

## Chapter 1501: Propitiation

This abrupt message from the guard struck Ouyang Ba, Ouyang Ji, and Ouyang Ruo dumb until they were rooted to the ground.

The Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters?

They had taken Ouyang Qing as a captive?

"Brother, what have you done actually? Why did you pick a fight with the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters?" Ouyang Ruo's heart gave a quiver and at the same time, she sneaked a glance at Ouyang Ba. However, she realized that her father had also been taken by surprise and was not able to return to his senses for a long time.

Gasping to himself, Ouyang Ji asked the guard in front in a deep voice, "Are you sure that he's from the Nine Sect Alliances?"

"He said so himself," answered the guard.

Upon hearing that, Ouyang Ji knew that this must be indeed true. Nobody would dare to impersonate as a Nine Sect Alliances' personnel in the area within the Nine Sect Alliances' district, let alone go to their Ouyang Clan under impersonation.

"Clan Leader..." Taking a deep breath, Ouyang Ji looked at Ouyang Ba, completely understanding his feelings now.

"Swine! Swine!" Finally, Ouyang Ba returned to his senses. At once, his face turned horribly grave.

It had never crossed his mind that his son had first offended a handsome, talented, young man who might have come from a seventh-rated force and now he had actually pick trouble with the Nine Sect Alliances. The Nine Sect Alliances was the alliance formed by nine great seventh-rated forces.

Besides, almost all of their Ouyang Clan's industrial properties in Han River City were actually affiliated under the Nine Sect Alliances.

With just one order from the Nine Sect Alliances, their Ouyang Clan would instantly have their name wiped out from Han River City.

Without any hesitation or even telling anything to the rest of the people, Ouyang Ba's body flashed and disappeared on the spot. He headed straight to the Nine Sect Alliances.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian had also been thrown to the back of his mind now. To him, the matter regarding the Nine Sect Alliances was the most critical issue now.

"This time, I'm sure that the Great Young Master wouldn't have a good time anymore even if he comes back," Ouyang Ji sighed.

Upon hearing that, hint of worries could also be seen in Ouyang Ruo's eyes. She was worried about her brother Ouyang Qing.

On the way to the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters, Ouyang Ba replayed many possible scenes that could take place after he arrived there in his mind. He had already prepared to help clean up the mess of his useless son.

However, when he found out about the trouble that his son had made, he almost fainted on the spot.

"Elder Hui, is there any misunderstanding? I know my rebellious son very well. Even if he has 100 balls, it's still very unlikely for him to have any bad intention towards that talented disciple of your sect." After Dong Hui learned about the disaster that his son had caused, Ouyang Ba refused to believe it right away.

Although his son was arrogant and foppish, he was not a brainless idiot.

He was certain about that.

"What? Do you think that I'm slandering your son now, Clan Leader Ouyang?" Dong Hui asked indifferently.

"No, I don't dare to!" Although Ouyang Ba actually had this thought in his mind, he dared not voice it out loud at all. "I just feel that this is kinda impossible. Even though my unfilial son is unruly, he'll definitely not dare to pick any fight with that talented disciple, Duan Ling Tian, from your sect."

"Clan Leader Ouyang, it looks like you've underestimated your son." After taking a good look at Ouyang Ba, Dong Hui turned towards the inner chamber right away. "Junior Brother Duan, bring him out so that we can have a direct confrontation and let the Clan Leader of the Ouyang Clan know that it's beneath our Moon Illumination Sect to slander their Ouyang Clan."

When Dong Hui opened his mouth, Ouyang Ba also turned to look at the inner chamber.

When he saw the figure walking out of the inner chamber, he was immediately dumbfounded. "L-Little Brother Duan?"

He knew this purple-clad young man in front. They had just met yesterday and he had just planned to go to his inn that morning to apologize to him.

However, because his son had offended the Nine Sect Alliances, he could only come and clean his son's mess up now first.

When he heard that his son had actually tried to kill Duan Ling Tian from the Moon Illumination Sect, he was scared out of his wits. At that instant, his heart almost leaped out of his chest.

Of course, the name Duan Ling Tian was not unfamiliar to him.

He was a remarkable outer court disciple from the Moon Illumination Sect and was ranked as the 66th powerhouse on the Earth Rankings. Besides, he had also been taken in as a Junior Brother by the Moon Illumination Sect Elder, Bai Li Hong.

Bai Li Hong was a renowned person in the Nine Sect Alliances' districts. He was one of the only two Three-Star Saint Inscription Masters in the area. His position was so special that even the Moon Illumination Sect Leader had to treat him politely too.

This was a person whom he needed to look up to.

Even if he came across this person's Junior Brother, he would have to bow in front of him too.

Yet, his son actually wanted to kill him?

He dared not believe this at all.

"Hmph! With the identity that my Junior Brother Duan possesses, do you think you're even worthy of calling him 'brother'?" Dong Hui snorted coldly.

At once, Ouyang Ba instantly corrected himself. When he looked at Duan Ling Tian again, respect was seen in his eyes right away. "I'm Ouyang Ba, the Ouyang Clan Leader of Han River City. Good morning to you, Young Master Duan! I didn't know about your identity yesterday. Sorry for my slacking off. Please forgive me, Young Master Duan."

Right at that moment, Ouyang Ba's heart was filled with tempestuous waves.

It had never crossed his mind that the handsome, talented, young man, whom he suspected was from a seventh-rated force that rescued his daughter from the Jiuqi Mountain Range, would turn out to be actually Duan Ling Tian from the Moon Illumination Sect. He was the person whose name had spread out to the entire Nine Sect Alliances' district these past few months.

At that moment, in his heart, he was already scolding her daughter for being an idiot!

Had it not been for her offending Duan Ling Tian in the Jiuqu Mountain Range, their Ouyang Clan might have been able to hitch a ride on his fame.

With Duan Ling Tian's innate talent, along with Bai Li Hong's support behind him, it was not impossible for him to become the Moon Illumination Sect Leader in the future.

Duan Ling Tian casually threw Ouyang Qing to the ground by the side as though he was just throwing trash. Looking at Ouyang Ba, he remarked in a calm tone, "Clan Leader Ouyang, I can see that you look quite well together. It looks like you had quite a good night's sleep yesterday."

Right now, besides speaking in a calm tone, his face was equally calm as well with no signs of anger at all.

Just as Ouyang Qing was being carried out by Duan Ling Tian and saw Ouyang Ba, he instantly sent a True Energy Voice Transmission to Ouyang Ba to save him. "Father! Save me! Save me! I don't want to die! I don't want to die! Father, I'm your only son, so you can't give up on me!"

However, in the face of his cries, Ouyang Ba merely glared at him nastily and did not bother about him.

From the very beginning, Ouyang Ba's attention had been fixated on Duan Ling Tian because he knew that Duan Ling Tian was the key person in this matter. As long as he managed to calm his rage down, there might be a possibility of solving this matter.

At this point, he already believed that his son wanted to kill Duan Ling Tian.

Of course, he also knew that his son had only done this because he had no clue about Duan Ling Tian's identity.

After all, before this, they only knew that this purple-clad young man in front had the surname "Duan". They had no idea that he was that Duan Ling Tian whose fame had spread out to the Nine Sect Alliances' district recently.

He believed that if Duan Ling Tian had told them his name that day, his son would have never gone against him.

At this moment, he could not help but feel that his heart was filled with resentment against Duan Ling Tian.

Was this not like dressing up as a pig to catch a tiger?

Of course, although he resented him in his heart, he did not dare to say it out loud at all.

When Ouyang Ba heard how Duan Ling Tian remarked that he had slept well last night, he responded unconsciously, "Not bad."

"Clan Leader Ouyang, you had a good night's sleep, but I couldn't sleep at all the entire night... All of these was thanks to your Great Young Master and Second Elder of the Ouyang Clan," said Duan Ling Tian, glancing indifferently at Ouyang Ba.

"Second Elder?" When Ouyang Ba heard him, his face turned grave right away before he instantly glared at Ouyang Qing. "You unfilial son! How dare you actually pull Second Elder into this matter?"

Right now, Ouyang Ba finally realized that this matter had been more complicated than he had imagined.

If it were just his son, he would not have been able to kill Duan Ling Tian with his strength but now that Ouyang Shan, the Second Elder of their Ouyang Clan was involved in this matter, he finally realized just how serious this matter was.

"Father, I merely told Ouyang Shan about Duan Lin... I mean, Young Master Duan's matter. Who knows he would actually be interested in the Saint Weapon that's inscribed with Three-Star Saint Inscriptions in Young Master Duan's hand and wanted to kill him?" Right now, when Ouyang Qing mentioned Duan Ling Tian, he was smart enough to change his title of address.

As for his Grandpa Shan, he was now called by his name directly instead.

"Thank goodness that blessed are all the good men as Young Master Duan had a Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman with him. Otherwise, he would've been dead in Ouyang Shan's hands," Ouyang Qing told Ouyang Ba. As he was explaining, anger was apparent on his face, as though he was really worried about Duan Ling Tian.

Of course, Ouyang Ba knew his own son well.

He would never believe Ouyang Qing's words because the Second Elder of their Ouyang Clan was a person who would never do such a risky thing.

Even though Duan Ling Tian had not told them about his identity before this, they were already almost certain that he was from a seventh-rated force.

As it turned out, their speculation was correct. Duan Ling Tian was indeed from a seventh-rated force. Not only that but the seventh-rated force that he was in held an unordinary position!

Of course, under such circumstances, Ouyang Ba would never refute Ouyang Qing's words since Ouyang Qing was still his son no matter what.

No matter how much of a brute his son was, he was still unwilling to watch him die.

"Where's the Second Elder now?" Ouyang Ba asked Ouyang Qing using his True Energy voice Transmission. In his opinion, even if he faced the force of a Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman, Ouyang Shan, their Second Elder of the Ouyang Clan, should still be able to survive even though he could not fight it.

"Father, Grandpa Shan has died. He died under Duan Ling Tian's Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman! At that critical moment, Grandpa Shan didn't seem to think that the Dao Talisman that Duan Ling Tian threw out would turn out to be a Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman," Ouyang Qing replied in his True Energy Voice Transmission, almost in tears.

"Wait a minute! Why would Duan Ling Tian have a Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman? Even in the Nine Sect Alliances' district, only the Profound Talisman Sect and the Mountainshade Black Market have the Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman... On top of that, they usually won't give their Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman to outsiders." At this moment, Ouyang Ba had returned to his senses and started to realize this.

Not only Ouyang Ba, but even Dong Hui was also stunned as well. "T-Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman? Could Senior Brother Bai Li Hong have given it to Junior Brother Duan?"

## **Chapter 1502: Nether Ridge**

One could not blame Dong Hui for thinking like that.

In the Moon Illumination Sect, even those few Saint Stage powerhouses, including the Sect Leader, might not have been able to take out a Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman either.

However, Bai Li Hong who was a Three-Star Saint Inscription Master might have some ways to obtain the Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman.

"Young Master Duan, it's indeed our Ouyang Clan who is in the wrong in this matter. Even I as a Clan Leader would never expect that Ouyang Shan would turn out to be this undaunted and ruthless. I never thought that he would be daring enough to have covetous thought towards you to the point that he'd actually lay a murderous hand on you." Looking at Duan Ling Tian, Ouyang Ba told him apologetically

and when he reached the end of his sentence, he put on a relief facade right away. "It's a great thing that always blessed are the good men. Ouyang Shan has also been executed successfully and this is a happy ending to all."

"Happy ending to all?" Duan Ling Tian smirked coldly and stared at Ouyang Ba deeply with interest, causing him to feel slightly guilty right away.

"However, no matter what, Ouyang Shan was still our Second Elder of the Ouyang Clan, so although he's already dead, our Ouyang Clan will still have to take up the responsibility for this matter. Even though our clan can't take out any Three-Star offensive Dao Talisman, we're still willing to offer other things as compensation. Besides, we're also willing to offer more to help you get over the shock, Young Master Duan." As the current Clan leader of the Ouyang Clan, there was no doubt that Ouyang Ba was also a smart person as well. The moment he saw how his son was still breathing and intact, he could already faintly guess Duan Ling Tian and Dong Hui's intentions.

There was no doubt that they wanted to seize this chance to extort money from their Ouyang Clan so that they would need to sacrifice something.

Therefore, before Duan Ling Tian could open his mouth, he had already taken the initiative to offer this option sensibly.

As for the matter regarding Ouyang Qing, he did not say anything further because he knew that there was no need anymore.

