

SOVEREIGN 1901

Chapter 1901: Duan Ling Tian, Divine Saint Stage

Was Duan Ling Tian the kind of person who would knowingly put his friends in danger? Duan Ling Tian instantly made up his mind.

“Elder Teng Shan, if you have any acquaintances among the six elders in the other three Sanctums, please ask them if they can take my two companions in? I don’t wish for them to stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum with me.” Duan Ling Tian immediately transmitted his voice to Teng Shan after he made up his mind since Teng Shan was the only one he could rely on now.

Duan Ling Tian wanted the elders from the other three Sanctums to take Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi in before Li An remembered them. Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi were always looking out for him, it was only natural that he wanted to repay them.

“You do not wish to implicate them?” Teng Shan asked through Voice Transmission. A hint of praise could be seen in his eyes.

Naturally gifted, powerful, and considerate toward his comrades. It was rare for a person to possess all three qualities. Teng Shan’s impression of Duan Ling Tian rose even higher.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

“This is something I’m happy to help you with!” Teng Shan replied Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian relaxed and thanked Teng Shan after he heard Teng Shan’s reply.

Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi look at Teng Shan hopefully. Although Teng Shan looked at them for a moment, he did not pick them. Instead, an elder from the White Tiger Sanctum and an elder from the Vermillion Bird Sanctum picked them at the same time. If they were selected at different times, Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi would not have suspected anything. However, they were instantly suspicious when they were selected at the same time.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian, did you ask Elder Teng Shan to request the elder of Vermillion Bird Sanctum to pick me?” Gu Li asked Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission with a grim expression on his face as he stood behind the two elders from the Vermillion Bird Sanctum. He suspected this was Duan Ling Tian’s doing, but he was not entirely certain.

“Is it you?” Zhu Lu Qi also transmitted his voice to Duan Ling Tian while he stood behind the two elders from the White Tiger Sanctum.

Their words were filled with dissatisfaction because Duan Ling Tian had made such a decision without consulting them.

“Don’t worry! I can look out for myself. On the contrary, it would be more difficult for me to deal with things if both of you are around.” Duan Ling Tian had expected both of them to question him so he gave them an answer he had prepared beforehand.

“You are afraid that I’ll be a burden to you?” Gu Li said discontentedly. Although Zhu Lu Qi did not say anything, it was obvious he felt dissatisfied from the expression on his face.

However, they knew it was futile to continue questioning Duan Ling Tian’s decision since everything was set in stone now.

“Eh?” Li An suddenly realized the elders from the White Tiger Sanctum and Vermillion Bird Sanctum whom Teng Shan was close to had selected both of Duan Ling Tian’s companions.

‘Damn it! How could I have forgotten about them... They are Duan Ling Tian’s companions. Duan Ling Tian will suffer even more if I torture them!’ Li An felt regretful when he recalled this. Li An regretted that he did not think of this sooner.

Earlier, he was overwhelmed with happiness and excitement from being able to make Duan Ling Tian stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum that it led to him forgetting about Duan Ling Tian’s two companions. However, it was too late for him to do anything now. Everything had been decided. Not only were Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi unable to change the result, but even Li An was unable to bring Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi to the Black Turtle Sanctum. Moreover, both elders from the White Tiger Sanctum and the Vermillion Bird Sanctum were friends of Teng Shan. Naturally, they would not let him take Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi away just like that.

‘It’s fine... They’re not important. It’s enough as long as Duan Ling Tian is in the Black Turtle Sanctum!’ Li An consoled himself inwardly. Since he was a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse, it was only natural that he had good self-control. He came to terms with this fact very quickly.

As time passed, those people that came for the Four Symbols Sanctums’ assessments were slowly divided among the Azure Dragon Sanctum, White Tiger Sanctum, Vermillion Bird Sanctum, and Black Turtle Sanctum. There were about a thousand people in each Sanctum after the selection.

“The assessment of the Four Symbols Sanctums in the Fire Worship Sect will eliminate everyone until about a hundred people remain in each Sanctum. In other words, the Black Turtle Sanctum will have to eliminate almost a thousand people after this?” Duan Ling Tian noticed there were about a thousand people around him after he looked around.

Soon after, the six elders from the other three Sanctums bade farewell to Teng Shan and Li An and left with their followers.

“Be extra careful, Junior Brother Ling Tian.”

“Duan Ling Tian, stay calm, and don’t act impulsively!”

Gu Li and Zhu Lu Qi transmitted their voices to him through Voice Transmission before they left with the elders from the Vermillion Bird Sanctum and White Tiger Sanctum respectively. They were both headed to different Sanctums and could not be of any help to Duan Ling Tian for the time being.

“Don’t worry.” Duan Ling Tian nodded and gave them a reassuring look.

The elders of the three other Sanctums led those they have selected back to their respective Sanctums in just a blink of an eye.

There were only Teng Shan, Li An, and a thousand people they had selected, including Duan Ling Tian, left on the scene.

“The assessment will begin tomorrow... Since you’re not disciples of the Black Turtle Sanctum yet, you’ll have to camp out here tonight! Only the hundred people who successfully pass the assessment will have their own places to cultivate in the Black Turtle Sanctum!” Teng Shan said in his booming voice as he faced Duan Ling Tian and the others.

Instantly, apart from Duan Ling Tian and a few others who remained calm, the others became excited. It was as though they could already see themselves passing the assessment from the Black Turtle Sanctum and becoming a disciple with their own cultivation place in the Sanctum!

Teng Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian after he finished his speech and said through Voice Transmission, “Duan Ling Tian, apart from assessing your strength, the assessment tomorrow places more importance on your innate talent! Remember to display your innate talent tomorrow. As long you’re able to show that you have a high innate talent, you’ll be able to catch the attention of the Sanctum Leader. If you’re able to catch the Sanctum Leader’s attention, Li An won’t be able to look for trouble with you so easily in the future!”

“Understood,” Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission as he nodded.

Teng Shan left after speaking to Duan Ling Tian. It seemed as though he did not care that Li An was still there. Teng Shan knew that as long as Duan Ling Tian did not provoke Li An, Li An would not dare to blindly attack Duan Ling Tian. If he had attacked Duan Ling Tian without a reason, he would be punished. He might even be expelled from the Fire Worship Sect!

As one of the three strongest sects in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, there were strict rules in the Fire Worship Sect. The three strongest sects were able to stay in power for such a long time because they adhered to the saying, ‘Rules make the world go round’.

Sure enough, Li An left shortly after Teng Shan’s departure. However, before Li An left, he looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly. It sent chills up Duan Ling Tian’s spine. He could feel the determination and killing intent in Li An’s gaze.

“You’re intent on killing me? It’ll test your patience and determination!” Duan Ling Tian said with a sneer on his face. He knew very well that Li An could kill him easily like an ant. However, Li An could be expelled for violating the rules in the Fire Worship Sect if he killed Duan Ling Tian here.

Duan Ling Tian was confident Li An did not have the determination needed to kill him since he would not allow himself to be expelled from the Fire Worship Sect. Otherwise, Duan Ling Tian would have died earlier.

The attention of everyone left on the scene quickly shifted to Duan Ling Tian once Li An left. Most of the people’s eyes were filled with pity as they looked at him.

‘Duan Ling Tian has offended Elder Li An. He will suffer in the Black Turtle Sanctum even if he doesn’t die!’

Most people shared the same thought. Duan Ling Tian ignored all their stares and crossed his legs and sat in the air and began to cultivate with his eyes closed.

‘One last step to Divine Saint Stage... It’s taking me too long to get past this last step.’ Duan Ling Tian sighed as he began to cultivate.

Duan Ling Tian cultivated as usual since he did not expect to make a breakthrough. However, a miracle could happen at any moment.

As the Sun True Origin breached the bottleneck and broke the shackles that stopped him from breaking through to the Divine Saint Stage from the Eminent Saint Stage, Duan Ling Tian discovered the True Origin in his body had transformed into a new energy.

‘This is the Saint Energy?’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he felt the new power coursing in his body. ‘I’ve broken through just like this?’

The breakthrough had taken Duan Ling Tian by surprise since he did not expect it.

‘No wonder people say that pressure is a form of motivation... It seems like the threat from a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse pressures me and unconsciously improves my cultivation efficiency,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian devoted all his attention to the new energy in his body. The energy was no longer the True Origin Energy. Instead, it was Saint Energy that was unique to cultivators at the Divine Saint Stage and above. Saint Energy was a lot stronger than True Origin Energy. It felt majestic. Even more so because it had transformed into the Sun Saint Energy. It was far superior to the Sun True Origin.

“The Sun Saint Energy is very powerful!” Duan Ling Tian said excitedly as he felt the Sun Saint Energy coursing through the 99 Saint Veins in his body.

“If I transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and unleash all my techniques, I might be able to defeat a powerhouse at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage with my current cultivation base!”

“Eh? This is...” Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes, and he frowned when he discovered something.

Chapter 1902: True Innate Ability!

Earlier, his attention was solely focused on the Sun Saint Energy in his body. Therefore, he had overlooked his soul that had changed into that of a Divine Saint Stage powerhouse. He could also clearly sense that his Spiritual Energy had become stronger.

At this moment, his Spiritual Energy seemed as though it was in a state of restlessness before it charged toward his left eye.

“What’s going on?” Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he failed to control his Spiritual Energy.

“It’s the Strange Pupil!” Soon after, Duan Ling Tian discovered the cause of it.

His left eye was no longer similar to a human's eyes. His left eye had merged with the unique eye of a One-eyed Devil Vulture, and he had obtained some extraordinary abilities from it. However, the strength of those abilities depended on the strength of his Spiritual Energy.

As Duan Ling Tian gained more techniques that made him stronger than what he should be at his cultivation base and defeated opponents stronger than him, the Strange Pupil gradually became less and less important. Duan Ling Tian merely used it to look at things in the distance. However, today, something seemed to be happening to the Strange Pupil!

"Hm?"

Without knowing how much time had passed, Duan Ling Tian discovered his left eye growing hot before the uncontrollable and restless Spiritual Energy suddenly disappeared from his left eye.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt as though his left eye was stripped of its ability. What shocked him even more was the Spiritual Energy that had disappeared from his left eye seemed to have fused with his body and the 99 Saint Veins.

Following that, he discovered the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique had begun to circulate on their own. To be more precise, it was the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique that had undergone a transformation in the dragon clan's Saint Land, the Dragon Cleansing Pool.

However, it was strange because it did not circulate his Saint Energy. Instead, the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique had actually circulated his Spiritual Energy.

