

SOVEREIGN 1931

Chapter 1931: Breakthrough, Intermediate Divine Saint Stage!

A month ago, Duan Ling Tian discovered the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, was difficult to comprehend, so he no longer wasted his time in trying to comprehend it and began to focus his attention on raising his cultivation base instead.

A month inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was 300 days in the outside world. It was almost a year.

During this time, Duan Ling Tian relied on his green Innate Spiritual Root that was previously yellow to cultivate from the Early Divine Saint Stage to the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage. He was almost halfway there.

Based on previous his speed, it would take him about one and a half year in the fourth level before he could breakthrough. One and a half year in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was only 50 days in the outside world.

This progress was calculated when Duan Ling Tian still had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. With the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, Duan Ling Tian managed to devour Gu Long's blue Innate Spiritual Root and transformed his yellow Innate Spiritual Root green! Moreover, it had transformed into a dark green Innate Spiritual Root!

Inside the Tertius house, a mysterious aura surged out of Duan Ling Tian who had been immersed in his cultivation for a long time. He opened his voice and muttered under his breath, "It only took me ten days..."

Currently, it seemed as though Duan Ling Tian's bearing had changed slightly as well. He had finally made a breakthrough!

It had only been ten days outside, but it had already been three months inside the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Duan Ling Tian had successfully broken through to the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage in these three months!

"It's five times faster! If I didn't devour Gu Long's blue Innate Spiritual Root, it would have been impossible for me to successfully break through in just ten days in the outside world! Based on my previous calculations, it would've taken me 50 days in the outside world to break through with my original Innate Spiritual Root," Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as an excited smile appeared on his face.

The transformation of his Innate Spiritual Root had quickly raised his cultivation speed!

'With my Innate Spiritual Root and the help of the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, even the cultivation speed of a genius with a blue Innate Spiritual Root would be two times slower than me!' Duan Ling Tian became even more excited when he thought about this.

'However, despite how fast my current cultivation speed is, I'm still a lot slower compared to those monstrous geniuses who have indigo Innate Spiritual Roots!' Duan Ling Tian felt as though he had been

splashed with a bucket of cold water when he thought about those geniuses who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Root. He became solemn again when he thought about this.

“I’m certain Ke’er twin sister is a genius who possesses the indigo Innate Spiritual Root. Otherwise, it would’ve been impossible for her to possess strength above the Exemplary Saint Stage in her early thirties!” Duan Ling Tian was suddenly reminded of Chi Mei who had taken Ke’er away.

At that time, even Di Jue who was at the peak of the Divine Saint Stage had acted like a mouse in front of a cat when he was faced with her.

Based on this, one could tell her cultivation base had to be at least at the Exemplary Saint Stage or higher!

‘With the help of my Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, I’ll be able to improve my Innate Spiritual Root and surpass her in the future!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself confidently as his eyes flashed.

As long as he could turn his Innate Spiritual Root blue, with the help of the time flow on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he might be able to catch up to the geniuses who have indigo Innate Spiritual Root. He obviously meant geniuses who possessed light indigo Innate Spiritual Root. After all, there were various grades when it came to Innate Spiritual Roots.

The ordinary geniuses who possessed the indigo Spiritual Roots mentioned here meant the ultimate geniuses who possessed a light indigo innate talent Spiritual Roots.

Light indigo, ordinary indigo, and dark indigo. They were all completely different.

Take Duan Ling Tian for example, since he possessed a dark green Innate Spiritual Root, he could be considered as standing at the peak among those who possessed green Innate Spiritual Roots.

‘Since I’ve already broken through to the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage, my Sun Saint Energy should be comparable to that of an ordinary Intermediate Exemplary Saint Stage powerhouse. Currently, even without using the Jasper Celestial Sword, it’s not impossible for me to defeat ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouses!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself before he left the Tertius house.

“It’s time for me to change my cultivation place.” When Duan Ling Tian walked out of the Tertius house, he raised his head and looked at the 100 islands suspended in the sky.

On the 100 suspended islands, there was a house with a little courtyard. It was the Secundus house.

Needless to say, the cultivation environment was a lot better compared to the Tertius house.

There were five Spirit Gathering Formations in a Secundus house. The intensity of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy inside was half of what was in the Primus house.

“100 Secundus houses. It’s said that most of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who live in the Secundus houses are at the Early Quintessential Saint Stage. Some of them, on the other hand, are at the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!” Duan Ling Tian had been staying in the Black Turtle

Sanctum for quite some time, he had naturally gained an understanding on the Primus houses, Secundus houses, Tertius house, and Quartus houses in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

He also had some knowledge about the cultivation base of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples residing in the houses.

'I can't be so unlucky to pick a Secundus house whose owner is an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage disciple, right?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he soared into the sky.

"It's Duan Ling Tian!"

"Huh? Duan Ling Tian seems to be heading to the Secundus houses... What's he trying to do?"

"Don't tell me he wants to challenge the seniors staying in the Secundus houses for the ownership of the house?"

In the Black Turtle Sanctum's residence, most people were cultivating in their rooms. However, there were a few of them who were standing outside talking about Martial Dao and exchanging martial tactics as well. They instantly noticed Duan Ling Tian when he walked out of the Tertius house and made his way up to the Secundus houses.

They would not have paid any attention if it was just an ordinary Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple. However, Duan Ling Tian was famous in the Black Turtle Sanctum. It was impossible for them not to pay any attention to him.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian entered the Black Turtle Sanctum, he had already caused a splash and became famous in the Sanctum.

This was because he was the first person who dared to provoke First Silver Flame Elder Li An in the Black Turtle Sanctum! He even killed the son of Li An's best friend in front of him. Not everyone would have the courage to do that! And yet, Duan Ling Tian did exactly that. He did not hesitate to offend Li An at all.

Then, about ten days ago, Gu Long had domineeringly killed the new disciple, Gu Long. After that, his name began to spread again in the Black Turtle Sanctum! Apart from being a martial genius with a blue Innate Spiritual Root, he was also a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage.

Duan Ling Tian was merely an average person who possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Moreover, he was only an Early Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator.

When the two of them were fighting, nobody thought Duan Ling Tian would win.

However, contrary to everyone's expectation, Duan Ling Tian used two of his high-grade Divine Abilities to kill Gu Long. Ever since then, his fame had skyrocketed in the Black Turtle Sanctum!

Initially, Duan Ling Tian might have gained his fame because he was bold enough to offend Li An even though he was not very strong. However, he was famous now in the Black Turtle Sanctum because of his strength.

The situations from back then and now were completely different.

For example, currently, many of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples had noticed Duan Ling Tian and were looking at him with eyes that were filled with respect. His strength was something worth respecting after all!

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian's really going to challenge one of the seniors for the ownership of a Secundus house!" When the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples saw Duan Ling Tian looking at the Secundus houses, they could easily guess Duan Ling Tian's intention.

"I really admire Senior Brother Duan's strength. However, isn't it a little too early for him to try to challenge a senior for the ownership of a Secundus house with his current strength?" A Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple could not help but ask.

"Indeed. Despite his strength that he demonstrated ten days ago, he's only at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage at most! It's still quite far from the Quintessential Saint Stage!"

"The weakest seniors staying in the Secundus house are at the Early Quintessential Saint Stage. With Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian's current strength, I'm afraid he won't be able to win!"

"Since you're able to think of this, don't you think Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian has also thought about this? If you ask me, I think Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is heading to the Secundus houses because he's confident he'll win!"

The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples discussed among themselves. Most of them felt Duan Ling Tian was not strong enough to reside in a Secundus house while a small number of them felt that he would be able to gain ownership of Secundus house since he was bold enough to head there.

They only knew what Duan Ling Tian's strength was like ten days ago. They did not think he would get stronger in just ten days. He could not have gotten very strong in just ten days after all.

Creak!

The sound of a door opening suddenly attracted Duan Ling Tian's attention. This was because it was the door to a Secundus house.

The residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum had their own rules. When one wanted to fight for the ownership of a house, one was not allowed to challenge disciples who were in closed-door cultivation since it was considered rude and might disrupt the person's cultivation.

One could only issue a challenge if a disciple was out of the house.

Chapter 1932: Dispute

The person who opened the door and walked out of the Secundus house was a middle-aged man with a huge-built. There was a fierce look in his eyes. With just a look, one could tell this person did not have a good temper.

"It's Senior Brother Zhang Ji!"

“Senior Brother Zhang Ji is an elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage Devil Cultivators. Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian won’t challenge him for the ownership of his Secundus house, right?”

“I don’t think so.”

As the middle-aged man walked out, before Duan Ling Tian could open his mouth to issue a challenge, he had already heard the discussion of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples

“Early Quintessential Saint Stage?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened immediately when he heard the words of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples.

Initially, he had been worried he would encounter an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage disciple. It seemed like he was worried for nothing.

He had waited for a while. Who knew the first Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who walked out of a Secundus house was actually an Early Quintessential Saint Stage Devil Cultivator!

At this moment, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples finally realized Duan Ling Tian really intend to challenge the man for the ownership of the Secundus house, and they began to rise up into the air and surround him.

Since Duan Ling Tian had heard the other disciples’ words, it was only natural that Zhang Ji had heard them as well.

“Trying to snatch my Secundus house?” Zhang Ji’s expression turned grave immediately, and his eyes turned cold when he heard the disciples’ discussion.

He then shifted his attention to Duan Ling Tian who was staring at him before he asked coldly, “You’re Duan Ling Tian? You want to challenge me for my house?”

Since Zhang Ji had been in closed-door cultivation for the past few months, he did know Duan Ling Tian was famous in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Before Duan Ling Tian had a chance to reply, hearty laughter rang in the air.

“Zhang Ji, don’t tell me you’ve never heard of Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian?” Another person walked out of a Secundus house nearby. It was this young man who had laughed. As soon as he walked out, he looked at Zhang Ji as though he was looking at a monster.

“It’s Senior Brother Jiang Chu!”

“I heard Senior Brother Jiang Chu is not on good terms with Senior Brother Zhang Ji. It seems like the rumors are true!”

“Don’t tell me Senior Brother Jiang Chu came out just to insult Senior Brother Zhang Ji?”

“I heard that Senior Brother Jiang Chu is a lot stronger than Senior Brother Zhang Ji. He already has one foot in the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!”.

When the young man walked out, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples began to discuss among themselves, revealing his name and cultivation base.

Jiang Chu was a handsome young man with a complexion as clear as jade. His long hair was tied up with a hairband behind his head.

He had a pair of long and narrow slanted eyes. Not only did he look handsome and dashing, but he looked seductive as well.

At this moment, he was looking at Zhang Ji with a mocking expression on his face.

Zhang Ji, on the other hand, was a middle-aged man with an ordinary appearance and a huge built. He looked like a pagoda as he stood there.