"Clan Leader Ouyang is indeed a straightforward person! Since you're this candid, of course, it wouldn't be nice for me to keep nitpicking on this matter. You can just bring Ouyang Qing back with you right away. However, I hope that you'll show more of your sincerity in some matters. Otherwise, this matter might not have ended yet." Even though Duan Ling Tian was taken aback by Ouyang Ba's sensibility, he did not have the intention to keep nitpicking on this matter since his plan had already been accomplished.

However, he still planned to extort from Ouyang Ba a little more. From his words, there was no doubt that he was warning him not to take out some random things just to brush this off.

"Of course, of course!" Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Ouyang Ba was so frightened that cold sweat broke out all over his body. Just now, he had indeed planned to offer some random, inexpensive things to brush the man off.

However, right now, that did not seem possible anymore.

He could not take the risk to offend Duan Ling Tian, and neither could the entire Ouyang Clan behind him.

"In three days, I'll pay you a visit at your place with Senior Brother Hui. By that time, I hope that you've already prepared your sincerity well, Clan Leader Ouyang. I am personally interested in those items that are so unusual that not everybody can identify them," Duan Ling Tian took a long, meaningful look at Ouyang Ba and added.

His last sentence, on the other hand, was implied for the sake of his Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Perhaps, among those unnamable materials in the Ouyang Clan's collections, there might be some materials that were needed to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Right now, although the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda had been repaired up to the third level, Duan Ling Tian was still not satisfied yet.

The Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda had a total of seven levels, so even though three levels had already been repaired, it was still barely half of the entire pagoda.

"Young Master Duan, don't worry! I'll make sure that you're satisfied!" Even though his heart was bleeding, Ouyang Ba still forced a smile to respond to Duan Ling Tian. Then, after bidding goodbye to Duan Ling Tian and Dong Hui, he brought Ouyang Qing back with him.

When they left, Ouyang Qing, who had managed to survive this disaster, had joy in his eyes. Trailing obediently behind Ouyang Ba, he did not dare to utter a word at all.

No matter what, it was him alone who had caused this trouble, so he was feeling terribly guilty.

After leaving the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters, seeing how Ouyang Ba did not utter a word, Ouyang Qing felt uneasy. "Father, just scold me if you want."

"I want to know the truth." Ouyang Ba finally opened his mouth, but he did not have the intention to scold Ouyang Qing. His tone was horrifyingly calm.

Upon hearing this, Ouyang Qing did not dare to hide the truth anymore. Narrating in detail, he told the ins and outs of the story.

When he mentioned the part where Ouyang Shan was killed, he noticed that his father's body quivered a little, so he quickly added on, "It's I who caused Grandpa Shan to be killed! It's all my fault! Everything is my fault!"

"The fact that you know that it's all your fault means that you haven't reached the hopeless stage yet. Now that Second Elder has been killed because of you, don't talk about yourself; even I feel guilty towards him too!" Ouyang Ba remarked indifferently.

"Yes, I feel guilty towards Grandpa Shan!" Ouyang Qing quickly nodded his head and dared not refute at all.

"This time, after we go back, I plan to send you to the Nether Ridge." As a glimpse of brilliance flashed across Ouyang Ba's eyes, the tiny ounce of remaining doubt in his eyes disappeared without a trace as it was replaced by determination.

"The Nether Ridge?" When Ouyang Qing heard Ouyang Ba's words, he suddenly turned horrified. Almost howling, he yelled out, "No! Father! I won't go to the Nether Ridge! Father, you can't do this! I'm your only son!"

When Ouyang Ba heard his pleading, his face turned cold right away.

His only son?

Well, it might have still been true the last time, but just some months ago, the concubine that he had outside had given birth to an illegitimate son.

In the entire Ouyang Clan, only he and his trusted followers knew about this.

The reason he did not announce it was that he was worried that Ouyang Qing would inflict harm on his other son. Besides, due to Ouyang Qing's existence, the entire Ouyang Clan would also discriminate against his illegitimate son.

After that illegitimate son of his was born, he did not have the intention to bring him to the Ouyang Clan although he was very ecstatic about it.

He had made up his mind to pass on the Ouyang Clan to Ouyang Qing.

However, Ouyang Qing had really let him down this time, causing him to make up his mind to send him to the Nether Ridge. If Ouyang Qing never came back after he left, this would only mean that he had an unlucky life.

By that time, he would bring his illegitimate son back to the Ouyang Clan and train him as his next successor.

"Father, I'll die! Since the ancient times, none of our Ouyang Clan members who went into the Nether Ridge managed to come out alive!" Ouyang Qing continued to roar as though he was unwilling to go to the Nether Ridge no matter what.

"You're wrong. There was somebody who walked out of that Nether Ridge alive before from our Ouyang Clan," Ouyang Ba replied nonchalantly.

"But that was ten thousand years ago! Besides, he's the only special case in our Ouyang Clan! In the past ten thousand years or so, there've been 10,000 people, if not 8,000, from our Ouyang Clan who went to the Nether Ridge but none of them have emerged alive before!" Ouyang Qing's face was completely terrified. The moment his words left his mouth, he swept a vigilant glance at Ouyang Ba and in a flash, he tried to flee.

However, how could he possibly be able to flee under Ouyang Ba's nose?

Very easily, Ouyang Ba blocked Ouyang Qing. "I've already made my mind up regarding this. You don't have to be so pessimistic about this anyway. That senior of our Ouyang Clan who came out of the Nether Ridge several ten thousand years ago was a lineal disciple from our Yang Clan just like you too. Hence, you actually still stand a high chance. After all, the Nether Ridge is said to be closely related to our first Clan Leader. Perhaps, he'll take care of a lineal disciple like you more," Ouyang Ba added.

"Besides, if you manage to come out alive within a given time, you'll be able to surpass the Moon Illumination Sect and even the Nine Sect Alliances, let alone Duan Ling Tian! When that senior of our Ouyang Clan that time was at his prime stage, even a six-rated force's Saint Stage powerhouse was no match for him at all. If it were not for the fact that he offended a powerful person from a fifth-rated force, he wouldn't have died just like that. On top of that, our Ouyang Clan wouldn't have reached such



a stage of being finished for good!” Ouyang Ba was filled with excitement and emotions at first, but when he reached the end of his sentence, he could not help but sigh out loud.

“Qing’er, I really think that you stand a great chance to become the second lineal disciple of our Ouyang Clan who can walk out of the Nether Ridge,” Ouyang Ba told Ouyang Qing.

“Father, don’t think that I don’t know that most of the Ouyang Clan disciples who’ve entered the Nether Ridge were all lineal disciples... But look what happened to them! Not even three months after they’ve entered, their Soul Pearls already completely shattered,” Ouyang Qing responded with an aghast look. His body continued to struggle, trying to break free from Ouyang Ba’s restraints.

In the end, Ouyang Ba could only hit him so that he would pass out.

“Don’t blame me, please, Qing’er. It’s all because the trouble that you’ve caused this time is just too huge! Not only will I not believe the words that you said in the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters, but even those elders from the clan won’t believe it at all! I must give them some explanation about this!” When Ouyang Ba muttered till the end, he lamented.

Even though he could just let Ouyang Qing go free, he had no doubt that the moment he left, the clan elders would definitely join forces and dismiss him from his position.

There was a rule in the Ouyang Clan that stated that if the Clan Leader had made a grave mistake, his bloodline would be robbed of the special privileges of having the priority to be his successor.

There were many powerful elders who were also lineal disciples just like him in the Ouyang Clan who were not from the same bloodline and were waiting for him to make a mistake. That way, they would be able to dismiss him from his position and let their own bloodlines to have the priority to succeed the Clan Leader’s position.

In order to protect these special privileges of his bloodline, Ouyang Ba had to harden his heart and make such a decision.

Such a decision would render those elders speechless and give his son, Ouyang Qing, hope. Although the hope was very tiny — to the point that he also felt that Ouyang Qing would most likely be unable to survive — it was at least better than dying right away in the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters.

“The Nether Ridge...” The moment Ouyang Ba recalled the dangerous ground that their Ouyang Clan had left behind since the beginning of time, his heart could not help but tremble for a moment.

It was rumored that the Nether Ridge was related to the ancestors of their Ouyang Clan.

All along, there was a legend passed on in the Ouyang Clan which stated that whichever Ouyang Clan disciple who could walk out of the Nether Ridge would definitely become a top-rated powerhouse.

At first, due to the reason that no Ouyang Clan disciple had made it out alive from that place before, people no longer believed that legend anymore.

It was only until ten thousand years ago when an Ouyang Clan lineal disciple walked out of that place and delivered extraordinary powerful strength that he managed to prove that the legend was not just a groundless rumor.

## Chapter 1503: Challenger

Duan Ling Tian only had two intentions of being at Han River City.

Firstly, he wanted to buy an Inscription pen.

Second, to find the materials he needed to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

He had already purchased an Inscription Pen, so all he needed to do now was to look for the materials needed to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

When he just arrived at Han River City, he was all alone, but now that he had come to the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters and more specifically, to the Moon Illumination Sect's operation point, he managed to receive help from Dong Hui.

With the help of Dong Hui, he managed to get his hands on many materials that were needed to fix the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Of course, there were not many high-grade materials among them.

The Ouyang Clan, on the other hand, brought him an unexpected surprise. With Elder Huo's reminder, the materials to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda that he had obtained from the Ouyang Clan were even more and better than what he obtained from Han River City.

"Thank you, Clan Leader Ouyang." Before Duan Ling Tian left the Ouyang Clan, he smiled and thanked Ouyang Ba.

Although Ouyang Ba's heart was bleeding and he hated Duan Ling Tian to his core, he did not reveal this at all. He did not dare show it at all too. All he could do was reply, "As long as you don't dislike them."

"I don't dislike them. Of course, I won't dislike them!" Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "If I have another chance next time, I'll come to the Ouyang Clan to pay a visit to you again, Clan Leader Ouyang."

Duan Ling Tian's words gave Ouyang a fright of his life.

Again?

In just this one time alone, the group of Ouyang Clan's elders had already formed an impressionable opinion of him. If he came again, those old men would most likely rip his skin off his bones straightaway.

However, the moment he recalled how he had already sent his trouble-making son away, Ouyang Ba breathed a sigh of relief again.

"Clan Leader Ouyang, I'll take my leave first." When Duan Ling Tian saw Ouyang's forced smile on his face, he was swept by a wave of joy right away. After bidding goodbye nonchalantly, he proceeded to leave the Ouyang Clan with Dong Hui.

Ouyang Ba, the Ouyang Clan Leader, also sent the two of them off at the great entrance personally.

Ouyang Ji, the steward of the Ouyang Clan, and Ouyang Ruo, the Second Young Miss of the Ouyang Clan, had also accompanied him to send Duan Ling Tian and Dong Hui off.

“He’s actually Duan Ling Tian... How could he be Duan Ling Tian!?” Even after a few days had gone by, Ouyang Ruo still did not believe that the person who had rescued her at the JiuQu Mountain Range that time would turn out to be Duan Ling Tian, the Moon Illumination Sect disciple whose name had spread throughout the Nine Sect Alliances’ district these few months.

However, the moment she recalled how his brother had been sent to the Nether Ridge due to Duan Ling Tian’s sake, Ouyang Ruo’s face turned frigid right away. Her eyes were filled with icy hatred. “Duan Ling Tian! It’s all because of you! If it wasn’t for you, my brother would’ve never been sent to the Nether Ridge at all!”

All of the people who entered the Nether Ridge only had a narrow chance to escape it.

Ouyang Ruo also felt that Ouyang Qing would not be able to walk out of that place alive.

She really itched to take revenge for her brother, but the moment she recalled Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent, strength, and background, a wave of helplessness washed over her heart. She could not think of taking revenge at all and she could only bury the hatred deep in her heart.

After leaving the Ouyang Clan on the way home, Dong Hui heard Duan Ling Tian mention that he would go back to the Moon Illumination Sect in a few days and right away, he persuaded him to stay. “Junior Brother Duan, since you don’t come to Han River City often, why don’t you stay here a little longer? It’s just for a few days. I haven’t gotten the chance to perform the duty of hosting as a Senior Brother. If Senior Brother Bai Li Hong finds out that I didn’t treat you well, he’ll definitely be unhappy,” Dong Hui told Duan Ling Tian.

“Senior Brother Duan, it’s not like I’m going to leave immediately. Besides, I still have some things that I really need to do after going back to the sect these few days. I really can’t stay for too long here in Han River City.” Duan Ling Tian smiled. “When your shift is already over and you’re finally back in the sect, let’s have a fun gathering together.”

“Since you’re so persistent about this, I won’t be persuading you anymore then, Junior Brother. However, you must let me take care of your schedule for the next few days. Let me perform my duty as your host in these few days,” Dong Hui replied.

