

SOVEREIGN 1511

Chapter 1511: Chi Mei the Quasi Four-Star Assassin

“We are continuing with the previous mission that Chi Ming took on and failed,” Yin Yang said as he looked at Tai Wu.

“En.” Tai Wu nodded. “This time, you’re not going to let another Three Star Assassin accept the mission, right?”

“Although Chi Ming wasn’t the best Three Star Assassin, he could be considered to be among the top few. Naturally, I won’t let another Three Star Assassin accept the mission if even someone like him failed and was killed. This time, I intend to let Chi Mei do it!” Yin Yang said as his dark eyes suddenly brightened.

Some time ago, he had gone back to the lair of the Mountainshade Black Market’s branch to verify that Chi Ming’s Soul Pearl had already been broken. It broke during the time he was carrying out his mission.

He was dead if his Soul Pearl was broken

“Chi Mei?”

Tai Wu looked surprised. “As far as I know, Chi Mei is considered a top-tier trump card at the branches in this area? She has never failed to kill any target below the Saint Stage.”

“That’s right. Chi Mei’s one of our trump cards at the branches in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances. She’s a Quasi Four Star Assassin!” Yin Yang nodded.

In the Mountainshade Black Market, a Quasi Four Star Assassin had strength equivalent to someone at the Imminent Saint Stage.

Because they were assassins, they would not confront their targets directly and would use a stealthy and unexpected approach.

Therefore, the Mountainshade Black Market’s Quasi Four Star Assassins were usually able to kill Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses. Naturally, this did not mean they could kill all Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses.

Due to various reason, some Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses were as strong as weaker Saint Stage powerhouses.

It would still be quite difficult for these Quasi Four Star Assassins to kill these Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses.

However, there were not a lot of such Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses in the Nine Sect Alliances’ areas.

It was only possible for a fifth-rate force, fourth-rate force or a more powerful force to have such talents at the Imminent Saint Stage.

If Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base rose to the Imminent Saint Stage in the future, he would naturally belong to that category.

His innate talent and potential were no weaker than the young talents from the powerful forces.

"With Chi Mei taking on this mission, the success should be as sure as a gun," Tai Wu said. Based on his words, it could be seen that he had full confidence in Chi Mei the Quasi Four Star Assassin.

In addition to being a Quasi Four Star Assassin, Chi Mei was also a woman.

She was the only female Quasi Four Star Assassin at Mountainshade Black Market's branches in the areas under the Nine Sect Alliances.

Moreover, she was widely acknowledged as being number one among all the Quasi Four Star Assassins in the Mountainshade Black Market's branches.

No one had ever seen Chi Mei's face. Even Yin Yang and Tai Wu had only seen Chi Mei's shapely body that was garbed in black.

Put aside Chi Mei's face that was also concealed in black, any man would lust over Chi Mei just by looking at her fine figure.

However, even Tai Wu and Yin Yang did not dare to act inappropriately.

This was because Chi Mei had the support of the leader of the Mountainshade Black Market's branches in the areas under the influence of the Nine Sect Alliances.

The relationship between Chi Mei and the leader of Mountainshade Black Market was a mystery to everyone. In fact, it was probable that only Chi Mei and the leader of Mountainshade Black Market knew about the nature of their relationship.

Naturally, there were a lot of people from the Mountainshade Black Market who speculated secretly.

Some said that Chi Mei was the leader's woman, while some others said that Chi Mei was the leader's illegitimate daughter

In fact, some even said that Chi Mei was the granddaughter of the leader.

Regardless, Chi Mei's backstory was an unsolved mystery that intrigued the others.

The Mountainshade Black Market's branch at Han River City was one of their main bases, but it was not the main lair of the Mountainshade Black Market's branches.

The main lair of the Mountainshade Black Market's branches was located deep in a forested mountain north of Han River City. It was hidden beneath several layers of Hallucinogenic Formation.

Apart from the high-ranking officials of Mountainshade Black Market's branches and some of the assassins who were considered trump cards who knew the way in, the other people from the Mountainshade Black Market's branches did not know how to enter even if they knew the location.

The Hallucinogenic Formation at the Mountainshade Black Market branches' main lair was very mysterious. It was jointly set up by a Four Star Saint Inscription Master and a Four Star Dao Talisman Master.

Naturally, this did not mean the Mountainshade Black Market's branch had a Four Star Saint Inscription Master and a Four Star Dao Talisman Master because both of them were sent by the Mountainshade Black Market's top-tier branches. They merely there to help set up the formation for the Mountainshade Black Market's branches in the area under the influence of the Nine Sect Alliances.

They had left after they completed the formations.

It would be extremely tough for ordinary Saint Stage powerhouses to enter these Hallucinogenic formations.

Beyond the layers of Hallucinogenic Formations, there was a huge valley in the depths of the mountain with many independent courtyards.

At first glance, they seemed to be everywhere in the mountains.

Xiu!

Suddenly, a sharp arrow that carried a jade token flew by and embedded itself on a wooden post of a house at the hillside.

Hu!

Almost at the same time the arrow was embedded into the wooden post, a purple bird materialized out of thin air.

It pecked at the sharp arrow with its beak and easily pulled out the sharp arrow that embedded in the wooden post. The whole process seemed effortless.

Hu!

The purple bird suddenly vanished and appeared at the backyard.

The backyard was obscured by clouds. It was obviously shrouded with formations too. The formation had completely blocked the house from sight. Naturally, it was extremely easy for the people inside to look out.

There was a young woman seated beside a small pond in the backyard while she played with the water with her delicate feet. She had an extremely beautiful face and seemed to be deep in thoughts. One would not be able to tell what she thinking about.

"Sister, sister." The young woman only regained her senses and took the sharp arrow from the purple bird's beak when the purple bird appeared and began to speak.

She threw the sharp arrow away, leaving only the jade token behind. After that, the young woman poured her Spiritual Energy into it.

A few moments later, the information within the jade token appeared in her mind.

“Moon Illumination Sect, Duan Ling Tian, Saint Rudiment Stage? A few months ago, he was merely at the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage... There’s such a monstrous Martial Dao prodigy at this place where the birds don’t even want to sh*t?” The young woman was a bit surprised.

“To ask me to take personally take on such a target... Are all those Three Star Assassins trash?” The young woman suddenly frowned.

However, after she sorted out all the information in her mind, she unfurrowed her brows. “Chi Ming had failed? Interesting, interesting... Zi’er, it seems like we’re going out.” The young woman’s final sentence was obviously directed to the purple bird.

“Hehe... Finally, a mission. Sister, pass this mission to me, I’ll definitely do a good job,” the purple bird hovering in front of the young woman vowed as it flapped its wings.

“We’ll see.”

The young woman smiled faintly. “I guess that Moon Illumination Sect’s disciple called Duan Ling Tian must have someone protecting him in the dark... My guess would be the Three Star Saint Inscription Master of Moon Illumination Sect, Bai Li Hong. His strength is comparable to an Imminent Saint Stage powerhouse if he unleashes his full strength.”

“Sister, why don’t you take the target and let me deal with that Bai Li Hong?” When the purple bird heard the young woman’s words, it quickly changed its tune. Based on its words, it did not seem bothered by Bai Li Hong even though his strength was comparable to an Imminent Saint Stage powerhouse.

“Zi’er, if you talk anymore then you’ll have to stay home.” The young woman frowned and stared at the purple bird. The latter quickly shut up, not daring to make another sound.

When the young woman came out after walking into a room, she was already dressed in a black garb. Her beautiful face was completely covered. However, her fine figure was enough to incur envy in other women and make men covet her.

After a few moments, the woman vanished into thin air, and the purple bird disappeared along with her.

There was a remote mountain range ten thousand miles west of the Mountainshade Black Market’s branches’ main lair. It seemed barren, not even a blade of grass could be seen.

A figure that looked agitated was heading into the depths of the mountain range with a pearl tightly gripped in her hands.

“Brother, now that the Ouyang Clan is gone, and Father’s also gone, you don’t have to continue with your punishment anymore... I’m coming to get you out.” The agitated figure was also a young woman.

If Duan Ling Tian was here, he would have recognized the young woman as the Second Young Miss of the Ouyang Clan, Ouyang Ruo.

Ouyang Ruo was supposed to die along with the rest of the Ouyang Clan, but she was lucky enough to escape death because she had gone out at the right time.

Although she had escaped death, it had not been easy for her as well. She had to hide from the Mountainshade Black Market's assassins as she hurriedly left Han River City.

The direction Ouyang Ruo was headed in was the direction of the Nether Ridge that had been passed down in the Ouyang Clan since a long time ago.

Her objective was simple. She was looking for her brother.

If the Clan Leader of Ouyang Clan, Ouyang Ba, was still alive and learned about Ouyang Ruo's intention, he would have smiled bitterly because her thinking was too naive.

Certainly, the blame could not be placed on Ouyang Ruo because there were only a few who knew the exact information about the Nether Ridge in the entire Ouyang Clan.

The Nether Ridge was a bottomless pit. Unless one had the ability to come out on their own, it would only lead to one's death.

On another note, the pearl held by Ouyang Ruo was her brother, Ouyang Qing's Soul Pearl. She had taken it from the Ouyang Clan's ancestral temple after the Ouyang Clan was annihilated.

On that day when she snuck into the Ouyang Clan's ancestral temple, most of the Soul Pearls were already shattered. The remaining Soul Pearls belonged to lineal disciples who were not around.

In the Ouyang Clan, only lineal disciples were eligible to own a Soul Pearl.

After retrieving her own Soul Pearl and Ouyang Qing's Soul Pearl, Ouyang Ruo left Han River City and made her way to the Nether Ridge.

Chapter 1512: The Sect's Storehouse

In just a blink of an eye, two months had passed. Duan Ling Tian left the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and exited his room, looking refreshed as his face showed a brilliant smile.

It was obvious Duan Ling Tian was feeling extremely good.

"I finally broke through to the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage!" The brilliant smile slowly faded into a small grin after he heaved a sigh of relief.

Ten months had passed inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda while only two months had passed in the real world.

Apart from cultivating Saint Grade Martial Tactic during those ten months, Duan Ling Tian also focused on his cultivation base which led to his breakthrough.

However, Duan Ling Tian discovered he still could not use the True Energy Consolidated Weapon technique even after breaking through to the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage.

Duan Ling Tian had asked Bai Li Hong questions regarding True Energy Consolidated Weapon and learned that it was a technique that allowed the user to consolidate an independent weapon of the user's choice from the user's True Energy.

It might be an arrow this time and a blade next time. True Energy Consolidated Weapon could consolidate a weapon of the user's choice without any limitations.

True Energy Consolidated Weapon was also the only technique among the three techniques that could be mastered by a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage Martial Cultivator that did not have any limitations.

True Energy Consolidated Beast could not change its form after it was consolidated. There were two ways to consolidate the beast using the True Energy Consolidated Beast technique. It could be solidified through pure imagination or through a wild beast or a saint beast's blood essence.

However, the power of a consolidated beast through pure imagination was far inferior compared to the consolidated beasts that were formed from blood essence... The former only had the beast's shape and form while the latter would not only have the beast's shape and form but also its force.

All the consolidated beasts Duan Ling Tian had seen up until now were consolidated through pure imagination. This was because it was extremely difficult to come across a wild beast or a saint beast's blood essence.

The blood essence needed to consolidate the True Energy Consolidated Beast had several conditions. The blood essence needed to be from a beast with a high-level bloodline like the dragons or phoenixes... Otherwise, it had to be from a Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage beast. Therefore, only very few people would consolidate the True Energy Consolidated Beast using a beast's blood essence. Only those with extraordinary background and powerhouses to help them extract the blood essence were able to master it.

"Since I've already fused with the blood essence of a five-clawed Devil Dragon, I'll be able to consolidate a five-clawed Devil Dragon with my True Energy when I reach the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage," Duan Ling Tian said to himself with high hopes.

Since his True Energy Consolidated Beast technique used the five-clawed Devil Dragon's blood essence as its foundation, Duan Ling Tian should be able to defeat about ninety percent of the consolidated beasts among his peers. It was not entirely impossible for him to challenge an enemy from a higher level as well.