"I can do that to my Spiritual Energy?" Duan Ling Tian was dumbfounded. This was his first time seeing his Spiritual Energy being circulated. He did not even hear of such things before this.

"What's going on? What's happening?" Duan Ling Tian was confused.

As time passed, Duan Ling Tian could also clearly sense his Spiritual Energy was longer pure as it was circulated by the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique circulated. There seemed to be something else mixed in it. However, due to the uncontrollable state of his Spiritual Energy, he could not discern what it was. Nonetheless, he had a feeling the thing mixed with his Spiritual Energy was not harmful.

He did not know much time had passed. It felt like a century, but it also felt like a mere moment.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian discovered the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique had stopped circulating, and his uncontrollable Spiritual Energy had fused back with his soul. At the moment the Spiritual Energy fused with his soul, Duan Ling Tian felt momentarily displaced... The feeling was similar to an out-of-body experience!

When he regained his senses, he discovered he had regained control of his Spiritual Energy. "The current Spiritual Energy is indeed different... Although it's the Spiritual Energy of someone at the Divine Saint Stage, there seems to be something else as well. Moreover, it seems to want to merge with the Strange Pupil!" Shortly after, Duan Ling Tian noticed something strange.

Although he had regained control of his Spiritual Energy, it seemed to have a mind of its own. It seemed as though it wanted to surge into his left eye.

In the beginning, Duan Ling Tian tried to stop it. He sighed in relief when he discovered that it was still under his control even though it was in a state of restlessness. He felt better having control over his Spiritual Energy.

‘Why does it have such a strange impulse? Nevermind! Let’s see what will happen after it flows into the Strange Pupil.’ With that thought in mind, Duan Ling Tian controlled the Spiritual Energy and let it surge into his left eye.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian felt anxious during the whole process. After all, not only did he discover that his Spiritual Energy had changed, but it had become strange even to its master!

At the instant when his Spiritual Energy surged into his left eye, he discovered his eye was absorbing his Spiritual Energy like it was absorbing rain after a long drought.

As the Strange Pupil in his left eye absorbed his Spiritual Energy, Duan Ling Tian began to feel a burn in his left eye. It was so hot that he gradually grew numb to it.

At the same time, he had a strong urge to open his left eye.

His left eye seemed to have accumulated some force and was in need of a release.

“What’s going on?” Duan Ling Tian was confused. He had no idea what was happening. However, he still opened both his eyes.

At the instant when he opened his eyes, Duan Ling Tian discovered the sky was beginning to brighten. It was dawn.

“It feels like it’s going to explode!” Duan Ling Tian’s attention returned to his left eye.

“Hm?”

When Duan Ling Tian tried to use his left eye to look at things, he found that not only was everything within his line of sight magnified, but there was even a focus point in the middle.

It was very similar to the feeling of sniper looking through a scope.

‘What’s going on? Why do I feel as though the Spiritual Energy in my left eye wants to be shot out!’ Duan Ling Tian was shocked to discover that as soon as that thought appeared in his mind, the Spiritual Energy in his left eye really shot out.

The Spiritual Energy looked as though it had materialized and took the form of a dragon. The Spiritual Energy was headed for the center of the focus point.

However, since it was aimed at the sky, it was nowhere to be found after it was shot out.

“That shot depleted only half of the accumulated Spiritual Energy...”

Following that, Duan Ling Tian realized that the Spiritual Energy accumulated in the Strange Pupil had more than half left. Moreover, it was slowly increasing again.

His Spiritual Energy kept surging out from his soul to his left eye to replenish the depleted energy in his left eye.

“Spiritual Energy Attack? Soul Attack?” Then, Duan Ling Tian began to suspect the Spiritual Energy that his left eye shot out was a kind of Soul Attack. Moreover, his Soul Attack that took the form of a dragon was extremely extraordinary!

“There’s a fly there...”

Duan Ling Tian’s Strange Pupil was aiming around before it eventually settled on a fly perched on a tree in the distance.

“Shoot!”

With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian’s Strange Pupil shot out Spiritual Energy that took the form of a divine dragon. The Spiritual Energy that was only as large as a needle was aimed at the fly’s head! The aim was terrifyingly accurate!

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian extended his Divine Consciousness and began to monitor the changes in the fly’s body. His Divine Consciousness could even detect the fly’s weak soul.

However, as soon as his Spiritual Energy pierced the fly’s head, Duan Ling Tian discovered through his Divine Consciousness that the fly’s soul had disappeared without a trace.

Naturally, now that it had lost its soul, the fly had fallen from the tree.

“This is my Soul Attack?”

Duan Ling Tian gasped as he discovered how terrifying his skill was. There was no way to defend against it. He could hardly imagine what would happen if his opponent had attacked him with this skill. Would he even be able to survive?

Back when Duan Ling Tian was still on Cloud Continent, he was already familiar with techniques under the Soul Attack category. For instance, the Thousand Illusions was also a Soul Attack. However, the Thousand Illusions technique was far from being comparable to the technique from his Strange Pupil!

‘I have a feeling if I use the Soul Attack from my Strange Pupil, not even a powerhouse at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage would be able to survive it! Even Exemplary Saint Stage powerhouses will suffer from my Soul Attack if they’re caught off-guard.’ Duan Ling Tian could not help but gasp when he thought of this.

“The situation is different from what I imagined it to be.” At that time, a voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears. It shocked the distracted Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian could tell it was Elder Huo. It was as though he had seen his lifesaver when he quickly asked, “Elder Huo, why did my Strange Pupil change so tremendously after I’ve broken through to the Divine Saint Stage?” Following that, Duan Ling Tian recounted everything that had happened.

“Based on your words, there must be a resonance between your Strange Pupil and the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique that had undergone a transformation. It also changed your Spiritual Energy. Your Spiritual Energy that uses your Strange Pupil to cast a Soul Attack should be one of the Soul

Attack's Divine Abilities if I'm not mistaken!" After listening to Duan Ling Tian, Elder Huo said, "You can treat it as your innate ability!"

"Innate ability? Like the innate ability of a peculiar Demon Beast, Saint Beast or a Variant?"

Innate ability. Duan Ling Tian was no stranger to it. He learned about it when he was on Cloud Continent.

"No. Those are nothing more than mere Spiritual Secret Tactics! True innate ability is an actual divine ability. It would be no weaker than a high-grade Divine Ability!" Elder Huo said.

Chapter 1903: Gains and Losses

"True innate ability is an actual Divine Ability. It would be no weaker than a high-grade Divine Ability!" Elder Huo's voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears and completely changed his perception.

Not only was the innate ability he learned about on Cloud Continent unrelated to Divine Abilities, but it was also inferior to it. He learned from Elder Huo that the innate abilities on Mortal Continents were not true innate abilities at all! True innate abilities were as strong as a high-grade Divine Ability!

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath as he tried to suppress his excitement, but his voice still trembled slightly as he asked, "Elder Huo, you mean... The Soul Attack technique from my Strange Pupil is my innate ability, and it's not any weaker than a high-grade Divine Ability?"

"Yes," Elder Huo replied, "According to your description... The strength of your innate ability can still be improved. For instance, you can condense all the accumulated Spiritual Energy in the Strange Pupil into one Soul Attack. The strength of your attack will be stronger in that case! Naturally, it's easier said than done. You'll still have to depend on yourself for that. Previously, I only know that the One-eyed Devil Vulture's eye is special. I didn't think it'll transform into something like this because it has resonated with your cultivation method."

As Elder Huo spoke, he could not help but sigh. "An offensive Divine Ability can either be a Divine Ability or a Soul Attack Divine Ability... The latter is an innate ability, it's impossible to make it any stronger. Soul Attack Divine Ability is a lot stronger compared to those Soul Attack Secret Techniques... The difference between it and the Soul Attack Secret Techniques is like the difference between a high-grade Divine Ability and an ordinary martial art skill."

Duan Ling Tian stayed silent after Elder Huo finished speaking. He needed more time to process Elder Huo's words. Eventually, he reached a conclusion.

He really hit the jackpot this time!

"In just a day and a night, not only did my cultivation base improve, but I even obtained an innate ability. How lucky." A smile appeared on Duan Ling Tian's face.

Currently, he desperately wanted to improve his strength! This was because he knew clearly that even if he managed to enter the Fire Worship Sect now, unless there was a miracle, it would be difficult for him to rescue Ke'er and their daughter. He was not even sure if he could get far enough to see them. For this

reason, every improvement in his strength was like good news to him. He had never longed so desperately to be strong as he did now!

“Elder Huo, earlier you said that the situation seems different from what you imagined them to be... What do you mean by that?” Duan Ling Tian asked after he calmed himself down.

Due to his curiosity, he instantly asked Elder Huo about the changes in his Strange Pupil when he heard him spoke. Now that the matter was resolved, he recalled what Elder Huo had said earlier.

“The fourth level of Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda has been completely restored.” Elder Huo’s voice sounded in Duan Ling Tian’s ears. Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up and his body began to tremble slightly due to excitement when he heard this.

The fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda had been restored! This was definitely good news to Duan Ling Tian!

Duan Ling Tian was so excited that his face turned red. It took a while before he managed to calm down.

First, he had broken through to the Divine Saint Stage. Then, he mastered a powerful Soul Attack that was like an innate ability. Finally, he learned that Elder Huo had finished repairing the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

All three were good news to him!

“This means I’ll have a better cultivation environment in the future... The time flow in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is much slower than the time flow on the third floor of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda! Eight days inside equal to only a day in the outside world!” Duan Ling Tian muttered excitedly to himself, “Moreover, if I meet an opponent I can’t defeat, I’ll be able to hide in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda!”

“I’m afraid it’s not possible to take hide in there,” Elder Huo said in response to Duan Ling Tian’s last sentence.

“Why?” When Duan Ling Tian heard Elder Huo’s words, his body that was trembling from excitement instantly stilled. His smile had also disappeared.

At this moment, he realized that something was amiss! Otherwise, Elder Huo would not say such words to him at such a time.

“Although the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda has been repaired, the space inside is still unstable... It’ll be impossible to hide in it for now,” Elder Huo answered Duan Ling Tian’s question.

“How’s this possible!” Duan Ling Tian had an expression of disbelief when he first heard Elder Huo’s words. “Elder Huo, are you certain? I remember you said that as long as the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is repaired, the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda will stabilize, and I’ll be able to hide in it. No matter how big of a commotion there is in the outside world, I won’t be kicked out!” Duan Ling Tian became agitated as he spoke.