“Sure. I’ll just go along with you, Senior Brother Hui,” Duan Ling Tian agreed to it right away. He was also grateful to Dong Hui these few days. Otherwise, he would have never been able to obtain so many materials.

When they had just returned to the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point in the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters, Duan Ling Tian already heard Dong Hui calling for him before he even got enough rest.

“Senior Brother Hui, what’s up with finding me so anxiously?” He had just split ways with Dong Hui, but it had never crossed his mind that Dong Hui would come to find him this fast the moment they separated.

“Junior Brother Duan, I originally shouldn’t disturb your rest, but according to the law of the Nine Sect Alliances’ Earth Rankings, I have no other choice.” Dong Hui smiled wryly.

“Earth Rankings? Could somebody be here to challenge me?” Duan Ling Tian lifted his brows and asked. He could not think of any other plausible reason other than this.

“That’s right,” Dong Hui confirmed. “I’ve also heard that this man has been here since early morning, but it just so happened that we went out to the Ouyang Clan just now. Now that the man has heard that you’re back, he’s already been waiting outside our Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point. Right now, many people from the other eight great sects are waiting for you to accept their challenges too. I think they more or less want to have a taste of battling you. Plus, the talented, handsome, young man is well-known in the Nine Sect Alliances’ district,” Dong Hui added.

“Since he’s already here, I’ll go meet him then!” Duan Ling Tian agreed before leaving the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point with Dong Hui and went outside.

When they reached outside of the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point, Duan Ling Tian was taken aback by surprise when they saw the crowds of dark mass in the surroundings.

Outside the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point, the crowds of dark mass made a shape of the moon as they surrounded an empty space.

In this empty space stood an ordinary middle-aged man whose face was covered in stubbles, looking extremely unkempt.

However, his eyes were brimming with radiating vigor, giving off an invincible spirit.

Duan Ling Tian was very clear that this person was the one who wanted to challenge him. However, he did not take this person to heart.

Even if he had yet to make a breakthrough, he would not fear any challenge from any Mortal Shedding Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator at all, especially since he had made a breakthrough to the Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage now.

“It’s Elder Hui from the Moon Illumination Sect!” Just as Duan Ling Tian and Dong Hui came out together, many people recognized Dong Hui right away.

“The one coming out with Dong Hui must be Duan Ling Tian, isn’t it?”

“That’s right! It’s him! When I was on duty a few days ago, I personally witnessed him coming to our Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters.”

“I thought that he would purposely dodge the challenge from this Earth Rankings powerhouse, but it has never crossed my mind that he would accept it straight away... Looks like he’s pretty confident about his own strength.”

...

When the other eight great sects buried their heads in discussions, their attention shifted towards Duan Ling Tian.

All of these people were inner court disciples from each great sect. All of them were on at least the Saint Rudiment Stage.

If it were just an ordinary person seeing so many powerhouses on the Saint Rudiment Stage and above studying him right now, he would become more or less anxious.

However, despite facing the attention of these people, Duan Ling Tian's face remained calm and from the beginning, he appeared to be unruffled by this at all. He was calm and without worldly passion like a monk.

When Liu Hai heard the other eight great sects, he snorted coldly and remarked disdainfully, "Hmph! He's only a person ranked 71th on the Earth Rankings... Our Junior Brother Duan could even defeat someone ranked 66th on the Earth Rankings, so how could he possibly fear someone who's ranked lower?"

"That's right! Our Junior Brother Duan's strength has been proven and is definitely not a groundless rumor." Many inner court disciples of the Moon Illumination Sect agreed one after another.

"Pssst!" When many of the other eight great sect members heard the group of inner court disciples from the Moon Illumination Sect, they could not help but burst out laughing. "The problem is, the person that he defeated was He Zhong who was ranked 66th on the Earth Rankings who's also your Moon Illumination Sect disciple."

"That's right! Who knows whether Zheng He has been coerced by the high-ranking official of your Moon Illumination Sect and had no choice but to lose to Duan Ling Tian deliberately?"

...

Even though the other eight great sects did not point out who the person was exactly, the group of inner court disciples from the Moon Illumination Sect knew that the high-ranking official that they were talking about was none other than Elder Bai Li Hong who had taken Duan Ling Tian as a Junior Brother.

"All of you are spouting rubbish!" Liu Hai scolded with a crimson face.

Many of the inner court disciples from the Moon Illumination Sect started to curse as well.

However, there was also a group of Moon Illumination Sect inner court disciples who started to have doubts in their eyes after hearing what the eight great sect disciples said as they stared at Duan Ling Tian who was walking slowly out of the Moon Illumination Sect's operation point.

It was apparent that doubt had started to rouse in their hearts.

Of course, Duan Ling Tian did not miss the discussions and the suspicious gazes coming from his surroundings. He had already noticed them.

However, he was not bothered by them at all because he knew that he would make the eight great sect disciples shut up very soon. In just a while, he would be able to erase the doubts in their eyes.

The middle-aged man, whose face was covered with stubbles and appeared to be particularly unkempt, stared at Duan Ling Tian and asked in an almost questioning tone, "Are you that Duan Ling Tian who defeated He Zhong and replaced him as 66th on the Earth Rankings?"

However, Duan Ling Tian merely cast an indifferent glance at him. "So what if I am?"

"If you are, I'm gonna defeat and replace you today!" A bright brilliance flashed across the middle-aged man's eyes. Arrogantly, he said, full of confidence, "Remember that the name of the man who defeated you is called..."

"Idiot!" Duan Ling Tian spat out, interrupting the middle-aged man. He was not fond of this guy who talked down to him at all.

Just make your move quickly if you want to challenge me. Why do you need to talk so much for?

"Hahahaha..." When Duan Ling Tian cut off the middle-aged man's words, the crowd who heard it burst out laughing right away.

This was because the word that Duan Ling Tian spat out just so happened to be able to connect the unfinished sentence that the middle-aged man uttered.

"Duan Ling Tian is really as proud as Lucifer. With just one word, he enraged the other party immediately." Many disciples from the eight great sects shook their heads, thinking that Duan Ling Tian was too rash.

"He has now taken the upper hand thanks to his sharp tongue, but he'll definitely suffer later." They chuckled and took pleasure in his misfortune.

Noticing the furious middle-aged man open his mouth to try to say something, Duan Ling Tian beat him to it and offered nonchalantly, "If you still want to introduce yourself, you can just skip that part already. I have no interest in knowing a loser's name."

#### **Chapter 1504: Duan Ling Tian, Saint Rudiment Stage?**

"I have no interest in knowing a loser's name!"

The sentence that Duan Ling Tian uttered as he beat the middle-aged man to it made the middle-aged man's face swell with anger as he was completely infuriated. Even the crowd watching by the side burst into clamor as well.

Insane!

He was crazy!

This was the first thought that appeared in the crowd's mind, including many Moon Illumination Sect inner court disciples as well. All of them felt that what Duan Ling Tian said was too absurd.

After all, the winner and the loser had not been decided yet.

"Good! Very good! Excellent..." Taking a deep breath, the middle-aged man temporarily suppressed his flame of rage that threatened to burst out. Glaring at Duan Ling Tian, he snarled, "I'll let everyone present see how you're gonna slap your own mouth with your own words!"

“Well, I welcome you to give me a slap if you have the ability to do that.” Duan Ling Tian smirked indifferently, appearing casual and elegant.

This scene also caused the onlooking crowd to gaze at each other.

Could Duan Ling Tian actually have the confidence to win against this middle-aged man?

“You’re looking for death!” Without a doubt, this remark that Duan Ling Tian made was the ultimate blasting fuse, fully igniting the middle-aged man’s flame of rage. At once, the middle-aged man roared angrily and pounced towards Duan Ling Tian like a maniac.

His speed was so fast that he seemed to have transformed into a gust of wind.

“As expected from a well-known powerhouse from the Earth Rankings. This speed already surpasses most of the Early Saint Rudiment Stage Martial and Dao Cultivators.” Most of the people looking on by the side were the inner court disciples from the nine great sects, so all of them could tell that the speed that the middle-aged man demonstrated was out of this world.

At the same time, they looked at Duan Ling Tian too.

The next scene took them by great bafflement.

Duan Ling Tian’s voice resonated in the air. At the same time, he dodged the middle-aged man a few times easily. On top of that, he appeared beside him immediately and remarked casually, “Is this the fastest you can go?”

From his tone, it was obvious that the speed that he was displaying was not his full potential.

After all, if he had already exerted his full strength, he would not have been able to talk so coolly as though he was chatting idly even if he could still talk.

On the other hand, Dong Hui, who had come with Duan Ling Tian and was now standing by the side watching the battle, was also stunned by the speed that he exhibited.

“This speed... I’m afraid it’s already on par with an Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator, isn’t it?” Dong Hui gasped secretly and muttered to himself, “With the speed that Junior Brother Duan is displaying right now, there’s no way that he’s only a Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator! From what I can see, he has already made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage! What horrifying acceleration! No wonder Senior Brother Bai Li Hong took him as a Junior Brother!”

Right now, Dong Hui thought that the reason Bai Li Hong had taken Duan Ling Tian as his Junior Brother was only because he had taken a fancy to Duan Ling Tian’s Martial Dao innate ability.

It had never crossed his mind that it was not because of his Martial Dao innate talent, but because he was able to get the Strange Inscription Art that was left behind by the teacher that he had never met before.

A majority of the onlooking crowd shared the same thought as Dong Hui.

“The speed that Duan Ling Tian is displaying has completely surpassed his... Don’t tell me that Duan Ling Tian has already made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage?”

“It’s possible!”

“In that case, is the rumor stating that Duan Ling Tian made it into the Earth Rankings with just a cultivation base of Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage also fake then?”

“It must be fake!”

...

When the disciples from the eight great sects buried their heads in discussion, many of them had even outrageously cast their Spiritual Secret Tactic to probe Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base.

However, all of their actions turned out to be in vain.

Therefore, it made them certain of one thing — that Duan Ling Tian was indeed a Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator!

With their strength, the Spiritual Secret Tactic that they cast could probe any Martial or Dao Cultivator whose cultivation base was below the Saint Rudiment Stage. However, their Spiritual Secret Tactic was not able to probe any powerhouses who were on the Saint Rudiment Stage — the same level as them — or the Saint Stage and above.

“Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator? Is Duan Ling Tian a Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator?” When Liu Yue and Liu Hai heard that Duan Ling Tian was actually a Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator, they were dumbfounded right away. Standing right there and gazing at each other, disbelief filled their faces at once.

The other inner court disciples from the Moon Illumination Sect were also dumbfounded.

As for the Moon Illumination Sect disciples, Duan Ling Tian was naturally quite familiar to them.

Not only that, but they were also certain that he was indeed merely a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator when his name had just started to spread out.

This was because Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base had been probed before by the group of Moon Illumination Sect inner court disciples with their Spiritual Secret tactic. They had been certain that Duan Ling Tian was indeed a Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage Martial Cultivator.

It was still possible if one or two of them made a mistake during the probing, but it was impossible for so many people to have erred.

It was precisely because of this that their hearts were filled with astonishment and disbelief.

Did Duan Ling Tian make a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage from the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage in just a few months?

Just as the onlookers were puzzled about this, Duan Ling Tian had already lost interest in toying with this middle-aged man. With a raise of his hand, he flung out a slap and shot vast True Energy out before pressing on the middle-aged man and sent him flying away with a blast.



The man crashed onto the ground with severe injuries, but he still remained conscious.

He no longer looked at Duan Ling Tian with a lofty and arrogant gaze. Instead, only fear could be seen on his face. “Y-You’ve made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage?”

In his opinion, even the strongest person on the Earth Rankings would not have been able to defeat him completely in this way.

There was only one possibility for this man in front to be able to beat him in such a way — that was, he had already made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage.

A person who was able to be listed on the Earth Rankings during the Mortal Shedding Stage would have a strength that was on par with even an Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator when he made a breakthrough to the Early Saint Rudiment Stage.

After one earned a place on the Earth Rankings made a breakthrough to the Earth Saint Rudiment Stage, he would even be able to defeat an ordinary Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage cultivator.

“You’re pretty smart.” After casting an indifferent glance at the middle-aged man, Duan Ling Tian turned around and left without looking back, leaving an elegant and unrestrained silhouette to the middle-aged man and the crowd.

Saint Rudiment Stage!

Duan Ling Tian from the Moon Illumination Sect was actually a Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator!

At once, many of them on the scene started to return to their senses with shock written all over their faces.

At the same time, this piece of news had also spread out like a typhoon. In just the span of a night, it had already spread out to every nook and cranny of Han River City.

Whoever was not in closed-door cultivation in Han River City knew about this news.

The Ouyang Clan was no exception either.

