

SOVEREIGN 1981

Chapter 1981: A Lurking Danger

Two days later, Duan Ling Tian who was in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine met with the Black Turtle Sanctum's Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong again.

However, Guo Xiong had a grave expression on his face.

"Elder Guo Xiong?" Upon seeing Guo Xiong, an ominous premonition rose in Duan Ling Tian's heart.

"When I arrived, the Hong Clan is already in ruins! The entire Hong Clan has been annihilated!" Guo Xiong said in a deep voice, "Actually, I've already suspected this to be the case even before I arrived at the Hong Clan. As far as I know, Li An is a meticulous and ruthless person! It's possible he didn't plan to let go of the Hong Clan the moment he planned to use Hong Xu to deal with you! There's no way he would have let the Hong Clan go even if Hong Xu managed to kill you! He's probably worried the Hong Clan would seek revenge from him in the future. After all, there isn't a wall in the world that doesn't have a crack! The Hong Clan would eventually suspect Li An has something to do with Hong Xu's death. As it turns out, Li An has made his move first and annihilated the Hong Clan before I even arrived at the Hong Clan!"

"How cruel!" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He became deeply aware of how ruthless Li An was.

A sense of danger rose in his heart immediately.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. 'Hong Xu, I've immediately carried out the favor you'd asked of me... Unfortunately, Li An has beaten me to it and made his move on your clan first! However, rest assured, I'll definitely send Li An to meet you soon!' A hint of coldness could be seen in his eyes when he thought about this.

He would kill Li An sooner or later!

Suddenly, as though he had just recalled something, Guo Xiong said to Duan Ling Tian, "I plan to head to the Saint Land Enforcement Hall today and file a complaint against Li An for threatening Hong Xu and sending him to the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine to kill you. However, you'll have to prepare yourself. The Saint Land Enforcement Hall will probably only give Li An a light punishment, and the matter will not spread out all!"

"Can we spread this news ourselves?" Duan Ling Tian recalled the incident last time. Due to the reason news had leaked out about Wei He, Li An's Great Direct Disciple, he was sentenced to death.

"Don't be reckless!" Guo Xiong instantly rebuked him as soon as he finished speaking. He said with a sullen expression, "This matter is completely different from before. Previously, the Saint Land Enforcement Hall had acted that way to protect their sanctity. After all, Wei He had provoked the sanctity of the Saint Land Enforcement Hall! This matter, on the other hand, is not like that. Even if news spread out, it's impossible for the Saint Land Enforcement Hall to execute Li An! After all, Li An is a Silver Flame Elder, and he didn't personally make a move to kill you! The most important thing is, nothing happened to you!"

Guo Xiong's haze became complex when he looked at Duan Ling Tian as he said, "Well, maybe the Saint Land Enforcement Hall might consider sentencing Li An to death if you involve the dragon clan!"

Previously, Guo Xiong did not know that Duan Ling Tian was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior! He only learned about this when he returned.

With Duan Ling Tian's identity as a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, his position would not be low in the dragon clan. It would be equivalent to the position of an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon.

"The dragon clan?" Upon hearing Guo Xiong's words, Duan Ling Tian could not help but smile wryly as he shook his head. "Elder Guo Xiong, I have no relationship with the dragon clan at all. Not only that, but up until now, I don't even know where the dragon clan is located. It's impossible for me to ask the dragon clan to intervene in this matter."

"Looks like the speculations are right. You obtained the legacy of a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon outside." Guo Xiong sighed emotionally.

Duan Ling Tian did not say anything. In Guo Xiong's opinion, Duan Ling Tian's silence meant that he agreed with him

"If I'm not mistaken, you must have obtained the Nine-clawed Divine Dragon's legacy from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, right? As far as I know, after the Dao Martial Saint Land was split into two, there's no Nine-clawed Divine Dragons in the Dao Martial Saint Land before ever since!" Guo Xiong speculated.

Ever since the Dao Martial Saint Land was split into the Lower Province and the Upper Province, no Nine-clawed Divine Dragon had ever appeared since?

Upon hearing Guo Xiong's words, Duan Ling Tian seemed to have recalled something as a horrified expression appeared on his face.

'W-why didn't I think of this before?!' The reason Duan Ling Tian's expression turned horrified was due to Guo Xiong's words.

He was not surprised when other people speculated that he had obtained a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon's legacy. However, what did Guo Xiong just say?

Guo Xiong actually managed to guess he obtained the Dragonization technique from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!

Duan Ling Tian knew what this meant. If Guo Xiong could come to this conclusion, Li An, naturally, could come to this conclusion as well. Moreover, this applied to Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect as well.

'Damn it! Why didn't I think that transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior would expose the fact that I came from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. I'd have used the Jasper Celestial Sword rather than transforming into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior!' Duan Ling Tian thoroughly regretted his decision at this moment.

He knew that he had invited trouble for his family and his friends by doing so. He has given a clue about his own background to Li An and Yang Chong!

“Duan Ling Tian, are you...” Guo Xiong was puzzled when he saw Duan Ling Tian’s expression had suddenly turned grave.

“It’s alright... I-I’m alright,” Duan Ling Tian shook his head before flashing an apologetical smile at Guo Xiong. “Elder Guo Xiong, thank you for everything that you’ve done for me. I, Duan Ling Tian, will remember this favor!”

“It’s nothing.” Guo Xiong shook his head with a smile before he said solemnly, “Duan Ling Tian, with your strength, you’ll be able to participate in the Saint Land’s assessment and become a Saint Land disciple. However, when you become a Saint Land disciple, you must be even more careful! Right now, you’ve already revealed your identity as a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. Li An will probably not rest until you’re dead. He won’t fear you. Instead, he’ll spare no efforts in killing you. As long as you’re alive, he’ll feel threatened by you. For this reason, he won’t show you any mercy!”