Upon hearing Jiang Chu's mocking laughter, Zhang Ji glared at him in hostility. "Hurmph! So what if I've never heard of Duan Ling Tian, Jiang Chu? No matter who he is, he'll have to pay with his blood for coveting my house!"

When he finished speaking, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian with a terrifying look in his eyes.

"Boy, if you're sensible, you better don't even think about staying in my place. Otherwise, I'll beat you up so badly that even your parents would have a hard time recognizing you!" Zhang Ji said. He was rude as soon as he spoke, directly threatening Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, Jiang Chu no longer said anything and only looked at Duan Ling Tian curiously.

When Duan Ling Tian had just entered the Black Turtle Sanctum, Jiang Chu had already heard of him.

Ten days ago, he had also witnessed the battle between Duan Ling Tian and Gu Long. He was truly amazed by the strength Duan Ling Tian had demonstrated.

At that time, he discovered that although Duan Ling Tian was strong, his cultivation base was at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage at the most. He had not reached the Quintessential Saint Stage yet.

After ten days, something shocking happened. Duan Ling Tian wanted to challenge someone for the ownership of a Secundus house.

"It seems like Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian must have made some progress during these ten days. Otherwise, he wouldn't have come to claim a Secundus house. I wonder how strong he is now. How exciting..." Jiang Chu muttered to himself as he looked Duan Ling Tian anticipatorily.

Although he did not have any interactions with Duan Ling Tian, he could tell Duan Ling Tian was not someone reckless. Since he dared to come over here to claim a Secundus house, he must be confident he would succeed.

"You're going to beat me up so badly that even my parents would have a hard time recognizing me?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard Zhang Ji's words. In the end, he smiled mockingly as he asked, "Are you so confident in your strength?"

When Zhang Ji saw the mocking smile on Duan Ling Tian's face, his expression turned grim as he said, "I don't like the way you smile. I've changed my mind. Unless you crawl between my legs and kowtow to

me three times, I won't let you go even if you decide not to challenge me. I won't kill or maim you, but I'm going to let you experience the greatest pain that you're going to wish you're dead!"

When he reached the end of his sentence, his eyes glinted coldly. Zhang Ji was someone with a bad temper. He was already furious when Jiang Chu mocked him earlier. When he saw even Duan Ling Tian was sneering at him, it completely infuriated him.

Moreover, with so many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples watching, he naturally would not back down to protect his pride.

"Zhang Ji, you've crossed the line!" Jiang Chu frowned. He thought Zhang Ji had gone overboard.

"Jiang Chu, stop meddling in this matter! I don't wish to fight you today!" Zhang Ji's expression turned even grimmer when he heard Jiang Chu's words. He glanced at Jiang Chu coldly before he shifted his attention back to Duan Ling Tian.

"You..." Jiang Chu's expression turned grave as his robes began to flutter. It seemed as though he was preparing to make his move.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian said in an attempt to stop him, "Senior Brother Jiang Chu, thank you for your kindness. I know that you and Zhang Ji are not on good terms, but I can deal with this."

When Jiang Chu saw how calm Duan Ling Tian was, he began to calm down as well. In the end, he nodded in assent. "Okay! I'll do this for your sake!"

After he finished speaking, he looked at Zhang Ji with a piercing gaze.

"You're Zhang Ji, right?" Duan Ling Tian shifted his attention from Jiang Chu to Zhang Ji. He was still calm but his exterior had turned icy. "If I want to challenge you for the ownership of the house, it's within the Black Turtle Sanctum's rules. There's no reason for you to maliciously provoke and humiliate me. You can't kill me so you plan to make me wish that I'm better off dead?" Duan Ling Tian's voice was extremely cold that it felt as though the temperature in the surroundings had dropped by several degrees.

Zhang Ji had suppressed his anger when he saw how Duan Ling Tian and his rival, Jiang Chu, was getting along. Now that he heard Duan Ling Tian's words, he could no longer suppress his anger. "I don't care if we have to abide by the rules in the Black Turtle Sanctum or not! I want to humiliate you, so what can you do about it? Since you dare to challenge me, then you should be prepared to be humiliated. How many people in the Black Turtle Sanctum don't know about my temper? I'll give you one last chance. Crawl in between my legs and kowtow to me three times, and I'll let this matter go! Otherwise, I won't let you go even if you decide not to challenge me. I'll slowly torture you until you wish you're dead!" Zhang Ji's eyes glinted with a terrifying light as he spoke.

If looks could kill, Duan Ling Tian would have died many times.

"Wow, you don't care about the rules in the Black Turtle Sanctum? Zhang Ji, if you want me to wish that I'm better off dead, we'll have to see if you have that ability or not!" Duan Ling Tian was also infuriated

by Zhang Ji's words. His eyes gleamed terrifyingly when he looked at Zhang Ji as though he was looking at a dead man.

"Based on your words, you're going to challenge me then?" Zhang Ji was so furious he burst out laughing when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. "Good! Very good! How brave of you! I gave you an opportunity to crawl between my legs and beg for forgiveness. Don't blame me for not showing you any mercy!"

As soon as he finished speaking, his robe began to flutter. His Saint Energy that belonged to an Early Quintessential Saint Stage Devil Cultivator began to surge out of his body terrifyingly.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's gaze turned colder as he began to mobilize his Sun Saint Energy through his 99 Saint Veins like a tempestuous storm.

"It has only been a short while but Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian and Senior Brother Zhang Ji's dispute has escalated to this extent?" The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples were shocked when they regained their senses.

They witnessed how Duan Ling Tian and Zhang Ji went from strangers to enemies in less than 20 breaths.

"Senior Brother Zhang Ji's temper is still the same as before. I'm afraid Duan Ling Tian is going to suffer," many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples remarked.

"Hurmph! On the contrary, I'm eager to see Senior Duan Ling Tian defeat Senior Zhang Ji. I'd like to see what kind of expression Senior Brother Zhang Ji would have at that time..." Some of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples said instead. As they were speaking, anticipation could be seen on their faces.

"I think all of you are dreaming! Although Duan Ling Tian is quite strong, he has not reached the stage where he can compare to Senior Brother Zhang Ji! He's destined to be defeated by Senior Brother Zhang Ji today!"

"That's right! Duan Ling Tian's just blinded by rage now. If he managed to stay calm, he wouldn't have challenged Senior Brother Zhang Ji!"

Most of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples did not think that Duan Ling Tian was a match for Zhang Ji.

Chapter 1933: Is It Ending Soon?

Although most of the disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum thought Duan Ling Tian was quite strong since he was able to kill Gu Long who was at the peak of the Exemplary Stage, they did not think he was stronger than Zhang Ji!

Perhaps, Gu Long had a higher innate talent since he had a blue Innate Spiritual Root. However, in terms of strength, Gu Long could not compare to Zhang Ji at all. No matter what, Gu Long's cultivation base was only at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage.

As an elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum, coupled with the fact that he's a Devil Cultivator who specialized in cultivating his body, his strength had surpassed more than 80% of the Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum!

"An elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum? A Devil Cultivator who specializes in cultivating his body?" As the number of Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples increased, Duan Ling Tian heard their words and gained a deeper understanding of Zhang Ji. He kept all their words in mind.

As the saying went, 'One who knows his own strength and his enemy's strength is invincible in battle!'

Although Duan Ling Tian had learned about Zhang Ji's strength, he did not feel fear at all. His expression remained calm.

Ten days ago, even if he was faced with an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse, he would be able to come to a draw with the powerhouse if he transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and unleashed all his techniques. However, there was a chance he might be defeated because the Elementary Devouring Tactic depleted his Spiritual Energy quickly and the effect did not last long.

However, he had made a breakthrough today so it would not be difficult for him to defeat an Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse.

Even if Zhang Ji was an Early Quintessential Saint Stage Devil Cultivator, an elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum, Duan Ling Tian was 80% confident he would be able to defeat him.

He was not 100% confident because he did not know if Zhang Ji had mastered any high-grade Divine Abilities or not. If Zhang Ji had mastered a high-grade Divine Ability, it might be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to defeat him.

The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples present on the scene did not know that ten days ago, when Duan Ling Tian fought Gu Long, he did not use all his strength and techniques. He did not even transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. He did not transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior because he did not think it was necessary. He could defeat and kill Gu Long without the need to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. The result proved that he was right.

"I wonder if I can defeat Zhang Ji without the need to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior..." Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he stood opposite Zhang Ji.

He did not plan to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior as soon as he fought with Zhang Ji. In fact, he would not transform unless it was absolutely necessary.

Being able to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior was his trump card after all. It was only natural that he would not use it unless it was absolutely necessary. It was the best to conceal one's trump card and reveal it at the critical moment since it would yield a good result!

"He has already offended Elder Li An the moment he entered the Fire Worship Sect and the Black Turtle Sanctum? Ten days ago, he even killed a disciple at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage who possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root by relying on his two high-grade Divine Abilities even though his

cultivation base is only at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage?” Zhang Ji had also learned about Duan Ling Tian from the discussion in his surroundings. He was shocked when he heard this.

He did not expect this Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who wanted to challenge him for the ownership of his Secundus house was an Early Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator. At the very least, he was an Early Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator ten days ago.

Due to the reason that he had heard Duan Ling Tian had killed a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage, he did not dare to underestimate Duan Ling Tian. At the very least, Duan Ling Tian’s strength could be considered to be at the top among powerhouses at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage, especially after he cast his movement Divine Ability that was almost on par with an Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse!

“I can’t believe that during the time I was in closed-door cultivation, a strong person like you would come to the Black Turtle Sanctum. I believe during these ten days, you’ve broken through to the Intermediate Exemplary Saint Stage, right?” Zhang Ji asked Duan Ling Tian coldly as he stared at him.

Duan Ling Tian did not come to challenge anyone for the ownership of Secundus house prior to this because he was aware of his own strength. However, today he instantly came to issue a challenge as soon as he left his house. This showed that he was confident about his chances of winning.

Duan Ling Tian sneered in response to Zhang Ji’s question as he asked indifferently, “What? Are you afraid now?”

“Scared?” Under the watchful eyes of the others, Zhang Ji smirked in response to Duan Ling Tian’s question. “Duan Ling Tian, you’re thinking too much. I admit you’re quite strong, and you might even be able to hold your own against an Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse once you have broken through to the Intermediate Exemplary Saint Stage! However, do you really think that an Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse can compare to me? Today, I’ll show you that there are mountains beyond mountains and heavens beyond heavens!”

As soon as Zhang Ji finished speaking, he flew up into the sky. He targeted Duan Ling Tian as he moved agilely like a swimming dragon.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

...

At the same time, when Zhang Ji made his move, Devil Qi rose in within a 100-meter radius around him. A 100 Devil shadows that were completely formed by pure Devil Qi appeared suddenly.