Apart from having a better cultivation environment and slower time flow, he was looking forward to the stability the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would bring to the space inside.

According to what Elder Huo said previously, since the fourth level was in the middle, it would stabilize the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. At that time, when he entered pagoda, he would not be kicked out from just a slight movement in the outside world. For this reason, he was desperate to repair the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda!

However, after everything he had gone through to repair the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, Elder Huo just told him the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was still as unstable as before. He could not hide inside in times of danger.

How could he accept this?

As the saying went, 'The higher your hopes are, the harder the fall would be'. This phrase described Duan Ling Tian's situation perfectly.

"The space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is damaged when it arrived in this Mundane Realm... Originally, I thought the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would stabilize as soon as I repair the fourth level. However, as I repaired the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, I realized the damage inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is more than what I imagined it to be! Unless the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is completely repaired, the space inside will never stabilize."

"Completely repaired?" Duan Ling Tian smiled bitterly when he heard Elder Huo's words. "I'm afraid I don't know how long that will take."

All this time, he had been finding the materials needed to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. From the first level to the fourth level, it got harder at every level.

In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, even if he stood at the peak of the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land and used all the resources that were available to him, he would only be able to repair the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda up to the sixth level at most.

'Although I'm at the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, I'm not even sure if I can completely repair it to the sixth level.' When Duan Ling Tian thought of this, his expression turned even more bitter.

'It seems like God has played a joke on me! I thought I might be able to use it to enter the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land and the Enforcement Hall and rescue Ke'Er and our daughter... After all, no one will be able to find me if I hide inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Well, it seems like that's impossible now!'

Duan Ling Tian knew very well there were no more shortcuts for him to see and rescue Ke'Er and their daughter. He could only rely on his own hard work to do it!

The path of relying on the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda had reached its end. Although things might not work in his favor even if he could hide in it, it gave him a sense of hope. Currently, he felt as though all his hopes had been snuffed out.

“Apart from being unable to stabilize the space inside the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, I’ve discovered a damage the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda had sustained while it was still in the hands of Li Jing and repaired it as well. This is an unexpected but pleasant surprise!” Elder Huo continued to transmit his voice.

“Damage? Unexpected but pleasant surprise?” Duan Ling Tian was puzzled.

“Actually, the real time flow on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is not eight days inside equal to a day outside... It’s only so when it was damaged. Li Jing did not bother to repair the damage since the time flow doesn’t concern him. Over time, perhaps, Li Jing had even forgotten about it,” Elder Huo continued saying.

Li Jing was the former owner of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he was also a legendary mythical figure in Duan Ling Tian’s past life. He was known as the Pagoda-bearing Heavenly King.

“Elder Huo... What do you mean? Does this mean that time flows even slower on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda now that you repaired the damage?” Duan Ling Tian was not stupid, he knew what Elder Huo was alluding to.

“Yes,” Elder Huo nodded before he said, “The time flow on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda is ten days inside equal to a day outside.”

Ten to one!

Duan Ling Tian could not help but gasp. It was obvious he was shocked.

In comparison to the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, the third level was one fold slower!

Chapter 1904: Innate Spiritual Root

Moreover, the cultivation environment on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was a lot better than the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. For this reason, cultivating on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would be more than one time faster than cultivating on the third level of Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda... In fact, it might even be two to three times faster!

‘There are both gains and losses.’ Duan Ling Tian could not help but sigh, feeling a little bitter.

What he had been anticipating the most was the stability of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda because it was related to his plan of saving his fiancée and daughter from the Enforcement Hall in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land. Although there were no guarantees the plan would work, it had given him hope. Now that his hope had been snuffed out, he could only rely on his strength to rescue his fiancée, Ke’er, and his daughter.

When the sun rose from the east, the people around Duan Ling Tian began to open their eyes and stop cultivating. The atmosphere turned lively very quickly.

Duan Ling Tian stood up and glanced at the rising sun as he muttered, "The assessment should begin soon."

At the same time, the discussions in his surroundings entered his ears.

"Do you know how we'll be assessed?"

"Of course! I came to the Saint Sect three years ago for the assessment. I was selected to join the Azure Dragon Sanctum then... During the assessment, my innate talent fell short of the passing grades, and as for my strength, I barely passed it. All in all, I failed to join the sect."

"Since you're here again, does this mean you're feeling confident now?"

"Of course! My current strength is not something the former me can compare to. Although I can't change my innate talent, my current strength should be enough to pull me through. It should be just enough to pass the assessment."

That was the conversation between a rookie and a veteran.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian's attention was caught by the discussion among three people.

"I heard that people with green Spiritual Roots or above won't be assessed for their strength to join the Fire Worship Sect's Four Symbols Sanctums. They would be given a passing grade immediately and become a disciple of the Fire Worship Sect," a middle-aged man said.

"Based on my innate talent, my Innate Spiritual Root is yellow at the most... I can only hope my strength will earn me more points and raise my score. I might stand a chance if that's the case," an old man replied.

Finally, a young man shook his head as he said, "Your innate talent is quite poor... If you intend to join the Fire Worship Sect with your innate talent, you'll need to be at the Exemplary Saint Stage or above!"

"I know. I've broken through to the Exemplary Saint Stage a while ago... I hope it'll earn me enough points during the strength assessment." The old man nodded.

'Spiritual Roots? Innate Spiritual Roots?' Duan Ling Tian frowned. He had a confused expression on his face since he did not understand what they were talking about.

What was a Spiritual Root and an Innate Spiritual Root?

He had no idea!

"Elder Huo, do you know what is it?" Duan Ling Tian asked Elder Huo.

"I've never heard of it... This must be something that only the Mundane Realms have." Elder Huo also did not know what it was.

Duan Ling Tian could only ask someone else. Soon after, he shifted his gaze to the middle-aged man and asked him what they were talking about.

“You don’t know what’s an Innate Spiritual Root?” The middle-aged man was baffled when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s question. He looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was looking at an aberration.

“Is it weird that I don’t know about it?” Duan Ling Tian was puzzled. He had a slight frown on his face.

The middle-aged man thought Duan Ling Tian was offended when he saw the frown on his face. He recalled the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed when he killed Yang Wu, and he quickly erased the shock expression from his face.

“Innate Spiritual Root is something one is born with... However, our ancestors had only discovered the existence of Spiritual Roots after arriving in the Upper Province.” The middle-aged man asked, “You should know that a long time ago, there was no distinction between the Upper and Lower Province, right?”

“I’m from the Lower Province,” Duan Ling Tian said indifferently.

“You’re from the Lower Province?”

The middle-aged man was surprised when he heard his words. Then, he nodded. “That’s the reason why you don’t know about Innate Spiritual Roots. Innate Spiritual Root is the Spiritual Root one is born with. It represents a person’s innate talent in the Martial Dao.” He continued to say, “Innate Spiritual Roots are divided into seven ranks that are named after the colors of the rainbow. They’re the red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet! Red Spiritual Roots represent the weakest innate talent while the violet Spiritual Roots represent the strongest... During the assessment of the Fire Worship Sect’s Four Symbols Sanctums, people with green Spiritual Roots or higher don’t have to participate in the strength assessment and will immediately qualify as a disciple of the sect. People with green Spiritual Roots usually need to have a cultivation base above the Divine Saint Stage to have a chance of passing the assessment to become a disciple of the Fire Worship Sect. People with yellow Spiritual Roots usually have to have cultivation base above the Exemplary Saint Stage. As for people with orange Spiritual Roots, in theory, they would need to be above the Quintessential Saint Stage to qualify as a disciple of Fire Worship Sect... However, for people with orange Innate Spiritual Roots, it would be impossible for them to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage unless they had a heaven-defying fortuitous encounter!” The middle-aged finished speaking in one breath, causing him to almost run out of breath. He was afraid he would offend Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian understood what the Innate Spiritual Root was after he heard the middle-aged man’s explanation.

“How do you see one’s Innate Spiritual Root?” Duan Ling Tian asked the middle-aged man with a gleam in his eyes.

“Only powerhouses above the Saint Celestial Stage would be able to look at their own Innate Spiritual Roots with a Soul Secret Technique. They can also look at others’ Innate Spiritual Roots provided the other party doesn’t put up a resistance... Apart from that, it can only be seen by relying on tools,” the middle-aged man said, “For example, during our assessment, the Black Turtle Sanctum will bring several Spiritual Pearls that contain complex formations... When we put our hands on it, it’ll show our Innate Spiritual Roots after ten breaths.” Duan Ling Tian nodded as he listened to the middle-aged man’s explanation before he returned to his spot.

“The Black Turtle Sanctum will assess our innate talent by looking at our Innate Spiritual Roots... The stronger one’s Spiritual Root is, the better one would be treated! For instance, people with green Innate Spiritual Roots or above will immediately qualify as a disciple of the Fire Worship Sect. People with Innate Spiritual Root below green will have to take part in the strength assessment. The lower one’s innate talent is, the higher one’s strength would have to be to qualify!”

Duan Ling Tian understood why such a rule was put in place. How could it be possible for someone weak with low innate talent to join a top-tier sect like the Fire Worship Sect? If not for the rules, what would differentiate the Fire Worship Sect from ordinary sects?

The Fire Worship Sect was one of the three greatest sects in the Dao Martial Saint Land.

‘I really don’t know what rank my Innate Spiritual Root is at... However, I don’t think it’ll be a high rank one.’ Although Duan Ling Tian was curious about the rank of his Innate Spiritual Root, he knew himself very well.

His innate talent might be high on Cloud Continent, but since he had arrived in the Dao Martial Saint Land, he noticed most people’s innate talent was really good. Especially those prodigies he met at the quasi third-rate force, Mystical Sky Mansion.

He was aware of his situation. If it was not for the help of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he would not be able to surpass them so quickly and accomplish so much in such a short time!

Suddenly, someone yelled, “They’re here!”

That instantly caught everyone’s attention.

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elders, Teng Shan and Li An, appeared again.

Although both of them appeared at almost the same time, they came from different directions. It was apparent they did not come together. Two middle-aged men followed behind each of them.

The four middle-aged men also wore white robes with a Black Turtle embroidered on it like Teng Shan and Li An. The only difference was the flames on their robes were bronze.

Bronze Flame Elders!

Duan Ling Tian and the people present on the scene instantly figured out the identities of the four middle-aged men.

“Prepare yourselves,” Teng Shan said indifferently. As soon as he finished speaking, he flew up into the air and looked at everyone.

As Teng Shan flew up into the air, the two Bronze Flame Elders who were standing behind him strode forward. They raised their arms before a dull, transparent pearl appeared before them, hovering in the air.