"Eh?" Duan Ling Tian discovered he was able to consolidate a sword from his True Energy with just a thought as soon as he left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. A huge True Energy Consolidated Sword hovered in front of him.

With another thought, a wave of sonic boom surged up and flashed in the sky.

"It seems like the True Energy Consolidated Weapon technique can't be used inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda," Duan Ling Tian said in relief. He was worried that he could not master the technique, and as a result, it would put him in a disadvantageous position if he was battling other Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage Martial or Dao Cultivators.

When Duan Ling Tian was focused on consolidating various weapons and playing with them like a little kid with a new toy on Christmas morning, a loud voice came from outside.

“True Energy Consolidated Weapon?!”

Duan Ling Tian knew Bai Li Hong had come judging from the voice.

“Senior Brother.”

Duan Ling Tian greeted Bai Li Hong with a smile while a True Energy Consolidated Spear dispersed with just a thought. However, Bai Li Hong did not respond to him. He only stared at him as though it was their first time meeting.

Although Bai Li Hong knew Duan Ling Tian had reached the Saint Rudiment stage, he assumed that Duan Ling Tian had only reached the early stage. He did not expect him to surprise him so much after only two months.

In just six months, the cultivation base of the person in front of him rose to the Saint Rudiment Mastery Stage from the Mortal Shedding Perfection stage. He did not think a genius like this existed in this world prior to this.

“Is there anything I can help you with, Senior Brother?” Duan Ling Tian asked when he saw Bai Li Hong staring at him blankly. Duan Ling Tian roughly knew what was going through Bai Li Hong’s mind, and he was more curious about the purpose of his visit. He would not just visit him for no good reason.

Bai Li Hong finally regained his senses. He sized Duan Ling Tian up before he finally replied, “You freak!”

Although this was not the first time Duan Ling Tian had heard this comment, he still could not help but force a smile on his face when he heard this comment from a Moon Illumination Sect’s inner court elder.

“I wonder, how do you cultivate, Junior Brother? Reaching the Saint Rudiment Mastery Stage and mastering the True Energy Consolidated Weapon in less than six months.”

Bai Li Hong could not help asking even though he knew this was one of Duan Ling Tian’s secret.

Naturally, he was prepared for Duan Ling Tian’s refusal to reveal it since everyone had their own secrets. He did not feel like it was absolutely necessary for him to obtain an answer from Duan Ling Tian since his question was asked in the spur of the moment.

“Senior brother, do you believe it’s possible for someone to reach the Saint Rudiment Mastery Stage from the Mortal Shedding Perfection Stage in less than six months?” Duan Ling Tian responded to Bai Li Hong with a question as he shook his head and smiled.

“I didn’t believe it’s possible before, but the truth is standing right in front of my eyes. How can I not believe it?” Bai Li Hong replied with a forced smile.

“If I tell you I have a secret tactic that allows me to hide my cultivation base, would you believe me?” Duan Ling Tian asked laughingly.

“Erm...”

Bai Li Hong was stunned after hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words. He had considered this possibility before, but he had not heard of such a secret tactic.

"I see." Bai Li Hong looked visibly relieved.

Although it was shocking to hear about such a secret tactic, it was still less shocking than Duan Ling Tian reaching the Saint Rudiment Mastery Stage from the Mortal Shedding Perfection Stage in less than six months. Compared to that, Duan Ling Tian having a secret tactic to conceal his cultivation was more acceptable to Bai Li Hong.

Duan Ling Tian was relieved Bai Li Hong believed his explanation. However, he felt sorry since he had to lie to him even though he treated him sincerely.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew he had to lie to Bai Li Hong because the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was his biggest secret. If that secret was revealed, he would be in deep trouble.

Duan Ling Tian knew Bai Li Hong would keep his secret even if he told him the truth. However, news had a way of getting out.

There are several spiritual secret tactics that allowed the user to read another person's soul, thoughts, and knowledge. Usually, it was extremely hard to defend against this type of secret tactic, and no information could be hidden from such a secret tactic.

Duan Ling Tian chose to keep it a secret due to this reason. He felt it was the best to keep this from Bai Li Hong.

"Junior brother, I've been visiting you since a fortnight ago, but I saw you were busy so I didn't want to disturb you," Bai Li Hong said.

"You've been visiting since a fortnight ago?" Duan Ling Tian was surprised. "Is there anything urgent, Senior Brother?"

"Yes." Bai Li Hong nodded. "Aren't you interested in all sorts of rare and weird materials? You'll finally have a chance to see them in the sect's storehouse... With a little luck and my help, I think you'll be able to obtain the materials you desire there."

It was obvious Bai Li Hong had heard about Duan Ling Tian searching for materials in Milky Way City. Bai Li Hong had his eyes set on the Moon Illumination Sect's storehouse after he heard about that incident. Unfortunately, the Moon Illumination Sect's storehouse only allowed outstanding young disciples to enter under normal circumstances. It was hard for him to find a reason to enter the Moon Illumination Sect's storehouse even though he was a prominent Moon Illumination Sect's inner court elder. Usually, no one, not even the Sect Leader, would enter the storehouse.

"The sect's storehouse?" Duan Ling Tian asked with a perplexed look on his face, "What's that?"

"The sect's storehouse is where all sorts of rare and weird things are kept... The things in there are passed down from the previous generations. There are some unpolished gems among them as well," Bai Li Hong explained, "However, our sect only allows outstanding young inner court disciples to enter the sect's storehouse every other year [1]. There's no exception."

"So in other words, it'll be opened this year?"

After listening to Bai Li Hong's explanation, Duan Ling Tian became extremely interested in Moon Illumination Sect's storehouse. He felt the storehouse was like an untouched treasure cove.

“Yes.” Bai Li Hong nodded. “Our sect will gather all the inner court’s disciples under forty years old in a fortnight and organize a hunting trial. Outstanding participants of that trial will be given an opportunity to enter the sect’s storeroom to select items they desire.”

Chapter 1513: Vice Sect Leader, Zhong Huo

Chapter 1513 Vice Sect Leader, Zhong Huo

“Inner court disciples who are 40 years old or younger?” When Duan Ling Tian heard Bai Li Hong’s words, all he did was reveal a calm smile. He did not look bothered about it as though he did not feel any pressure at all.

With his current strength, he did not fear those powerful top-tier inner court elders, let alone those inner court disciples in the Moon Illumination Sect who were below 40 years old. He did not dare to say that he would be able to defeat a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse, but those who were at the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage were basically no match for him as long as they were not particularly talented.

Due to this reason, he felt the Hunting Assessment that was going to be held by the Moon Illumination Sect annually was merely a formality to him.

“Yes.” Bai Li Hong nodded before smiling. “This Hunting Assessment should be just a mere formality to you, Junior Brother... With your strength, it’s very easy for you to obtain first place.”

Bai Li Hong’s tone filled with confidence for Duan Ling Tian.

With Duan Ling Tian’s cultivation base at the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage, none of the inner court disciples below 40 years old could compare to him at all in the Moon Illumination Sect.

Moreover, all the Moon Illumination Sect’s inner court disciples who were 40 years old or younger could already be considered as extraordinary if their cultivation base reached the Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage.

Duan Ling Tian’s achievement had far surpassed theirs.

“I acted on my own and signed you up... In ten days time, you’ll depart and head to the venue of the Hunting Assessment... At that time, I’ll come along with you as well,” Bai Li Hong added.

“You’ll come as well, Senior Brother?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly shocked.

“Yes, I’ve asked for the position of a patroller from the Sect Leader to prevent people from playing favorites and violating the rules in the Hunting Assessment.” Bai Li Hong smiled.

“Don’t tell me the Sect Leader isn’t afraid you’ll show favoritism and violate the rules for me?” Duan Ling Tian joked with a smile.

“With your cultivation base, do you even need to cheat, Junior Brother? Besides, even if I really help you cheat, the Sect Leader wouldn’t say anything as well.” Bai Li Hong’s words were filled with confidence.

Among the inner court elders in the Moon Illumination Sect, nobody else but him alone dared to say such words.

Even those Vice Sect Leaders did not have the guts to say such words, let alone the other inner court elders.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by this at all.

His senior brother was not just a Moon Illumination Sect's inner court elder but also the only Three Star Saint Inscription Master in the Moon Illumination Sect. His position was so high that it even surpassed those few Vice Sect Leaders in the Moon Illumination Sect. Even those Saint Stage powerhouses in the sect had to show respect to his senior brother.

To Duan Ling Tian, ten days were equivalent to fifty days on the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Fifty days were enough for him to do many things.

"Currently, the Golden Shirt has already been cultivated to the highest stage while the main technique of the Colossal Aerolite Arrow has also been cultivated to the fourth stage. It's just a step away from the fifth stage, the Impeccable Stage, which is also the highest stage," Duan Ling Tian mumbled to himself, "On top of that, the offensive technique, the Gargantuan Taishan from the Golden Roc Mass Tactic has also made quite a progress. In these fifty days, I'll focus on cultivating the Aerolite Strike and the Body and Arrow Synchronization from the Colossal Aerolite Arrow... After I've cultivated both of these to the highest stage, the Impeccable Stage, I'll also cultivate and elevate my Aerolite Shower."

The Aerolite Shower was one of the offensive techniques in the Colossal Aerolite Arrow. It was also the foundation for the strongest technique in the Colossal Aerolite Arrow, the Colossal Arrow Bell.

He would only be able to use the Aerolite Shower as a foundation to start cultivating the Colossal Arrow Bell only when he had cultivated the Aerolite Shower to the highest stage

Although it was a defensive technique as well, the power of the Colossal Arrow Bell was not something the Golden Shirt could compare to.

The Golden Shirt was also a technique that was at the same level as the Aerolite Shower. The Colossal Arrow Bell, on the other hand, was a powerful defensive technique that was on par with the defensive technique of an Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

However, the Earth Rank Saint Grade Martial Tactic could only be cultivated when one was at the Saint Stage or above.

It was precisely because of this reason that Duan Ling Tian had always been looking forward to the Colossal Arrow Bell. That was why he had never neglected to cultivate the Aerolite Shower.

Currently, his Aerolite Shower was close to making a breakthrough to the fourth stage.

“Ever since Elder Huo helped raise my cultivation base to the Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage, I feel like it’s much easier for me to cultivate the Saint Grade Martial Tactic... That feeling is like I’ve been enlightened. I can easily understand the things that I found difficult previously.”

Duan Ling Tian had long noticed this. He had even asked Elder Huo about this, but he only managed to obtain two words from him as an answer.

Sun Body!

Duan Ling Tian’s knowledge about the Sun Body was half-baked. Elder Huo only said his body was already a Sun Body, but as to what was so special about the Sun Body, Elder Huo did not expound on it. He only asked him to discover it on his own.

Until now, the only special thing he had discovered was how he had a faster speed in cultivating the Saint Grade Martial Tactic.

However, just this one thing was enough to shock and excite Duan Ling Tian.

“According to Elder Huo, there are still many secrets to the Sun Body... I wonder how many more surprises await me in the future.” The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, his heart was overwhelmed with an inexplicable sense of excitement again.

Fifty days were not too short but they were not long either.

When Duan Ling Tian was in the midst of cultivating, the span of fifty days went by very quickly.

Just as he had hoped for, he managed to cultivate his Aerolite Strike and Body and Arrow Synchronization to the highest stage. Moreover, the Aerolite Shower had also been cultivated to the fourth stage. It was just a stage away from the highest stage.

Once he made further progress, he would be able to start cultivating the Colossal Arrow Bell.

When the Aerolite Shower was cultivated to the fourth stage, fifty days had gone by on the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

It was already midnight outside. The next day would be the day he would leave for the Hunting Assessment held by the Moon Illumination Sect.

Tonight, Duan Ling Tian did not return to the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Instead, he sat on the bed in his room with his eyes closed to attain mental composure.

His thoughts had long flown away.

‘By the time my cultivation base makes a breakthrough to the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage, I’ll return to Half Moon Island,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

He believed that with the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he would only need three months at most to make a breakthrough to the Perfection Saint Rudiment Stage.