“Has he actually made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage already?” Ouyang Ruo was astonished. She still remembered that the True Energy that Duan Ling Tian displayed when he saved her that time was still not on the Saint Rudiment Stage level yet.

It was precisely because of this that she was certain that Duan Ling Tian was still not a Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator yet before this.

Yet, right now...

Ouyang Ruo, who originally had no intention of taking revenge against Duan Ling Tian, could only feel an even greater sense of helplessness now.

“Monster! What a monster! Our Ouyang Clan must never go against him!” After knowing that Duan Ling Tian had already made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage, Ouyang Ba also turned pale out of fear. At the same time, he secretly made up his mind to never go against Duan Ling Tian.

No matter how frenzied it was outside with the news of him entering the Saint Rudiment Stage, Duan Ling Tian was not at all bothered by it. Instead, he stayed casually at the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point in the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters and when he was free, he would have an idle chat with Dong Hui and discuss the Martial Dao and Saint Inscription Dao.

Dong Hui, who was originally prepared to bring Duan Ling Tian out for a stroll these few days, instantly dismissed this idea when he realized his attainment in the Saint Inscription Dao.

He realized that when Duan Ling Tian was discussing the Saint Inscription Dao with him, every sentence that came out of his mouth would be very meaningful and would give him great inspiration.

In the end, he also realized that the reason Bai Li Hong had taken Duan Ling Tian as his Junior Brother was not because of his Martial Dao innate talent, but because of his innate talent in the Saint Inscription Dao.

When they were discussing a problem, Dong Hui frowned and asked when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s answer to solve it, “Junior Brother Duan, this doesn’t seem to be an orthodox Saint Inscription Art, does it?”

“Senior Brother Hui, I’ve heard from Senior Brother Bai Li Hong that you’ve also come into contact with the Strange Inscription Art before too, haven’t you? What? Didn’t you realize that the things that I said just now have some Strange Inscription Art’s shadow in it?” Duan Ling Tian grinned.

“S-Strange Inscription Art?!” However, when Dong Hui heard Duan Ling Tian, he was absolutely dumbfounded. He stared at Duan Ling Tian as though he was looking at a ghost. “J-Junior Brother Duan... D-Don’t tell me that you’ve already mastered the Strange Inscription Art already!”

“Well, I haven’t reached the stage of mastering it yet. It’s only at the Fundamental Awareness Stage,” Duan Ling Tian replied humbly.

However, his humble words were already enough to send Dong Hui into so much shock that he was rendered speechless for a long time. After some time, he finally sighed emotionally, “Looks like Senior Brother Bai Li Hong has finally come across the person that he has always been waiting for... And to think that I used to think that the reason Senior Brother Bai Li Hong took you as a Junior Brother was because of your Martial Dao innate talent. It looks like I’ve been greatly mistaken from the very beginning.”

Right now, Dong Hui was very certain now that Bai Li Hong took Duan Ling Tian as his Junior Brother not because of his Martial Dao innate talent, but because he could master the Strange Inscription Art.

Bai Li Hong had shared the Strange Inscription Art with him before, but just like Bai Li Hong, he was unable to cultivate it due to his Spiritual Energy.

Duan Ling Tian merely smiled indifferently and did not say anything more.

“Senior Brother Hui, all the materials that I want will arrive in two days, won’t they?” Duan Ling Tian looked at Dong Hui and changed the topic.

The reason for extending his stay at Han River City for a few more days was mostly because a great pile of the materials that he wanted was now on the way to Han River City.

Those were the materials that Bai Li Hong had asked his men to gather.

Duan Ling Tian also wanted them urgently as they could be used to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

“Yeah, they’ll arrive in two days, at the most.” Dong Hui nodded. He did not dare to slack on matters regarding Duan Ling Tian.

Two days later, the materials finally arrived.

“According to Elder Huo, the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda must be able to be repaired up to 10% with all of the materials that I’ve gathered from Han River City. Despite having so many materials, only 10% of it can be repaired. Looks like the repairing of the fourth level is much more difficult than the third level,” Duan Ling Tian sighed in his heart. However, he also knew that no matter how hard it was, he still had to continue to gather these materials.

#### **Chapter 1505: Mountainshade Black Market**

Since Duan Ling Tian had received the materials, he had no plan to remain in Han River City any longer.

“Senior Brother Hui, I’ll count on you to get the materials that I need then,” added Duan Ling Tian when bade farewell to Dong Hui.

“Don’t worry, Junior Brother Duan. I’ll continue to send my men to search for those materials that you need. When I’ve already gotten them, I’ll ask them to bring back to the sect to you,” Dong Hui said, nodding.

“Thank you, Senior Brother Hui.” After expressing his gratitude again, Duan Ling Tian finally left.

When he left, it was already late at night. It was so dark that he could barely see his hands in front of him. Seizing the chance since it was so dark, Duan Ling Tian left the Moon Illumination Sect’s operation point quietly and left the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters.

The reason he chose to leave at this hour was to avoid all unnecessary trouble.

Duan Ling Tian knew very well that even though he was already an Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator now, he would still stand no chance resisting if he came across a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse.

What Duan Ling Tian did not know was that when he left, a figure was stalking him close behind and only came to a halt when the figure watched him leaving Han River City successfully.

He raised his head and watched Duan Ling Tian’s silhouette fading into the air and vanished in this moonlight.

The moonlight shone down, revealing the man's face. He was none other than Dong Hui who had just said farewell to Duan Ling Tian not long ago.

It turned out that after Duan Ling Tian had left, Dong Hui had pondered about it and still felt worried. Hence, he secretly escorted Duan Ling Tian out of the city.

Only after he had witnessed him leaving Han River City until his figure vanished before his eyes, he finally stopped following him.

Duan Ling Tian exerted his full speed and traveled at the speed of light as he flew towards where the Moon Illumination Sect estate was.

"Huang Cheng!" On the way back to the Moon Illumination Sect, Duan Ling Tian could not help but remember that outer court elder who had made his move to kill him when he had first left the Moon Illumination Sect.

Had it not been for the fact that he had had two Three-Star Divine Strider Talismans with him, he would have been dead by Huang Cheng's hand.

"I hope your balls are big enough to remain in the Moon Illumination Sect so that I can have a chance to take my revenge!" Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. It was obvious that these words were targeted towards Huang Cheng.

Unfortunately, he was destined to be disappointed.

When Huang Cheng did not manage to kill him, he already realized that he would not have a happy ending if he went back to the Moon Illumination Sect, so he went into hiding instead.

Of course, the reason Huang Cheng went into hiding was not that he feared Duan Ling Tian. Instead, he was scared of Bai Li Hong who was backing Duan Ling Tian.

When Duan Ling Tian returned to the Moon Illumination Sect, many people come and left a secluded mansion in Han River City.

Under the cover of the moonlight, these people walked back and forth in and out of the mansion.

In the day time, this mansion was devoid of activity. One could only see people leaving and entering when it was night time.

Here was the operation point that the Mountainshade Black Market had set up in Han River City in the Nine Sect Alliances' district.

Tonight, inside a spacious room in this bustling mansion, candlelight swayed in the faint breeze and flickered ceaselessly, reflecting two figures.

One of the figures was a skinny, old man who had a mixture of black and white hair. His face seemed to be asymmetrically divided into two halves; half of it looked like male while another looked feminine.

Right now, he was looking at the sturdy middle-aged man in front of him as he said, "Duan Ling Tian from the Moon Illumination Sect is exactly Chi Ming's target! There's only one explanation how he

could've come to Han River City alive and even created such a huge commotion — Chi Ming must have failed!”

“Could there be some other reason? It's pretty impossible for Chi Ming to fail.” Standing right there, the sturdy middle-aged man who had a stocky and imposing build was like an iron tower who oozed a powerful sense of intimidation towards the other man.

“Even if there's some other reason, Chi Ming should have come back by now. Seeing that he still hasn't made it back, he must have met a grim ending,” the old man replied.

Knock! Knock!

Right at this moment, two faint knocks reverberated.

Just as the old man and the middle-aged man shifted their gazes towards the door, a polite voice resonated from the outside.”Lord Yin Yang.”

As though he could hear who the voice belonged to, the old man answered nonchalantly, “Come in.”

At the same time, he waved his hand and the room door opened by itself.

A young man who was covered in black clothing gradually walked in. When he saw the strong-built man, he politely bowed and paid his respects. “Lord Tai Wu.”

The old man raised his hand again to close the room door before he asked indifferently, “Anything?”

“Lord Yin Yang, there's a Quasi Three-Star Assassin who's looking for you. He said that he must talk to you personally,” the young man replied, “If you refuse to see him, I'll send him away, Lord Yin Yang.”

“A Quasi Three-Star Assassin?” A brilliance flashed across the old man's cloudy eyes. After remaining silent for some time, he finally said, “Bring him over.”

In the Mountainshade Black Market, the assassins were ranked by various grades too.

That black-robed man, whom Duan Ling Tian killed the last time, was a Three-Star Assassin in the Mountainshade Black Market.

Although a Quasi Three-Star Assassin was not as powerful as him, there was not much difference between them.

In the Mountainshade Black Market, a Quasi Three-Star Assassin would usually be able to assassinate an ordinary Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage Martial or Dao Cultivator if there were no mishaps.

One could easily imagine just how terrorizing a Quasi Three-Star Assassin was.

Soon, the young man brought a man who was completely enveloped in a black robe in with him. Nobody could see his face or body at all.

“Good day to you, Lord Yin Yang.” The black-robed man bowed slightly towards the old man but he did not seem to recognize the middle-aged man beside him, so he did not bow towards him at all.

However, the middle-aged man did not seem to be concerned about it. Still, he studied the black-robed man with interest.

The old man, who was a high-ranking official in the Mountainshade Black Market with the code name "Yin Yang", asked nonchalantly, "Why're you looking for me?"

Of course, he was only a high-ranking official in the Mountainshade Black Market branch in the Nine Sect Alliances' district. If he were in the Mountainshade Black Market headquarters, he would be merely a handyman with his strength of Early Saint Rudiment Stage and would not be worth mentioning at all.

The black-robed man was the Quasi Three-Star Assassin who wanted to look for Yin Yang. After he cast a glance at the young man beside him, he glanced at the middle-aged man.

"You can leave first." Upon hearing Yin Yang's order, the young man retreated and closed the door when he left.

Looking at the Quasi Three-Star Assassin, Yin Yang said, "That's Tai Wu."

Tai Wu!

However, when Yin Yang's words left his mouth, the Quasi Three-Star Assassin could not help but tremble a little. When he opened his mouth once again, even his voice was slightly shaking. "I-Is it Lord T-Tai Wu?"

Then, he lifted his head slightly and glanced at the muscular, middle-aged man.

When he saw the horrendous sword scar that slashed across his left eye, he took a deep breath and hastily bowed. "Good day to you, Lord Tai Wu!"

As a Mountainshade Black Market assassin, the official of the highest level that he had ever come across was Yin Yang.

Although he had heard of Tai Wu many times before, he had never seen him before. Therefore, even when Tai Wu was standing in front of him today, he did not recognize him at all.

The moment he recalled the rumor regarding Tai Wu, his heart could not help but tremble a little again. There was a shocking rumor that was being spread out among the Mountainshade Black Market assassins, stating that the former Clan Leader of the Profound Talisman Sect had died by Tai Wu's hand.

When the Former Clan Leader of the Profound Talisman Sect died, his strength could be deemed to be the top three in the entire Nine Sect Alliances' district.

He was so powerful that he even surpassed Yin Yang, one of the high-ranking officials of their Mountainshade Black Market.

He had also heard of Tai Wu's origin before. It seemed like Tai Wu had offended a high-ranking official in the Mountainshade Black Market's upper division and for this reason, he was suppressed by that official and was expelled to the branch of the Mountainshade Black Market in the Nine Sect Alliances's district.

That particular branch was ranked one of the lowest in the entire Mountainshade Black Market.

There was also another rumor regarding Tai Wu when he had just arrived at the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in the Nine Sect Alliances' district.

It was said that when he had just arrived, he was also not welcomed by the high-ranking officials at the branch. Cornered in such a situation, he did not say anything and with just his pair of iron fists alone, he sealed a place for himself in the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in the Nine Sect Alliances' district.

Right now, his position at the branch was even higher than Yin Yang's.

Therefore, when the black-robed Quasi Three-Star Assassin heard that the strong-built man standing in front was Tai Wu, he was instantly taken aback.

"Just spit it out if you have anything to say," Tai Wu nodded his head at the black-robed man and said nonchalantly.

"Yes," quickly replied the black-robed man. Not daring to slack at all, he looked at Tai Wu and Yin Yang to report, "Lord Tai Wu, Lord Yin Yang, a few days ago at midnight, I just so happened to witness an incident that has an adverse impact on our Mountainshade Black Market."