From afar, it looked like a glass ball the size of an adult’s fist.

Swoosh!

Li An did not say anything. He flew up into the sky as well and looked at everyone just like Teng Shan.

The two Bronze Flame Elders who stood behind him also strode forward and took out two pearls.

‘This is the Spiritual Pearl that can reveal one’s Innate Spiritual Root?’ Duan Ling Tian instantly guessed the floating transparent pearls hovering before the four Bronze Flame Elders had to be the Soul Pearls that the middle-aged man mentioned earlier.

“There are two parts to today’s assessment... Your strength and innate talent will be assessed respectively. We will assess your innate talent by looking at your Innate Spiritual Root!” Teng Shan said. His voice was clear and loud.

It was exactly like what the middle-aged man had said.

“Now, we’ll begin to assess your innate talent!” Teng Shan said, signaling the start of the innate talent assessment.

There were four people to a group as they stepped forward to see what rank their Innate Spiritual Roots were

‘I really don’t know what rank my Innate Spiritual Root will be... Orange? Yellow?’ Duan Ling Tian did not dare to have high hopes.

Chapter 1905: Duan Ling Tian’s Turn

Duan Ling Tian did not dare to have high hopes because he felt that his achievements were all thanks to the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. It was not that he was being pessimistic. The time flow on the third level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was shockingly slow. Five days inside equaled to only a day outside. Just by relying on that alone, his cultivation speed was five times faster than those who were at his level.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath before he shifted his eyes to the four people who were currently being assessed. He watched as they placed their hands on the Spiritual Pearls hovering in front of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elders.

It took about ten breaths before the Spiritual Pearls began to react.

Wow! Wow! Wow!

Three of the Spiritual Pearls glowed with yellow light.

Wow!

The final Spiritual Pearl glowed with orange light.

‘That’s really magical.’ Duan Ling Tian was slightly amazed. He did not think the small Spiritual Pearls would be able to reveal the rank of one’s Innate Spiritual Root. Moreover, he could also sense the

complex formations inside the Spiritual Pearls. The Spiritual Pearls might appear ordinary, but the formations inside were extraordinarily complex.

“Name?”

Following that, the four Bronze Flame Elders from Black Turtle Sanctum began recording the names of the participants and the results of their innate talent assessment.

One of the Bronze Flame Elders looked at the old man who had an orange Innate Spiritual Root and said indifferently, “Your Innate Spiritual Root is merely an orange Innate Spiritual Root... If you haven’t reached the Quintessential Saint Stage, it’ll be impossible for you to pass the strength assessment.”

“Orange Spiritual Root...” The old man had a bitter expression on his face. It was obvious he had just learned his Innate Spiritual Root was an orange Spiritual Root.

“Orange Spiritual Roots... It’s impossible to reach the Quintessential Saint Stage unless he had a fortuitous encounter!”

At the same time, those who had not been assessed shook their heads.

The old man who learned that he merely had an orange Innate Spiritual Root bowed respectfully at the Bronze Flame Elders and turned around to leave. It seemed like he was aware of his own strength. His back looked gaunt and sad from afar.

“I hope that my Spiritual Root isn’t an orange Spiritual Root...” Many people muttered to themselves. They were afraid their Innate Spiritual Roots would also be an orange Spiritual Root. It was hard to tell what rank one’s Innate Spiritual Root was just by looking at one’s strength.

For example, people with orange and yellow Spiritual Roots would cultivate at almost the same speed before they reached the Divine Saint Stage. The difference would grow bigger once they had broken through to the Divine Saint Stage.

People with yellow Spiritual Roots would be able to break through to the Exemplary Saint Stage easily and had a good chance of breaking through to the Quintessential Saint Stage.

On the other hand, for people with orange Innate Spiritual Roots, entering the Divine Saint Stage would be their limit. They might stand a chance in breaking through to the Exemplary Saint Stage, but it would be almost impossible for them to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage.

“Your Innate Spiritual Root is yellow, if your cultivation base is not at the Exemplary Saint Stage, I recommend you to try again next time. Naturally, you can continue, but be prepared to get injured.”

The same phrase was repeated by the other three Bronze Flame Elders to the three people with yellow Innate Spiritual Roots.

Three of them nodded. In the end, two of them stayed on while one of them left.

The person who had left was only at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage. His chance of passing the strength assessment was really low. He had only come because he wanted to see if his Innate Spiritual Root was

green. If he had a green Innate Spiritual Root, he would not have to participate in the strength assessment.

The principle of the assessment from the Fire Worship Sect's Four Symbol Sanctum prioritized those who had a high innate talent.

For example, a person with green Spiritual Root would qualify as a disciple as long as their cultivation base was at the Divine Saint Stage. This was because people with green Spiritual Roots would certainly break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage and had a high chance of breaking through to the Saint Celestial Stage.

If such talented people were properly nurtured, they would certainly grow to become the Fire Worship Sect's pillars of strength.

As for those with Innate Spiritual Roots that were ranked higher than green Innate Spiritual Roots, they were completely exempted from the strength assessment and might even stand a chance to become a disciple of a Golden Flame Elder.

On Dao Martial Saint Land, there was an old folk song about how people who possessed green Spiritual Roots could certainly break through to the Saint Celestial Stage as long as they did not die young!

After the first group of four people left, another four people stepped forward. Four people were assessed in each round.

As time passed, some people who found out they possessed orange Innate Spiritual Roots left the place in low spirits.

Most people possessed yellow Innate Spiritual Roots and most of them stayed to take part in the strength assessment. Only a small group of people left because they knew they were not strong enough to pass the strength assessment.

More than a hundred people had left before the innate talent assessment had ended. There were less than a thousand people left on the scene.

"Green Spiritual Root!"

Just like earlier, four people stepped forward to have their innate talent assessed. When one of them put his hand on the Spiritual Pearl, it began to glow with a green light. It instantly caught everyone's attention.

It was a middle-aged man whose complexion was as smooth as jade. He was dressed in a scholarly fashion. He was obviously stunned when he found out he possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root. He looked delighted when he finally regained his senses.

"It turns out to be a green Spiritual Root!"

"Almost 400 people have been assessed, but only one person possesses the green Innate Spiritual Root so far. As long as those with green Spiritual Roots have a cultivation base at the Divine Saint Stage, the strength assessment would be a mere formality."

“Green Innate Spiritual Root... I hope mine is also a green Innate Spiritual Root. Otherwise, it would be difficult for me to join the Fire Worship Sect with my cultivation base at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage.”

...

People whispered among themselves as they looked at the middle-aged man who dressed like a scholar with a hint of envy and jealousy in their eyes.

The Bronze Flame Elder looked at the middle-aged man who was dressed like a scholar and asked with a smile, “What’s your cultivation base?”

The Bronze Flame Elder also possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root.

As long as the middle-aged man before him joined the Fire Worship Sect, he would be able to rise to the ranks of a Bronze Flame Elder like him sooner or later. For this reason, he treated the middle-aged man as an equal.

“Early Exemplary Saint Stage,” the middle-aged man replied with a smile after he regained his senses.

“He’s at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!”

“With his cultivation base and innate talent, it’s certain he’ll be able to join the Fire Worship Sect! If he breaks through to the Quintessential Saint Stage, he might even obtain the pass to enter the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land.

“The assessment today will merely be a formality to him. With his innate talent, there will be many Silver Flame Elders who will want to accept him as a direct disciple.”

Most people felt envious and jealous when they looked at the middle-aged man.

‘After assessing 400 people, only one person possesses a green Innate Spiritual Root... It seems very likely that I possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root! I can only hope it’s not an orange Innate Spiritual Root,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. There was a hint of envy in Duan Ling Tian’s eyes as well when he looked at the middle-aged man standing in the distance.

When he was on Cloud Continent, he had consumed the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk that raised his innate talent greatly to the point where he had the highest innate talent on Cloud Continent.

However, he was only the strongest on the Mortal Continents! Having the highest innate talent on the Mortal Continents meant nothing in the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Perhaps, the middle-aged man who was dressed like a scholar brought luck with him because, after a few more rounds of assessment, they discovered another person who possessed the green Innate Spiritual Root.

“The second person with a green Spiritual Root!”

Everyone’s attention, including Duan Ling Tian, shifted to the person who possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root.

It was a young man who had an ordinary appearance. He would not have stood out in a crowd. He also looked as though he was unaware he possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root. He was visibly stunned for a quite a while. He only regained his senses when the Bronze Flame Elder standing in front of him spoke to him. He began to shout excitedly. He seemed more excited than the middle-aged man who was dressed like a scholar.

However, no one thought anything of his overexcitement. In fact, they thought it was normal. If they were in his shoes, they might have been even more excited.

“Peng Hui, congratulations!” The young man’s companion congratulated him. At the same time, he did not forget to say proudly to the people around him, “This green Innate Spiritual Root prodigy is my brother! Initially, I didn’t think he’ll be able to pass the assessment since he’s only at the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage... I didn’t expect him to possess a green Innate Spiritual Root!”

Intermediate Divine Saint Stage cultivator with a green Spiritual Root...

He was certainly qualified to become a disciple of the Fire Worship Sect!

The people in the surrounding finally understood his excitement. If he did not possess a green Innate Spiritual Root, he would have come here in vain. It was like he had won the lottery when they discovered he possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root!

‘I really hope I’m as lucky as him.’ Many people who were present and who were at the Divine Saint Stage silently prayed.

As time passed, they discovered several more people who possessed green Innate Spiritual Roots. Meanwhile, many who were aware of their own strength also left on their own accord.

Soon after, it was Duan Ling Tian’s turn.

When Duan Ling Tian and three other people stepped forward to face the Bronze Flame Elders, the entire place fell silent immediately. Everyone’s attention was focused on Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian had left a lasting impression on them from yesterday’s Death Duel!

Chapter 1906: Blue Spiritual Root? Indigo Spiritual Root?

An old man whose cultivation was at the Mastery Exemplary Saint Stage looked at Duan Ling Tian and said solemnly, “Yesterday when I probed Duan Ling Tian using my Divine Consciousness, I discovered he’s not even forty years old. Based on the strength he displayed even after he was severely injured, his innate talent must be very high! He must have a blue Innate Spiritual Root!”

“He’s not even forty years old?” His words shocked many people.

Since the old man had mentioned his cultivation base was at the Mastery Exemplary Saint Stage, and he had left a lasting impression on the others during the innate talent assessment, nobody doubted his words.

“Although he was heavily injured by Elder Li An and was on the brink of death, he was still strong enough to cast such a powerful Divine Ability and kill Yang Wu who was at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage!”