Naturally, he meant three months in the real world. Three months outside would be equivalent to fifteen months on the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. That was one year and three months.

'My children will be born very soon.' When Duan Ling Tian thought about this, his heart was filled with a wave of excitement again. This excitement far exceeded the excitement he felt when he made a breakthrough in his cultivation base.

Once the two children were born, he would be a father!

This was something he dared not even think of in his past life.

In his past life, he was a mercenary who walked in the dark, and he was someone who needed to lick the blood off his sword. He did not even know what would happen in the next second.

It was precisely because of this, the former him never thought of marrying and having children at all. However, in this life, he was going to have two children soon.

When Duan Ling Tian thought about this, he felt eager to return to Half Moon Island.

The next morning, Duan Ling Tian met up with Bai Li Hong before leaving together to gather with the others.

The Hunting Assessment this time was personally managed by a Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect. Other than the Vice Sect Leader, another three inner court elders took the roles of patrollers, and Bai Li Hong was one of them.

With Bai Li Hong's identity, even if he wanted to manage the Hunting Assessment personally, all he needed to do was say the words.

However, he did not like to be in charge and merely wanted to be an idle patroller.

Just as they gathered with the rest of the force, Duan Ling Tian saw a sturdy old man walking toward him and Bai Li Hong before he greeted Bai Li Hong enthusiastically, "Elder Bai Li."

The sturdy old man had a huge-built. He was like a small hill. When he walked toward them, it was as though a hill was moving toward them, exuding an oppressive air.

"Vice Sect Leader Zhong." Bai Li Hong nodded his head in response to the sturdy old man. His words had also revealed this man's identity.

He was none other than Zhong Huo, the person in charge of the Hunting Assessment and one of the Vice Sect Leaders of Moon Illumination Sect.

"This must be Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian. You're Elder Bai Li's junior brother right?" Soon after, Zhong Huo looked at Duan Ling Tian and smiled.

"Vice Sect Leader," Duan Ling Tian quickly replied, but he felt a little uncomfortable.

Although Zhong Huo appeared harmless and ordinary, Duan Ling Tian did not know why he made him uncomfortable. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian could also faintly sense hostility emitting out of Zhong Huo's body. Naturally, the hostility he sensed was so weak that it made him wondered if he was mistaken.

By right, this was their first meeting so Zhong Huo had no reason to be hostile to him at all.

“Junior Brother, this is Zhong Huo. He’s the master of He Zhong, the outer court disciple you defeated previously.” At this moment, Bai Li Hong’s True Energy Voice Transmission entered Duan Ling Tian’s ears and instantly dispelled all his doubts. He knew then he was not mistaken.

“So, he’s actually He Zhong’s master.” Duan Ling Tian finally understood.

Since he was He Zhong’s master, it was only normal for him to be hostile.

He Zhong was Liu Huan’s nephew and had been defeated by Duan Ling Tian before. He was even forced by Duan Ling Tian to swear on the lightning penalty oath to not go against Duan Ling Tian in the future.

When Duan Ling Tian eyes swept past Zhong Huo’s back, he noticed He Zhong among the group of people behind him.

“He Zhong also became an inner court disciple?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned.

He was not shocked by the fact that He Zhong had become an inner court disciple since his master was an almighty Vice Sect Leader of the Moon Illumination Sect. His master only needed to speak up for the sect to make an exception and let him into the inner court.

What surprised him was the fact that when he activated his Divine Eye, he could see in just one glance that He Zhong’s cultivation base had already reached the Early Saint Rudiment Stage.

Chapter 1514: Fang Hui’s Crisis

When Duan Ling Tian was probing He Zhong’s cultivation base, He Zhong was also looking at him with a complicated gaze.

The reason he had made a breakthrough so quickly to the Saint Rudiment Stage was due to Duan Ling Tian to a certain extent. This was because in these three months, after he heard about Duan Ling Tian’s breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage, he was deeply affected by it and began to feel pressured.

Like the saying went, ‘Pressure gives rise to motivation.’ It was this invisible pressure that helped He Zhong make a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage in a month. After he had broken through, he also officially became Vice Sect Leader Zhong Huo’s disciple.

It was at that time the outer court disciples realized He Zhong had not been secretly taken in as a disciple by Liu Huan. In fact, it was Vice Sect Leader Zhong Huo who had taken him as not just a disciple, but a direct disciple. However, with all the ways Duan Ling Tian had shocked them, they were already somewhat immune to it so they were not too surprised with this news.

After all, Duan Ling Tian had become Elder Bai Li Hong’s Junior Brother.

Who was Elder Bai Li Hong? He was the number one inner court elder who was recognized by the Moon Illumination Sect. His position was so high that it even surpassed the few Vice Sect Leaders in the sect.

Moreover, even the few Saint Stage powerhouses in the Moon Illumination Sect, including the Sect Leader, also had to be courteous when they meet Bai Li Hong. It was as though they had equal positions.

From the moment Duan Ling Tian was acknowledged by Bai Li Hong as his junior brother, his position in the Moon Illumination Sect had also risen.

Even He Zhong's master, Zhong Huo, one of the Vice Sect Leaders of Moon Illumination Sect, had to be courteous to Bai Li Hong and address Duan Ling Tian as Junior Brother when they met.

'I can only hope uncle has dismissed the idea of going against Duan Ling Tian and that he's not just brushing me off,' He Zhong thought to himself.

When he heard Bai Li Hong had accepted Duan Ling Tian as his junior brother, the tiny bit of remaining enmity he felt toward Duan Ling Tian quickly vanished without a trace. He had completely put the incident that happened in the past behind him. He knew that if he did not do so, he would only harm himself.

It was because of Duan Ling Tian that he managed to make a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage faster than he had imagined. In his heart, he felt slightly indebted to him.

"Congratulations, He Zhong," Duan Ling Tian took the initiative to greet He Zhong through his True Energy Voice Transmission.

He Zhong was stunned when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

This 'Congratulations' from Duan Ling Tian was obviously intentional. All he could think about now was the matter of him breaking through to the Saint Rudiment Stage. If he was not mistaken, up until now, only he and his master knew about his breakthrough. He had not revealed his cultivation base to the public yet.

He had a feeling of being exposed now that Duan Ling Tian had seen through him.

"Y-You can tell?" He Zhong could not help but ask through True Energy Voice Transmission after he took a deep breath.

Duan Ling Tian did not respond to him in regard to this. Instead, he merely smiled mysteriously at He Zhong.

At this moment, the degree of danger Duan Ling Tian posed rose a few levels in his heart.

Soon after, the other two inner court elders who were also patrollers for the Hunting Assessment also took the initiative to greet Bai Li Hong enthusiastically, "Elder Bai Li."

The group of inner court disciples, including He Zhong, also took the initiative to greet Duan Ling Tian politely, "Junior Brother Duan."

The two inner court elders also looked at Duan Ling Tian and took the initiative to greet him as well.

This scene made the group of inner court disciples feel green with envy. There were jealousy and hatred as well. However, there was nothing they could do. Who asked Duan Ling Tian to be so talented in Martial Dao and lived such a blessed life?

After Bai Li Hong became his senior brother, he could basically roam freely in the Moon Illumination Sect.

“Let’s go!” Bai Li Hong motioned for them to leave, and Zhong Huo gave an order to the group of people before they walked out of the Moon Illumination Sect’s monastery gate in a mighty formation.

After they had left the Moon Illumination Sect’s monastery gate, they soared up into the sky and headed to the venue of the Hunting Assessment.

Not long after the group of people left, in a spacious mansion in the inner court of Moon Illumination Sect, Liu Huan sat in front of the stone table in the courtyard. His hands were tapping lightly against the table. “Duan Ling Tian must have already left to participate in that Hunting Assessment at this hour, right?”

“This is a good opportunity... I just hope the Mountainshade Black Market won’t let me down again,” Liu Huan muttered as killing intent flashed in his eyes.

“Besides, there’s Fang Hui as well... So many years have gone by... It’s time for us to end things completely! Initially, I didn’t think he would be able to cause much trouble even if I let him be. I didn’t expect he would be able to take in such an outstandingly talented disciple like Duan Ling Tian!” Liu Huan’s eyes had a piercing look as it flashed with killing intent again.

Very soon, he stood up and prepared to leave.

“Master!” Right at this moment, a figure walked toward him. It was Su Qi.

Su Qi’s hand was holding a bowl of gruel. “This is the Clear Jade Gruel that I made for you, Master. Please drink it while it’s hot.”

“Indeed, you’re the most thoughtful. That unfilial disciple of mine, Zhou Qi, has never even made me gruel before.” Liu Huan was pretty satisfied with this disciple in front of him. Even since he became his disciple, put aside the fact that he was very diligent in cultivating, the most important part was he would make gruel for him every few days. It would be a different flavor every time.

After finishing up the gruel that Su Qi passed to him, Liu Huan’s eyes flashed as an idea appeared in his mind.

“Su Qi, follow me on an outing,” Liu Huan told Su Qi.

“Alright.” Su Qi did not question Liu Huan about their destination and immediately agreed to it.

“You’re not going to ask me where I’m bringing you?” Liu Huan asked.

“I’ll go wherever you plan on bringing me, Master. Even if its a blade or fire mountain, I’ll still go without so much as a frown,” Su Qi answered solemnly.

“Haha... Good! Good! The biggest mistake I, Liu Huan, made is to take that unfilial disciple, Zhou Qi, as my disciple. However, the best decision I made is to take in such a good disciple like you.” Liu Huan burst out laughing, incredibly satisfied with Su Qi’s answer.

“Let’s go! I’ll bring you back to Mound Hill City!” Liu Huan exited the door the instant he finished speaking.

Mound Hill City!

Su Qi’s heart began to tremble when he heard Liu Huan’s words. He could faintly guess Liu Huan’s intention. He knew all this was closely related to Duan Ling Tian’s abrupt rise in the sect.

However, after taking a deep breath, he still followed Liu Huan.

Prior to this, the news of Duan Ling Tian becoming Moon Illumination Sect’s inner court elder Bai Li Hong’s junior brother had already spread to the Governor Estate of Mound Hill City. It made Fang Hui, the Governor of Mound Hill City, to be in shock for a long time before he regained his senses.

“H-he’s actually taken by Elder Bai Li Hong as a d-disciple?” Fang Hui was pleasantly surprised. He laughed in delight and tears streamed down his eyes. It was obvious it was tears of joy.

As an outer court deacon sent out by the Moon Illumination Sect, Fang Hui was once a disciple of Moon Illumination Sect. Naturally, he knew who Elder Bai Li Hong was.

He was someone even the Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect had to treat courteously.

To the former him, Bai Li Hong was an insurmountable towering mountain whom he looked up to.

When he first met Elder Bai Li Hong, he did not even dare to breathe loudly, afraid of offending him.

However, he just found out his disciple Duan Ling Tian had been acknowledged by Elder Bai Li Hong as his junior brother.

How could he not be pleasantly surprised by this?

“He’s made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage?” After some time, Fang Hui received another news that was also sent out by the Moon Illumination Sect.

The news stated that Duan Ling Tian had already broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage.

“No wonder Elder Bai Li Hong acknowledged him as his junior brother. It seems like he has long seen through how extraordinarily talented Duan Ling Tian is... To think I wanted to accept him as my disciple and address me as ‘Master’!” Fang Hui muttered and mocked himself.

However, he felt very happy for Duan Ling Tian.

‘With Elder Bai Li Hong supporting him, I don’t think Liu Han would carelessly make a move against him anymore... And since Duan Ling Tian is watching over Ling Yun and Xiong Hui, I think they’ll be safe as well,’ Fang Hui thought to himself before he sighed in relief.

In the period of time that followed, Fang Hui’s mood was extremely good. He felt the haze that had accumulated and surrounded his heart had dispersed substantially.

Naturally, this kind of days did not last very long.

“Fang Hui!” A thunderous voice resonated from the sky above the City Governor’s Estate of Mound Hill City, causing Fang Hui who was cultivating to turn glum.