When the black-robed man reached the end of his sentence, his face turned grave right away.

"Oh?" When Tai Wu and Yin Yang heard him, they exchanged glances with each other and saw the astonishment in each other's eyes.

"That night, because I had a mission to carry out, I left in a hurry after I ascertained the identity of the two men. By the time my mission was done, I hurried back and instantly came to find you, Lord Yin Yang," the black-robed man told Yin Yang.

"What incident?" Yin Yang asked.

"Somebody actually impersonated as our Mountainshade Black Market men!" The black-robed man gnashed his teeth. "They claimed that they were assassins from our Mountainshade Black Market, but from the aura that they exuded, I could see that they were definitely not assassins! Besides, our Mountainshade Black Market assassins are shackled by the thunder penalty of the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath, so it's impossible for us to expose our own identity!"

Swish! Swish!

The black-robed man's words instantly caused Tai Wu and Yin Yang's face to turn dark right away in unison.

The headquarters that was at the highest level in their Mountainshade Black Market was a third-rated force.

As the saying went, rules and regulations must be adhered to in handling affairs. If such a huge force did not have such rules, it would have been impossible for them to achieve glory.

There were also many prohibitions in the Mountainshade Black Market.

One of them was that none of the Mountainshade Black Market assassins could reveal their identity when they were on duty outside.

For this reason, the Mountainshade Black Market had set a rule stating that every killer of the Mountainshade Black Market must swear using the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath before they entered.

### **Chapter 1506: Annihilating Ouyang Clan**

It was exactly because of this reason that the Mountainshade Black Market assassins could never reveal their identity no matter what.

If the assassins revealed their identities, this would be a big taboo and they would even be killed by the thunder penalty of the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath.

If someone impersonated the Mountainshade Black Market, he would not be forgiven too!

There was an explicit rule clearly stipulated in writing that whichever sect or person dared to impersonate a Mountainshade Black Market member, they would definitely be annihilated by the Mountainshade Black Market.

In order to protect this baseline, the Mountainshade Black Market had even come up with a rule that all Mountainshade Black Market members who had reached the Saint Stage must swear using the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath that they would go all out to annihilate whoever impersonated as their fellow members.

Those who refused to follow this rule would be blasted to death by the thunder penalty.

Even Tai Wu and Yin Yang were of no exception as well; both of them had already made this oath.

It was still alright if they did not know anything, but once they found out, the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath would start to run its course.

“How are you going to prove that what you’ve said is true?” Yin Yang looked at the Quasi Three-Star Assassin in front of him and asked in a deep voice, “Do you dare to make a Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath and prove that every word you spoke just now was nothing but the truth? If there was any false statement in it, you’d be blasted to death by the thunder penalty!”

Upon hearing this, the Quasi Three-Star Assassin instantly completed the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath without saying anything.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Nine thunderous sounds reverberated and took half of Han River City by surprise.

Those who heard the thunderous booms knew that somebody must have already made the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath and the thunder had corresponded to him.

Seeing how this Quasi Three-Star Assassin had made his Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation Oath so straightforwardly and was not punished by the thunder penalty, Tai Wu and Yin Yang realized that the man was not lying.



The reason they wanted to affirm this was because they were also worried that the Quasi Three-Star Assassin just want to find an excuse to kill a person.

In the Nine Sect Alliances' district, their hands were no doubt the sharpest blade that existed!

Looking at the Quasi Three-Star Assassin, Tai Wu asked, "Just now, you said that you've confirmed the identity of the people who impersonated as our Mountainshade Black Market's members, haven't you?"

"Yes." The Quasi Three-Star Assassin nodded.

"Who are they?" Yin Yang asked.

"They're from the Ouyang Clan of Han River City. The Ouyang Clan is an eight-rated force from Han River City. They usually rely on the Nine Sect Alliances to do their business and have accumulated quite a lot of wealth," answered the Quasi Three-Star Assassin.

"The Ouyang Clan?" Upon hearing his words, Tai Wu and Yin Yang exchanged glances with each other, both noticing the cold brilliance in each other's eyes.

That night, the Ouyang Clan had received an unprecedented catastrophe that they had never faced before.

The entire Ouyang Clan, including Ouyang Ba the Clan Leader, had all been slaughtered, except for a minority of them who were not in that night.

Before the group of high-ranking officials of the Ouyang Clan could realize what was happening, they had all already been killed one by one.

Even the few old Ouyang Clan elders who were at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage were also dragged out from the Ouyang Clan's secret room by the intruders before they were slaughtered.

Up to that moment when they were slaughtered, the old Ouyang Clan elders did not understand why would Saint Stage powerhouses be coming to kill them, to the point that they did not even say half a sentence to them at all.

That night, the Ouyang Clan's blood flowed like a river.

Just as the Ouyang Clan shed blood like water, the two Saint Stage powerhouses who made their move rapidly also left ostentatiously.

When they left, a group of black-robed men rushed in and ransacked the entire Ouyang Clan.

By the time the people from the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters came, almost everything that was worthy in the Ouyang Clan had already been looted, leaving only bodies strewn everywhere on the ground and streams of blood that looked like a river.

The Ouyang Clan that was once glorious and magnificent had completely become history in just a night.

All of the people-in-charge of the nine great sects gathered together in the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters.

“Everyone, what do you think of the incident regarding the Ouyang Clan?” A huge burly man with a bristly beard asked in a boisterous voice.

His glance swept past all of the thirty over people present at the scene.

These people were all the people-in-charge sent by the nine great sects to Han River City. Each of them worked together to manage the affairs in the Nine Sect Alliances’ headquarters.

They came from nine great sects. The few people from the Moon Illumination Sect, including Dong Hui, were also present.

“Why would the Ouyang Clan suddenly be annihilated entirely? Don’t tell me that Senior Brother Bai Li Hong was the one who made the move? Wait a minute... Even if Senior Brother Bai Li Hong made his move, he couldn’t possibly have wiped the entire Ouyang Clan out overnight! All of the few Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses in the Ouyang Clan have actually died! None of them managed to escape at all!” At first, Dong Hui thought that Bai Li Hong had taken revenge for Duan Ling Tian’s sake but very soon, he realized that this was not possible.

“Oh?” Suddenly, Dong Hui noticed many of them shifting their gaze towards their Moon Illumination Sect members.

“Do we still have to think? It must be the Moon Illumination Sect who did that... Tsk tsk! The Moon Illumination Sect really loves Duan Ling Tian so much to the point that when they found out that he was already bullied by the Ouyang Clan, they immediately wiped out the entire Ouyang Clan!” An ugly middle-aged man exclaimed sarcastically.

“Just one night and the entire Ouyang Clan was wiped out! Even those few Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses couldn’t make it out either... A Saint Stage powerhouse must’ve been involved too!” Another person added.

An old man glared at Dong Hui and a few others with fury and almost howled as he demanded, “What a great move, Moon Illumination Sect! How could you actually wipe out an eight-rated clan who is also an alliance of our Nine Sect Alliances just for the sake of one small conflict? Besides, it was a clan that we helped to support and raise together in the past. Moon Illumination Sect, you owe us an explanation!”

“That’s right! No matter how bad the Ouyang Clan is, it was still raised and brought up by us! Even if your Moon Illumination Sect wanted to annihilate it, you should have at least told us first. Acting all by yourself without consulting us, what do you take the other eight great sects as?” Many people continued to interrogate.

“Now that you guys have slaughtered the Ouyang Clan, who’s going to clean up the mess that the Ouyang Clan left behind then? Do you know how much effort we need to take to raise another eight-rated force? What your Moon Illumination Sect has done this time is just too much!” Right at this moment, Dong Hui and the few others had become the target of the eight great sects.

“Hmph! What proof do you to accuse our Moon Illumination Sect?” A sturdy, old man beside Dong Hui snorted coldly with disdain and asked in a deep voice as he cast a glance at the crowd.

This old man was the main person-in-charge sent by the Moon Illumination Sect to the Nine Sect Alliances' headquarters. He was Tan Quan, one of the few Vice Sect Leaders of the Moon Illumination Sect.

"That's right! It's better not to point fingers before you have any evidence," Dong Hui also grunted.

The few remaining people-in-charge of the Moon Illumination Sect also agreed.

Even though they were secretly skeptical about Elder Bai Li Hong managing to persuade the high-ranking officials in the sect to let the Saint Stage powerhouses annihilate the Ouyang Clan, they could not show their suspicions right now.

"What kind of proof do you still want to see?" A strong, middle-aged man stood up and smirked. "Other than your Moon Illumination Sect, who else would have the motive to wipe out the entire Ouyang Clan?"

"That's right! We can be certain that it was a Saint Stage powerhouse who wiped out the entire Ouyang Clan in a night. Tell us then, other than our nine great sects here, which other force has Saint Stage powerhouses in the Nine Sect Alliances' district?" Somebody questioned again.

"Other than our nine great sects, which other force has Saint Stage powerhouse in the Nine Sect Alliances' district?" When Tan Quan heard this person's question, he smirked right away. "You seem to have forgotten the Mountainshade Black Market, huh?"

The Mountainshade Black Market!

The moment they heard Tan Quan mention the Mountainshade Black Market, the entire scene turned deadly silent. The atmosphere changed to become slightly weird.

The Mountainshade Black Market had always been the thorn in the Nine Sect Alliances' throat all the while. It was also the force that made the nine great sects stick together closely like birds of the same feather.

If there were no Mountainshade Black Market, there would be no Nine Sect Alliances.

One could even say that the alliances among the nine great sects were created by the Mountainshade Black Market alone.

The Mountainshade Black Market had given them an inexplicable sense of huge pressure.

"Hmph! Stop using the Mountainshade Black Market to scare us. All this while, the Mountainshade Black Market has only been making their move in the dark and since when have they done anything like this before?" Soon, one of the high-ranking officials of one of the sects returned to his senses and scoffed.

Many other people agreed with his words.

"That's right! Although the Mountainshade Black Market is peculiar about what they do, this doesn't seem to be their style at all."

“The Ouyang Clan has just offended Duan Ling Tian from your Moon Illumination Sect a few days ago and now it’s already wiped out. Who would believe you if you say this has nothing to do with your Moon Illumination Sect at all?”

“So, it turns out that the Moon Illumination Sect is actually a sect that doesn’t dare to admit their doings, huh?”

...

Many people from the other eight great sects started to mock Tan Quan, Dong Hui, and a few others.

At once, the Moon Illumination Sect did not have any comeback at all.

After all, whatever the eight great sect members uttered kind of made sense too.

“Perhaps, it was some simple-minded people from the Ouyang Clan who offended the Mountainshade Black Market.” In the end, it was Dong Hui who first returned to his senses and tried to refute.

Just as the group of high-ranking officials of the eight-grade sects wanted to answer, a young man hastily rushed in from outside. Such rude manners caused the crowd to frown right away.

“Which sect’s disciple is this who doesn’t know any manners at all?”

“He’s definitely not from our Profound Talisman Sect!”

“Not from our sect too.”

...

The high-ranking officials of the eight great sects clarified their relationship to the man one after another.

Soon, their gazes shifted towards the few high-ranking officials of the Moon Illumination Sect in unison.

If he was not from their sects, then he must be from the Moon Illumination Sect.

At this moment, be it Tan Quan the Vice Sect Leader of the Moon Illumination Sect, or Dong Hui and the others, each of their faces appeared solemn.

The Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple who barged in, on the other hand, seemed to not have realized that the atmosphere of the scene was heavy and he still stormed in. As he was barging in, he kept saying, “Senior Uncles, the reason the entire Ouyang Clan being annihilated has already been spread out in Han River City.”

“What?” The moment the Moon Illumination Sect disciple’s words left his mouth, the entire scene broke into an uproar.

At this moment, nobody was concerned about this Moon Illumination Sect disciple’s manners anymore.

To them, the reason the entire Ouyang Clan had been annihilated was the most important right now.

“What reason is that?” At once, the nine great sects’ high-ranking officials, including the few high-ranking officials from the Moon Illumination Sect, looked at the Moon Illumination Sect disciple altogether.

### **Chapter 1507: The Truth Came to Light**

The Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple who barged in was just an ordinary inner court disciple. He had rushed in because he was shocked by the news.

When he saw the high-ranking officials from the nine great sects turned to look at him in unison, he stiffened immediately. He could not utter a word at all even though he had already regained his senses and opened his mouth.

“You don’t have to be nervous. You can take your time,” Tan Quan said encouragingly to the Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple with a smile when he saw how stiff he was.