At this instant, it caused half of the sky to be covered with Devil Qi. It looked like dark clouds looming over a city, giving off a gloomy feeling.

“It’s the Hundred Devils Territory!” Many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples exclaimed in unison.

“I can’t believe Senior Brother Zhang Ji consolidated the Hundred Devils Territory as soon as he made his move. It seems like he’s not underestimating Duan Ling Tian after learning about what happened. He’s not showing any mercy at all!”

“Hurmph! Since Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian dares to claim a Secundus house today, it means he must have broken through just like Senior Brother Zhang Ji said. Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian who has broken through to the Intermediate Exemplary Saint Stage can fight a powerhouse at the Early Quintessential Saint Stage by relying on various techniques! How can Senior Brother Zhang Ji act recklessly at this moment?”

“That’s right! Although Senior Brother Zhang Ji can be considered as the strongest among all powerhouses in the Early Quintessential Saint Stage, he’s still at the Early Quintessential Saint Stage after all. It’s not like he’s at the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage or higher!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples discussed among themselves as they continued to look at Zhang Ji who was consolidating the Hundred Devils Territory.

At this moment, Zhang Ji was charging toward Duan Ling Tian at an extremely fast speed.

“Devil Assemble!” Zhang Ji shouted.

In just an instant, hundreds of Devil shadows in the Hundreds Devil Territory began to charge at Duan Ling Tian at an extremely fast speed as well.

The hundreds of Devil shadows seemed like a Devil cloud as it shrouded Zhang Ji, his speed accelerating.

This speed was way faster than the speed of an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse!

“Elementary Devouring Tactic!”

“Golden Crow’s Wings!”

When Duan Ling Tian saw the menacing Devil Qi, Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned grim immediately. He instantly cast the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic and immediately devoured the surrounding Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy completely before he mobilized the powerful Sun Saint Energy.

After that, the Golden Crow’s Wings burst out of Duan Ling Tian’s back, and he began to flap his wings.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The gigantic pair of wings that were burning with scorching flames flapped, causing the air to stir violently before it set off a series of explosions.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian managed to put some distance between him and the Devil clouds since he was faster. During this time, he discovered the Devil clouds were quickly fusing together.

In the end, it transformed into a black armor on Zhang Ji’s body. It emitted a blood-curdling aura. Zhang Ji who originally had a huge stature looked even bigger now. He looked like a Devil God.

“His Territory actually has such an ability?” Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he saw this.

However, the most shocking thing had yet to come.

“Rooted Devil Shadow!” Zhang Ji snarled. He activated a medium-grade movement Divine Ability on his black armor. His speed instantly increased a few times. His speed was finally on par with Duan Ling Tian’s speed.

“Duan Ling Tian, our speed is evenly matched now. It’s better if you unleash all your techniques now!” Zhang Ji shouted as he activated the Saint Energy in his body to boost his Devil Qi. In turn, his speed became even faster than before. Although it was not by much, he was still faster than Duan Ling Tian. It allowed him to slowly close the gap between him and Duan Ling Tian.

If this continued, he would definitely catch up to Duan Ling Tian.

“He’s going to catch up to Duan Ling Tian soon!”

“Ten days ago, during the battle with Gu Long, Duan Ling Tian only relied on his movement Divine Ability. If it was not for the fact that he was faster than Gu Long, he wouldn’t be a match for Gu Long at all!”

“That’s right! Senior Brother’s advantage is his speed. Now that his opponent is faster than him, does this mean he’s going to be defeated by Senior Brother Zhang Ji’s chopper board soon?”

“I can’t believe that this battle has only started, but it’s going to end soon.”

...

Upon seeing this, many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples shook their heads one by one. They were certain the battle was going to end soon.

“Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian...” Even Jiang Chu could not help but frown.

He did not expect that Duan Ling Tian’s speed that was his advantage was no longer useful as soon as the battle between him and Zhang Ji had begun.

Chapter 1934: Otherworldly Celestial! Cyclopean Punch!

Duan Ling Tian’s biggest advantage was his speed. Every Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple present on the scene knew this very well.

Currently, they could tell Zhang Ji’s speed was much faster than Duan Ling Tian and the gap between them was closing. In their opinion, the battle was going to end soon.

“I can’t believe Senior Brother Zhang Ji’s speed is actually this fast! Although Duan Ling Tian’s speed is much faster compared to ten days ago, it can’t compare to Senior Brother Zhang Ji!”

“Actually, Duan Ling Tian’s current speed can’t be considered as slow. His speed is comparable to that of an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator! It’s just that his opponent now is not an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse. It’s Senior Brother Zhang Ji, an elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouses!”

“Looks like Senior Brother Zhang Ji is merely a step away from breaking through to the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage after coming out of his closed-door cultivation. Otherwise, his speed wouldn’t be this fast!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples whispered among themselves. They were all in low spirits and had begun to lose interest.

Initially, they thought they would be able to witness an exciting fight. Who knew the fight would end so quickly?

“To think I intentionally came out of my closed-door cultivation for this. How disappointing!” Many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples complained. Some of them had put their cultivation on hold to watch this fight.

However, a voice rang in their ears at this moment and lifted their spirits immediately.

“Do you really think this is as fast as I can go?” The voice was cold. It belonged to none other than Duan Ling Tian.

The moment he finished speaking, the huge wings that were burning with flames flapped even harder.

Duan Ling Tian’s speed instantly increased by 20%.

Although it was only 20% faster, he easily left Zhang Ji far behind in the dust.

Horror dawned on Zhang Ji when he saw Duan Ling Tian’s silhouette was getting further and further away from him.

He did not expect that Duan Ling Tian had been concealing the full extent of his speed. It was already so fast to begin with.

A feeling of failure instantly rose in his heart.

Although Duan Ling Tian’s speed had not reached the speed of an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator yet, it was already quite close to it.

How fast was his speed after increasing by 20%? He managed to instantly leave Zhang Ji behind.

“How fast!”

“His speed is not much slower than an ordinary Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse, right?”

“This is just too ridiculous!”

“It’s completely different from ten days ago!”

Apart from making Zhang Ji feel overwhelmed, it also caused an uproar among the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples.

“How fast!” Jiang Chu’s expression had turned solemn. Despite having a foot in the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage, he was aware his speed was nowhere close to the speed of an Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse.

Compared to Duan Ling Tian’s speed, it was about 20% slower as well. His speed was evenly matched with Zhang Ji’s current speed.

“I can’t believe that Zhang Ji has gotten so strong after he came out of his closed-door cultivation. He can already compete with me in terms of speed!” Zhang Ji was Jiang Chu’s old rival. Jiang Chu naturally felt pressured when he saw his rival had gotten a lot stronger.

“It has only been ten days, but why does it feel as though Duan Ling Tian has changed into a completely different person?”

“Although his speed is very fast ten days ago, at the most he was only par with an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage cultivator. However, currently, his speed can be considered as the fastest among those under Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage! This is too ridiculous!”

“Unbelievable!”

“He really made a breakthrough in just ten days? It’s unbelievable!”

Duan Ling Tian’s burst of speed had baffled most of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples present on the scene. Most of the disciples who were baffled were those who witnessed the fight between Duan Ling Tian and Gu Long ten days ago.

Since the fight happened fairly recently, they remembered everything very well. At that time, Duan Ling Tian’s speed was not as fast as it was now!

The increase in his speed did not only shock them, but it caused them to shudder as well! This was because his progress was just too shocking!

“Hurmph! So what if your speed is faster than mine? Your strength is merely temporarily raised by an assist-type Divine Ability. How long will it last?” Zhang Ji began to slow down when he saw that he could not catch up to Duan Ling Tian. He snorted and said disdainfully, “You’d better run away now. Otherwise, I’ll torture you when I catch you since the effect of your assist-type Divine Ability will lose its effect soon! If you’re scared, you can always admit defeat and flee. Once I catch you, I can still torture you until you wish to die. That way I’m not violating the rules of the Black Turtle Sanctum and Fire Worship Sect!” Zhang Ji’s voice was extremely cold. It seemed as though the surroundings’ temperature had dropped by a few degrees.

“Zhang Ji!” At this moment, Duan Ling Tian who was flying into the distance suddenly turned around and announced loudly, “Although I know you’re trying to provoke me into fleeing, I have to tell you that I have no plans of fleeing from the beginning until now. At the very least, you don’t have the ability to make me turn tail and run!” He said all this confidently and with certainty.

“It’s all just words! If you’re not trying to flee, why are you avoiding me then? Do you even dare to have a direct battle with me?!” Zhang Ji sneered. He continued to goad Duan Ling Tian. “You’re just trash and a coward. A person like you is not qualified to stay in the Black Turtle Sanctum and the Fire Worship Sect. You’re just making a fool out of yourself!”

Although Duan Ling Tian knew Zhang Ji was just trying to provoke him into making a move, he was still angered by his words.

“Zhang Ji, since you want a direct battle, I’ll fulfill your wish!” Duan Ling Tian said coldly. He flapped his massive wings, and in just a blink of an eye, he drew close to Zhang Ji. He instantly cast his Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial!

Swish!

Under the watchful eyes of the others, Duan Ling Tian soared into the sky. When he reappeared again, he charged down menacingly.

However, there was only one Duan Ling Tian who soared up into the air. There were three Duan Ling Tian’s who turned around instead.

Nobody could discern which one was the real Duan Ling Tian. Three Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords slashed out with killing intent as they all pointed at Zhang Ji’s vital points. It was apparent Duan Ling Tian meant to kill him in a blow.

“Is this a Divine Ability?”

“What a powerful Divine Ability!”

“I’m afraid this Divine Ability is a high-grade Divine Ability as well!”

Many Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples with a higher cultivation base could tell the Otherworldly Celestial that Duan Ling Tian had cast was not ordinary.

Despite not having fully mastered the Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial, the force that Duan Ling Tian unleashed when he coupled it with the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the second stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword, was extraordinary. It made people believe it was a high-grade Divine Ability!

“Ten days ago, when Gu Long died, three of his vital points had been pierced. It seems like he must have died from this sword-type Divine Ability!”

“At that time, Duan Ling Tian had consolidated his Territory and blocked our visions so we couldn’t see what he was doing. Now I finally understand what he was doing in his Territory!”

“It’s indeed a three swords instant kill! However, it’s not as simple as just a martial tactic. I think this sword-type Divine Ability is most likely a high-grade Divine Ability!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples’ attention was all focused on the Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial, that Duan Ling Tian had cast.

Three swords descended from the sky like three sword deities who had descended to the world — Otherworldly Celestial!

“Three high-grade Divine Abilities?” Jiang Chu who was standing in the distance was shocked well. “He’s only an Exemplary Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, but he’s able to cast such a powerful attack. It seems

like the assist-type Divine Ability must be a high-grade Divine Ability! Moreover, the sword-type Divine Ability that he is casting now must also be a high-grade Divine Ability! As for the movement Divine Ability, there's no doubt that it's a high-grade Divine Ability!" Zhang Ji's expression turned grim when he saw the Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial, that Duan Ling Tian cast.