“Although Divine Abilities are powerful, it would still rely on one’s strength and Spiritual Energy... His cultivation base must be higher than Yang Wu!”

“In other words, he must be at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage at least. The Innate Spiritual Root of someone at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage who’s not even forty years old has to be blue or indigo!”

“Indigo Innate Spiritual Root? As far as I know, only elite powerhouses and geniuses in the three great sects have indigo Innate Spiritual Root. Don’t tell me the Fire Worship Sect is going to gain another genius with an indigo Innate Spiritual Root?”

“If his Innate Spiritual Root is indigo, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect might even take him in as a disciple!”

As the crowd discussed heatedly among themselves, their burning gazes landed on Duan Ling Tian.

It was obvious they were all eager to see the result of Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent assessment. It had to be either a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root!

“I think it’s unlikely for him to possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root. It’s said that among the geniuses who possess indigo Innate Spiritual Roots in Fire Worship Sect, there are some who had broken through to the Exemplary Saint Stage when they were only 30 years old. I think he has a blue Innate Spiritual Root,” a young man said.

The moment his words left his mouth, he was instantly refuted by those beside him.

“Hurmph! How do you know his cultivation base is not at the Exemplary Saint Stage? Don’t forget we’re only speculating when we say he’s at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage. There’s a possibility that he has already broken through to the Exemplary Saint Stage.”

“He managed to turn the table and kill Yang Wu who was at the Mastery Divine Saint Stage in just one blow even though he was heavily injured. That’s not something anyone can do!”

“That’s right! He must know a secret tactic to conceal his cultivation base. It’s not impossible for him to be at the Exemplary Saint Stage.”

“If he’s really at the Exemplary Saint Stage or above, then it’s possible that he possesses an indigo Innate Spiritual Root.”

“How exciting! What rank is his Innate Spiritual Root?”

Another round of discussion took place. Everyone’s gaze turned even more intense when they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They could not wait to find out whether he possessed a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root.

'Blue Innate Spiritual Root? Indigo Innate Spiritual Root? Not even 40 years old? Exemplary Saint Stage?' Duan Ling Tian took a step forward and faced the Black Turtle Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder. As he listened to discussion behind him, the corner of his mouth twitched before it curled up into a bitter smile.

Blue Innate Spiritual Root?

Indigo Innate Spiritual Root?

He did not even dare to hope that he would possess something medium-rank like a green Innate Spiritual Root, let alone these two high-rank Innate Spiritual Roots.

He was aware of his own condition. Not even 40 years old? This was only because he spent most of his time cultivating in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Although time flowed quickly in the pagoda, it also halted the aging process when he was inside. If one counted properly, he was older than 40 years old. Naturally, in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land where almost everyone was 300, 1,000 or even several thousands years of age, he would still be considered a baby.

Exemplary Saint Stage? He had just broken through to the Early Divine Saint Stage. The main reason he had broken through so quickly was all thanks to the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and his other fortuitous encounters like the Dragon Cleansing Pool.

If he did not have the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda or the fortuitous encounters, he would not possess his current cultivation base.

'It's absolutely impossible for me to possess a green Innate Spiritual Root or higher!' Duan Ling Tian concluded.

Naturally, this was all his speculation. He would not know until he was assessed.

"Blue Innate Spiritual Root? Indigo Innate Spiritual Root?" Li An's eyes gleamed sinisterly as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Li An only possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root. However, the fellow whom he wanted to kill might possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root?

Li An was instantly overwhelmed by an urge to kill Duan Ling Tian. He knew what it meant to possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root.

When those who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots grew stronger, they would be given a first-rate position, like a Golden Flame Elder, even if he made mistakes in the Fire Worship Sect.

If they behaved, they might even stand a chance in becoming the Vice Sect Leader or the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect!

The moment Li An about how this fellow whom he had a huge enmity with might possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, he could not wait to kill him as quickly as he could. If Duan Ling Tian really possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, he would grow strong enough to kill Li An in the future. For this reason, he must kill him while he was still in the cradle!

‘However, it’s possible he might not possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root. It’s possible he only possesses a blue Innate Spiritual Root like me. However, even if his Innate Spiritual Root is blue, I must kill him as soon as I can to stop him from becoming a threat to me in the future!’ Li An once again sentenced Duan Ling Tian to death in his heart.

“Indigo Innate Spiritual Root?” Teng Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian with bright eyes as an anticipatory expression appeared on his face.

‘Duan Ling Tian, I really hope you possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root. If it’s really the case, Lord Sect Leader will definitely take you in as his direct disciple when he comes out of cultivation! At that time, even Li An would have to take initiative and ask for forgiveness from you,’ Teng Shan thought to himself.

At this moment, even the three people who stepped forward to get assessed did not put their hands on the Spiritual Pearls. Their eyes and the eyes of all the Bronze Flame Elders were trained on Duan Ling Tian. They were waiting for him to put his hand on the Spiritual Pearl.

Although the four Black Turtle Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elders were not present yesterday, they had heard about the Death Duel between Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wu, the son of the fifth elder from Northern Plethora Sect.

They were also very curious about Duan Ling Tian, this martial art genius who was not even 40 years old but had a cultivation base at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage at least. Would he have a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root?

“Duan Ling Tian, hurry up and put your hand on the Spiritual Pearl.” The Bronze Flame Elder standing in front of Duan Ling Tian could not help but urged lightly when he saw Duan Ling Tian remaining still for a long time. His tone was extremely polite.

The young man standing before him might be a genius who possessed a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root after all.

If such a person grew stronger, he would be a Silver Flame Elder at least in the future. If he possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, he would be even stronger and gain a higher ranking position. Although such a person had not reached his full potential yet, he was not someone the Bronze Flame Elder could afford to offend.

Upon hearing Bronze Flame Elder’s words, Duan Ling Tian responded, “Alright.”

Duan Ling Tian shook his head when he sensed everyone’s eyes on him. However, he still extended his hand and placed it on the Spiritual Pearl.

The Spiritual Pearl was cold to the touch. Moreover, it felt a little strange to Duan Ling Tian. His hand that was touching the Spiritual Pearl felt a little itchy. It felt as though some energy from the Spiritual Pearl was tickling his palm.

Meanwhile, the entire place was completely silent. Everyone’s attention was focused on the Spiritual Pearl that Duan Ling Tian had laid his hand on.

Time continued to pass by quietly.

The span of a breath went by, the span of two breaths went by, the span of three breaths went by...

It was so quiet that not even the sound of breathing could be heard. This was because everybody, including Duan Ling Tian, was holding their breaths as they stared intently at the Spiritual Pearl.

Finally, ten breaths had gone by. Hints of light began to radiate from the Spiritual Pearl.

"It's out!" Apart from Duan Ling Tian who was feeling anxious, everyone was excited.

Li An's gaze turned colder.

If Duan Ling Tian possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, then he would have to find a new way of dealing with him. The Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect would definitely favor him and might even take him in as a direct disciple if he possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root.

This was something he did not wish to see!

'If he really possesses an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, I must kill him before Lord Sect Leader comes out of his cultivation! I can't give him the chance to become the direct disciple of the Sect Leader,' Li An thought to himself.

If Duan Ling Tian became the direct disciple of the Sect Leader, he would not dare to find fault with Duan Ling Tian at all even if his courage was multiplied by a hundred.

As the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, the Sect Leader had superb skills, and he was not someone Li An could offend!

'If he really possesses the indigo Innate Spiritual Root, I must think of a way to get rid of him as soon as possible! I don't wish to bow or kneel or even extend a formal apology to him when he becomes the direct disciple of Lord Sect Leader.' The moment Li An thought of this, the killing intent in his heart intensified.

Chapter 1907: Duan Ling Tian's Innate Talent Spiritual Root!

One could imagine if Duan Ling Tian really became the direct disciple of the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, he would have to bow his head and ask for forgiveness from Duan Ling Tian if he wanted to stay in the Fire Worship Sect. Naturally, he did not wish to leave the Fire Worship Sect! Moreover, he was even more unwilling to bow or kneel in front of Duan Ling Tian!

For this reason, if Duan Ling Tian really possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, he would only be left with one option. He would have to kill Duan Ling Tian, this threat, in the cradle before the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect came out of his cultivation.

Naturally, if Duan Ling Tian only possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root, the matter would not be so urgent since people with blue Innate Spiritual Roots would not catch the attention of their Sect Leader.

'Duan Ling Tian, you better pray you don't have the indigo Innate Spiritual Root. Otherwise, I'll spare no efforts in killing you even if it's dangerous for me to do so!' Li An's gaze turned even colder when he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, the Spiritual Pearl Duan Ling Tian touched finally showed its color.

However, upon seeing the color, apart from Duan Ling Tian who seemed as though he had expected it, everyone was shocked still. They were speechless.

Soon after, some people began to regain their senses, and the expressions on their faces were dramatic!

“How’s this possible?!”

“Impossible, right? How can Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent be so low!”

“This Innate Innate Spiritual Root doesn’t match Duan Ling Tian at all!”

“Something’s wrong with that Spiritual Pearl, right?”

“I also think something’s wrong with that Spiritual Pearl!”

The crowd discussed among themselves, unwilling to believe the sight before their eyes was true. To be more accurate, they refused to believe the result of Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent assessment was true.

Duan Ling Tian seemed to only possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root!

Although most people, among the thousand people who had participated in the innate talent assessment, possessed yellow Innate Innate Spiritual Roots, they did not expect Duan Ling Tian would also possess a yellow Innate Innate Spiritual Root after witnessing his strength and taking into account that he was not even forty years old.

Duan Ling Tian did not deserve a yellow Innate Spiritual Root at all! Not only that, but they thought even a green Innate Spiritual Root was not good enough for Duan Ling Tian.

In their opinion, only the blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root matched the strength and innate talent Duan Ling Tian had displayed.

“Is something wrong with the Spiritual Pearl?” At this moment, it was not only the crowd who thought so, but even the four Bronze Flame Elders and Teng Shan, the Silver Flame Elder, thought so as well.

“Duan Ling Tian, something must be wrong with the Spiritual Pearl. Try another one and see,” Teng Shan said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

At the same time, he looked at the other Bronze Flame Elder meaningfully, prompting the latter to place a different Spiritual Pearl in front of Duan Ling Tian.

Li An was still in shock over the fact that Duan Ling Tian only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. For this reason, he did not object to Teng Shan’s arrangement.