Thanks to the encouragement from the Vice Sect Leader, the Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple took a deep breath before he began to said slowly, “The news that’s spreading around is rumored to be released by the Mountainshade Black Market... They had annihilated the Ouyang Clan because someone from the Ouyang Clan had pretended to be from the Mountainshade Black Market!”

Mountainshade Black Market!

The minute the Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple finished his sentence, all the high-ranking officials of the nine great sects who were present gasped.

“Humph! In the future, let’s not say things without any evidence.” After Tan Quan recovered from the shock, he immediately looked at the high-ranking officials of the other eight great sects and sneered.

Although the high-ranking officials from the other eight great sects were displeased with Tan Quan’s sneer, they remained quiet. They were in the wrong after all.

“Vice Sect Leader Tan, let’s not dwell on that matter anymore. What needs to be discussed now is the matter regarding what the Mountainshade Black Market has done... This time, they’ve really crossed the line. They obviously knew the Ouyang Clan is supported by the Nine Sect Alliances, and yet, they still annihilated them!” A white-bearded old man said huffily, a discontented expression on his face.

“You can’t say that... The Mountainshade Black Market has put the word out that someone from the Ouyang Clan had pretended to be one of them. That’s why they were annihilated.”

“That’s right! That person from Ouyang Clan was digging his own grave by doing that!”

“I’ve also heard about the rules of Mountainshade Black Market. Whichever clan the impersonator belongs to will be annihilated once it’s confirmed.”

“The Ouyang Clan brought it upon themselves. There’s no one else to blame.”

...

The high-ranking officials of the sects, including the Moon Illumination Sect, felt that Ouyang Clan had brought this upon themselves, and the Mountainshade Black Market was not to be blamed.

Even they knew of the Mountainshade Black Market's rules, it was impossible that people from the Ouyang Clan was unaware of it.

Nevertheless, people from the Ouyang Clan still dared to impersonate someone from the Mountainshade Black Market. They were simply looking for death.

"You can't say that... Even if the Ouyang Clan was wrong regarding this matter, they shouldn't have been annihilated. They could've just killed the impersonator. He should bear the responsibility for his own wrongdoing instead of dragging the entire clan down."

"Yes! I also feel the Mountainshade Black Market went overboard this time. It seems more like a show of strength to us."

"I feel the same way as well. I think we should send people to talk to them."

...

There were also high-ranking officials from several sects who were dissatisfied with the Mountainshade Black Market, and that included the Profound Talisman Sect. The other sects were sects that had a close relationship with the Profound Talisman Sect.

It was no secret that in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances that the Profound Talisman Sect were mortal enemies of the Mountainshade Black Market.

This was because the former Sect Leader of Profound Talisman Sect had died in the hands of a powerhouse from the Mountainshade Black Market.

It was also because of the Mountainshade Black Market's powerhouse that the Profound Talisman Sect's Three Star Dao Talisman Master, who was also the Sect Leader of the Profound Talisman Sect at that time, had to swear a lightning penalty oath.

He had sworn on the lightning penalty oath that the Three Star offensive Dao Talismans he had drawn would not be given to people outside of the Profound Talisman Sect in any way.

Everyone in the Profound Talisman Sect who received Three Star offensive Dao Talismans had to swear on the lightning penalty oath that they would not give the talismans away to someone else.

Due to that reason, even though the Profound Talisman Sect had a Dao Talisman Master who could draw Three Star offensive Dao Talismans, none of it was allowed to be given to outsiders, causing the sect to lose a great business opportunity.

The Profound Talisman Sect had always regarded that as their most humiliating moment. Therefore, they had always antagonized the Mountainshade Black Market.

The powerhouse from Mountainshade Black Market acted that way toward the Profound Talisman Sect because they did not want Three Stars offensive Dao Talismans to be carelessly sold in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances since it would affect some of their businesses to some extent.

Just imagine if a Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage Two Star Assassin was assassinating a target whose cultivation base was far less powerful but was able to throw out a Three Star offensive Dao Talisman that could potentially kill the assassin.

That would mean the assassin had failed his mission, and in turn, it would affect the reputation of the Mountainshade Black Market. What mattered the most to them was their reputation.

Due to that reason, the Mountainshade Black Market would not allow Three Star offensive Dao Talismans to be sold freely in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances.

The Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, Tan Quan, naturally knew the tricks they were trying to pull and said scornfully, "Humph! Since all of you want to have a talk with the Mountainshade Black Market, you should go ahead on your own... I'm sorry to say, but we disagree with this."

"Yes! Just go on your own. If you succeed, we'll hold a celebratory dinner for you!"

"That's right."

The other high-ranking officials from sects that were indifferent to the Profound Talisman Sect also added.

As high-ranking officials from the sects, all of them were certainly sly old foxes. Naturally, they could see the Profound Talisman Sect wanted to drag them along and confront the Mountainshade Black Market together.

They would not be stupid enough to be the blades in the Profound Talisman Sect's hand. The few other sects that had always had a close relationship with the Profound Talisman Sect were usually given a great discount on Dao Talismans. However, they did not enjoy such treatment.

Although the Nine Sect Alliances was an alliance, they were not completely united.

Unless the Mountainshade Black Market was going to destroy all the nine great sects, they would never be truly united.

Based on the Mountainshade Black Market's behavior in recent years, they did not show such ambitions.

"You... You..."

The old man with a goatee, the Vice Sect Leader of Profound Talisman Sect, could only stew in his own anger and glare when he heard Tan Quan and the few other Vice Sect Leaders' words. "Are we even in the same alliance?"

"Vice Sect Leader He, have you forgotten the reason we formed the Nine Sect Alliances?"

Tan Quan sneered. "This time, the Mountainshade Black Market could've concealed the fact that they were the ones who had annihilated the Ouyang Clan, but they didn't... They spread the news precisely because they wanted to make a statement and warn other people!"

"The Ouyang Clan was wrong in this matter even though the Mountainshade Black Market did go overboard by annihilating the whole clan. However, is this the first time we witness their ways of doing things?" Tan Quan stared pointedly at the Profound Talisman Sect's Vice Sect Leader, He Yin.

"Tan Quan!" He Yin's face darkened. He was furious.

Naturally, he understood the underlying meaning in Tan Quan's words.

He was referring to the incident where the former Sect Leader of Profound Talisman Sect was killed by a Mountainshade Black Market powerhouse and the sect was forced to swear not to give Three Star offensive Dao Talismans to outsiders.

A short and ugly-looking middle-aged man said scornfully, "Vice Sect Leader Tan, you've gone overboard... Even if you don't dare to offend the Mountainshade Black Market, you didn't have to boost the Mountainshade Black Market's morale and reduce the Nine Sect Alliances' courage?"

"What a serious allegation to pin on me!" Tan Quan sneered. "What did I say? Did my words really boost the Mountainshade Black Market's morale and reduce the Nine Sect Alliances' courage? Aren't you overthinking things? Why don't you tell everyone what's on your mind?"

After listening to Tan Quan's words, the short middle-aged man was so angry that he was rendered speechless.

Naturally, he could hear the underlying meaning in Tan Quan's words. It was not only him, but everyone present understood the underlying meaning.

Tan Quan was referring to the humiliating incident that happened to the Profound Talisman Sect again.

However, Tan Quan did not state it clearly so he would not blatantly offend the Profound Talisman Sect. He would not do such a stupid thing.

Regardless, the matter came to end with Tan Quan and the others' disapproval.

If the Profound Talisman Sect and the few other sects managed to convince the Moon Illumination Sect and the others to denounce the crimes of Mountainshade Black Market, they might have felt more confident. However, if they were asked to go on their own, they definitely would not dare to do it.

Even if the Mountainshade Black Market based in the area under the Nine Sect Alliances was just the smallest, lowest-tier branch under the Mountainshade Black Market, they were still not something several seventh-rate sects could deal with.

'I'm afraid Junior Brother Duan will be glad if he finds out that the Ouyang Clan has been annihilated?' Dong Hui's eyes flashed as he secretly thought to himself.



Regardless of how chaotic Han River City was, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of it since he was on his way back to the Moon Illumination Sect.

With his current speed, it would take him some time to return to the Moon Illumination Sect since Han River City was quite a distance away from the sect.

When Duan Ling Tian arrived at the Moon Illumination Sect and learned that the Ouyang Clan was annihilated, he was also stunned.

“Impersonating someone from the Mountainshade Black Market?” When Duan Ling Tian heard the news, he immediately thought of that night at Han River City. The Second Elder of Ouyang Clan, Ouyang Shan, had appeared, and it seemed like he had lied about being from the Mountainshade Black Market.

At that time, he knew about Ouyang Shan’s identity, therefore he was certain that he was not from the Mountainshade Black Market.

However, he did not expect the lie Ouyang Shan told in an attempt to trick him would bring such a tragedy to the Ouyang Clan.

‘Apart from Ouyang Shan who had died, only Ouyang Qing and I know about Ouyang Shan impersonating someone from the Mountainshade Black Market... Could it be Ouyang Qing who had spread the news?’ Duan Ling Tian shook his head when that thought popped up in his mind. He did not think it was possible.

‘If it’s not Ouyang Qing, that means there was a fourth person present at that time.’ Duan Ling Tian felt chills running up his spine when he thought about this.

Someone who had hidden himself so perfectly from him would be at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage at least. In fact, they might even be a Saint Stage powerhouse!

If that person had intended to harm him, he would not be a match for him even if he had Three Star offensive Dao Talismans.

Duan Ling Tian instantly took a deep breath to calm his chaotic emotion.

Duan Ling Tian was only slightly shocked and surprised by the fact that Ouyang Clan had been annihilated, and he forgot about it soon enough.

However, there was something that annoyed him.

“Huang Cheng has left his post and disappeared?” The thing Duan Ling Tian did not want to see happened had come to pass.

The Moon Illumination Sect’s outer court elder, Huang Cheng, who wanted to kill him back then had chosen to leave the Moon Illumination Sect after he failed to kill him.

“He must’ve been worried that I’ll return to the Moon Illumination Sect and tell Senior Brother Bai Li about him trying to kill me.” Duan Ling Tian was almost certain about this.

Although Huang Cheng was an outer court elder, his Senior Brother, Bai Li Hong, could easily kill him if he wanted to. In fact, he did not even have to do it himself.

The days after Duan Ling Tian returned to the Moon Illumination Sect was not peaceful either. At the very least, it was not peaceful around him.

It was because along with the news of the annihilation of the Ouyang Clan, the news of him breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage had also spread in the entire Moon Illumination Sect quickly. Needless to say, it shocked the entire sect.

“Oh, God! Someone, please tell me that this isn’t real!” Many inner court disciples cried out loud.

Those inner court disciples were the ones who had witnessed Duan Ling Tian defeating He Zhong and verified his cultivation base back then.

All of them were certain Duan Ling Tian was only a Martial Cultivator at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage when he defeated He Zhong.

However, not much time had passed, and Duan Ling Tian had broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage?

“Did Elder Bai Li fed him some spirit pills, miracle herbs, or rare spirit fruits?”

“I’ve never heard of any spirit pills, miracle herbs, or rare spirit fruits that can help a person progress from the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage to the Saint Rudiment Stage within a span of a few months!”

“Is that Duan Ling Tian even human? Why do I feel like he’s the reincarnation of a celestial being?”

“It’s getting more and more outrageous... Maybe he had some fortuitous encounter.”

...

No matter what, the news about Duan Ling Tian breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage was true.

When Duan Ling Tian revealed his strength at the Saint Rudiment Stage, not only was many Moon Illumination Sect’s inner court disciples present, but there were also a lot of people from the other eight sects. There was no way it could be staged.

For a time, the entire Moon Illumination Sect turned lively because of Duan Ling Tian.

If the Moon Illumination Sect was akin to a pool of still water prior to Duan Ling Tian’s arrival, then he was undoubtedly the one that stirred the pool of still water.

“Junior Brother, you... You’ve broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage?” Bai Li Hong who had just received the news was also stunned.

Although the news that was spreading outside said that Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base had improved so quickly and outrageously because of him, he knew it was not true. He did not possess this sort of ability.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded with a smile in response to Bai Li Hong’s question.

For a time, Bai Li Hong smiled bitterly with a complicated gaze. "I'd originally thought that Junior Brother's innate talent in the Saint Inscription Dao is terrifying enough. Who knew your innate talent in the Martial Dao is just as terrifying... No! This is more than terrifying... It's heaven-defying!"

In just a few months' time, he had improved from the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage to the Saint Rudiment Stage. This sort of progress was too heaven-defying!

Only Duan Ling Tian knew that he did not achieve it within the span of a few months.

Even though his innate talent was fairly good, it was mostly because of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

The time flow inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was extremely slow compared to the outside world. It provided him with an unimaginable cultivation environment that allowed him to catch up to others or even surpass them in the shortest time possible.