Zhang Ji was shocked as well. "He successfully comprehended and mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities? How's this possible?" A flame of jealousy rose in his heart.

To think that he, Zhang Ji, was an Early Quintessential Saint Stage, but until now, he had only successfully comprehended two medium-grade Divine Abilities and one high-grade Divine Ability.

This fellow, on the other hand, was only an Exemplary Saint Stage cultivator, but he had successfully comprehended and mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities!

It was only natural for him to feel jealous!

Zhang Ji who was burning with jealousy looked at Duan Ling Tian with a cold gaze.

If looks could kill, Duan Ling Tian would have died a thousand times over.

"Hurmph! Your sword-type Divine Ability is not bad, but unfortunately, you're just too weak!" Faced with the three Hundred Inscriptions Saint Sword that were descending from the sky, Zhang Ji snorted coldly and raised his hands. Boxing gloves appeared on his fists immediately. This was his Hundred Inscriptions Saint Weapon!

The boxing gloves were completely black. Nobody knew what it was made of. Since it was a Hundred Inscriptions Saint Weapon, naturally it was not just an ordinary boxing gloves.

Faced with three Duan Ling Tians that were like sword deities and the three swords that were like the Celestial Swords, Zhang Ji shouted, "Cyclopean Punch!" At the same time, he punched his fists out fearlessly.

Chapter 1935: Terrifying Energy

Bang! Bang!

Zhang Ji punched his fists out with his Hundred Inscriptions Saint Weapon that contained a punch-type tactic. Moreover, he cast one of the three Divine Abilities he had mastered as well. It was the offensive Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch! This was his only high-grade Divine Ability that he mastered among all three of his Divine Abilities.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

When he punched his fists out, the force seemed as though it could shatter mountains. There seemed to be two majestic dragons at the wake of his fists as it punched at the Hundred Inscriptions Saint Swords that Duan Ling Tian and his two clones were wielding like sword deities. It did not take long before the forces clashed.

At the instant the collided, it caused another thunderous explosion.

“How powerful! Is this a high-grade Divine Ability?” Duan Ling Tian felt his blood and vital energy churning chaotically after the collision with Zhang Ji’s fists. Horror dawned on Duan Ling Tian when he discovered Zhang Ji’s energy seemed to have overpowered his energy. At this moment, Zhang Ji was charging toward him again.

Duan Ling Tian did not expect Zhang Ji had mastered a high-grade offensive Divine Ability as well. Moreover, Zhang Ji did not seem afraid to go against his high-grade Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial, that he had cast. It did not seem like he was worried about being injured by the Sword Qi.

“His defense is actually so strong?” In the next instant, Duan Ling Tian realized the armor that Zhang Ji formed from his Territory seemed to work very well with his defensive tactic and defensive Divine Ability. For this reason, the sword Qi from the Otherworldly Celestial did not injure him at all.

‘No wonder he dares to fight directly with me!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Soon after, he discovered Zhang Ji’s attack was drawing closer to him. It was only a foot away from him and would soon land on him.

“Trash!” Zhang Ji said disdainfully to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian instantly felt his vital energy and blood surging. He was extremely furious at this moment that he had forgotten he could transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and use his strong physique to withstand the attack. He was too blinded by his rage at this moment.

Meanwhile, his Spiritual Energy began to get agitated.

Elementary Devouring Tactic!

Soul Attack!

Duan Ling Tian did not know why he was so furious and had even lost his rationality. Although he did not transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, he instinctively cast the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic and the Soul Attack from his Strange Pupil that he recently mastered.

The Elementary Devouring Tactic was supposed to be able to absorb all energy and this included his opponent’s energy. Duan Ling Tian knew about this, but he had not tried using it in this way before.

Based on the information about the Elementary Devouring Tactic, if he used the Elementary Devouring Tactic to absorb another person’s energy, there would be a backlash as well. Due to this reason, Duan Ling Tian did not dare to use it all this while.

It was only at this moment that he instinctively used the Elementary Devouring Tactic in this way!

The force charging toward him was oppressive and exerted a huge pressure on him.

As soon as Duan Ling Tian cast the Elementary Devouring Tactic, a whirlpool began to appear around him and absorb the menacing force. Soon after, Duan Ling Tian began to experience the backlash.

Since the energy Duan Ling Tian absorbed did not belong to him, it ran amuck in body, causing his organs to be injured. He was in so much pain that he even began to wish that death would come for him.

“You’re seeking death!” Zhang Ji was surprised Duan Ling Tian was able to absorb his energy with his assist-type Divine Ability. However, he quickly discovered he could still control the energy in Duan Ling Tian’s body. He sneered as he caused chaos inside Duan Ling Tian’s body with that energy.

Swoosh!

At this moment, a light flashed across Duan Ling Tian’s Strange Pupil. The Soul Attack in the form of a dragon shot out and entered Zhang Ji’s body before he could even react.

After the Soul Attack entered Zhang Ji’s body, it rushed straight towards his soul.

Boom!

Although the Soul Attack was not as strong as Zhang Ji’s attack that was at the Early Quintessential Saint Stage soul, it still caused Zhang Ji’s soul to tremble for a moment when they collided.

“Soul Attack?” Horror dawned on Zhang Ji. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would still be able to cast a Soul Attack at this moment.

Although the Soul Attack was not particularly powerful, it still managed to make his soul tremble, causing him to be momentarily stunned.

While he was stunned, Zhang Ji lost control of the energy in Duan Ling Tian’s body.

“Swallow!” Duan Ling Tian released a burst of energy suddenly and absorbed Zhang Ji’s energy completely, converting it into his own energy.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian discovered he had lost a little control of the energy in his body. This was because he had absorbed a huge amount of Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings before this and raised his Sun Saint Energy to the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage before he absorbed Zhang Ji’s energy. Duan Ling Tian was filled to the brim with all the energy that he felt like he and his 99 Saint Veins were going to explode.

Duan Ling Tian who was in pain from being filled with too much energy could no longer endure it. He raised his hand and pushed his palm out as he said, “Release!”

The extra energy shot out of his palm immediately as it swept toward Zhang Ji who was standing nearby.

Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian had released the energy quickly and without warning. Horror dawned on Zhang Ji as he hurriedly activated his energy that was filled with Devil Qi to block the incoming energy.

Zhang Ji’s armor instantly turned even darker.

Boom!

In the next moment, the energy that made Duan Ling Tian feel as though his body was going to explode landed on Zhang Ji, completely shrouding his body.

Bang!

A thunderous noise rang in the air as Zhang Ji was sent flying like an arrow that was shot out. He looked extremely wretched.

Even his black armor had disappeared from his body. It seemed like it had been destroyed by the energy Duan Ling Tian shot out from his palm.

Soon after Zhang Ji was sent flying, he landed on the ground with a crash. After that, he showed no signs of movements.

“He’s dead?” Horror dawned on Duan Ling Tian when he saw this.

His fight with Zhang Ji was not a Death Duel. If Zhang Ji died, he would definitely be punished by the Fire Worship Sect for breaking its rules.

As for the people present on the scene, all of them had fallen silent in shock. It was so quiet that they could all hear Duan Ling Tian panting.

Barf!

Zhang Ji’s body suddenly moved as he turned his head to the side and threw up a huge mouthful of blood.

Duan Ling Tian heaved a sigh of relief when he saw this. It was good that Zhang Ji was not dead.

‘It was really bad earlier.’ When Duan Ling Tian recalled what had happened earlier with Zhang Ji’s oppressive energy, he felt a lingering fear.

If he was given a second chance, he would not recklessly absorb Zhang Ji’s energy using the Elementary Devouring Tactic. At the very least, he would not absorb the energy as long as it was still under Zhang Ji’s control.

“If it was not for the Strange Pupil casting the Soul Attack in time to distract Zhang Ji, I would’ve been killed by that energy.”

“Although I managed to distract Zhang Ji and successfully absorb this energy, it carries the risks of overloading and exploding. I would’ve died without a corpse if that happens!”

Duan Ling Tian concluded that he did not want to experience something like that ever again in his life! Even the energy that suddenly burst out in the end was terrifying as well. It was on par with the full strength of an ordinary Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator, He really did not want to experience it again.

“The energy in my body is completely depleted...” Duan Ling Tian felt the emptiness in his body.

This feeling was somewhat similar to when he first used the Jasper Celestial Sword, and it absorbed all his energy.

‘The force earlier is on par with the force I’ll be able to exert if I use the Jasper Celestial Sword with all my might. However, I don’t think I’m going to resort to that method since I really have no wish to experience this empty feeling again!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian heaved a sigh of relief again when he made sure Zhang Ji who was lying on the ground was still breathing. He was not dead nor crippled. He had merely lost consciousness.

“Zhang Ji, from now on, your Secundus house is mine!” Duan Ling Tian used the last ounce of his energy to say after he glanced at Zhang Ji indifferently.

Then, he hurriedly entered the Secundus house that Zhang Ji used to live in and closed the door with a loud bang.

After he entered the room, he sat down and slumped against the wall immediately. He could not even sit without support, let alone stand.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ji who had been woken up by Duan Ling Tian’s words was so furious he threw up another mouthful of blood before passing out again.

Zhang Ji was pretty unlucky considering the energy that injured him was mostly his own energy. Only a small part of it belonged to Duan Ling Tian.

When the two energies fused together, it wreaked havoc in Duan Ling Tian’s body. At the moment when he felt it was about to burst out, the energy had already mutated. He had no choice but to release the tyrannical energy, and it just so happened that Zhang Ji was in his path.

The energy was on par with the full strength of an ordinary Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage Martial Cultivator had mercilessly destroyed Zhang Ji’s layer of defense. Moreover, it even sent him flying and injured him severely.

It was fortunate that Zhang Ji was quite strong and was a Devil Cultivator who specialized in cultivating his body. If he was just an ordinary Early Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse, he would have died.

After Duan Ling Tian hurriedly entered the Secundus house and Zhang Ji passed out, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples finally regained their senses.

All of them could not help but gasp!

Chapter 1936: Yang Chong!

“Senior Brother Zhang Ji is actually defeated?!”

“How’s this possible?”

“If I’m not mistaken, the attack Senior Brother Zhang Ji had cast earlier is the high-grade punch-type Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch! I can’t believe Senior Brother Zhang Ji has successfully comprehended and mastered it!”

“Based on Senior Brother Zhang Ji’s current strength, when he unleashes all his techniques and casts the Cyclopean Punch, his strength is no different from an ordinary Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage powerhouse. Even then, it seems like he didn’t manage to injure Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian at all!”

