years ago.

At that moment, the bunch of outer court disciples on the training field inched closer. They were watching Duan Ling Tian and Ceng Zhi who were looking at each other as if they were waiting for a good show to start.

“Tsk tsk! This kid’s so daring. He offended Senior Brother Ceng Zhi right after he got into the sect.”

“Out of close to 1,000 outer court disciples, Senior Brother Ceng Zhi ranks No. 85. This kid who just got in is asking for death when he offended Senior Brother Ceng Zhi!”

“He’ll know that his blood is red in color very soon.”

...

Eyes filled with mockery landed on Duan Ling Tian one after another. It was clear that the bunch of outer court disciples who were watching did not think that he could escape Ceng Zhi.

“It seems like you’ve earned yourself some prestige staying in the outer court for 20 years. At least, all of them think you’re going to crush me,” Duan Ling Tian smiled calmly and said while looking at Ceng Zhi.

“You’re asking for death!” Ceng Zhi growled furiously, realizing that his foe had the guts to bring that up again. He dashed at Duan Ling Tian as if his body turned into a bolt of lightning.