This voice was extremely familiar to him that he would never forget about it.

“Liu Huan!” Fang Hui’s face had turned completely grave as he took a deep breath. He did not expect Liu Huan who had trampled on his master and who had not taken the initiative to look for him during all these years would come calling now.

However, he could faintly guess the reason for Liu Huan’s visit was most likely related to Duan Ling Tian. Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian had succeeded in pressuring him.

The moment Fang Hui thought of this, his face eased up a little as a satisfied smile appeared on his face. “Liu Huan, you’ve begun to feel afraid huh?”

When he walked out of the room door, he soared up into the sky. The moment he flew up into the sky, he discovered Liu Huan was not alone. There was another person with him. It was someone he was extremely familiar with.

“Su Q.” When Fang Hui saw Su Qi hovering in the air next to Liu Huan, his heart skipped a beat.

Su Qi was originally his disciple whom he was most fond of. He had a remarkable innate talent. His innate talent was the highest among all the young talents in Mound Hill City before Duan Ling Tian showed up.

He had spent a lot of blood and sweat on Su Qi. He did not expect Su Qi would use him as a stepping stone to Liu Huan.

When he saw Su Qi hovering in the air, he realized he must have broken through to the Saint Rudiment Stage. Otherwise, he would not be able to disregard the Flight Prohibiting Formation in Mound Hill City.

The Flight Prohibiting Formation in Mound Hill City applied to all Martial and Dao cultivators below the Saint Rudiment Stage. Only those who were at the Saint Rudiment Stage or above could fly and hover in the air.

Chapter 1515: An Unexpected Turn of Events

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was unaware of the crisis Fang Hui was facing.

He did not think that after rising to fame and becoming prominent, Liu Huan would resort to such a desperate measure and want to kill his teacher, Fang Hui.

Currently, he was with Bai Li Hong and the group of people from the Moon Illumination Sect. They were on their way over to the venue of the Hunting Assessment, in the sky above a dangerously steep mountain ridge.

From afar, the sight of the lofty mountains and high ranges were so vast that it made people tongue-tied.

“The lofty mountains and high ranges will be the stage that all of you will enter soon... You can kill as many wild beasts as you like inside. However, it’s best to leave a mark on the beasts that you killed so we can evaluate the results later,” Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, said to the group of inner court disciples including Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian and the others nodded after hearing his words.

‘It looks like I can’t directly obliterate the wild beasts. After all, if I leave no trace behind, I won’t be able to prove I killed the wild beasts. In fact, I won’t be able to prove I killed any wild beast at all,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

During their journey here, he had roughly gone through the rules of the Hunting Assessment.

For the Hunting Assessment, the points given would be different depending on the strength of the wild beast one killed.

“Everyone, take one of these jade tokens... If you encounter a mishap, just crush it. At that time, three inner court elders and I will immediately come and look for you.” Zhong Huo lifted his hands and took out more than ten jade tokens before passing it to Duan Ling Tian and the others.

“However, there’s something I have to warn you about. Once you crush the jade token, the Hunting Assessment will come to an end for you. Whoever crushes the jade token will have to immediately stop the assessment.” The underlying meaning in Zhong Huo’s words was simple. It was better not to crush the jade token unless one was in a dire situation.

The group of inner court disciples was nodding their heads including He Zhong. Duan Ling Tian, however, looked deep in thought as he looked at the jade token in his hand.

“Saint Inscription?” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian discovered the Saint Inscription that was inscribed on the jade token in his hand. The Saint Inscription was special. It was neither offensive nor defensive. Personally, he had never encountered such a Saint Inscription before.

“Senior Brother, did you inscribe the Saint Inscription on the jade tokens?” Duan Ling Tian asked Bai Li Hong through True Energy Voice Transmission. Although he did not recognize the Saint Inscription on the jade token, he could still see traces of Bai Li Hong’s work in the striations on the jade token.

When it comes to words, everyone has their own unique handwriting. For the Saint Inscriptions, it would be the striations.

“Yes,” Bai Li Hong replied, “Junior Brother, don’t look down on the Saint Inscription on this jade token. This Saint Inscription is a Three Star Saint Inscription!”

Three Star Saint Inscription?

Duan Ling Tian’s heart leaped when he heard Bai Li Hong’s words.

“Although these Saint Inscriptions are all Three Star Saint Inscriptions, they only function as a warning. The cost of making them is much lower. They can’t even compare to Two Star Saint Inscriptions,” Bai Li Hong added.

Duan Ling Tian finally understood the Inscription better.

“However, they’re still Three Star Saint Inscriptions even though the cost of making them is low. Even the territory of an Imminent Saint Stage powerhouse wouldn’t be able to nullify its warning. Naturally, it would be a different story if it’s a Saint Stage powerhouse,” Bai Li Hong continued saying.

“A warning that can overcome an Imminent Saint Stage powerhouse’s territory?” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback. He no longer dared to look down on the Saint Inscription on the jade token in his hand.

“Alright, all of you can go now... The three patrollers and I will take turns to patrol and help boost your morale. If you encounter any danger, just crush the jade token in your hands, and we’ll come to your rescue immediately,” Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, said directly without beating around the bush.

As for the rules of the Hunting Assessment, he had already informed the others of them during their journey here.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As soon as Zhong Huo’s words left his mouth, the group of inner court disciples descended from the sky one after another and entered the lush green lofty mountain range. All of them disappeared in just a blink of an eye like stones that were dropped into the sea without eliciting any waves.

Duan Ling Tian also descended from the sky and entered the lofty mountain range after he nodded at Bai Li Hong.

After the group of inner court disciples, including Duan Ling Tian, entered the lofty mountain range, Zhong Huo smiled at Bai Li Hong and asked with narrowed eyes, “Elder Bai Li Hong, among all the participants of the Hunting Assessment, I have the highest expectation for Junior Brother Duan. I’m certain he’ll most likely get first place. What do you think?”

Naturally, he had deliberately asked this question.

However, he was struck dumb the instant he heard Bai Li Hong’s reply.

“Not most likely but definitely! Junior Brother will definitely get the first place in this Hunting Assessment,” Bai Li Hong replied.

Bai Li Hong’s reply did not only make Zhong Huo dumbfounded, but even the two inner court elders were speechless. They felt that Bai Li Hong was too blind in his faith in Duan Ling Tian.

Although they had to admit Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent was indeed remarkable, remarkable innate talent did not equal to being powerful!

In their opinion, Duan Ling Tian had made a breakthrough to the Saint Rudiment Stage from the Perfection Mortal Shedding Stage in such a short period of time so his foundation should not be that stable yet. Moreover, they did not think he would be able to compare to the group of inner court disciples who participated this time.

Naturally, this was only because they were unaware of Duan Ling Tian’s secret.

If they knew that Duan Ling Tian had a heaven-defying Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, in his hand, they would not think this way at all.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian entered the lofty mountain range, he began to slaughter the wild beasts.

Meanwhile, a crisis was happening in the City Governor's Estate on Mound Hill City.

Up high in the sky, Fang Hui, the City Governor of Mound Hill City, looked at Su Qi with a complicated expression. However, he did not say anything in the end.

In his opinion, Su Qi's decision was not wrong.

In this world where strength was revered, the reason one risked one's life to cultivate was to obtain a better life.

Su Qi's survival instinct led him to become Liu Huan's disciple. Therefore, he truly did not blame him at all.

It was not wrong for Su Qi to want to survive.

However, when Fang Hui saw the murderous intent gleaming in Liu Huan's eyes, his heart turned cold immediately. He realized Liu Huan came with ill intent, he had come to kill him.

It did not surprise him that Liu Huan wanted to kill him. His heart had turned cold because Liu Huan had brought Su Qi along.

Liu Huan wanted to flaunt his prowess before he killed him. He intended to violently trample on his dignity in front of his disciple before killing him.

"Fang Hui, I must really thank you for finding me such an excellent disciple." Liu Huan chuckled as he looked at Fang Hui.

"Liu Huan, you don't have to keep up the farce anymore... Didn't you come today to kill me? Duan Ling Tian's existence is like a fishbone stuck in your throat, isn't it?" Fang Hui said bluntly as he glanced at Liu Huan. "Even if I, Fang Hui, die today, I don't have any regrets... Duan Ling Tian is destined to become your nightmare for the rest of your life. Well... that's only if you manage to live long enough! Hahahaha..." When Fang Hui reached the end of his sentence, he laughed out loud unreservedly and delightedly.

"Fang Hui!" Liu Huan roared as his face turned grave.

He did not expect Fang Hui would still dare to provoke him at this moment. It was obvious he did not fear death at all.

Soon after, Liu Huan was hit with a pang of realization, and he regained his senses. He asked with a smirk, "You intend to provoke me so you can die a fast and painless death?"

"Liu Huan, your imagination is really as rich as before," Fang Hui replied nonchalantly. His face was calm as though he had already been enlightened and was not bothered by life or death.

“Hurmph! I must have guessed correctly, right? Since you want to die a fast and painless death, I definitely won’t give you that!” Liu Huan smirked. “You’ll definitely die today although there’s no way I’m going to grant you a fast and painless death. I’ll make you watch as I flay you alive!”

Upon hearing Liu Huan’s words, Fang Hui could not help but feel chills running up his spine even though he was no longer bothered about life or death.

“Liu Huan, my death is only going to be the beginning of your nightmare!” Fang Hui laughed wantonly, delighted.

This was the first time in a long time since he felt so happy when he encountered Liu Huan.

All these years, he had been living like a zombie. Was it not because of the small shred of obsession he had stubbornly held onto in his heart?

However, his disciple, Duan Ling Tian, had risen to the top now. His existence was akin to a fishbone stuck in Liu Huan’s throat. He suddenly felt as though everything he had endured and all the contributions he had made throughout the years were worthwhile for he had been greatly rewarded.

In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian was the best gift God had given him.

With Duan Ling Tian around, did he need to be afraid that there would be no one to avenge him?

Although the time he spent with Duan Ling Tian was only less than a year, he knew very well what kind of person Duan Ling Tian was.

If he died, Duan Ling Tian definitely would not let Liu Huan go so easily.

“You’re looking for death!” Liu Huan flew into a rage. True Energy surged up from his body, and his robe began to flutter even though there was no wind.

Liu Huan was brimming with arrogance. His robe fluttered again, and he was about to make his move. His face darkened as he raised his hand at lightning speed and thrust a palm out next to him.

Bang!

A loud explosion sounded, and a body could be seen flying back like an arrow leaving a bowstring. That person was none other than Su Qi.

To be more precise, Su Qi had sent a needle into Liu Huan’s body before he was sent flying by Liu Huan with a thrust of his palm.

“Su Qi!” When Fang Hui saw how Liu Huan’s body was trembling violently and how his entire face was green, he would have lived in vain all these years if he still could not figure out what was happening.

As it turned out, Su Qi did not betray him. His heart still lay with him.

Su Qi did not fear of death. He was only waiting for an opportunity to seek revenge for him.

As soon as Fang Hui thought of this, he instantly flew out and caught Su Qi without any hesitation.

“Master, if only I have a few more months, I would’ve been able to help you kill Liu Huan! What a pity! What a pity...” Blood poured out of Su Qi’s mouth as the light slowly vanished from his face.

“Unfilial disciple, when did you poison me?!” In the distance, Liu Huan roared as he questioned Su Qi. He discovered a great amount of poison suddenly appeared in every part of his body as soon as the needle pierced him.

Chapter 1516: Su Qi’s Death! Wang Tao Showed Up!

At this moment, Liu Huan realized Su Qi had laid out his plan since a long time ago. The poison in his body did not just form in a day and a night.

“Liu Huan, the gruel I made is quite delicious, right? Haha... C-Cough... C-Cough...” Su Qi who was caught by Fang Hui laughed loudly as Liu Huan stared at him coldly. As he laughed, his face turned even paler, and he began to cough up blood.

At the same time, the vitality of Su Qi’s body had also begun to disappear. It was apparent he was on the verge of death.