"Junior Brother, now that you've broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage, you should be able to inscribe Two Star Saint Inscriptions, right?" Bai Li Hong asked.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. He did try inscribing a Two Star Saint Inscription when he returned. He finally succeeded after failing a few times.

"Can you inscribe it with the Strange Inscription Art?" Bai Li Hong asked as his eyes brightened.

"After I came back, I've thought about inscribing a Two Star Saint Inscription with the Strange Inscription Art and walked through the steps in my head, but I haven't actually practiced or tried it yet," Duan Ling Tian said.

"Will I be lucky enough to observe the process?" Bai Li Hong asked with a smile.

"Sure." Duan Ling Tian quickly agreed to it. At the same time, he began to try inscribing a Two Star Saint Inscription using the Strange Inscription Art in front of Bai Li Hong.

Inscribing Saint Inscriptions with the Strange Inscription Art merely required half the number of materials required.

After several trials, Duan Ling Tian finally succeeded in inscribing a Two Star Saint Inscription with the Strange Inscription Art.

The materials he used was less than half of the materials required if one were to inscribe it using the traditional Saint Inscription method.

"Junior Brother Duan, you're really a genius when it comes to the Saint Inscription Dao!" Bai Li Hong could not help but exclaim when he saw Duan Ling Tian managed to inscribe a Two Stars Saint Inscription using the Strange Inscription Art so quickly.

"I was thinking of how I should advise you to focus more on the Saint Inscription Dao... Now, it seems like there's no need for that because no matter if it's your achievement in the Martial Dao or your achievement in the Saint Inscription Dao, they're way beyond an ordinary person. Ordinary people might not be able to handle both the Martial Dao and the Saint Inscription Dao at once, but that doesn't apply to you." The blind confidence Bai Li Hong had in Duan Ling Tian was evident in his words.

“Senior Brother, I’m ready to participate in the inner court disciples’ assessment... When will the inner court disciples’ assessment begin?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Junior Brother, with your current strength, there’s no point in joining the inner court disciples’ assessment... I’ll ask someone to go get the identity order token of an inner court disciple for you,” Bai Li Hong said.

Duan Ling Tian thought about it for a while before he agreed to it.

With his current strength, even a Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse would not pose much of a threat to him. Hence, he did not reject Bai Li Hong’s noble intention.

“Junior Brother, I still remember you previously promised me that if you ever join the inner court, you’ll stay at my place,” Bai Li Hong said as he squinted.

“Of course, I remember that,” Duan Ling Tian nodded and said with a smile, “If Senior Brother doesn’t mind, I’ll be staying at your place from now on.”

“Haha... Great! I’ve already prepared a room for you, and it’s cleaned every once in a while. You can move in immediately.” Bai Li Hong laughed happily as soon as Duan Ling Tian agreed to it.

Duan Ling Tian felt touched by Bai Li Hong’s words.

“Right. How was your trip to Han River City? Was everything alright?” Bai Li Hong asked.

He knew nothing about what happened to Duan Ling Tian during his journey to Han River City and the things that had happened in Han River City because he did not have the time to ask around. In fact, he did not even know Duan Ling Tian had left the Moon Illumination Sect previously.

However, he did not blame Duan Ling Tian because he knew that Duan Ling Tian did not want to bother or worry him.

Duan Ling Tian had long regarded Bai Li Hong as his elder brother even though the age gap between them was quite vast.

Therefore, he did not conceal anything that happened to him during his travels and told Bai Li Hong everything. Naturally, he downplayed the dangerous parts.

Even so, it still frightened Bai Li Hong and made him shudder.

“Huang Cheng, a mere outer court elder, actually dare to covet your things and intend to kill you... He deserves to die! Don’t worry, Junior Brother, I’ll use my connections to find Huang Cheng and bring him to you so you can deal with him however you want!” Bai Li Hong was truly enraged.

If in the beginning he was merely impressed by Duan Ling Tian and had recognized him as his Junior Brother because he was worthy enough to inherit the Strange Inscription Art, now, he really regarded Duan Ling Tian as his Junior Brother.

It was not only because he was the person who inherited the Strange Inscription Art, but also because they got along well.

When he was with Duan Ling Tian, he felt like they had a friendship that transcended age.

When he learned that Duan Ling Tian almost died in Huang Cheng's hands, he could not suppress the anger he felt.

"Senior Brother, don't be angry. I'm not concerned about Huang Cheng," Duan Ling Tian said confidently with a faint smile.

He was actually very confident. Even if he still could not fight Huang Cheng directly with his current strength, but given some time, he would certainly be able to surpass Huang Cheng in every way.

The cultivation environment on the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was not something the second level could compare to. It was enough to bring him soaring to new heights!

"The black-robed man that came later should be an assassin from the Mountainshade Black Market if I'm not mistaken," Bai Li Hong said solemnly, "Fortunately, you met a savior, otherwise, it might end up in a disaster."

Duan Ling Tian had told him about the black-robed assassin. However, he omitted the part about the Devilseal Tablet and merely said that a powerhouse who was passing by had stood up against the injustice and killed the black-robed man.

"Yes, luckily I met a savior... It's a pity that when I asked him for his name and where he's from, he left without responding," Duan Ling Tian exclaimed. His act seemed very real.

Naturally, Bai Li Hong did not doubt Duan Ling Tian. He nodded and said, "That savior of yours must either be a reclusive powerhouse staying in the area under the Nine Sect Alliances or he's from a force that's at least at the same level as the Moon Illumination Sect."

"From your description, the black-robed man who wanted to kill you should be a Three Star Assassin from the Mountainshade Black Market... However, your savior killed him easily. This means he's not an ordinary Saint Stage powerhouse," Bai Li Hong said as his eyes shone with gratitude toward Duan Ling Tian's savior.

In one of the spacious residences in the inner court, Liu Huan's face darkened in anger when he learned that not only did Duan Ling Tian return safely, but he had even broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage.

"Impossible! Impossible! It's impossible that he's still alive!" Liu Huan muttered after taking a deep breath. An expression of disbelief was apparent on his face.

### **Chapter 1509: Qi Deviation**

"Unless the people from Mountainshade Black Market haven't made a move?" Although he found it hard to believe Duan Ling Tian had returned alive, he was indeed alive and well. Liu Huan could only accept the fact regardless of how reluctant he was.

For a time, he kept thinking the people from Mountainshade Black Market had not made their move.

'That's not right! The Mountainshade Black Market and I had agreed on a time. Once the time has passed without any result, it would be considered as a failure... It's long past the time that we had agreed too, this means they had failed the mission.' Liu Huan's thought to himself as his face darkened again.

Soon after, he left his own residence and the Moon Illumination Sect and headed in the direction of Han River City.

He was going to confirm it personally.

When Liu Huan left, many people in the Moon Illumination Sect had learned about Duan Ling Tian's breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage.

"Impossible... Impossible... That's impossible! It can't be!" Once Ye Man came out from his closed-door cultivation, he heard the news about Duan Ling Tian breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage. He felt lost for a moment.

He thought that after coming to the Moon Illumination Sect, he would be able to redeem himself of his past shame and have Duan Ling Tian groveling at his feet or even kill him!

However, God seemed to be pulling a prank on him.

Even when he deviated to the Devil Dao due to his obsession and managed to improve his cultivation by leaps and bounds, he was still far behind Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian always seemed to be ahead of him.

"No! No!! No!" Suddenly, wisps of Devil Qi began to emit out of Ye Man's body as his eyes turned blood-red.

At the same time, he rushed out of his independent courtyard and began attacking everyone he saw as though he had lost his mind.

When Ye Man came out from his closed-door cultivation this time, his cultivation base had reached the Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage. In the outer court, only a few people were a match for him.

Just a few moments later, there were already several outer court disciples who died in his hands. They were all torn into pieces by him with his bare hands!

The bloody scene terrified the other outer court disciples, and they began to run away.

"Someone's killing people! Someone's killing people!"

"Ye Man's experiencing qi deviation, and he's killing people!"

"Elders, deacons, help! Save me!"

All the outer court disciples who witnessed Ye Man killing people ran away as they shouted loudly. Those who were targeted by Ye Man were constantly calling out for help as well.

Unfortunately, the outer court elders and outer court deacons took some time before they arrived after they received the news. Hence, Ye Man managed to kill a dozen more people before they finally arrived.

The Devil Qi would surge even more every time he killed someone.

In the end, he even had a breakthrough to the Early Saint Rudiment Stage!

“Early Saint Rudiment Stage?” Ye Man who had lost his mind instantly regained his senses when he had a breakthrough.

At this moment, he realized the trouble he was in.

“Duan Ling Tian, you’re at the Saint Rudiment Stage, and now, I’m also at the Saint Rudiment Stage... One day, I’ll have you begging at my feet!” After breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage, Ye Man’s self-confidence seemed to have returned.

When he realized the impending crisis that was coming for him, he hurriedly fled from the Moon Illumination Sect without any hesitation at all.

However, how could his speed compete with the speed of the outer court elders?

A few moments later, a few outer court elders appeared and surrounded him as they stared at him.

Hu!

At the same time, a gust of wind appeared before another person materialized before Ye Man.

“Elder Dongfang!” The few outer court elders bowed at him respectfully when they saw him.

The person who came was the Greatest Outer Court Elder, Dongfang Quan.

The few outer court elders did not expect this matter would bring Dongfang Quan here... However, when they thought about the severity of the matter, they no longer thought his presence here was surprising. On the contrary, it would be unreasonable if Elder Dongfang did not make an appearance.

After all, he was the person in charge of the outer court of Moon Illumination Sect. All the outer court elders had to listen to his orders and obey him.

“You’re really daring. You actually dare to attack your own senior brothers and junior brothers.” Dongfang Quan’s expression was slightly gloomy. He did not expect something so dreadful to happen when he was the Greatest Elder of the outer court.

Such incident rarely happened in the history of the Moon Illumination Sect.

Although Ye Man had not seen the old man in front of him before, he could tell what his identity was judging by the way the surrounding outer court elders addressed him.

Ye Man’s expression instantly turned solemn.

After taking a deep breath, Ye Man moved his hand and a light streaked away quickly. Two bloody wounds simultaneously appeared on his palms. It bled profusely with no signs of stopping.

At the same time, Ye Man put his palms together, and a dazzling blood-red light instantly shone.

“Oh, no!” Dongfang Quan’s expression changed dramatically when he saw this. Even the few outer court elders’ expressions had changed.

Sou! Sou! Sou!

...

As soon as their expression changed, they quickly made their moves as well.

However, even when the fastest among them, Dongfang Quan, arrived near Ye Man, he did not even manage to touch him. He merely dispersed the bloody fog Ye Man had formed.

Ye Man who was still here a moment ago had just vanished before their very eyes.

“Blood Escape! It’s Blood Escape!”

One of the outer court elders said with a darkened expression, “This Ye Man is actually a Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator!”

Blood Escape was a method that could only be mastered by Devil Cultivators above the Saint Rudiment Stage.

Once a Devil Cultivator used the Blood Escape, they were instantly granted speed far above their cultivation base to escape. This was a Devil Cultivator’s life-saving secret tactic.

Naturally, the Blood Escape Secret Tactic came with an enormous price tag since it was outrageously powerful.

Apart from only being able to use it three times in their lives, they would burn their own life energy and lose their strength for a short period of time after using it. Unless they were in a life or death situation, it was unlikely they would use Blood Escape.

“All of you are not aware there’s a Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator like him lurking in the outer court all this time?” Dongfang Quan said as he glanced at the outer court elders with a gloomy expression. The Devil Cultivator had even killed several people at the outer court. Moreover, he even escaped right under his watch! This was absolutely humiliating for him!

Dongfang Quan left the Moon Illumination Sect’s estate like a gust of wind as the few outer court elders exchanged bitter smiles with each other.

In any case, he still had to try his best to hunt down the Devil Cultivator who had escaped to account for the outer court disciples who died and to the sect!

Although his chances were slim, he knew its the best time to look for the Devil Cultivator since he had lost all his strength and would not be able to go far.

When Dongfang Quan went after Ye Man, the few outer court elders returned to the outer court.

However, they did not dare to say too much about the matter.



No matter how the other outer court elders or outer court deacons asked, they merely said they had met Dongfang Quan halfway through, and he had asked them to return and calm the outer court disciples while he chased after Ye Man himself.

“Elder Dong Chong, Ye Man had joined the sect under your supervision... I’m afraid you won’t be able to get out of this one,” an outer court elder said as he looked at Dong Chong.

Dong Chong was the outer court elder responsible for the entrance assessment when Duan Ling Tian and Ye Man joined the Moon Illumination Sect.