“Not only did he not injure Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian, but Senior Brother Zhang Ji is injured and defeated in the end!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples were in an uproar.

The fight between Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Ability, the Otherworldly Celestial, and Zhang Ji’s Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch, had shocked the Turtle Sanctum’s disciples.

Prior to this, they were not aware that both of them had mastered an offensive Divine Ability!

Initially, they thought Duan Ling Tian had a small chance of winning when they saw him cast the high-grade offensive Divine Ability. However, when they saw Zhang Ji had also cast a high-grade offensive Divine Ability, none of them thought Duan Ling Tian would be able to win since Zhang Ji was far stronger than Duan Ling Tian.

Coupled with his high-grade offensive Divine Ability, he would definitely overpower Duan Ling Tian even if Duan Ling Tian had also cast a high-grade offensive Divine Ability.

Initially, things unfolded the way they had imagined. Zhang Ji’s energy managed to shatter Duan Ling Tian’s energy and swept toward Duan Ling Tian.

At the moment when they thought Duan Ling Tian would be sent flying and defeated, a shocking scene unfolded before their eyes.

A terrifying whirlpool suddenly appeared around Duan Ling Tian. It was none other than the assist-type Divine Ability that he had cast before. When the whirlpool appeared, it absorbed the energy that Zhang Ji had released. After that, Duan Ling Tian pushed his palm out and released his energy and the energy he absorbed from Zhang Ji. The mixture of the two resulted in an extremely terrifying energy.

Although Zhang Ji defended with all his might, he was still severely wounded. He might not be dead or crippled, but judging by his wounds, he would not be able to stand up without resting for half a day.

“What exactly is that assist-type Divine Ability that Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian mastered? Apart from being able to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the surroundings to strengthen his own strength in a short time, it can even absorb his opponent’s energy! It’s too terrifying!”

“Based on what we’ve seen, even the most precious assist-type Divine Ability in the Azure Dragon Sanctum is far from being comparable to Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Ability!”

“In my opinion, even the strongest assist-type Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect might not be able to compare to Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian’s Divine Ability, let alone the Azure Dragon Sanctum’s most treasured assist-type Divine Ability!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples discussed Duan Ling Tian's Divine Ability and how it turned the tide of the battle at the critical moment, resulting in his victory. Without it, he would have been defeated. Naturally, Duan Ling Tian's high-grade Divine Ability became the focus of their discussion.

"I've never heard of the assist-type Divine Ability that Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian had cast before!"

"Neither have I!"

"It's really a horrifying Divine Ability!"

Although there were many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples, they soon found out that none of them had heard about Duan Ling Tian's assist-type Divine Ability. Not only that, they did not even know what it was called. That Divine Ability was a mystery to them.

"What a fearsome assist-type Divine Ability!" Even Jiang Chu who already had one foot in the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage was also shocked when he regained his senses. He was shocked by how Duan Ling Tian managed to turn the tide of the battle and defeat Zhang Ji at the critical moment.

In fact, Jiang Chu did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to win when he saw Zhang Ji had cast his high-grade offensive Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch!

At that time, Zhang Ji's strength was almost evenly matched with him!

"I can't believe Zhang Ji has actually successfully comprehended the high-grade Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch that his master passed on to him. If I were to fight him now, I'm not entirely confident I'll be able to defeat him. At most, we'll come to a draw!" A hint of disdain appeared in Jiang Chu's eyes as he looked at Zhang Ji who was lying unconscious on the ground.

Zhang Ji's strength after he came out of his closed-door cultivation had pressured Jiang Chu.

He took a deep breath as he glanced at the Secundus house that used to belong to Zhang Ji before returning to his own Secundus house to go into closed-door cultivation.

'I won't come out of closed-door cultivation until I've broken through to the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!' Jiang Chu made up his mind before he even entered his house.

After a while, Zhang Ji finally woke up. However, since he was severely injured, it was difficult for him to move. It felt as though his tendons and muscles were frozen stiff.

Although many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples had already left, there were still a few of them that stood around discussing the earlier battle.

"During the battle, from the beginning until the end, I did not doubt that Senior Brother Zhang Ji would win. I didn't expect that he would be defeated in the end!"

"Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian's strength is just too heaven-defying! The strength that Senior Brother Zhang Ji demonstrated with the help of the high-grade Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch, is at the peak of the Early Quintessential Saint Stage. Even then, he's still defeated by Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian!"

“I remember when the battle had just begun, Senior Brother Zhang Ji seemed to have said that he would make Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian suffer so much pain that he would wish for death instead. However, it seems like he’s the one that wishes for death now!”

“Speaking about that, I have to say that Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian’s temper is really good. If I were him, I’d definitely ridicule Senior Brother Zhang Ji mercilessly after I’ve defeated him to pay him back for all the humiliation he had caused!”

“Exactly! Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian’s temper is really good. A great man wouldn’t stoop to such a level of pettiness!”

The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples continued to discuss among themselves, unaware that Zhang Ji had regained consciousness.

Upon hearing their words, Zhang Ji’s face turned red before he passed out again.

Naturally, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples were unaware of the reason Duan Ling Tian did not mock Zhang Ji after he had defeated him was not due to his good temper. It was because he was not in a good condition as well. He had no energy left to mock Zhang Ji. Otherwise, with his temper, he would have given Zhang Ji a good slap!

He only managed to muster up a bit of energy and shot his parting words at Zhang Ji. “Zhang Ji, from now on, your Secundus house is mine!”

Based on this statement, it was clear that the winner of today’s battle was Duan Ling Tian!

If he had collapsed in front of everyone, people might dispute that their battle had ended in a draw. This was obviously not something Duan Ling Tian wanted.

Inside the Secundus house that used to belong to Zhang Ji, Duan Ling Tian was slumped on the ground as his body began to heal.

Not only was his Sun Saint Energy slowly recovering, but his exhaustion was slowly disappearing as well. Moreover, his Divine Consciousness became clearer as well.

“I can’t believe Zhang Ji actually comprehended a high-grade offensive Divine Ability as well...” When Duan Ling Tian recalled the scene earlier, he was still a little stunned.

Duan Ling Tian was not certain he would be a match for Zhang Ji when he cast his high-grade Divine Ability even if he transformed into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior.

If the battle went on any longer, he would be definitely be defeated!

Fortunately, at the critical moment, he had instinctively cast the Elementary Devouring Tactic and Soul Attack, defeating Zhang Ji in just a blow!

One could say he won the battle by sheer luck!

‘Judging by Zhang Ji’s strength, I’m afraid there are not many people below the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage who will be able to defeat him. If I want to defeat him with ease, I’ll have to

break through to the Mastery Divine Saint Stage first before he breaks through to the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

“With my green Innate Spiritual Root and the time flow in the fourth level of Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda that’s boosted by the cultivation environment in the Secundus house, it’ll take me a month at most to break through to the Mastery Divine Saint Stage!” When Duan Ling Tian recalled that he had raised the level of his Innate Spiritual Root, an expression of confidence appeared on his face. Naturally, when Duan Ling Tian mentioned one month, it referred to the time in the outside world. One month in the outside world was equivalent to ten months in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

“No matter what, in the future, I won’t use the Elementary Devouring Tactic to devour someone else’s energy unless it’s absolutely necessary! I can’t let the energy in my body overload again. Not only did it feel torturous, but there’s a risk of my body exploding as well!” If Duan Ling Tian did not manage to release the building energy in his body in time, he would have exploded.

‘Zhang Ji’s pretty unlucky! It’s not like I could control the energy. At that time, I had simply pushed out a palm to release the energy, who knew he would be standing in front of me at that moment!’ Duan Ling Tian took pleasure in Zhang Ji’s misfortune when he thought about this

....

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that at this moment an uninvited guest had shown up in the residence of First Silver Flame Elder Li An in the Black Turtle Sanctum.

This uninvited guest was none other than Yang Chong, the fifth elder from a first-rate force in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, the Northern Plethora Sect!

He was the biological father of Yang Wu whom Duan Ling Tian had killed in a Death Duel on the day they arrived at the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Chapter 1937: You, Kill Yourself!

“Pal, I’ve let you down regarding Little Wu’s incident!” Li An instantly apologized with a guilty expression on his face when saw the travel-weary Yang Chong.

Yang Chong was an old man with an ordinary appearance and a huge built. His hair and eyebrows were white. He looked like a looming pagoda as he stood there.

He shook his head when he heard Li An’s apology. “I understand your difficulty. If I were you, I would’ve done the same. For this reason, I don’t blame you for Little Wu’s death!”

He had learned about what happened from the old servant that followed by his son’s side, and he could understand Li An’s actions. If Li An had intervened more than he already did, it would cause an even bigger incident.

Since this would affect the Fire Worship Sect’s reputation, the high-ranking officials of the Fire Worship Sect would likely expel Li An to save the sect’s reputation. For this reason, he understood why Li An acted the way he did.

Li An felt even more guilty when he saw how understanding Yang Chong was. His gaze was cold as he said sincerely, "Don't worry, I'll definitely avenge Little Wu!"

However, Yang Chong did not seem to hear Li An's words. He only looked at Li An and said indifferently, "Bring me to see the person who killed my son."

"Alright." Li An was not surprised that Yang Chong wanted to see Duan Ling Tian. He instantly led Yang Chong to where Duan Ling Tian was.

Although Yang Chong had said he did not blame Li An for this incident, when Li An saw Yang Chong keeping mum, he knew Yang Chong must have blamed him a little at the very least.

This was only natural, so Li An was not worried about it.

"Duan Ling Tian had also killed someone I was planning to accept as a disciple ten days ago. I won't be able to rest as long as he's alive!" Li An suddenly said in a deep voice as his eyes gleamed with murderous intent.

Li An had suddenly spoken because he wanted to break the ice. Moreover, he really did hate Duan Ling Tian.

"You were planning to accept a direct disciple?" As Li An expected, as soon as Yang Chong heard his words, he turned to look at Li An in confusion. From what he knew, Li An had very high requirements when accepting disciples. The three disciples he had accepted possessed blue Innate Spiritual Roots.

"Yes." Li An nodded before he told Yang Chong about Gu Chun and his cousin, Gu Long, and how Gu Long was also killed by Duan Ling Tian.

When he finished speaking, his eyes shone with killing intent. The aura emitting out of his body was extremely cold as well, causing the temperature in the surroundings to drop by several degrees.

"I'm even more curious now. Who's so daring to offend First Silver Flame Elder Li An from the Black Turtle Sanctum to this extent?" One must admit that Li An's complaints had made Yang Chong feel better.

As it turned out, his son was not the only one who was killed by this person. Even the person whom Li An desperately wanted to accept as a disciple since he possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root was killed by this person as well.

For this reason, at this moment, Yang Chong felt a sense of camaraderie with Li An. The small bit of dissatisfaction he felt in his heart disappeared immediately.