“Gruel? I see, I see... Looks like you’ve never sincerely regarded me as your master since the beginning! And to think that I actually treated you so nicely. In the end, you actually want to harm me! Unfilial disciple! Unfilial disciple!” Liu Huan finally pieced the puzzle together. His face had turned extremely green now.

“Sincerely?” Upon hearing that, Su Qi mocked him emotionally, “I, Su Qi, only recognize one person as my master in my entire life, and it isn’t you, Liu Huan! How funny is it that you thought you could make me submit to you? If it wasn’t for the fact that I wanted to nurse my grudge and take revenge for my Master, I wouldn’t pretend to be your disciple. However, it’s unfortunate that I still fell a step short... If I have a few more months, I’m confident the poison would erupt and cause your death!” Su Qi’s face was filled with regret when he spoke to the end of his sentence.

Liu Huan was a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse, no ordinary poison would be able to kill him.

Due to this reason, he had used a slow-acting poison he came across on the Mortal Continent. It was tasteless and colorless, completely unnoticeable.

This kind of poison was not usually poisonous. It was only poisonous when combined with another drug. At that time, it would release its powerful poison.

The needle that had pierced Liu Huan’s body and taken him by surprise had been dipped with the drug to activate the release of the poison that had been lying dormant in his body.

“Master, quickly leave! Seize this chance and leave now while Liu Huan doesn’t dare to move recklessly since he needs to focus on getting rid of the poison...” Su Qi urged Fang Hui as he looked at him.

He knew very well about the poison he had made.

Currently, Liu Huan was only left with enough strength to protect himself. If he moved his body, the poison inside his body would definitely enter his organs. At that time, even God would not be able to save him. It would take him at least one to two hours to suppress the poison in his body.

One or two hours were more than enough time for his master, Fang Hui, to escape.

“Su Qi!” Fang Hui’s face was filled with emotions, and his eyes were brimming with tears.

A man would not easily shed tears unless he was deeply hurt!

The moment he discovered Su Qi did not really betray him, the sense of loss in his heart had vanished without a trace, leaving only happiness behind when he realized his judgment had been correct after all.

This disciple who had been by his side the longest still regarded him as his only master.

“Master, go now!” Su Qi urged. He knew now was not the time to get sentimental.

“Isn’t he poisoned? I’ll kill him immediately!” Fang Hui did not intend to leave. His eyes flashed coldly as he glared at Liu Huan who was currently focused on expelling the poison from his body.

“Master, although he doesn’t dare to move his body recklessly, he still has enough strength to protect himself... Go! Go now!” Su Qi kept urging him. He was stirred up, and he spat out another few mouthfuls of blood, causing his injuries to worsen.

“Alright, I’ll go!” Although he was unwilling, Fang Hui knew Su Qi would not deceive him. He clenched his teeth, preparing to bring Su Qi along with him.

However, right at this moment...

“Hahahaha...” A burst of vigorous laughter resonated in the air in the surroundings.

Whether it was Fang Hui or Su Qi, horror dawned on both of them when they heard the laughter.

In the distance, Liu Huan was still hovering in the air as he laughed loudly. His face did not even have a hint of green anymore.

In fact, Liu Huan appeared to be brimming with spirit as he hovered in the air. How did that look like someone who had just been poisoned?

“Impossible! Impossible!” Upon seeing this, Su Qi’s body began to tremble violently as he kept shaking his head. His face was filled with disbelief and shock. It was apparent he did not expect this at all.

“Nothing’s impossible!” Liu Huan smirked. “I’m originally a Saint Refinement Master who focuses on refining medicine. Despite the fact that I’ve stopped for many years, I’ve swallowed the blood and flesh of the Thousand Poison Beast when I was young... Ever since then, my resistance to poison has always been great even though I’m not immune to all poison. The poison you fed me is indeed remarkable, and it’s even undetectable... Unfortunately, it doesn’t pose much of a threat to me.”

Liu Huan’s every word seemed to hit Su Qi directly in his soul. It caused his face to turn even paler, and a hint of despair could be seen in his eyes.

“Since both of you master and disciple are so dedicated to each other, I’ll send you both to hell together!” As Liu Huan’s gaze turned cold, his body moved. It seemed as though he had turned into a hurricane before Fang Hui and Su Qi’s eyes.

“Master, I still want to be your disciple if there’s a next life!” Su Qi shouted loudly before he charged at Liu Huan with the last of his strength.

He wanted to use the last of his energy to protect his master. He would go to his grave without any regrets.

“You’re just like a mantis trying to block a chariot!” Liu Huan smirked. With a lift of his hand, vast rolling energy caused Su Qi to erupt into a bloody mist that covered the entire sky.

The bloody mist drifted all over the place. Not even a drop of blood touch Liu Huan, but some landed on Fang Hui’s face.

Fang Hui’s heart was as cold as ice when the smell of blood wafted to him. Even his soul had begun to tremble violently. “Su Qi, Su Qi...”

“Liu Huan, DIE!” Fang Hui shouted without any warning.

The True Energy in his Qi Sea surged out unreservedly. It was as though he had decided to fight Liu Huan until the end.

However, just the gigantic saber Liu Huan consolidated from his True Energy Consolidated Weapon technique was more than enough to block Fang Hui’s menacing attack.

“Fang Hui, perhaps you were able to fight me when we were young, but right now, you’re no different from an ant in my eyes!” Liu Huan said domineeringly as he glared at Fang Hui.

“That’s right, my strength can’t compare to yours... However, the disciples I accepted are superior to yours.” Fang Hui laughed again even though he was on the verge of death as a figure flashed in his mind. It was a young man who was always dressed in purple. That young man was his hope.

Duan Ling Tian!

“Fang Hui, I told you earlier that I won’t let you die a fast and painless death... I’ll torture you until your last breath!” Liu Huan’s gaze turned even colder when he heard Fang Hui’s words. He stalked toward Fang Hui like a hunter hunting his prey at a speed that was neither hurried nor slow.

Every time he took a step, it was as though a gigantic hammer is hitting Fang Hui’s chest.

Suddenly, Liu Huan raised a hand and charged at Fang Hui as fast as lightning.

At this critical moment, a sharp sword ray suddenly pierced through the sky and swept past the space between Liu Huan and Fang Hui. Liu Huan who was taken by surprise instantly withdrew his hand.

“Who’s that?!” The moment Liu Huan noticed the threat from the sword ray, horror dawned on his face.

“Haha... Elder Liu Huan, it seems like it has been quite some years since we last met, right?” A burst of laughter rang in the sky, followed by the appearance of a middle-aged man with a strong build.

The middle-aged man wore flowing grey clothes, and he held a sword in his hand.

Frowning, Liu Huan studied the middle-aged man for a moment before asking in a deep voice, "You're... W-Wang Tao?"

"Looks like you still remember me, Elder Liu Huan." Wang Tao smiled.

"Hurmp! Wang Tao! I can't believe that after so many years of not seeing each other, you've also made a breakthrough to the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage... However, do you think you alone will be able to stop me?" Liu Huan snorted with disdain.

Liu Huan remembered the person standing before him. It was none other than an inner court deacon in the Moon Illumination Sect.

However, it did not cross his mind that they would meet at this place.

Just the fact that Wang Tao was able to pierce through his 100-meter radius territory without alerting him was enough for him to guess the level of his cultivation base. There was no doubt he was also at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage. Even so, he did not fear Wang Tao.

He did not fear a Martial Cultivator who had just broken through to the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage recently.

"Well then, I guess we'll have to see before we know if I can stop you or not." Wang Tao smiled nonchalantly. His face was so calm as though he did not find Liu Huan worthy at all.

"Deacon Wang?" At this moment, Fang Hui finally regained his senses. He was shocked when he saw the silhouette with a strong build. He did not expect this person would appear at such a moment. It was obvious he was trying to protect him.

Wang Tao was the youngest inner court deacon in the history of Moon Illumination Sect. Apart from that, he was also a Sword Cultivator.

However, due to his eccentric and unsociable temperament, he rarely interacted with the others so his fame was not widespread.

Based on Liu Huan's words, it seemed like Deacon Wang had already become a Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage powerhouse?

"Good! Very good!" Upon hearing Wang Tao's words, Liu Huan was so enraged that he laughed instead.

"Wang Tao, I want to know why you are protecting him. As far as I know, there's no relationship between you and him, right?"

"Elder Liu Huan, there's no need for you know of my intention. I'm protecting him because I was asked to by someone," Wang Tao replied nonchalantly.

"The person who can make you protect him i-is... E-Elder Bai Li?" The moment Liu Huan thought of this, horror dawned on his face. A hint of dread began to surface in his eyes.

However, Wang Ba did not respond to him. He merely stared at him quietly as though he was waiting for him to make the first move.

"Hurmph!" Liu Huan's expression changed before he finally clenched his teeth and decided to leave.

However, before he left, he threatened, “Wang Tao, there’s enmity between you and me now!”

He decided to leave after thinking about it thoroughly. He was afraid his visit here to kill Fang Hui would spread.

Due to this reason, he even used his True Energy Consolidated Territory to envelop a radius of 100 meters to conceal himself so that nobody would notice him.

This was because he knew if anyone witnessed him killing Fang Hui, it would enrage Elder Bai Li. Elder Bai Li might not care about Fang Hui’s death, but he definitely cared about Duan Ling Tian’s joy and anger.

He had nothing to fear if nobody knew he was the one who killed Fang Hui. Even if Duan Ling Tian suspected him, he was not worried about Elder Bai Li making a move if there was no concrete proof.

Chapter 1517: Gorilla

However, Wang Tao’s appearance left him no choice but to give up.

It was apparent Wang Tao was sent by Bai Li Hong to protect Fang Hui, the City Governor of Mound Hill City.

Although he was confident he could defeat Wang Tao, he was not confident he could kill him. After all, both of them were at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage. Unless there was a great disparity in their strength, he really could not say he had the confidence to kill him.

Moreover, even if he was confident he could kill Wang Tao, Bai Li Hong would definitely suspect him when he returned and found out that Fang Hui was dead.

Not many people in the Moon Illumination Sect’s surrounding districts could kill Wang Tao. It was not hard to figure out it was him.

Killing Wang Tao was completely different from killing Fang Hui. Anybody above the Master Saint Rudiment Stage would be able to kill Fang Hui.

“Thank you, Deacon Wang.” Seeing how quickly Liu Huan left, Fang Hui sighed in relief before he quickly expressed his gratitude to Wang Tao.

“There’s no need to thank me. I was only asked to do this by someone,” Wang Tao replied indifferently before he left.

Naturally, he did not really leave. He had concealed himself to protect Fang Hui in the dark.

On the other hand, after Liu Huan had left, he became more furious the more he thought about it. “F*ck! That old man Bai Li Hong is such a busybody!”

At this moment, a sense of helplessness rose in his heart. It was as though every step he made was already accurately predicted by Bai Li Hong. It caused him to feel extremely aggrieved.

'I hope the Mountainshade Black Market's people would seize this chance during the Hunting Assessment and kill Duan Ling Tian in one fell swoop! Once Duan Ling Tian is dead, Bai Li Hong will no longer be against me in the future,' Liu Huan thought to himself.

"Apart from that, from now on, the disciples that I, Liu Huan, accept have to swear by the lightning penalty oath that they'll never betray me... If they refuse to take the oath, I won't accept them as disciples no matter how high their innate talent is." Upon remembering Su Qi and Zhou Qi whom he had killed, Liu Huan felt a wave of irritation.

He really felt he was going through a patch of bad luck. The two disciples he accepted had betrayed him. Due to this reason, he had made up his mind. Whoever wanted to become his disciple would have to swear on the lightning penalty oath first.

When Liu Huan gloomily returned to the Moon Illumination Sect, Duan Ling Tian had already killed many wild beasts in that lofty mountain range.

Although he had killed many wild beasts, his robe was still clean and nice. It was as though he was having an easy time killing the wild beasts. In fact, it really was not difficult for him at all.

Casting aside the fact that he could defeat an enemy with a higher cultivation base with his cultivation base at the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage alone, there were no other wild beasts that could match up to him in regard to cultivation base in the lofty mountain range.