Naturally, deep down in Li An’s heart, he also felt that something was wrong with the Spiritual Pearl.

Duan Ling Tian was strong enough to kill a Mastery Divine Saint Stage Martial Cultivator even after he was heavily injured, and he was not even forty years old. How could he only possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly and said to Teng Shan, "Elder Teng Shan, I think there's no need for me to try again. I don't think there's anything wrong with the Spiritual Pearl. My Innate Spiritual Root should be yellow."

Duan Ling Tian knew his own innate talent better than other people. Although he had consumed the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk, and he had raised his innate talent to its peak, that was only on the Mortal Continent. Such innate talent would only be considered ordinary in the Lower Province, let alone the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. Moreover, he did not think there was something wrong with the Soul Pearl since it was working fine all this while. For this reason, he was certain he possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root!

He would be lying if he said he was not disappointed by the result. However, since he had already mentally prepared himself, he was able to remain calm.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Teng Shan thought Duan Ling Tian could not be bothered with the result of the assessment. For this reason, he insisted that Duan Ling Tian try again. "Try again with another Spiritual Pearl! I believe I'm not the only one who refuses to believe that you possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root!"

Other people nodded their heads as well.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was forced to try again even though he felt there was no need to do so.

As he placed his hand on another Spiritual Pearl, everyone shifted their eyes to the Spiritual Pearl he was touching.

"There should be no problem with this Spiritual Pearl, right?"

"It's rare for something to be wrong with a Spiritual Pearl so I'm sure there won't be any problems this time. How can there be such a coincidence?"

"Hey, is it possible that Duan Ling Tian really possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?"

"Do you think it's possible? Unless he also knows a secret tactic to conceal his age like how he conceals his cultivation base, he should have a blue Innate Spiritual Root at least!"

Many people discussed among themselves as they stared at the Spiritual Pearl Duan Ling Tian was touching.

Another ten breaths passed as a faint light began to emit from the Spiritual Pearl. Everyone held their breaths again as they stared at the Spiritual Pearl.

The light grew brighter and brighter. In the end, it even looked like the sun.

However, the place fell silent again when they saw the color of the light the Spiritual Pearl emitted.

A few moments later, the crowd broke into a commotion.

"It's still a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?!"

“H-How is this possible? Don’t tell me something’s wrong with the Spiritual Pearl again?”

“It’s possible for something to be wrong with one Spiritual Pearl but two at the same time? Impossible! Looks like Duan Ling Tian’s Innate Spiritual Root is really yellow.”

“Based on his strength and his age, how’s it possible for him to possess a yellow Innate Spiritual Root?!”

“Age? Have you ever considered that maybe he knows how to conceal his age as well since he knows how to conceal his cultivation base? Who knows? Maybe he’s several hundred years old, and he’s concealing his age so he can pretend to be young!”

“Now that you mention it, it’s possible! Although I’ve not heard about any secret tactics that could conceal one’s age, I’ve also not heard about any secret tactics that could conceal one’s cultivation base.”

“Humph! An old fellow who’s several hundred years old actually conceals his age and cultivation base to participate in the Fire Worship Sect’s Four Symbols Sanctums’ assessment. This is my first time encountering someone pretending to be young. How ridiculous!”

The crowd was in an uproar. Initially, they thought something might be wrong with the second Spiritual Pearl, but they quickly dismissed the idea.

In the end, most of them concluded Duan Ling Tian was actually an old fellow who was several hundred years old. Due to the reason he knew how to conceal his true age and cultivation base, he was able to mislead everybody present.

At this moment, even Teng Shan agreed with this reasoning. Otherwise, he did not have an explanation for what just happened.

“Yellow Innate Spiritual Root?” Li An laughed when he saw Duan Ling Tian still had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root even after getting assessed a second time. Disdain could be seen in his eyes. “So he’s actually a useless old pervert!”

Before this, just like the others, he also thought that Duan Ling Tian was a young martial genius who had a high innate talent.

However, based on the current situation, they had all misjudged him. He was actually an old fellow pretending to be a young man using a secret tactic!

“Old fellow?” Duan Ling Tian was bewildered when he heard the crowd’s words. It did not cross his mind that he would be regarded as a dirty old man pretending to be young.

Although he was older than 40 years old, he was still the youngest compared to the people present, right? Duan Ling Tian did not know whether to laugh or cry when he was labeled as an old fellow by a group of people who were much older than him.

Naturally, he felt helpless since he had no way of explaining to them how he possessed his strength.

He could not tell them that he possessed the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and had numerous fortuitous encounters, could he?

He could not tell them he had just broken through to the Early Divine Saint Stage, could he?

‘It’s okay... Let them say whatever they want.’ In the end, Duan Ling Tian could only turn a deaf ear to the discussion in the surroundings. He shifted his attention to his Innate Spiritual Root as a sense of bitterness filled his heart. ‘I only have a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. If I didn’t consume the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk back when I was on Cloud Continent, would the rank of my Innate Spiritual Root be even lower? Elder Huo, can I change my Innate Spiritual Root?’

Although Duan Ling Tian had mentally prepared himself, he could not help but feel dissatisfied by his yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

He really wished there were ways to improve the rank of his Innate Spiritual Root.

‘I only have a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, but I’ve already cultivated to the Early Divine Saint Stage at such an age... If I can improve the rank of my Innate Spiritual Root, coupled with the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, won’t my cultivation speed be terrifyingly fast?’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he became a little excited.

However, his excitement faded away suddenly as though a bucket of cold water had been thrown on him. ‘What if there’s no way to improve the rank of my Innate Spiritual Root?’

“Based on my observation, I roughly know what Innate Spiritual Roots are.” At the same time, Elder Huo’s voice resonated. “Theoretically, one can improve the rank of one’s Innate Spiritual Root in this mundane realm. Not only that, but there’s more than one way to improve its rank!”

Chapter 1908: Methods To Raise the Rank of an Innate Spiritual Root

“There’s more than one method to improve its ranking? How?!” Duan Ling Tian became excited again upon hearing Elder Huo’s words.

Duan Ling Tian might not have outwardly shown it, but he was actually bothered and disappointed that he only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

The Innate Spiritual Roots were divided into 7 ranks:

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

The yellow Innate Spiritual Root could not even be considered as a medium-rank Innate Spiritual Root, it was on the lower side of the spectrum.

More than 90% of the hundreds of people that remained had yellow Innate Spiritual Roots as well.

The yellow Innate Spiritual Root might be acceptable in the Dao Martial Saint Land, but it was not worth mentioning at all in a sect like the Fire Worship Sect! Most of the ordinary disciples in the Fire Worship Sect possessed yellow Innate Spiritual Roots.

Now that he learned from Elder Huo that he could improve the rank of his Innate Spiritual Root, how could he not be excited?

Elder Huo did not reply to Duan Ling Tian’s question. Instead, he muttered to himself, “Previously, I was wondering why your cultivation speed is not faster than ordinary people since you’ve opened 99 Saint

Veins and has a high innate talent. Now that I look at it, it must be the law of this Mundane Realm that restricts you!”

“The law of this Mundane Realm?” Upon hearing his words, Duan Ling Tian could not help but feel shocked.

This was not his first time hearing about the realm’s law.

According to Elder Huo, when Duan Ling Tian’s soul first came into this world, the Rebirth Martial Emperor’s soul tried to destroy his soul. However, due to the law of the realm, the Rebirth Martial Emperor had destroyed himself instead. Apart from that, the soul, Black Nether, in the Devilseal Tablet had also died because of this realm’s law!

His soul did not belong to this Mundane Realm so it was tainted with the law of the other Mundane Realm.

When the soul born in this Mundane Realm tried to destroy his soul, it would be destroyed by the law of the other Mundane Realm instead. Similarly, if he had taken the initiative to destroy the Rebirth Martial Emperor or Black Nether’s soul, he would have died.

The law of the realms was mysterious in this boundless universe. Even the most elite beings in the Devata Realms, those Heavenly Emperor powerhouses, were also restricted by their realm’s law.

“Yes,” Elder Huo replied, “Based on the current situation, apart from cultivation environment and resources, the law of this mundane realm that’s restricting your cultivation speed is related to the Innate Spiritual Root! The Innate Spiritual Root directly affects one’s innate talent. Your high innate talent that’s granted from opening 99 Saint Veins is restricted by the law of this realm. Otherwise, you can be considered as a genius even in the Devata Realms!”

“Then, does this mean that Innate Spiritual Roots only exist in this Mundane Realm?” Duan Ling Tian was not a fool, he could guess what Elder Huo was alluding to.

“That’s right!” Elder Huo responded once again before continuing, “Whether it’s Planet Yan Huang, a Mundane Realm, where I was from or the Devata Realm I went to after, the Jade Emperor Heaven, one’s innate talent is decided by the number of Saint Veins that are opened in one’s body! However, in Planet Yan Huang, Saint Veins are known as Geographical Veins, and in the Jade Emperor Heaven, it’s called the Heavenly Veins!”

Elder Huo paused for a moment before he said, “In this mundane realm, there are different laws. All cultivators’ innate talent, human and beast, are decided by the Innate Spiritual Root! With my current Divine Consciousness, I can see the Innate Spiritual Root in your soul. You have a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, and it’s considered ordinary in this Mundane Realm. No wonder your cultivation speed is so slow despite having the help of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda!” There was a hint of reproach in his tone.

“I probably obtained the yellow Innate Spiritual Root after I consumed the 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk on Cloud Continent. The Innate Spiritual Root I previously possessed might be a red or orange Innate Spiritual Root!” Duan Ling Tian smiled wryly.

“The 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk is indeed a rare Spiritual item. However, even if it can improve the rank of your Innate Spiritual Root, yellow is probably the highest it can go,” Elder Huo chimed in.

“Elder Huo, I remember when I first found the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and met you, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda helped with me with a rebirth with its remaining force. How come it didn’t improve the rank of my Innate Spiritual Root?” Previously, the Seven Treasures Pagoda had used its remaining force to help him undergo a rebirth process.

When he was still on Cloud Continent, the 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk had helped him with a rebirth process as well. At that time, it had helped him raise his innate talent to its peak on Cloud Continent.

“The rebirth that the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda helped you with merely raised your physical strength. It has nothing to do with the Innate Spiritual Root,” Elder Huo explained.

Duan Ling Tian finally understood this as the questions in his heart were answered.

He finally knew why his innate talent was still low even though he had opened 99 Saint Veins.

He finally knew why his innate talent did not improve even with the help of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

The moment Duan Ling Tian recalled how Elder Huo told him there was more than one method to improve his Innate Spiritual Root, he took a deep breath to suppress the excitement he felt before he asked, “Elder Huo, what should I do improve my Innate Spiritual Root?”