...

"Did you hear? Duan Ling Tian struck again after killing Gu Long ten day ago!" As Li An and Yang Chong made their way to the altar of the Black Turtle Sanctum, they suddenly heard a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple exclaiming loudly.

Li An and Yang Chong were flying high in the sky, therefore nobody on the ground noticed them at all. Otherwise, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples by the altar would have come forward to greet Li An.

"Duan Ling Tian?" Li An and Yang Chong exchanged a look before they came to a halt to listen to the conversation.

"Are you talking about how Duan Ling Tian challenged Senior Brother Zhang Ji and successfully claimed a Secundus house after defeating him?"

"That's right! It seems you've heard about it as well!"

"How could I not? Currently, almost every Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple who's not in closed-door cultivation has heard about it."

"Duan Ling Tian is really strong. To think he's even able to defeat Zhang Ji too!"

The conversation of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples entered Li An and Yang Chong's ears clearly. Secundus house?

Yang Chong's eyes narrowed immediately.

Although he was not a member of the Fire Worship Sect, since he was best friends with Li An, he knew the ins and outs of the Fire Worship Sect.

Based on what he knew, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples who resided in Secundus houses were mostly at the Quintessential Saint Stage and above!

"Li An, didn't you say Duan Ling Tian's strength ten days ago is only the strongest among Martial Cultivators at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage? Only ten days have passed, but he's already capable of competing for a Secundus house?" Yang Chong asked with a frown as he looked at Li An.

He did not wait for Li An to reply before he continued saying, "I remember you told me that Secundus houses in the Black Turtle Sanctum are for Quintessential Saint Stage disciples! Is Zhang Ji a Quintessential Saint Stage disciple living in the Secundus house?"

Li An did not reply to him after he finished speaking.

To Yang Chong's surprise, he saw Li An had an expression of terror and disbelief on his face.

"What's wrong?" Yang Chong could not help but ask when he saw this.

"Zhang Ji is a direct disciple of one of the Silver Flame Elders in our Black Turtle Sanctum. He's an elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in our Black Turtle Sanctum. He's only a step away from breaking through to the Intermediate Quintessential Saint Stage!" Li An answered solemnly.

"An elite powerhouse among all Early Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Black Turtle Sanctum? Such a person is defeated by Duan Ling Tian?" Yang Chong was puzzled.

However, the most shocking news had yet to come.

"I heard that during the battle, Senior Brother Zhang Ji had cast the high-grade offensive Divine Ability, the Cyclopean Punch. Even then, he's still defeated!" When Li An heard this, his eyes widened in disbelief.

"How's this possible?!" He exclaimed.

"He had cast a high-grade offensive Divine Ability, but he's defeated by Duan Ling Tian?" Yang Chong's expression turned grave as he muttered, "It seems like Duan Ling Tian did not use all his strength when he fought with Gu Long ten days ago!"

In the end, Li An and Yang Chong learned about everything that had happened that day between Duan Ling Tian and Zhang Ji.

In the end, when they looked at each other, they could see the confusion in each other's eyes.

Duan Ling Tian had actually mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities?

Not only that, the high-grade assist-type Divine Ability that Duan Ling Tian mastered had absorbed the powerful energy that Zhang Ji unleashed at the critical moment? Moreover, he had fused his own energy with Zhang Ji's energy and counterattacked, severely injuring Zhang Ji and defeating him.

"What kind of assist-type Divine Ability is that?" Li An and Yang Chong exchanged a glance. They were still shocked. Both of them had never heard of such a Divine Ability.

"What a tyrannical assist-type Divine Ability!" Yang Chong remarked in a deep voice.

"It's indeed tyrannical! What did Duan Ling Tian do to deserve such blessings from God? Not only did he comprehend three high-grade Divine Abilities, but his assist-type Divine Ability is not even a normal high-grade Divine Ability!" Li An's eyes were red with jealousy when he finished speaking.

...

At the residence of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples.

Inside the Secundus house, Duan Ling Tian who had recuperated for a while finally had the strength to stand up.

After he stood up, he immediately entered the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. He planned to utilize the slow time flow inside to recover his Sun Saint Energy.

The empty feeling in his body made him feel insecure.

"After I recover, I'll go into closed-door cultivation and raise my cultivation base to the peak of the Divine Saint Stage first before planning on what to do next!"

As for now, Duan Ling Tian did not dare to think about the Exemplary Saint Stage. Currently, his cultivation base had only broken through to the Intermediate Divine Saint Stage.

"Duan Ling Tian!" Duan Ling Tian did not know how long it had been but when the Sun Saint Energy in his body had recovered by about 10%, a cold voice rang from outside his house, jolting him awake.

“Li An?” Duan Ling Tian was no stranger to this voice. He could tell it belonged to the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An.

“What’s he doing here? Don’t tell me Zhang Ji has some kind of connection with him as well?” Duan Ling Tian frowned and exited the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

After putting away the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he pushed the door open and walked out into the little courtyard of the Secundus house.

As soon as he walked out, he could feel many eyes trained on him. Two pairs of eyes in particular felt hostile and was filled with killing intent.

“Who’s he?” Duan Ling Tian looked at Li An before he shifted his attention to an old man with a huge-built standing next to Li An. A puzzled expression appeared on his face.

He did not find it strange that Li An was looking at him with murderous intent. However, he was certain this was his first time meeting this old man. Moreover, the old man was not even wearing the Fire Worship Sect’s uniform. This meant he was not a member of the Fire Worship Sect.

Duan Ling Tian did not know how he had offended this old man to the point that he would emit such a terrifying killing intent.

“You’re Duan Ling Tian?” The old man with a huge-built asked in an interrogative tone.

“Who are you?” Duan Ling Tian asked in return in response to the old man’s question.

Under the watchful eyes of the others, the old man with a huge-built old man looked at Duan Ling Tian and said in a tone that was neither hurried nor slow, “You... Kill yourself!” His tone brooked no argument.

Chapter 1938: The Tyrannical Yang Chong

“This...” The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples who came out to watch the show after hearing Li An called out to Duan Ling Tian was surprised at once when they heard the words the huge-built old man said to Duan Ling Tian. They were all momentarily stunned before they finally regained their senses.

This old man told Duan Ling Tian to kill himself?

“Who’s he?” The Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples present on the scene were curious about the identity of the old man with a huge-built old man.

Kill yourself?

When Duan Ling Tian heard the huge-built old man’s words, he was stunned. Then, he narrowed his eyes as it flashed coldly.

When Duan Ling Tian sensed the murderous intent from the old man and heard the words he said, coupled with him being in Li An’s company, even if Duan Ling Tian was slow-witted, he would have been able to guess the old man was Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect! He was the father of Yang Wu whom he had killed!

Based on what he knew, Yang Chong and Li An were good friends.

Duan Ling Tian rose into the sky and stood at the same level Yang Chong as he glanced at him lazily. He asked indifferently, "Yang Chong, this is not the Northern Plethora Sect, and I'm not a Northern Plethora Sect's disciple. Don't you think you're overstepping the boundary by asking me to kill myself?"

"Yang Chong?!" The moment his words left his mouth, the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples in the surroundings burst into an uproar.

"So he's actually Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect! He's ranked 146th on the Supreme Saint Rankings!"

"I've long heard that Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, is close friends with our Black Turtle Sanctum's Elder Li An, but this is my first time seeing this Northern Plethora Sect's fifth elder. However, why does it seem like he has some deep-seated enmity with Duan Ling Tian?"

"When Duan Ling Tian just arrived at the Black Turtle Sanctum, he has publicly offended Li An. However, the first time he offended Elder Li An is not known by everyone."

"What is it?"

"When Duan Ling Tian first arrived at the Black Turtle Sanctum, Yang Wu, the son of the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, provoked him. After that, Yang Wu even issued a Death Duel to Duan Ling Tian, but it resulted in Yang Wu's death. Elder Li An was present on the scene as well at that time."

"Oh, I see. He killed the son of Elder Li An's best friend in front of Elder Li An. No wonder Elder Li An is angry!"

"Well, it's not Duan Ling Tian's fault! The dispute between Duan Ling Tian and Yang Wu was started by Yang Wu. In fact, Yang Wu was the one who issued the Death Duel. No matter what, I don't think Duan Ling Tian is at fault for killing Yang Wu!"

As some Black Turtle Sanctum's whispered among themselves, the rest of the disciples who were unaware of the origin of the enmity between Duan Ling Tian and Li An finally found out what had happened.

For this reason, they were no longer surprised by the words Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, had said to Duan Ling Tian.

They all felt that Yang Chong was acting too arrogant. Did he think he was still in the Northern Plethora Sect and that his identity as the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect meant anything here?

"I'll give you one last chance. Kill yourself in within ten breaths! I won't be lenient and give you another chance!" Yang Chong ordered Duan Ling Tian to kill himself again. Moreover, this time he even gave Duan Ling Tian a time limit. He spoke without any hints of restraint.

He acted as though he would kill Duan Ling Tian if Duan Ling Tian did not abide by his words.

An ominous feeling rose in Duan Ling Tian's heart when he heard his words. Then, he forcefully suppressed the feeling as he looked at Yang Chong with mocking smile. "Yang Chong, are you deaf? Do I have to repeat myself!" Duan Ling Tian had an expression of disdain on his face as he said, "This is not the Northern Plethora Sect so your identity as the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect means nothing here. Kill myself in ten breaths? Even if you give me 100 breaths, I still won't kill myself. What are you going to do about it? Don't tell me you're going to kill me? Don't forget that this is the Black Turtle Sanctum, one of the Four Symbols Sanctums in the Fire Worship Sect! It's not a place where you, Yang Chong, can act as you like! In this place, you don't have a right to order me around, let alone dictate whether I should live or die!" Duan Ling Tian's words were spoken loudly and clearly with no hint of politeness at all.

Since the other party had come all the way here to ask him to kill himself, he would be a coward if he still spoke to him politely.

Being a coward is not Duan Ling Tian's style.

Many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples present on the scene agreed with Duan Ling Tian's words. Their blood began to boil with indignation. If it was not for the fact that they were afraid of offending Li An, they would have cheered loudly for Duan Ling Tian.

Yang Chong did not expect Duan Ling Tian would be so impolite and blunt. It caused his expression to darken immediately.

Li An's expression turned grave as well as he said coldly, "Duan Ling Tian, Elder Yang Chong is a distinguished guest of the Black Turtle Sanctum! As a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, how dare you be so rude? Did you think the rules of the Fire Worship Sect is inflexible?"

A strange expression appeared on many Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples' faces when they heard Li An's words.

Duan Ling Tian instantly burst out laughing, causing Li An's expression to turn even graver.

If Li An did not fear being punished and expelled from the Fire Worship Sect, he would kill Duan Ling Tian and ripped him into a thousand pieces.