'I think there are not a lot of Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beasts here,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Throughout the journey, he had already killed several dozens of wild beasts at the Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage.

The wild beasts he had killed were at the most at the Early Saint Rudiment Stage. There were about several hundreds of them.

Perhaps God had heard Duan Ling Tian's inner thought for when he continued to walk for a while, an ear-deafening roar resonated in the air. It was as loud as a clap of thunder. Duan Ling Tian felt as though his eardrums were on the verge of bursting.

"This is a Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast?" The moment Duan Ling Tian heard the impactful roar, his heart jolted.

Soon after, he saw a gigantic beast the size of a tiny mountain charging toward him. As it charged toward him, the ground trembled in its wake, and the trees fell one by one.

It left its gigantic footprints in its wake as well. Every footprint was like a huge pit.

"What a timing!" In the face of this menacing and furious Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast, Duan Ling Tian did not feel afraid. Instead, he charged ahead.

At this moment, vast True Energy surged out of Duan Ling Tian's body and transformed into a huge hammer in the sky in just a blink of an eye. Like a meteorite crashing down, it crashed down violently at the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast that resembled a gorilla.

ROAR!

In the face of the gigantic hammer that was consolidated by Duan Ling Tian using the True Energy Consolidated Weapon, the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast opened its bloody mouth and roared loudly.

The horrifying sound formed a sound wave attack immediately. There were visible ripples in the air.

As the sound waves rolled out, Duan Ling Tian's gigantic hammer that was consolidated using the True Energy Consolidated Weapon seemed to have smashed into a bed of cotton. In the end, it was crushed.

"What a powerful sound wave attack." Upon seeing this scene, Duan Ling Tian was astonished. He did not expect the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast's roar would be able to shatter his True Energy Consolidated Weapon.

In fact, the gigantic hammer that was consolidated by his True Energy Consolidated Weapon could actually kill an Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast with just a smash.

"What a good fellow! I didn't think you'll be so powerful... In that case, I'll accompany you for a game then." In the face of the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast's power, Duan Ling Tian was not afraid. Instead, his eyes were gleaming brightly as he took out a heavy broadsword. It was none other than the Thousand Mass Sword.

Roar!

At the same time, the wild beast began to roar again before raising both of its fists that were similar to gigantic stones and brought them down on Duan Ling Tian. Wind howled thunderously in its wake, it was deafening.

"Good timing!" In the face of the iron fists that were like gigantic cannonballs, Duan Ling Tian laughed and raised the Thousand Mass Sword in his hand before charging toward the wild beast in a manner that seemed as though he could hold up thousands of men.

"Gargantuan Taishan!" Duan Ling Tian seemed particularly excited as he shouted out the name of his next technique. The Thousand Mass Sword in his hand suddenly crashed down like a collapsing mountain, smashing on the wild beast's iron fists.

Bang!

Bang!

As two deafening explosion reverberated in the air, the Thousand Mass Sword in Duan Ling Tian's hand clashed with the wild beast's iron fists. The True Energies clashed and raised violently opposing airwaves.

The rolling airwaves set off a series of thunderous air detonation and a flurry of tyrannical hurricane swept out, blowing the stone rubbles in the surroundings up in the air as the trees fell.

Roar!

The wild beast roared loudly and took a step back. A hint of terror could be seen in its red eyes that were as huge as a gong.

Although wild beasts did not have the intelligence of a Saint Beast, it still possessed survival instinct after living in such a harsh environment.

Duan Ling Tian had blocked its fists with just one sword. At this moment, he had already regarded Duan Ling Tian as a powerful enemy.

When Duan Ling Tian saw the terror in the wild beast's eyes, he thought it would retreat after being made aware of the overwhelming odds against it. However, a shocking scene took place.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

As a series of drum-like sound resonated in the air, the wild beast continued to beat its chest with its fists continuously in a frenzy. Its manner was similar to a gorilla, there was almost no difference at all.

If one really had to pick out a difference, it would be the size of the wild beast was several times bigger than a gorilla.

"Don't tell me it has gone crazy?" Just as Duan Ling Tian thought the wild beast before him had gone crazy, a shocking scene took place.

As the wild beast continued to beat its own chest, a red mist emitted out of the place where his heart was located. It shrouded it completely before it seeped into its pore.

The bloody red mist continued to expand until it covered the wild beast entirely. It was as though it was covered by a layer of blood-like energy. Bolts of lightning could be seen in the blood-like energy.

"What's this?" Duan Ling Tian was completely astounded by the scene before him. What the hell was this?

"Don't tell me that it went into berserk mode?" At this moment, a light bulb came on in Duan Ling Tian's mind.

The idea appeared suddenly because he remembered a type of demon beast clan he had previously encountered. It was the Berserk Mongrel Rodent Clan. It was a clan that could go into berserk mode. Once it had entered berserk mode, its strength would be greatly amplified.

ROAR!

The wild beast that was covered entirely in the blood-like energy suddenly seemed to have transformed into an invincible battle god at this moment. As it roared at Duan Ling Tian, sound waves rolled out and continued to compress and explode in the air, setting off thunderously loud sounds.

“As expected, it has really become so much more powerful now!” Even Duan Ling Tian felt pain in his ears from this sound wave. It was apparent that it was on a completely different level from the one earlier.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath, he did not dare to hesitate. His True Energy merged with the Thousand Mass Sword in his hand, and he instantly activated the Two Star Saint Inscription, the Thousand Mass Saint Inscription. Just as the wild beast swung its fists toward him again, he charged forward in a timely manner.

Gargantuan Taishan!

The same sword had become even more terrifying because of the Thousand Mass Saint Inscription’s energy.

However, such a terrifying sword had actually been smacked away by the wild beast’s iron fists. Moreover, it vibrated so much until the part where Duan Ling Tian’s thumb met his index finger tingled. A red mark could also faintly be seen as well.

Although it did not draw blood, it was still enough to shock Duan Ling Tian.

His body was unlike those of ordinary people.

Even the five-clawed Divine Dragon from the Dao Martial Saint Land’s dragon clan that was at the same level as him could not compare to him in regard to the toughness of their bodies.

However, the part where his thumb and index finger met had actually been hurt by the tremor.

Roar!

Duan Ling Tian’s broadsword was pushed away, and the wild beast’s iron fists also shifted their directions. However, it missed its mark. Soon after, it regained its senses and swung his iron fists at Duan Ling Tian again. It was as though he would not rest until he killed Duan Ling Tian.

“I’m not going to play with you anymore!” With a raise of his brow, Duan Ling Tian’s True Energy surged out of his Qi Sea into his hands through the 99 Saint Veins. At the same time, he put away the Thousand Mass Sword and swung both his fists out directly at the wild beast’s fists.

If somebody else was here, he would definitely think Duan Ling Tian had overestimated himself.

He had been defeated by the wild beast that had gone berserk when he used his sword earlier. Now he actually dared to fight the wild beast with his bare hands? He really overestimated himself by a lot.

However, what they did not know was Duan Ling Tian’s punch had activated his brute strength.

His strength now was a level higher than the five-clawed Divine Dragons’ brute strength. It swept out tyrannically together with his rolling True Energy on his fists as it clashed against the wild beast’s iron fists that were intertwined with the blood-like energy.

Chapter 1518: Chi Mei’s Abnormal Behavior

Bang!

A loud explosion resonated in the air and shook the sky until ripples began to appear in the sky.

Bang!

Another earth-shattering explosion sounded. Even the birds several hundred meters outside the perimeter took flight in surprise, flying in all directions.

At the same time, two blood mist appeared in the air, creating the illusion of a bloody rain. As it turned out, it was the iron fists of the wild beast that had gone into berserk mode. Its fists had shattered and exploded into bloody mist from Duan Ling Tian's fists.

ROARRRR!

The wild beast's iron fists were now gone. With a shrill cry of terror, its survival instinct urged him to turn around and escape.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian, this tiny little thing, was undoubtedly a devil in its mind.

All it wanted right now was to get as far away from Duan Ling Tian as it possibly could.

"This feeling of going head-to-head with something hard is indeed great! It feels so awesome!" Duan Ling Tian chuckled delightedly as he looked at his fists that seemed like it covered in a pair of golden gloves.

Earlier, at that moment when his fists were about to clash with the wild beast's iron fists, he had cast the Golden Shirt he had cultivated to the highest stage, the Impeccable Stage, in a timely manner. It turned his brute strength even more powerful than it already was.

It was precisely because of this that he was able to smash the iron fists of the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast who had gone into berserk mode until they exploded.

This was a victory for him.

"In this Hunting Assessment, the points of a Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast should be higher than the points of an Intermediate Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast." Duan Ling Tian was certain of this.

With a raise of his hand, he took out his Sun Shooting Bow at lightning speed and lifted another hand to shoot an arrow out. The True Energy arrow that contained the Penetration Saint Inscription easily pierced through the wild beast that was only focused on fleeing and killed it.

Boom!

The wild beast's gigantic body crashed onto the ground, and Duan Ling Tian ran up to it to leave his name on the wild beast's body to prove that he was the one who killed it.

As long as he left his mark behind, he no longer needed to worry about a second person leaving their mark on it and falsely claiming it as his. This was because the marking that was first left on the body could be determined by the dryness of the blood mark.

When Duan Ling Tian was writing his name on the wild beast, he was unaware that a black figure was hiding behind the branches and leaves of a big tree in the distance.

“His body seems to have...” This figure was curvy, and one could see it was a woman with just a glance. Moreover, it was a woman with a great body.

Currently, the woman’s exposed autumn eyes were gleaming with excitement.

“I found it! I finally found it!” Not only were her eyes gleaming in excitement, but even her heart was filled with excitement as well. It was as though Duan Ling Tian was an old acquaintance of hers.

Soon after, the curvy and sexy woman who was completely covered in black clothing with just her autumn eyes exposed returned to her senses, and she muttered to herself, “He’s Duan Ling Tian?”

A harmless-looking purple bird perched on her shoulder.

Although the purple bird appeared quiet, its pair of eyes that was shining brightly as they looked at Duan Ling Tian seemed to indicate that was not the case.

This woman was none other than Chi Mei, the Quasi Four Star Assassin from the Mountainshade Black Market.

When Chi Mei calmed herself down, she discovered the unnoticeable aura from Duan Ling Tian and said confidently, “He must know her! He must know her! They must have a special relationship too. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have her aura on him. Moreover, the aura is so strong as well.”

Meanwhile, her body flashed as she moved to hover in the sky in front of Duan Ling Tian. She observed him calmly as though trying to figure out what was so unique about him.

“Who’re you?” Naturally, Duan Ling Tian would not fail to notice such a strong presence. He immediately regained his senses as his expression turned grave.

Hovering in the air, Chi Mei answered indifferently, “Chi Mei from the Mountainshade Black Market,”

If the other assassins from the Mountainshade Black Market saw this, they would be astounded. As far as they knew, Chi Mei would not beat around the bush nor expose herself when she made her move.

In fact, almost all of the Mountainshade Black Market’s assassins had sworn by the lightning penalty oath to not expose their identities.

If the other assassins from Mountainshade Black Market saw how Chi Mei was not punished by the lightning penalty and struck by the Nine-Nine Heavenly Tribulation after she had exposed her identity, they would be even more shocked. This would mean Chi Mei had never taken the oath before.

If she had not taken the oath, that meant she was not a true Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin.

However, Chi Mei was indeed a Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin.

There was only one possibility left — Someone must have made abused their authority and made her a Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin without having to take the lightning penalty oath.

Someone like that would have to have great authority in the Mountainshade Black Market.

In the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in the Nine Sect Alliances' district, only the leader of the Mountainshade Black Market's branch could use his authority to do such a thing.

"Mountainshade Black Market?" Upon hearing this pleasant female voice, Duan Ling Tian's expression changed a little. However, he was not surprised.

From the curvy body of the black-clothed person before him, it was not difficult for him to tell she was a sexy woman with a great body.

When he first saw this woman, even he had the urge to rush forward to take off the veil on her face. It was not that he was a lusty man, but this was the first reaction being a man.