“Earlier, I’d used my Divine Consciousness to study your Innate Spiritual Root. There are two ways to improve it. You should know one of the ways to improve it,” Elder Huo replied.

“I should know how to improve it?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned and baffled.

What was this?

What could he know?

If he knew, was there a need for him to ask about it?

“Your Innate Spiritual Root was raised through that method,” Elder Huo reminded him.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally understood what Elder Huo meant. He smiled wryly. “Oh, you mean the 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk. However, didn’t you say the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk had already improved my Innate Spiritual Root to its limit?”

“Yes, I did. However, that’s only limited to the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk. There are many Spiritual items that are similar to the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk but are more marvelous than it in this world. If the 10,000 Years Stalactite Milk can improve your Innate Spiritual Root to yellow, why can’t other items improve it as well?” Elder Huo asked rhetorically.

Upon hearing that, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes lit up immediately.

Indeed.

The 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk was useless to his Innate Spiritual Root now. However, if he was able to find Spiritual items more marvelous than the 10,000 Year Stalactite Milk, why should he be afraid he could not improve his Innate Spiritual Root?

“Elder Huo, you must know what Spiritual items can improve my Innate Spiritual Root, right? Hurry up and tell me!” Duan Ling Tian asked Elder Huo eagerly.

“I know many Spiritual items that can improve your Innate Spiritual Root. However, can you remember them if I tell you now? How about this? I’ll transmit the appearance and characteristics of the items to you. You’ll be able to remember them this way.” The moment Elder Huo finished speaking, information began to surge into Duan Ling Tian’s mind.

As the information surged into his mind, he felt a terrifying aura that made his soul tremble. Duan Ling Tian knew it was Elder Huo’s powerful Divine Consciousness!

Usually, Elder Huo would only use a little of his Divine Consciousness with him so he did not feel anything. However, at this moment, Elder Huo had used quite a huge amount of his Divine Consciousness to pass the information to Duan Ling Tian. Elder Huo’s Divine Consciousness was so powerful that it even made Duan Ling Tian’s soul tremble!

‘Elder Huo’s current Divine Consciousness is even more powerful than Li An’s Divine Consciousness! Looks like Elder Huo’s strength is recovering nicely.’ When Duan Ling Tian’s soul trembled, he realized Elder Huo had recovered much of his strength. At the very least, he was still much more powerful than Li An.

‘Unfortunately, the restriction the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda places on Elder Huo is too strong. He can only release his Divine Consciousness that doesn’t contain any offensive energy. Otherwise, there’s no need for me to conceal myself!’ Duan Ling Tian could not help but sigh when he thought of this.

It was apparent he had a very powerful companion by his side, but he could not ask him for help at all! How frustrating!

As Elder Huo withdrew his Divine Consciousness, Duan Ling Tian discovered he had gained a lot of information about Spiritual items that could improve his Innate Spiritual Root.

“So many items?” Duan Ling Tian was surprised.

However, after he roughly scanned through the information, he discovered that even though there were a lot of items, he had not seen or heard about any of them.

“Looks like it won’t be easy for me to look for Spiritual items to improve my Innate Spiritual Root.” Realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian as he asked, “Elder Huo, earlier you mentioned there’s another way to improve my Innate Spiritual Root apart from using these Spiritual items?”

“Compared to searching for these Spiritual items, the other method is a lot simpler. However, the success rate for the previous method is 100%. This method might not yield the same result. So it’s better if you mentally prepare yourself,” Elder Huo replied.

“Might not yield the same result?” Duan Ling Tian felt a pang of disappointment, but he urged Elder Huo to speak, “Tell me, Elder Huo.”

It was too difficult for him to search for the Spiritual items.

If there was a short cut, he really wanted to give it a try even if he might fail.

“This method is related to the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, that you mastered,” Elder Huo said, “I don’t know the Elementary Devouring Tactic too well but the Advanced Devouring Tactic that the Heavenly Emperor powerhouses in the Devata Realm possess comes to mind! The Advanced Devouring Tactic is said to be able to absorb all kinds of energies! Since your Divine Ability is a derivation of the Advanced Devouring Tactic, it might be able to devour other people’s Innate Spiritual Root and allow you to strengthen your Innate Spiritual Root!”

Chapter 1909: The End Of The Innate Talent Assessment

Upon hearing Elder Huo’s words, Duan Ling Tian eyes lit up immediately. “Devouring other people’s Innate Spiritual Roots to strengthen my Innate Spiritual Root?”

This method could be considered as a shortcut as well if it worked. At the very least, it was more reliable than searching for Spiritual items that he had not seen before.

“Yes, devouring other people’s Innate Spiritual Roots,” Elder Huo responded, “Theoretically, it should work. You’ll need to put it into action to see if it’ll actually work. If it works, the person whose Innate Spiritual Root is devoured by you will lose his Innate Spiritual Root. He would probably wish he’s dead since he wouldn’t be able to raise his cultivation base for the rest of his life once you devour his Innate Spiritual Root.”

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Although it sounded ruthless to devour other people’s Innate Spiritual Roots, he would not do it indiscriminately. He would only target those people who deserved it or those who had offended him! He would not feel guilty if he did it this way!

Although strength was everything in this world, Duan Ling Tian still had his conscience. If he did not have a conscience, what different would he be from a cold-blooded beast? Humans were different from beasts because of their conscience!

Duan Ling Tian did not reject this method of improving his Innate Spiritual Root even though it was ruthless since he knew he would only target those who deserved it. An example of such a person was Li An!

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian raised his head to look at the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder Li An who was looking at him disdainfully. ‘With my current strength, it’ll be difficult for me to get near him, let alone devouring his Innate Spiritual Root... Stronger... I need to get stronger. Currently, I’m still too weak!’ Although Duan Ling Tian was quite strong, he still felt a sense of helplessness when he was faced with Li An.

Not only was Li An a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse, but he was also ranked in the top 300 on the Supreme Saint Ranking. He could not compare to someone like that at this moment. Even if he used his Jasper Celestial Sword, he would not be able to hurt Li An at all. Instead, he would be killed by Li An. The gap between him and Li An was just too wide now!

‘If I pass the assessment and remain in the Black Turtle Sanctum, Li An definitely won’t personally make his move. If I possess the indigo Innate Spiritual Root that even the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect regards highly, he would definitely personally make a move even if it would be dangerous. Now that he sees I only have a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, he’ll think I’m not worthy of him personally making a move.’ Li An would be shocked if he could hear Duan Ling Tian’s thoughts This was because Duan Ling Tian was right.

Originally, Li An had already mentally prepared himself to kill Duan Ling Tian so that he would not bring trouble to him in the future. He would have to take the risk because Duan Ling Tian possessed the indigo Spiritual Root. When he saw Duan Ling Tian merely possessed the yellow Innate Spiritual Root, he no longer saw him as a threat. After all, Duan Ling Tian was merely an old man who had disguised himself and concealed his innate talent. Li An found it to be beneath him to personally make a move on such a person!

‘However, even if Li An doesn’t personally make his move, he’ll definitely send someone else to deal with me! At that time, I’ll devour the Innate Spiritual Root of the first person he sends to improve my Innate Spiritual Root!’ Duan Ling Tian became excited the moment he thought of this. He could not wait for Li An to send his men over to deal with him!

‘Is it too early for me to get excited? Elder Huo said that using the Elementary Devouring Tactic to devour Innate Spiritual Roots is only theoretical. It might not work when we put it to the test.’ Duan Ling Tian felt as though he had been splashed with a bucket of cold water when he thought of this.

Duan Ling Tian naturally retreated since his assessment had ended. Unlike before, now that everyone saw he only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, nobody paid much attention to him anymore. He was not worthy of their attention.

At this moment, they all thoroughly believed that Duan Ling Tian was an old man who had disguised himself and concealed his cultivation base to get attention. They all looked down at him.

Someone glanced at Duan Ling Tian and said with disgust, “You’re already so old, but you dare to pretend to be young?!”

“It’s still acceptable if he merely pretends to be young. However, he’s overdone it! He even fooled the two Silver Flame Elders from the Black Turtle Sanctum into thinking he was a genius. It’s a good thing that the truth is revealed during the innate talent assessment!”

“How disgusting! Previously, I thought I’ve encountered a genius from the younger generation. I can’t believe he turned out to be a lewd old man in disguise!”

“You know what I think? This person should just go to hell! He’s just too disgusting!”

...

Although most people did not pay attention to Duan Ling Tian, there were some people who mocked him without restraint.

‘These people...’ Duan Ling Tian frowned and glanced at those people who mocked him with a displeased expression on his face. ‘I don’t know them, and I’ve not offended them. Put aside the fact that I’m not disguising myself, it’s acceptable for them to complain since they don’t know any better. However, isn’t too much for that guy to ask me to go to hell?’

These few people who mocked Duan Ling Tian were standing near him so they saw the frown and displeased expression on his face. However, when they saw it, they all looked at him disdainfully.

“What are you looking at? Old pervert, are you unhappy that we’re talking about you?” One of them asked with a sneer.

If Duan Ling Tian was a genius with blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root, they would not dare to offend him. However, now that they learned that he only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, there was no reason for them to be wary of him. Perhaps, they could even curry favor with First Silver Flame Elder Li An.

Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned grave, and he said coldly, “You better watch your mouth!”

He had some impression of the person who had spoken. He was one of the few people who possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root. He was a fierce-looking and burly middle-aged man named Gu Chun.

Currently, Gu Chun was looking at Duan Ling Tian with a cold expression and a fierce smile on his face. It was as though he had a great enmity with Duan Ling Tian.

“You’re a Martial Cultivator who only has the yellow Innate Spiritual Root, and yet, you dare to act unhappy in front of me?” Gu Chun was dumbfounded.

As soon as Gu Chun finished speaking, someone standing nearby who clearly wanted to stir up the situation said, “Gu Chun, have you forgotten that he even dared to kill Yang Wu, the son of the fifth elder from the Northern Plethora Sect... You’re only a sectless cultivator. How could he possibly respect you?”

Gu Chun finally remembered Duan Ling Tian had killed the son of the fifth elder from the Northern Plethora Sect yesterday when he heard that person’s words!

A sense of dread rose up in his heart immediately!

Perhaps, Duan Ling Tian’s innate talent was inferior to his. However, based on his actions yesterday, he was definitely a ruthless person. Otherwise, he would not have dared to offend Elder Li An and kill Yang Wu.