"What are you laughing about?" Li An asked coldly. His voice was so cold that it sent chills running up people's spines.

"What am I laughing about?" Duan Ling Tian stopped laughing as he looked at Li An with a mocking expression. "Elder Li An, you know why I am laughing. Is there a need for you ask me why? A distinguished guest of our Black Turtle Sanctum you said? From what I can see, he's your distinguished guest, right?! Sect's rules? Elder Li An, are you sure you want to start discussing sect's rules with me? Although I don't know all the rules in the Fire Worship Sect, I believe the rules have to be strictly implemented since the sect has managed to last this long. There must be a rule to deal with people who join forces with outsiders to oppress sect members!" Duan Ling Tian glanced at Li An knowingly when he finished speaking.

“Who are you accusing of joining forces with outsiders to oppress sect members?!” Li An’s expression turned graver. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would accuse him publicly of such a crime. If news of this spread out, it would not be good for him.

Apart from the Sanctum Leader, there were many people in the Fire Worship Sect he had to be afraid of

“Duan Ling Tian, do you know it’s a crime to slander a sect elder?” Li An’s eyes were gleaming coldly as he stared at Duan Ling Tian like a poisonous snake that was about to strike.

“Slander? Slander my sect elder?” Duan Ling Tian laughed. “Elder Li An, did you say I slandered someone? May I know who I slandered? You said I’ve slandered my sect elder so can you please tell me who have I slandered? There are so many seniors here. You can ask any of them to be your witness. Did anyone of them hear me slandering a sect elder?”

When the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples present on the scene heard such a shameless statement from Duan Ling Tian, they could not help but laugh.

However, they did not dare to laugh too loudly since they were afraid of Li An.

They were delighted when they heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. It was apparent that Li An was colluding with an outsider to deal with their sect member. It was only natural they felt angry on his behalf.

If Li An had dealt with Duan Ling Tian without involving an outsider, they might not have felt anything since it was just an internal strife.

However, when Li An joined forces with the Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, to deal with Duan Ling Tian, it changed the situation entirely. As a Fire Worship Sect and Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple like Duan Ling Tian, they would naturally empathize with him.

An outsider was still an outsider after all!

“You... You...” Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s shameless statement, Li An was so infuriated that he was rendered speechless.

When he thought about it again, he realized Duan Ling Tian did not mention any names at all.

If he continued to pursue this matter, it would be apparent that he was guilty.

“You really have a few tricks up your sleeve!” Yang Chong said as he looked at Duan Ling Tian nonchalantly, “Duan Ling Tian, ten breaths have gone by. I’ve already given you a chance to appease me. I hope you don’t regret your decision in the future!”

“Regret?” Duan Ling Tian sneered. “What’s there for me to regret?!”

“If you at least have a green Spiritual Root, there might be some words that I can’t say since I’m wary of the Fire Worship Sect!” Although Yang Chong was patient, faced with Duan Ling Tian’s sneer, he became furious. “However, you are merely a commoner with a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. There are some words that even if I say out loud, the Fire Worship Sect won’t come for me. That’s right! If you continue to hide in the Fire Worship Sect, I, Yang Chong, won’t be able to touch you, but can you guarantee that all of your friends and family have a strong backing to deter me?” He chuckled sinisterly when he reached the end of his sentence.

He did not hesitate to threaten Duan Ling Tian. "If I can't deal with you, I'll deal with your friends and family instead!"

"I believe with the network of intelligence in the Northern Plethora Sect and my own strength, it won't be difficult for me to find out about your background," Yang Chong remarked indifferently, "It's unfortunate that you didn't kill yourself when I asked you to. You could've protected your friends and family. I really feel sad for them for having such a friend and family like you! Duan Ling Tian, even if you hide in the Fire Worship Sect forever, I'll still make sure you suffer from the pain of losing all of your friends and family! I, Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, promise you this!"

Chapter 1939: The Contingency Plan

"I, Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect's Fifth Elder, will keep my words!" Yang Chong's eyes gleamed murderously when he finished speaking. Then, he looked at Duan Ling Tian again with a sneer before he turned around to leave.

It was just as he had said. If Duan Ling Tian was a Fire Worship Sect's disciple with a high innate talent, he would not have dared to threaten him with his family and friends since it would offend the Fire Worship Sect. However, Duan Ling Tian was merely an ordinary Fire Worship Sect's disciple with a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

Even if he was threatened in such a way, the Fire Worship Sect would not do anything for him, especially when the other party was the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, a first-rate force in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!

"Hurmph!" After Yang Chong left, Li An also looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly before he chased after Yang Chong. However, he did not dare to say anything else. Despite being a First Silver Flame Elder, he still could not bear the heavy crime of colluding with an outsider to harm a sect member.

"Senior Brother Ling Tian, good job!" After Li An left with Yang Chong, people burst into an uproar. Many people gave Duan Ling Tian a thumbs-up.

Duan Ling Tian's outburst had delighted them! Naturally, there were also some disciples who did not say anything and merely looked at him with a worried expression. They had noticed that Duan Ling Tian's expression had turned grave. They knew Yang Chong was serious about his threat.

"It seems like Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is not a lone wolf! Otherwise, he wouldn't feel bothered when Yang Chong said he was going to harm his family and friends."

"Yang Chong's threat is indeed unreasonable. Even if Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian has a high innate talent and is highly regarded by the Fire Worship Sect, Yang Chong might not openly threaten him, but he would still secretly try and harm his family and friends!"

"If Duan Ling Tian has friends and family, then Yang Chong's threats are indeed a little scary."

"Ruthless! He's just too ruthless!"

"As the saying goes, 'One should never target family members'! Yang Chong has really crossed the line!"

The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples whispered among themselves as they looked at Duan Ling Tian with a hint of pity in their eyes.

In their opinion, if Duan Ling Tian really had friends and family, Yang Chong's threat was indeed very fearsome.

Duan Ling Tian did not move at all as he stood in the sky as various expressions flitted across his face.

Currently, Yang Chong's threat was ringing in his ears continuously. "That's right! If you continue to hide in the Fire Worship Sect, I, Yang Chong, won't be able to touch you, but can you guarantee that your friends and family have a backing that can deter me? I believe that with the network of intelligence of the Northern Plethora Sect and my strength, it won't be difficult for me to find out about your background. It's unfortunate that you didn't kill yourself in ten breaths and gave up on the chance to protect your friends and family. I really feel sad for them for having such a friend and family member like you! Duan Ling Tian, even if you hide in the Fire Worship Sect forever, I'll make sure you suffer from the pain of losing all of your friends and family! I, Yang Chong, the Northern Plethora Sect's fifth Elder, will keep my words!"

Duan Ling Tian knew Yang Chong was serious.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian finally regained his senses. Under the watchful eyes of the others, he returned to his Secundus house and disappeared from everyone's sights.

Only then did the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples began gradually disperse.

However, even as they left, they were still discussing about Duan Ling Tian and Yang Chong's threat.

As the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, he was certainly capable of harming Duan Ling Tian's friends and family! There was no doubt about this.

"Serves you right!" Standing at the door of another Secundus house, Zhang Ji's body trembled as he leaned against the door frame. Although his body was still in pain, he took pleasure in watching Yang Chong threatening Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian had completely humiliated him when he defeated him today. From then on, he had regarded him as his enemy. He would not rest until one of them died. If he had a chance in the future, he would definitely kill Duan Ling Tian.

He believed that since he had a dark green Innate Spiritual Root, it would be very easy for him surpass Duan Ling Tian who only had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

One could imagine that if Zhang Ji knew that Duan Ling Tian also had a dark green Innate Spiritual Root, his expression would be very dramatic.

...

Duan Ling Tian's expression was still very grave after he returned to his house.

However, as time went by, he began to calm down again.

“Yang Chong! How despicable!” Duan Ling Tian cursed loudly after he took a deep breath. At the same time, a murderous aura emitted out of his body, causing the temperature in the surroundings to drop a few degrees.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was extremely furious.

He did not expect that Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, a first-rate sect in the Upper Province, would announce in front of a crowd that he would harm his family and friends.

He felt extremely stifled since he could not vent his anger.

‘However, I think it won’t be that easy for Yang Chong to investigate my background since I’m not from the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.’ Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief when he thought about this.

Naturally, he knew this would only stall Yang Chong for a while.

Although he’s not from the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, since he used to possess the Devilseal Tablet, many people in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land had heard of his name. Not only that, but many of them had his portrait as well.

‘It’s a good thing this is not my real appearance!’ When Duan Ling Tian recalled he was in disguise, he could not help but feel he had incredible foresight.

Naturally, it’s possible that Yang Chong would go to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land to investigate and find out that he was the Young Mansion Master of the quasi third-rate force, the Azure Cloud Mansion!

With Yang Chong’s identity, it was only a matter of time before he found out about Duan Ling Tian’s background.

He could imagine if Yang Chong found out about his connection to the Azure Cloud Mansion in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, there would definitely be a bloodbath.

His father, mother, wife, son, and everyone he cared about would die without a grave!

Duan Ling Tian trembled in fear when he thought about this. His emotion that had calmed down was in turmoil again at this moment.

“The most important thing now is to solve all the hidden danger. I must hide all information that can reveal my background!” After Duan Ling Tian forced himself to calm down again, he immediately contacted Elder Huo and asked anxiously, “Elder Huo, do you have any Secret Tactic or something that can withstand the Soul Searching Secret Tactic?”

The thing that Duan Ling Tian worried about was the Soul Searching Secret Tactic!

If he was careless and Yang Chong or Li An managed to catch him and perform the Soul Searching Secret Tactic on him, he would definitely reveal his background! He obviously did not want this to happen!

Even if he was being super cautious, it would be hard to prevent this from happening. For this reason, he asked for help from Elder Huo.

No matter if Elder Huo had such techniques that could withstand the Soul Searching Secret Tactic or not, he had to stay optimistic. He had to find a way to solve this problem.

He was extremely anxious as he waited for Elder Huo's answer.

"I have!" Duan Ling Tian was delighted when he heard Elder Huo's reply. He had a happy expression on his face.

Then, Elder Huo's voice resonated once again. "However, to master that Secret Tactic, you must drain your Spiritual Energy continuously for it to be effective. If you stop using your Spiritual Energy to operate it for three days, it would lose its effect. The Secret Tactic doesn't require a high requirement from the user. It only needs Spiritual Energy that's at the Divine Saint Stage or above."

"I must constantly drain a certain amount Spiritual Energy to keep it running?" In Duan Ling Tian's opinion, if he could temporarily keep his friends and family safe, this was not a problem for him at all.

"The effect will only last three days at most after it has stopped running?" This was more than enough for him.

Even if Li An and Yang Chong wanted to perform the Soul Searching Secret Tactic on him, they would definitely make it quick and would not drag it out for long.