The body of the woman before him was too perfect that it could arouse anyone.

Moreover, it was on par with his two fiancées as well!

Duan Ling Tian's expression changed again when she revealed her identity. The Mountainshade Black Market actually sent another person after him again.

Previously, he had learned from his senior brother, Bai Li Hong, that once the Mountainshade Black Market failed a mission, they would either cancel the mission or send an even more powerful assassin to continue the mission. In other words, this assassin before him must be even more powerful than the black-robed man from before.

That black-robed man was one of top among people at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage.

If that person was not a Devil Cultivator, he would not have been able to kill him at all.

And yet, at this moment, this woman who was even more powerful was standing before him... He could not help the wave of helplessness that washed over him.

Although his strength had made a great leap forward, and his cultivation base had entered the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage, he could only defeat enemies with a higher cultivation base only if he used all of his techniques. That would make him on par with an ordinary Martial or Dao Cultivator at the Paramount Saint Rudiment Stage.

If he encountered someone who was as strong as the black-robed man from before and was not a Devil Cultivator, he would definitely not be a match for that person.

Yet, this sexy woman with a young and pleasant voice was obviously even stronger than that black-robed man. How was he going to fight her?

"I can only hope she's a Devil Cultivator as well." Duan Ling Tian prayed in his heart silently. He might be able to escape death if this was the case.

At the same time, he took out the jade token and crushed it immediately.

This jade token was given to him by Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect. One could crush it during a dangerous moment to summon help.

At that instant when Duan Ling Tian crushed the jade token, a streak of light rose up into the air.

However, before it could even soar up to the sky above the jungle of the lofty mountain range, it was snuffed out by an invisible force, rendering it useless.

Swish!

The moment Duan Ling Tian saw this, his expression turned horrified. Glaring in shock at the black-clothed woman before him, he asked, "Y-You're a Saint Stage powerhouse?"

He had heard from his Senior Brother Bai Li Hong that even Imminent Saint Stage powerhouses would not be able to stop the warning from the jade token in his hand.

"If I'm not a Saint Stage powerhouse, do you think I'll be able to block the warning of the Three Star Saint Inscription inscribed on the jade token?" The woman asked. A pleasant voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears as though it was magic.

"She doesn't seem to be a Devil Cultivator..." Although he did not know how the woman before him made her move earlier, he was certain she was the culprit. If she did not personally make a move, then it had to be her territory.

The Devilseal tablet in his Spatial Ring still did not have any reaction at all.

If the Devilseal Tablet had no reaction, this meant she was not a Devil Cultivator, and he would not be able to use it against her.

"She's not a Devil Cultivator... Not a Devil Cultivator... What should I do now?" At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was burning with anxiety. However, he was not someone who would sit quietly and wait for death to come. He raised his hand, and he gripped the Sun Shooting Bow tightly, prepared to make his move.

"Oh?" At this moment, Chi Mei gasped softly as she stared at Duan Ling Tian's hands. "Your bow doesn't seem to be an ordinary Saint Weapon."

When Chi Mei lifted her hand, Duan Ling Tian felt his entire body being restrained by invisible energy. It left him with no space to move at all. He could not even move an inch. All he could do was watch as his Sun Shooting Bow was taken away by Chi Mei's hand.

"This material..." Chi Mei's eyes brightened up immediately as she looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Where did you get this bow?"

"I found it." After he discovered he was unable to get out of the invisible energy that was restraining him, he realized his life was in the hands of this black-clothed woman. Upon hearing her questioned, he immediately regained his senses.

Currently, he realized something was not right.

If she really was a Mountainshade Black Market's assassin, she would not have wasted so much time speaking nonsense with him. Moreover, she did not emit any killing intent since the beginning.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that it was not only him. If the leader of the Mountainshade Black Market's branch in the Nine Sect Alliances' district saw Chi Mei acting like that, he would also be struck dumb for she was completely different from the Chi Mei he knew.

"What? Do you think I'll covet your thing?" Chi Mei smiled faintly. With a raise of her hand, she loosened the restraint on Duan Ling Tian and returned the Sun Shooting Bow to him.

This made Duan Ling Tian slightly confused. "Since you're a Mountainshade Black Market's assassin, aren't you here to kill me?"

"I'm here to kill you." Chi Mei nodded.

Upon hearing Chi Mei's words, Duan Ling Tian's heart instantly knotted. He asked guardedly, "Then why aren't you making your move yet? With your strength, it should be easy for you to kill me."

Chapter 1519: Identical

When Chi Mei heard Duan Ling Tian's words, she replied at a speed that was neither hurried nor slow, "Naturally, it's easy to kill you. However, I've taken an interest in you... Don't worry. From now on, the Mountainshade Black Market will call off the mission to kill you."

This made Duan Ling Tian feel a little confused.

'Could it be my charisma is actually so amazing that this woman has actually fallen for me?'

The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, chills ran down his spine. Although the woman had a great body, who knew what kind of face was under that veil? Maybe she was actually an ugly woman?

However, Duan Ling Tian was instantly stunned in the next instant. This was because Chi Mei had suddenly taken off the veil and exposed her face.

Black shiny hair cascaded over her shoulder like a waterfall while her autumn eyes were like two of the brightest stars in the night sky. Her jade-like nose was pointed, and her little mouth was red and plump. Her curves were perfect. All in all, she was an unparalleled beauty that could topple the nation.

No flaws could be seen at all on this delicate face that seemed as though it had been exquisitely carved. Everything was perfect.

When Duan Ling Tian saw Chi Mei's peerlessly beautiful face, he stood rooted to his spot, shocked. It was as though he had just seen a ghost. "Y-You... You..."

When Chi Mei saw the astonishment on Duan Ling Tian's face, a knowing look flashed in the depth of her eyes.

It seemed like things were just as she had suspected.

He was indeed closely related to the person she was looking for. Moreover, it seemed like their relationship ran deep as well. Otherwise, he would not have such a rich aura of that person on him.

At this moment, there was no one who could understand Duan Ling Tian's feelings.

Duan Ling Tian's feelings were in a turmoil, and he could not calm down for a very long time. When he looked at Chi Mei, hints of doubt would flash in his eyes for one moment, and hints of nostalgia would flash in the next moment before it was replaced by tenderness. His gaze turned even more complicated as time went by.

Duan Ling Tian was in this state because he was familiar with Chi Mei's face.

Naturally, although the face in his memory was almost identical to the face before him, it had the innocence of a girl-next-door.

That was right! Chi Mei's exquisite and peerlessly beautiful face that could topple a nation was identical to one of Duan Ling Tian's fiancées, Ke'er. Their faces were identical. There was no difference at all.

However, regardless of how identical they looked, Duan Ling Tian did not mistake the person before him as Ke'er.

This was because the Chi Mei's temperament was completely different from Ke'er's.

Ke'er had a soft and gentle temperament, but Chi Mei had an icy and unapproachable temperament.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was overcome with the thought that this person might be Ke'er's twin.

However, he instantly dismissed this thought. It was impossible!

Chi Mei was a Mountainshade Black Market's assassin in the Dao Martial Saint Land. She was a Saint Stage powerhouse. Ke'er was born in a distant land on the Mortal Continent. Just like him, she was from Fresh Breeze Town. It was impossible for her to have any relations to Chi Mei.

Moreover, when he first met Ke'er, she was about to prostitute herself so she could bury her late mother. He did not hear about Ke'er's mother not being her biological mother.

"Just tell me... What do you want to do?" Duan Ling Tian asked in his deep voice as he suppressed the thousands of questions in his heart.

The Chi Mei before him was a Mountainshade Black Market's assassin. Based on her words, it seemed like not only would she not kill him, but she was also going to make the Mountainshade Black Market call of the mission.

This made him feel as though something was not right. By right, he had nothing to do with her so she did not have to do this at all.

Something strange must be going on if something did not feel right to him! Duan Ling Tian always believed in this.

“What? You’re a man... Don’t tell me you’re afraid of a little girl like me?” Chi Mei asked with a smile, a perfect curve appearing at the corner of her mouth.

Chi Mei’s exquisite and peerlessly beautiful face and her wicked body were more than enough to arouse the desire deep in the hearts of any man. However, Duan felt no desire at this moment. He only felt a sense of vigilance instead.

“I believe you must have a reason for not killing me and having the Mountainshade Black Market call off the mission to kill me,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“A reason? Of course, I have a reason!” Chi Mei replied indifferently, “Prior to meeting you, nobody has ever survived if I, Chi Mei, make my move... You’re the first!”

“Should I feel proud of that?” Duan Ling Tian asked as he laughed mockingly, “Tell me, what kind of reason is not only stopping you from killing me but helping me as well?”

“Reason? Well, will it work if I say I’ve fallen for you?” Chi Mei chuckled.

Chi Mei’s words made Duan Ling Tian’s heart turned cold immediately. Who knew if this woman before him who looked younger than him was an old demon hag who was hundreds of years old. Who knew if her age was that of his grandmother’s grandmother?

Naturally, Chi Mei did not know what was going through Duan Ling Tian’s mind. Otherwise, she would have slapped him to death.

“I believe that we’ll meet each other again.” Chi Mei stared at Duan Ling Tian deeply before she left and disappeared before his eyes without waiting for him to come to his senses.

“Who’s she exactly?” Duan Ling Tian’s heart was filled with confusion.

‘A Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin who looks identical to Ke’er! She came here to kill me but suddenly changed her mind. Moreover, she’s even going to help me by getting the Mountainshade Black Market to call off the mission...’ Duan Ling Tian’s train of thought gradually became more clear.

Naturally, he was not so conceited to think that she did not kill him because she really fell for him.

As a Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin, she was originally a cold-blooded person. It was impossible for her to abort her mission due to such an absurd reason.

“No matter how much I think about it, the only plausible reason is Ke’er! However, even if Ke’er is really the reason... How did she find out about the relationship between Ker’er and I? Don’t tell me she has been concealing herself all this time while I was with Ke’er? If she has been concealing herself, she should’ve been protecting Ke’er... Why is she following me? Besides, there’s no reason for her to reveal herself even if she’s following me, right?” No matter how much Duan Ling Tian thought about it, he could not come up with an answer at all.

“I guess I can only ask Ke’er when I return... But Ke’er had long told me her story, and she has never mentioned she still has a living relative in this world.” Since he could not figure it out, Duan Ling Tian no longer thought about it. Instead, he shifted his focus back to the Hunting Assessment once again.

As time continued to pass by, the Hunting Assessment also finally came to an end.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian had obtained first place.

“How did Duan Ling Tian obtain so many points? His points are ten times more than the person who came in second place! Even if he managed to kill all the wild beasts he encountered, it would still be impossible for him to score so highly, right?” Duan Ling Tian had come in first in the Hunting Assessment. The inner court disciples did not have any objections since they had long heard about how monstrous Duan Ling Tian was.

However, his result made them feel suspicious for they felt he must have cheated.

Faced with the inner court disciples’ doubts, Duan Ling Tian remained calm. He was not bothered by it at all.

At this moment, an inner court elder who had been looking at Duan Ling Tian with a complicated gaze heard the whispering of the inner court disciples. He could not help but chime in, “The reason Duan Ling Tian’s points are so high is due to the fact that he killed the Berserk Great Ape, a wild beast that’s at the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage!”

The moment he opened his mouth, the other inner court elders smiled wryly. It was apparent they all knew about this.

Bai Li Hong was calm. He did not appear to be surprised by this.

Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complicated gaze. His expression changed again and again, but nobody knew what was in his mind.

“Berserk Great Ape?” When the inner court elder spoke up, the group of inner court disciples was completely shocked.

They were not unfamiliar with the Berserk Great Ape. It was a very famous Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast. Once it went berserk, its strength would surpass the other wild beasts at the same stage. It even carried the title Killing Machine among the Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beasts.

However, such a wild beast had been killed by Duan Ling Tian?

Swish! Swish! Swish!

...

At once, the group of inner court disciples shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian one after another.

Their eyes were filled with hints of astonishment and disbelief.

Regardless, Duan Ling Tian was now in the limelight.