Various expressions flitted across Gu Chun’s face, and he was no longer acting as overbearing as before. He was finally afraid.

Duan Ling Tian knew what Gu Chun was thinking when he saw the expressions on his face. He instantly sneered. He glanced at him indifferently before he shifted his attention to the four people who were currently undergoing the innate talent assessment.

When Gu Chun saw Duan Ling Tian's disdainful expression, he felt humiliated. He fisted his hands as his body trembled, and he clenched his teeth. He hated Duan Ling Tian so much at this moment. However, he could only endure it for now.

Although he was an Early Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, he did not dare to act recklessly before he understood his opponent better.

Who knew if Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was at the Intermediate Exemplary Saint Stage or above?

'Duan Ling Tian, my innate talent is higher than yours. Even if I'm no match for you now, I'll definitely surpass you one day and make you kneel and beg for forgiveness!' Gu Chun thought to himself angrily.

The little dispute between Duan Ling Tian and Gu Chun did not attract too much attention. Most people's attention was focused on the innate talent assessment.

In the end, two more people were discovered to possess a green Innate Spiritual Root.

"Green Spiritual Root..." Duan Ling Tian's eyes were filled with envy when he looked at the two men who possessed green Innate Spiritual Roots. After all, his Innate Spiritual Root was only a yellow Spiritual Root. It was a level below the green Spiritual Root.

After the innate talent assessment ended, it was time for the strength assessment. The strength assessment was carried out in two groups.

One of the groups consisted of those who possessed green Innate Spiritual Roots. Their assessment was a lot easier. As long as those people's cultivation base were at the Divine Saint Stage or above, they were sure to pass.

The other group consisted of people with yellow Innate Spiritual Roots. Compared to the former, their assessment was a lot more difficult. Those whose cultivation base had not reached the Exemplary Saint Stage or above would not be able to pass the assessment.

"Those with green Innate Spiritual Roots, please follow me." Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder Li An finally spoke. After he finished speaking, he brought the nine people, including Gu Chun, who possessed green Innate Spiritual Roots away with him.

He was in charge of the strength assessment for this group of people. Before he left, he did not forget to look at Duan Ling Tian with a cold gaze that was filled with killing intent.

However, Duan Ling Tian ignored his gaze. This made Li An's expression turn grave as he brought the group of people away.

Chapter 1910: Black Turtle Altar

Those with green Innate Spiritual Roots left with Li An.

The people with yellow Innate Spiritual Roots, including Duan Ling Tian, stayed behind. Teng Shan, the other Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder, and another four Bronze Flame Elders were in charge of their strength assessment.

After Li An brought the men away, Teng Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian in disappointment. It did not cross his mind that things would turn out this way!

The young man whom he regarded highly only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Could it really be that he was an old man in disguise like what people had speculated?

He refused to believe it. However, the truth was laid bare before his eyes. He had no choice but to believe it.

After the assessment by the Soul Pearl, he discovered the young man who had not even reached the age of forty only had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

It was almost impossible for someone below the age of forty to possess a cultivation base at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage. For this reason, deep in his heart, he actually believed Duan Ling Tian had concealed his true age.

"Duan Ling Tian, even if you can pass the strength assessment, I don't think you should stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum. If you decide to leave, I can ask two of my friends to accompany you when you leave. There's nothing Elder Li An can do since it's so last minute." A grave voice resonated suddenly in Duan Ling Tian's ears. He could tell the voice belonged to Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder Teng Shan.

"Elder Teng Shan?" Duan Ling Tian looked at Teng Shan in surprise. It did not cross his mind that Teng Shan would still be willing to help him at this moment. He would risk offending Li An further!

He was moved by this gesture.

At the very least, Teng Shan did not look down on him because he possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. On top of that, he was even willing to help him. It was rare to find someone like that!

'I hope he'll leave. This is all I can do to help him,' Teng Shan thought to himself after he transmitted his voice to Duan Ling Tian.

He was willing to help Duan Ling Tian because he had taken a liking to him. He did not wish to see Duan Ling Tian harmed. Moreover, he still felt guilty that Duan Ling Tian was injured by Li An under his watch.

In his opinion, it would be best for everyone if Duan Ling Tian left. However, there was nothing he could do if he was not willing to leave.

If he chose to remain in the Black Turtle Sanctum, he would be helpless to help him even if he wanted to. In the Black Turtle Sanctum, his strength and influence were far inferior compared to Li An. There was nothing he could do once Li An had made up his mind to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian.

Earlier, he had thought Duan Ling Tian would have a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root. If that was the case, there was a high possibility that the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect who was in closed-door cultivation would take Duan Ling Tian in as his direct disciple.

Li An would not be able to harm Duan Ling Tian if he became the direct disciple of the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect.

If Duan Ling Tian had the blue Spiritual Root, he could recommend Duan Ling Tian to the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum. He believed the Sanctum Leader would be more than happy to take a genius like Duan Ling Tian as his direct disciple. Li An would not be able to harm him as well if this happened.

He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would not have a blue or indigo Innate Spiritual Root. He did not even have a green Innate Spiritual Root. In the end, he discovered he only had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root!

The yellow Spiritual Roots were the most common Innate Spiritual Root in the Fire Worship Sect. Out of 100 ordinary disciples in the Fire Worship Sect, 90 of them would possess yellow Innate Spiritual Roots. Based on this, one could see how common the yellow Innate Spiritual Roots were.

“Thank you, Elder Teng Shan!” Upon hearing Teng Shan’s Voice Transmission, Duan Ling Tian immediately transmitted his voice to express his gratitude. Then, he paused for a moment before he continued to say, “However, I don’t plan to leave the Black Turtle Sanctum for the time being... As for the strength assessment, I’m certain I’ll pass. Please don’t worry about me, Elder Teng Shan. I’ll remember your kindness for helping me out at this moment, Elder Teng Shan!”

Duan Ling Tian’s words were filled with confidence. It left no room for doubts, rendering Teng Shan speechless.

“Fine... If this is your decision, I’ll respect it,” Teng Shan responded after a long while. He sighed, a hint of exhaustion could be heard in it.

After that, Teng Shan shifted his attention to the strength assessment catered to the Duan Ling Tian and the others. He took the lead with the help of the four Bronze Flame Elders.

In the strength assessment catered to Duan Ling Tian and the others, those at the Exemplary Saint Stage or above would pass. The passing rate was almost 100%. For this reason, there was no need to further explain the strength assessment.

Under the watchful eyes of the others, Duan Ling Tian passed the assessment without any incidents.

Although Duan Ling Tian passed the assessment, the crowd could see it was slightly difficult for him to pass the assessment.

“Early Exemplary Saint Stage?”

“Since he passed the assessment with slight difficulties, he must be at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!”

“Do you think he’s hiding his strength again? Is there a chance his strength is stronger than those at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage?”

“Aren’t you thinking too much? Is there a need to hide his strength now that everything has been exposed? How naive!”

The crowd whispered among themselves when they saw Duan Ling Tian had passed the strength assessment.

In the end, almost all of them agreed that Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!

If Duan Ling Tian was really a young man who had not reached the age of forty, it would have caused a commotion. However, since the crowd believed Duan Ling Tian was an old man in disguise, they were not surprised by his cultivation base that was at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage. It was very common after all.

Duan Ling Tian remained calm when he heard their words.

His true cultivation base was much lower than what these people thought. It was only at the Early Divine Saint Stage.

As for why it appeared difficult for him to pass the strength assessment, this was because he only relied on his Sun Saint Energy.

Although his Saint Energy was comparable to the Saint Energy of a cultivator at the Early Divine Saint Stage, since it had fused with the Sun's Flame, it was not inferior to the Saint Energy of a cultivator at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!

Due to the reason he had just broken through to the Early Divine Saint Stage early this morning, he was still not adept with handling the Saint Energy. This was why it seemed difficult for him to pass the assessment.

Duan Ling Tian only smiled nonchalantly when he heard the people's words. He was not bothered by it at all.

Was there a need for him, Duan Ling Tian, to care about others' opinion of him?

"Those who failed the strength assessment, please leave with these two Bronze Flame Elders... Those who passed the assessment will follow the other two Bronze Flame Elders to your residence. They will inform you about the things new disciples have to take note of during your journey there," Teng Shan said solemnly. When he finished speaking, he glanced at Duan Ling Tian before he left with a sigh.

Since Duan Ling Tian had made up his mind, there was nothing else he could do. Duan Ling Tian could only rely on himself in the future since there was nothing he could do to help.

After Teng Shan left, the group of people who failed the strength assessment left in low spirits with the Bronze Flame Elders.

The other two Bronze Flame Elders, on the other hand, called out to the group of people who passed the strength assessment and brought them deep into the mountain range.

During the journey, the two Bronze Flame Elders distributed the exclusive uniforms of Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples to Duan Ling Tian and the others.

The exclusive uniform of a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple was a white robe as well. It was also embroidered with a Black Turtle with a grey flame. It looked very conspicuous due to the white robes. One could see the embroidery clearly with just a glance.

After giving out the exclusive uniforms of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, one of the Bronze Flame Elders looked in the east and warned them solemnly, "That's the cultivation place of the Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum and the five Silver Flame Elders. Unless you have permission from Lord Sanctum Leader or one of the Silver Flame Elders, you're forbidden to enter. Those who enter without permission will be killed!" When he reached the end of his sentence, his tone was cold and filled with murderous intent.

Duan Ling Tian looked over and could only see thick mist that covered the eastern direction. He could not see anything beyond the mist. It was apparent that some sort of Formation that obstructed one's sight was placed there.

"This place before us is where the altar of Black Turtle Sanctum is located. Our Black Turtle Sanctum's high-grade defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, is recorded on the Black Turtle statue in the heart of the altar. It allows every Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple to comprehend it," the other Bronze Flame Elder chimed in.

Duan Ling Tian and the others immediately shifted their eyes to the front.

A vast flat land in the middle of the forest awaited them.

The vast flat land was surrounded by huge and magnificent palaces that looked like great beasts. They emitted a subtle aura that made one's heart tremble.

A big altar stood in the middle of the palaces.

The altar was about ten meters high, and there was a gigantic statue of a Black Turtle on it. From afar, the ancient gigantic beast looked life-like.

"So many people!" At the same time, Duan Ling Tian and the others were shocked to discover many figures hovering in the air around the Black Turtle statue.

Based on their clothes, Duan Ling Tian and the others could tell they were Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples!

Several hundred people hovered in the air around the Black Turtle statue. Some of them were standing, and some of them were sitting.