They, especially Li An, would not want anyone to discover this after all.

If somebody found out that he had performed the Soul Searching Secret Tactic on his own sect's disciple for no reason, he would definitely be severely punished or even expelled by the Fire Worship Sect if this news!

"Elder Huo, please pass that Secret Tactic to me!" Duan Ling Tian hurriedly said to Elder Huo.

He was desperate to get his hands on that Secret Tactic! To him, this would be able to save his family and friends in the Lower Province.

When Elder Huo saw how anxious Duan Ling Tian was, he immediately transmitted the information regarding the Secret Tactic to Duan Ling Tian so that he can master it.

Just as Elder Huo had said, this Secret Tactic did not have a high requirement. It would be able to operate on Spiritual Energy that was at the Divine Stage or above.

For this reason, it only took Duan Ling Tian 15 minutes to successfully master it and protect his soul from the Soul Searching Secret Tactic.

"The continual depletion of the Spiritual Energy is still acceptable." Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief when he noticed the Secret Tactic did not deplete too much of his Spiritual Energy and did not affect him much.

"It's time for me to look for Senior Brother Gu Li and Palace Master Zhu. I must teach them this Secret Tactic as well! Otherwise, if Li An and Yang Chong perform the Soul Searching Secret Tactic on them, my

background would be exposed!” At the same time, Duan Ling Tian recalled Gu Li who was in the Vermilion Bird Sanctum and Zhu Lu Qi who was in the White Tiger Sanctum.

Chapter 1940: White Tiger Sanctum, Liu Mu!

‘However, even if Senior Brother Gu Li and Palace Master Zhu master this Secret Tactic and don’t reveal my background, it’s only a temporary solution. With Yang Chong’s position and the Northern Plethora Sect’s network of intelligence, it won’t be difficult for them to investigate my background. It would only be a matter of time before he finds out about the Azure Cloud Mansion in the Lower Province!’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, his expression turned grave.

“I must get stronger before Yang Chong goes to the Lower Province! At the very least, I must be strong enough to kill Yang Chong by that time! Yang Chong’s a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse who’s ranked at the 146th of the Supreme Saint Rankings! His cultivation base is definitely not as simple as the First, Second or Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!”

The Supreme Saint Ranking was a list of the strongest powerhouses in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!

Duan Ling Tian had been in the Black Turtle Sanctum and Fire Worship Sect for quite some time, it was only natural he had learned a thing or two from the disciples here.

For instance, among the 100 powerhouses ranked between the 100th place and the 200th place, the weakest powerhouse was rumored to be at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. The stronger ones were at the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

Up until now, Duan Ling Tian had encountered four powerhouses who were ranked in the top 200 on the Supreme Saint Ranking. This included Li An, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Elder, who was ranked at the front. He was ranked 134th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Next was Guo Xiong, the Silver Flame Elder who was also the Enforcement Elder of the Black Turtle Sanctum! He was ranked at the 142nd place. The gap was not too wide between him and Li An. Apart from that, there was Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, whom he had just met and Teng Shan, who was also a Silver Flame Elder in the Black Turtle Sanctum. The former was ranked at the 146th place while the latter was ranked 173rd.

Based on this, one could see Li An, Guo Xiong, and Yang Chong’s strength was almost similar. Teng Shan, on the other hand, was a lot weaker.

‘My strength needs to be at the Saint Celestial Stage if I want to kill Yang Chong! Currently, my cultivation base is only at the Divine Saint Stage. It’s too far away from the Saint Celestial Stage! It seems like I must look for more opportunity to devour other people’s Innate Spiritual Root to strengthen my Innate Spiritual Root. As long as I can raise my Innate Spiritual Root to a violet Innate Spiritual Root, with the help of the time flow on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, it won’t take me long to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage!’ At this moment, all Duan Ling Tian could think about was to get stronger.

He must be strong enough to kill Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, before he found out about his background. Otherwise, his family and friends in the Lower Province would be in danger.

If something happened to his parents, wife, son, and friends, he would not be able to forgive himself at all!

At this moment, how Duan Ling Tian wished he was strongest in the entire world!

“I’ll look for Palace Master Zhu first!” After he calmed down, he left the Black Turtle Sanctum and made his way northeast where the Vermilion Bird Sanctum was located.

The Fire Worship Sect’s estate was separated into two areas, the Saint Land and the Four Symbols Sanctums!

The former was surrounded by the latter.

Among the Four Symbols Sanctums, the Azure Dragon Sanctum was located at the west of the Saint Land, the White Tiger Sanctum was located at the east of the Saint Land, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum was located at the north of the Saint Land, and the Black Turtle Sanctum was located at the south of the Saint Land.

As the saying went, ‘Azure Dragon in the West, White Tiger in the East, Vermilion Bird in the North, and the Black Turtle in the South’. These were the Four Symbols Sanctum of the Fire Worship Sect!

Duan Ling Tian decided to look for Zhu Lu Qi first because the Vermilion Bird Sanctum was closer to the Black Turtle Sanctum.

It would be closer if Duan Ling Tian could cut through the Saint Land to get to the Vermilion Bird Sanctum. However, the Fire Worship Sect was strict about not allowing people who were not Saint Land disciples to enter the Saint Land. Those who broke the rules would be severely punished. Due to this reason, Duan Ling Tian could only take the longer route to head to the White Tiger Sanctum.

The disciples from each Sanctum of the Fire Worship Sect’s Four Symbols Sanctums would pass by occasionally so Duan Ling Tian’s presence in the White Tiger Sanctum did not draw much attention.

As soon as he entered the White Tiger Sanctum, he discovered he was close to the White Tiger Sanctum. Naturally, he could not go to the altar.

The White Tiger Sanctum did not allow disciples from the three other Sanctums to approach the altar that had a gigantic white tiger statue since it contained the precious Divine Ability that only the disciples from the Sanctum were allowed to comprehend. It was a high-grade offensive Divine Ability!

If the disciples from the other three Sanctums dared to approach it, even if they did not intend to comprehend the Divine Ability, they would still be expelled from the Fire Worship Sect! If they somehow managed to comprehend it, they would be sentenced to death!

“It’s said that the central altar of each Sanctum has a formation that can discern the Divine Consciousness of disciples and non-disciples of the respective Sanctum to stop them from

comprehending the high-grade Divine Ability!” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he extended his Divine Consciousness.

Just as it got close to the central altar of the White Tiger Sanctum, it was instantly blocked and could not move any further.

“There’s really a Formation! Unless I go to the central altar of the White Tiger Sanctum, I won’t be able to use my Divine Consciousness to get close to it, let alone comprehending it!” Duan Ling Tian quickly withdrew his Divine Consciousness after he gave it a try.

After that, he saw a White Tiger Sanctum’s disciple walked out of the central altar and was making his way to him.

Duan Ling Tian instantly blocked his path before he asked politely, “Senior Brother, may I know where’s the residence for the disciples of White Tiger Sanctum? I need to look for my friend who’s a disciple of the White Tiger Sanctum.”

This White Tiger Sanctum’s disciple wore a long robe that was similar to the one Duan Ling Tian wore. It was also embroidered with a light grey flame. The only difference was the other party’s robe had a majestic-looking tiger on his robe while Duan Ling Tian’s robe had a gigantic turtle.

“The residence for the disciples of the is at the southern area of the Sanctum. Since you’re a Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple, I’m sure you must have come from the Black Turtle Sanctum. This means you’ve passed the area earlier.” After the White Tiger Sanctum’s disciple pointed a finger to Duan Ling Tian’s back, he told Duan Ling Tian, “I’m heading there as well, why don’t you come with me?”

“Thank you, Senior Brother!” Duan Ling Tian quickly expressed his gratitude.

On their way, the White Tiger Sanctum’s disciple broke the silence and asked, “What’s your name, Junior Brother?”

“Duan Ling Tian,” Duan Ling Tian smiled as he responded before asking politely, “What’s your name, Senior Brother?”

“I’m Liu Mu.” After Liu Mu spoke, as though he was reminded of something, he muttered under his breath, “Duan Ling Tian... It seems like I’ve heard of this name before... Duan Ling Tian, Black Turtle Sanctum...”

Liu Mu suddenly turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and asked in shock, “You’re that rebel, Duan Ling Tian, from the Black Turtle Sanctum?”

“Rebel?” Duan Ling Tian was momentarily stunned before he asked, “Senior Brother Liu Mu, are you sure you’re talking about me?”

“How many Duan Ling Tians are there in your Black Turtle Sanctum?” Liu Mu asked again.

“I’ve just arrived in the Black Turtle Sanctum not too long ago so I don’t know many people in the Black Turtle Sanctum. For this reason, I don’t know if there’s anyone else with the name Duan Ling Tian.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“You’ve just entered the Black Turtle Sanctum not long ago? As far as I know, that rebel Duan Ling Tian in the Black Turtle Sanctum has also just entered the Black Turtle Sanctum not long ago. He was admitted from the recent assessment!” Liu Mu’s eyes glinted as he stared at Duan Ling Tian intently.

“The recent assessment?” Duan Ling Tian finally figured it out. “Senior Brother Liu Mu, if that Duan Ling Tian you mentioned is admitted through the recent assessment, then I guess I’m the rebel you mentioned.”

“Are you really a rebel?” Liu Mu was baffled. “From what I heard, you’ve already offended the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An the moment you entered the Black Turtle Sanctum. Ten days ago, you’ve even killed a martial genius who possessed the blue Innate Spiritual Root who Li An planned to accept as a disciple! From what I heard, you killed that martial genius whose cultivation base had already entered the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage even though your cultivation base is only at the Early Exemplary Saint Stage!” Liu Mu said and looked at Duan Ling Tian.

“I’m just lucky.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head humbly. He was quite shocked. He did not expect his actions had even spread to the White Tiger Sanctum.

“You don’t have to be humble,” Liu Mu shook his head before saying, “Although you’re strong, what I admire about you is not your strength. I admire how you’re brave enough to offend Elder Li An as soon as you arrived in the Black Turtle Sanctum... Put aside the fact that my cultivation base is only at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage, even if my cultivation base is at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage or the Saint Celestial Stage, I still wouldn’t dare to offend Elder Li An from your Black Turtle Sanctum at all, let alone killing someone he planned to accept as his direct disciple! This is why I admire you so much!” When Liu Mu finished speaking, he even gave Duan Ling Tian a thumbs-up.

When Duan Ling Tian saw this, he was rendered speechless for a moment. Apart from that, he was also surprised by Liu Mu’s cultivation base.

He did not expect to meet a White Tiger Sanctum’s disciple who was at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage just by asking for direction.

“Senior Brother Liu Mu, as far as I know, the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage disciples in the Four Symbols Sanctum can participate in the Saint Land assessment to become a Saint Land disciple. Why are you still in the White Tiger Sanctum?” Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.