“Due to the fact the Berserk Great Ape was killed after it has gone berserk, the points of killing it are multiplied by two as well... This is precisely why there’s such a huge difference between Duan Ling Tian’s points and all of your points. I’m sure all of you have an idea just how many points a Mastery Saint Rudiment Stage wild beast would grant after being doubled, right?” The other inner court elder said again.

At this moment, although the group of inner court disciples had a very complicated feeling, they no longer said anything anymore.

Just like this, the Hunting Assessment the Moon Illumination Sect held annually had ended, and Duan Ling Tian had also successfully obtained the honor of being in the first place. He also obtained the spot to enter the sect's storehouse.

Although many of the items inside the sect's storehouse were covered in dust, and most people would find it difficult to distinguish them, one had to admit there were many treasures in there.

Naturally, the majority of them were merely junk!

Even so, Duan Ling Tian still looked forward to the sect's storehouse. He had a feeling he would be able to obtain something valuable in there.

During the journey back to the Moon Illumination Sect, the group of inner court disciples looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complicated expression.

Among all of them, the earliest one to enter the Moon Illumination Sect entered five years ago. However, nobody was able to defeat Duan Ling Tian who had just entered the sect this year. It made them feel uncomfortable in their hearts.

"Uncle, I really hope that you've dismissed the thought of going against him. Otherwise, you'll only be digging your own grave." He Zhong was also looking at Duan Ling Tian. His gaze was even more complicated than the other inner court disciples.

It could be said that he had been watching Duan Ling Tian grow day by day. The speed of Duan Ling Tian's growth was so fast that he could only see the dust left behind by him.

The four great Moon Illumination Sect's high-ranking officials, including Bai Li Hong and Zhong Huo, was unaware that at this moment, a black figure was following them at a speed that was neither hurried nor slow. It was a sexy and curvy woman. A purple bird perched on her shoulder, dozing off.

Chapter 1520: Purplecloud Thunder Roc

The woman following the people from Moon Illumination Sect was none other than Chi Mei, the Mountainshade Black Market's assassin. Currently, she was looking at Duan Ling Tian as she muttered to herself, "I'm sure we'll be able to find her if we follow him."

"Zi'er, I'll return for a while. Help me to keep an eye on him alright? Don't let him leave your sight," Chi Mei said to the purple bird on her shoulder.

"Alright, Sister," the purple bird replied a little listlessly, "How boring! And here I thought I'll be able to crack my knuckles a little."

"If you want to crack your knuckles, you can just play some games with them, right? However, make sure you don't touch those who are close to him," Chi Mei replied as she looked at the people in front.

Upon hearing that, the purple bird turned energetic and was in high spirit immediately. It urged Chi Mei, "Sister, hurry up and go back!"

At this moment, the purple bird looked completely different from the purple bird before.

Chi Mei shook her head and did not say anything before she vanished in the sky without a trace.

In just a blink of an eye, she had already flown to the far distance to where the nest of the Mountainshade Black Market was located.

After Chi Mei left, the purple bird's eyes gleamed brilliantly. Without warning, it spread out its wings and shot toward the Moon Illumination Sect's people like a streak of purple lightning.

Whoosh!

An ear-piercing sound of wind whistling sounded, causing the people from Moon Illumination Sect to be on guard.

"What's that?" At this instant, the people could only see a gigantic figure hanging above them like a dark cloud hanging over a city, blocking the sunlight that was shining down on them.

When they raised their heads, they were shocked to see a large purple bird hovering in the sky, glaring at them with a piercing gaze.

When that giant purple bird spread its wings, it was like the clouds in the sky. It emitted a strong pressure.

Bai Li Hong, Zhong Huo, and the other two Moon Illumination Sect's inner court elders were on guard, prepared for any eventualities. All of the inner court disciples, including Duan Ling Tian, were shocked and terrified.

Suddenly, a voice entered Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Boy, is there anybody in your group that you hate?" This was the content of the Voice Transmission.

"Who're you?!" When Duan Ling Tian heard the feminine voice, he glanced left and right but could not find where the True Energy Voice Transmission came from.

"You're really stupid! Why don't you raise your head if you want to see who I am?" The voice resonated again and took Duan Ling Tian by surprise. He only regained his senses after a while. "Y-You're a huge bird?"

"What huge or small bird? How unpleasant... Listen, I'm a Super Saint Beast. I'm the Purplecloud Thunder Roc. Not just a huge bird or something!" The gigantic purple bird transmitted its voice once again. Its voice was filled with disdain.

The Super Saint Beast, Purplecloud Thunder Roc?

The moment Duan Ling Tian heard the gigantic purple bird's words, he was slightly shocked, and then he began to study it earnestly. He noticed it was similar to a roc, but there was also a great difference. It had a golden horn on its head.

'If she didn't tell me, I wouldn't know it's actually a she,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

“Boy, I’m asking you a question... Is there anyone you hate among this group of people?” The Purplecloud Thunder Roc asked again.

Although he had no idea why the Purplecloud Thunder Roc would ask such a question, Duan Ling Tian instinctively looked at Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, right away.

He had no idea why. Maybe it was because he could sense Zhong Huo’s hostility toward him, and he felt annoyed by it.

“You must be a Saint Beast, right? I wonder if there’s a reason you’re obstructing our way?” Zhong Huo asked as he took a step forward and cupped his hands together in front of his chest.

Although he did not recognize the gigantic purple bird at all, the aura it was emitting faintly was enough to make him feel pressured.

The fact that this beast could make him, an Imminent Saint Stage powerhouse, feel pressured meant that it had to be at the Saint Stage.

He could tell the gigantic purple bird was a Saint Beast because there was a huge difference between the aura of a Saint Beast and a wild beast. It was obvious the gigantic purple bird was not one of the mindless wild beasts. This could be seen in its pair of keen eyes.

The gigantic purple bird, otherwise known as the Purplecloud Thunder Roc, spoke like a human. It answered lazily, “I’m bored, so why can’t I?”

The corner of Zhong Huo’s mouth twitched violently for a moment. What kind of reason was this?

Bai Li Hong, the two other inner court elders, and all of the inner court disciples, excluding Duan Ling Tian, were stunned.

Although Duan Ling Tian was not stunned, the corner of his mouth also twitched violently the moment he heard the Purplecloud Thunder Roc’s words.

When he saw how the Purplecloud Thunder Roc was glaring at Zhong Huo with killing intent, Duan Ling Tian knew Zhong Huo was doomed... At this moment, he could not help but think to himself, ‘Did I bring trouble to Zhong Huo?’

Before Duan Ling Tian managed to finish his thought, the Purplecloud Thunder Roc’s wings suddenly moved.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two waves of ripples spread out from its wings.

In the wake of the purple ripples, the sky seemed to have stopped in time. Meanwhile, apart from Zhong Huo, the people from Moon Illumination Sect were forced to retreat by the impact from the purple ripples. In just a blink of an eye, they had retreated to more than 100 meters away.

By the time they returned to their senses, only the Purplecloud Thunder Roc and Zhong Huo’s figures were left behind in the distance.

Hovering in the air, the Purplecloud Thunder Roc looked down at Zhong Huo and lazily said, "You'll accompany me to loosen my knuckles then."

The moment Zhong Huo heard its words, his sight blackened for a moment, and he almost fainted on the spot.

Previously, he had only suspected the Purplecloud Thunder Roc before him was a Saint Beast that had entered the Saint Stage. However, he was 100% certain it was a Saint Stage Saint Beast after witnessing its technique.

A Saint Stage Saint Beast actually wanted him to accompany it to loosen its knuckles?

Would that not result in him having all his bones broken?

"Senior, I'm Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect. If I've ever offended you before, please do let me know, and I'll sincerely apologize to you," Zhong Huo said to the Purplecloud Thunder Roc. He had a terrified expression on his face, and his voice had even begun to tremble.

At this moment, he hoped the Saint Stage Saint Beast before him would let him go for the sake of the Moon Illumination Sect.

However, the Purplecloud Thunder Roc's reply caused the color to drain from his face even more.

"Moon Illumination Sect? I've never heard of it before! As for you, you've also never offended me before. I just wanted to find you to help me loosen my knuckles... Don't worry, I won't kill you," the Purplecloud Thunder Roc said nonchalantly as it shook its head.

The moment its words left its mouth, it seemed to have transformed into a purple hurricane and swept out to where Zhong Huo was at.

In the distance, Duan Ling Tian and the group of inner court disciples from the Moon Illumination Sect could only see a purple hurricane sweeping out. In the next instant, Zhong Huo was gone as though he had disappeared.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew Zhong Huo did not really disappear. They just could not see properly because the speed was too fast.

"Saint Stage Saint Beast." At this moment, whether it was Bai Li Hong or the other two inner court elders, all of them only had a wry smile on their faces.

They could vaguely see the rapid-moving figures in front. They could not bear to watch Zhong Huo's pitiful sight at all.

Naturally, they did not dare to go and help as well.

If the Saint Stage Saint Beast became unhappy and wanted to find them to loosen its knuckles too, would they not die in vain?

Currently, even Bai Li Hong counted himself lucky that the Saint Stage Saint Beast chose Zhong Huo and not him.

Bai Li Hong thought the Saint Stage Saint Beast had randomly picked Zhong Huo.

If he knew the reason it picked Zhong Huo to accompany it to loosen its knuckles was because of Duan Ling Tian, it made one wonder what kind of expression he would make.

“Saint Stage Saint Beast?” Duan Ling Tian’s face turned glum. He also realized the Purplecloud Thunder Roc was a Saint Stage Saint beast.

The moment he recalled how the Saint Stage Saint Beast transmitted its voice to him, he could not help but be filled with confusion.

Why would this fellow ask him who he hated?

Not only that, but he only glanced at Zhong Huo instinctively, and in the next moment, Zhong Huo was doomed.

It seemed as though the Purplecloud Thunder Roc was helping him to vent his anger.

He was sure he had never met this Purplecloud Thunder Roc before. Not only that, but this was also the first time in his life he had ever laid eyes on a Saint Stage Saint Beast.

“What kind of luck do I have today? In just a day, I actually encountered two Saint Stage powerhouses... I wonder if there’s any connection between the two? Duan Ling Tian had no idea why, but when he thought until the end, he actually linked the Purplecloud Thunder Roc and Chi Mei, that Mountainshade Black Market’s assassin, together.

“How useless! Fine! I won’t play with you anymore... I think it’s better if I return to the Moon Illumination Sect with you and find the strongest person in the sect to play with! I’m sure it’ll be even more interesting.” Soon after, Duan Ling Tian and the others heard the Purplecloud Thunder Roc’s voice resonating in the air.

In the next moment, the Purplecloud Thunder Roc and Zhong Huo appeared simultaneously. The Purplecloud Thunder Roc appeared to be in high spirit and looked the same as before. However, Zhong Huo seemed as though he had just been tortured. Apart from the green and red marks all over his body, his robe was also badly torn.

Moreover, he was currently hovering in the air with the last of his strength. As he staggered, it seemed as though he would fall at any time.

Although Zhong Huo appeared wretched, he still sighed in relief.

“Master!” At this moment, He Zhong ran up to him in a timely manner. When he looked at the Purplecloud Thunder Roc, a hint of dread could be seen in his eyes as well.

“Let’s go. I’ll follow you back to the Moon Illumination Sect.” The people from Moon Illumination Sect turned pale after hearing the Purplecloud Thunder Roc’s words. Its body trembled slightly before it transformed into a purple-clad young girl who looked about sixteen to seventeen years old. The fair and delicate face that still contained a hint of childishness looked as though it would break with just a snap of a finger.

She was a beautiful girl indeed.

However, nobody was focused on her look after she had transformed into a human. Instead, they were all taken aback by her domineering manner.

She had suddenly appeared out of nowhere and said she wanted someone to accompany her to loosen her knuckles. Then, Zhong Huo, the Vice Sect Leader of Moon Illumination Sect, was unluckily chosen by her.

If Duan Ling Tian did not witness this with his own eyes, he would find it difficult to relate the purple-clad young girl in front of him to the Purplecloud Thunder Roc.