Dong Chong could not help but smile bitterly when he heard the words. He had already mentally prepared himself.

“If the sect laid down the rules from the beginning to prevent Devil Cultivators from joining, this wouldn’t have happened.”

Many outer court elders stood up for Dong Chong. “At the end of the day, the responsibility of this matter lies with the sect. It’s not Elder Dong Chong’s fault because he had only acted in accordance with the sect.”

“That’s right! Everyone knows Ye Man is a Devil Cultivator, but no one expects him to lose his mind and kill so many outer court disciples.” All the outer court elders were filled with indignation.

“Alright... What we have to do now is to calm the remaining outer court disciples... I’m afraid the incident today will leave a psychological trauma on them. It can get serious so we must minimize the damage.” One of the calmer outer court elders seemed to have analyzed the situation at hand.

“That’s right. Now’s not the time to complain about the sect’s rules. It’s important that we calm the remaining outer court disciples.” Dong Chong agreed.

It had already been three days when Duan Ling Tian finally learned about the matter.

During the past three days, he was inscribing Two Star Saint Inscriptions using the Strange Inscription Art in a quiet room at Bai Li Hong’s residence.

Finally, he managed to master inscribing Two Star Saint Inscriptions using the Strange Inscription Art at the Impeccable Stage.

He only left the quiet room after he had succeeded.

Once he left the quiet room, he heard about the incident in the outer court where a Devil Cultivator killed a lot of people.

“Ye Man?” Duan Ling Tian had a strange expression on his face when he found out the Devil Cultivator was Ye Man.

He was no stranger to Ye Man. In fact, he had met him when he first arrived at the Dao Martial Saint Land. At that time, he even snatched his spot in the Latent Dragon Camp in Mound Hill City. One year later, he met Ye Man again at the Moon Illumination Sect’s entrance assessment.

He had noticed Ye Man's hatred and killing intent. It was obvious he wished he could kill him. However, he had never considered Ye Man as a threat.

He was not afraid of Ye Man before he deviated to the Devil Dao, even more so when he had fallen to the Devil Dao.

Unless the cultivation base of Ye Man who had deviated to the Devil Dao surpassed him by two levels, he would not be able to go against Duan Ling Tian who could use the Devil Suppressant Energy from the Devil Seal Tablet. He was destined to be crushed under the power of the Devil Suppressant Energy.

'He must have experienced a qi deviation,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

"Have they caught him?" Duan Ling Tian asked Bai Li Hong.

"According to their announcement, they said they haven't caught him," Bai Li Hong said.

"They actually... They haven't caught him? How's that possible!" Duan Ling Tian found it hard to believe.

### **Chapter 1510: Continuing with the Mission**

Although Ye Man was a Devil Cultivator who experienced a qi deviation and had greatly increased his strength, he was merely a Paramount Mortal Shedding Stage Devil Cultivator. Theoretically, it was impossible for him to escape from a group of outer court elders and outer court deacons.

Moreover, Ye Man had killed so many outer court disciples. His nature was so terrible that it shook all of the Moon Illumination Sect's high-ranking officials.

Even the outer court's Greatest Elder, Dongfang Quan, had to personally deal with the matter.

Duan Ling Tian had dealt with Dongfang Quan before, he knew that Dongfang Quan's strength was comparable to an inner court elder... With him dealing with it personally, how could Ye Man have escaped?

"I heard that Ye Man used Blood Escape," Bai Li Hong said.

"Blood Escape?!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed. Naturally, he knew what Blood Escape was.

"Blood Escape is a move that can only be used by Devil Cultivators above the Saint Rudiment Stage... Does it mean Ye Man has broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage?" Duan Ling Tian was shocked.

The speed of a Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator when they use Blood Escape Secret Tactic was comparable to the speed of a Saint Stage powerhouse.

Once they used the Blood Escape Secret Tactic, terrible side effects aside, their speed would increase outrageously to the extent it would be raised a level higher.

This is why even if Ye Man was merely an Early Saint Rudiment Stage Devil Cultivator, once he used the Blood Escape Secret Tactic, no one under the Saint Stage could make him stay.

"Speaking of this Ye Man, he seemed to have joined the sect at the same time you did, Junior Brother." Bai Li Hong sighed. "I didn't expect there's someone else with such a monstrous talent apart from you

among the disciples who are recruited this time... Too bad he had killed in the sect. He would never be accepted by the sect again.”

“Besides, his future achievement would be greatly reduced since he used the Blood Escape Secret Tactic,” Bai Li Hong said.

A Devil Cultivator above the Saint Rudiment Stage could only use the Blood Escape Secret Tactic at most three times in their lives.

They would die if they used it the third time. Therefore, ordinary Devil Cultivators would only dare to use it twice if they wanted to live.

Moreover, every time they used it, it would take a huge toll on their bodies.

Not only would the side effect affect their lifespan, but it would also affect their future cultivation.

“I’m afraid it’s going to be difficult for Dongfang Quan to report this matter to the Sect Leader,” Bai Li Hong muttered as he shook his head.

As someone who had opened up 99 Saint Veins, Duan Ling Tian had extraordinary hearing, thus, he could easily hear Bai Li Hong’s words.

He could understand his concern.

Regardless, Dongfang Quan was the Greatest Elder in the outer court. He was in charge of the entire outer court.

He would definitely be punished for letting something like that happen in the place he was in charge of. Moreover, he was not able to apprehend that person.

“Junior Brother, about Ye Man’s escape, please keep it to yourself and don’t spread it around... They had announced that Ye Man was caught and would be executed in a few days!” Bai Li Hong said.

“I understand.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Although Bai Li Hong did not say why, it was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to guess the reason.

The Moon Illumination Sect’s high-ranking officials were most likely worried that once the news of Ye Man’s escape was leaked, the outer court disciples would descend into panic again.

The only way to calm down the fears of the outer court disciples and restore peace to the outer court was to say they had caught Ye Man.

Three days later, the Sect Leader of the Moon Illumination Sect gave an order to execute Ye Man.

Duan Ling Tian was also present on that day.

When Duan Ling Tian saw Ye Man who was tied up in the middle of the execution ground and surrounded by a big crowd, he could not help but exclaim inwardly, ‘Such an impressive disguise! He looks almost exactly like Ye Man! If I didn’t know that Ye Man had escaped, I would’ve thought that he’s Ye Man.’”

“He’s Ye Man? The Devil Cultivator who killed twenty-three outer court disciples?”

“Devil Cultivators are like ticking bombs... In my opinion, I think the sect should impose a rule and ban Devil Cultivators from joining the sect.”

“That’s right! Once the rule is in place, we can completely eliminate the chance of something like this happening again.”

...

Many Moon Illumination Sect’s disciples were discussing among themselves. Even some of the inner court disciples had an expression of fear on their faces when the words ‘Devil Cultivators’ were mentioned.

“Hey! All of you are discriminating against Devil Cultivators! So what if someone is a Devil Cultivator? Take me for example, I’ve never experienced qi deviation. Besides, don’t you forget that there are two Devil Cultivators among the few Saint Stage powerhouses in our sect... How can you discriminate against them like this?” One of the inner court disciples who was also a Devil Cultivator protested.

Instantly, the group of Moon Illumination Sect’s disciples fell silent.

Yes, there were two Devil Cultivators among the Saint Stage powerhouses in the sect.

Obviously, it was impossible for the sect to impose a rule to ban Devil Cultivators from joining.

The subsequent scene was simple. One of the Moon Illumination Sect’s Enforcement Elder had personally executed Ye Man.

After killing Ye Man, he looked around and said in a deep voice, “The sect has never rejected Devil Cultivators because we value their speed of cultivation and extraordinary strength... However, a Devil Cultivator will always be a Devil Cultivator. They’re like a double-edged sword to the sect!”

“The sect has been using this double-edged sword smoothly until recently when an oddity like Ye Man appeared!” Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel drowsy when he heard the Enforcement Elder speaking in official jargon.

Duan Ling Tian could guess his subsequent speech without even listening. He would most certainly give a warning to the other Devil Cultivators.

“Here, I’d like to warn the Devil Cultivators among the inner court disciples to avoid qi deviation while cultivating. If there’s a risk of qi deviation, you should do it far away from the sect... Let Ye Man serve as an example to you otherwise!” Just as Duan Ling Tian had expected, the Enforcement Elder warned the Devil Cultivators present with his words.

What he meant was simple.

If Devil Cultivators were uncertain about their cultivation, they should cultivate far away from the sect so that they would not affect the sect if qi deviation occurred.

If their qi deviated in the sect and they killed people in the sect, they would have to die!

It should be noted that the Enforcement Elder's words were effective as the faces of the disciples who were Devil Cultivators turned solemn.

With Ye Man as an example, they would not dare to be careless anymore.

Just like that, Ye Man's incident came to an end, and peace was gradually restored in the Moon Illumination Sect.

With Bai Li Hong's status in the Moon Illumination Sect, Duan Ling Tian received his identity order token for inner court disciples in just a few days' time.

Duan Ling Tian had also officially joined the Moon Illumination Sect's inner court and moved into Bai Li Hong's mansion.

Due to Duan Ling Tian's relationship with Bai Li Hong, there were not many inner court disciples who dared to offend him even though he had just joined the inner court.

In the following days, Duan Ling Tian entered the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and greedily inhaled the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the air and the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy inside the Saint Stones to improve his cultivation base.

He desperately wanted to break through to the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage!

Once he broke through to the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage, he would be able to master the True Energy Consolidated Weapon.

At that time, his strength would have a qualitative leap.

"Once I master the True Energy Consolidated Weapon, I'm confident I'll be able to defeat even the strongest Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse! I'm not sure about Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouses though. After all, they've mastered the True Energy Consolidated Territory."

Duan Ling Tian had personally witnessed how terrifying the True Energy Consolidated Territory could be.

That assassin whom he suspected was from the Mountainshade Black Market had formed the Blood Devil Territory that easily obstructed him even though he was using a Three Star Divine Strider Talisman.

Within the Blood Devil Territory, every Blood Devil was extremely powerful.

"I don't know what kind of territory I'll master when I break through to the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage." Duan Ling Tian was very eager to find out.

One might be able to choose one's True Energy Consolidated Weapon and True Energy Consolidated Beast, but it was not the case with the True Energy Consolidated Territory. It was entirely up to Heaven. It was a gift from Heaven that was as useful as one's arms.

Just like the assassin whom Duan Ling Tian suspected to be from the Mountainshade Black Market, he was a Devil Cultivator who had mastered the Blood Devil Territory. The territory was very suitable for him.

While Duan Ling Tian was working hard on his cultivation, the Moon Illumination Sect's inner court elder, Liu Huan, had arrived at Han River City and the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in the area under the influence of the Nine Sect Alliances.

His purpose in coming here was simple. He wanted to ask the people from the Mountainshade Black Market if the mission he had put out had failed.

What would happen next if it failed?

"Did it really fail?" Even though he was mentally prepared, Liu Huan's face that was hidden under a mask still turned ghastly when he learned the mission had really failed.

"Guest, we failed your mission because we had underestimated your target... According to the rules of the Mountainshade Black Market, we'll refund you twice the amount you've paid," a person from the Mountainshade Black Market said apologetically to Liu Huan.

In other words, if Liu Huan had previously spent 10,000 grade six Saint Stones to buy Duan Ling Tian's life, he would be compensated with another 10,000 grade six Saint Stones on top of what he had paid.

However, Liu Huan was not happy at all.

"What if I want you to continue the mission?" Liu Huan pressed.

At this time, he merely thought the person whom the Mountainshade Black Market sent out was too weak. That had to be a reason why they failed.

"If you want us to continue with the mission, you don't have to pay us. It'll do if you just give us some time," the person from the Mountainshade Black Market said.

"Alright! I want you to continue with the mission... I hope you'll send out someone stronger this time. Don't let me down again," Liu Huan said, displeasure evident in his voice.

"Don't worry. The Mountainshade Black Market won't let you down again," the person from Mountainshade Black Market said.

After Liu Huan left, inside one of the rooms in the Mountainshade Black Market's branch, two of the highest high-ranking officials in that branch got together again due to Liu Huan's mission.

These two high-ranking officials were Yin Yang and Tai Wu.

Yin Yang was the person in charge of the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in Han River City. He was usually responsible for taking care of the day-to-day matters.

Tai Wu was the secret weapon of the Mountainshade Black Market's branch at the areas under the influence of the Nine Sect Alliances. He was usually rotated between the various branches of the Mountainshade Black Market in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances. Recently, he had been on duty at Han River City.

Tai Wu was also the Mountainshade Black Market powerhouse who killed the previous Sect Leader of Profound Talisman Sect back then!