“I understand.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. Naturally, he knew this, but he was not bothered by it. He was not worried about his own safety but his family’s safety!

“Elder Guo Xiong, I’d like to ask another favor from you.” Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath as though he had just made up his mind.

Then, he prepared a Voice Transmission jade token and asked Guo Xiong to hand it over to Zhu Lu Qi.

The content of the jade token asked Zhu Lu Qi to make a trip back to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land and ask his family to leave the Azure Cloud Mansion as soon as possible and look for somewhere safe and undiscoverable. He would come and get them in the future when he had dealt with the danger. Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian also asked Guo Xiong to help send Zhu Lu Qi to the Inter-province Transportation Formation secretly without letting Li An know about it.

“You’re from the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land?” Although Guo Xiong found it a little surprising, he did not find it so strange.

After all, he had already suspected that Duan Ling Tian must have obtained the legacy to transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior in the Lower Province since a Nine-clawed Divine Dragon’s legacy would usually only exist in the Lower Province.

As for Duan Ling Tian’s favor of asking him to send somebody to the Inter-province Transportation Formation, he could also guess the reason for it. “You’re worried Li An and Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, will go to the Lower Province to investigate and harm your family?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian trusted Guo Xiong.

At the very least, there was no dispute between him and Guo Xiong. Not only that, Guo Xiong usually stood against Li An as well so there was no reason for him to betray Duan Ling Tian.

“Please help me with this, Elder Guo Xiong... Once this matter is done, combined with the favor that I owe you before this, I’ll owe you a really big favor!” Duan Ling Tian said solemnly. He put an emphasis on the words ‘big favor’.

Even Guo Xiong had no idea why, but when he heard Duan Ling Tian said the words ‘big favor’, he was overwhelmed with emotions. Perhaps, he could see how boundless Duan Ling Tian’s future was and the significance of the ‘big favor’ that Duan Ling Tian promised him.

“This matter is not a big deal to me. I’ll send him off immediately!” After Guo Xiong accepted the Voice Transmission jade token from Duan Ling Tian, he left the Fire Worship Sect’s First Mine and headed to the White Tiger Sanctum to look for Zhu Lu Qi.

Duan Ling Tian stared at Guo Xiong when he left. It was only until Guo Xiong’s silhouette had disappeared that he sighed in relief.

‘With Palace Master Zhu’s warning, I’m sure Father will know what to do. It’s fortunate Elder Guo Xiong reminded me earlier with his words. Otherwise, I would’ve been unaware of the danger!’ When Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he could not help but break out in cold sweat.

This danger might lead to deaths if things did not go well!

In fact, Duan Ling Tian wanted to personally return to the Lower Province. However, when he recalled how he was still serving his sentence in the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine and would not be able to leave, he dismissed the idea immediately.

Not only that, but even if he successfully comprehended the number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, in the Fire Worship Sect a few days later, he would still be targeted after he entered the Saint Land.

One could say that it would be impossible for him to leave the Fire Worship Sect and head to the Lower Province without alerting Li An!

‘I’ll just continue comprehending the Black Turtle’s Barrier. In another five to six days at most, I’ll definitely be able to comprehend it successfully! At that time, I’ll be able to leave this Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine and head to the Saint Land to become a Saint Land disciple!’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he returned to the Primus house and entered the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

The five to six days that Duan Ling Tian meant referred to the time in the outside world. That meant that it would be 50 to 60 days in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. In other words, Duan Ling Tian was confident he could successfully comprehend the number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, in the Fire Worship Sect in two months!

Chapter 1982: Heading To The Saint Land

Six days went by in just a blink of an eye.

Today, Duan Ling Tian finally emerged from the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and appeared in the Primus house in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

After putting the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda away, Duan Ling Tian pushed the door open and walked out to the front courtyard. He raised his head to the sky as he took a deep breath. "God will not disappoint a man who does his best. I've finally successfully comprehended it!"

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, a powerful Saint Energy instantly surged out from his body through the 99 Saint Veins in his body. As it spread out, it also formed a gigantic silhouette of a turtle around his body. The Sun Saint Energy could be seen faintly glimmering on the Black Turtle's silhouette.

Duan Ling Tian was well protected in the gigantic Black Turtle's silhouette. There were no openings at all!

This was obviously the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier. It was also the number one defensive Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect.

"Currently, I finally managed to comprehend all four high-grade offensive, defensive, assist-type, and movement Divine Abilities!" With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian withdrew the Black Turtle's silhouette. A satisfied smile could be seen on his face.

"Since I've successfully comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier, I don't have to go to the mines today since I'll be able to leave!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes were bright as he soared into the air and flew away from the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples in the First Mine's Punishment Zone.

During the past few days, despite comprehending the Black Turtle's Barrier every day, he still had to mine for Saint Stones and complete the daily task given by the Punishment Zone to disciples serving their sentence in the First Mine.

Naturally, while he was completing the task, he had also thrown many first-grade Saint Stones into the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda as well.

He had managed to obtain another quasi Celestial-grade Saint Stone. Although it was not as big as the one he found previously, he still put it away in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

"Where should I go next?" After leaving the residence of the Four Symbols Sanctum's disciples of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, Duan Ling Tian did not know where should he go to show that he had comprehended the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, to be exempted from his punishment.

In the end, he went to the registration area for the new disciples in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

It was quite a coincidence since the elder on duty was the same one he met when he first arrived.

When the Punishment Zone's elder who was wearing the exclusive uniform of a Vermilion Bird Sanctum's Bronze Flame Elder saw Duan Ling Tian making his way over, his eyes brightened immediately even though he was puzzled. "Duan Ling Tian, a-are you looking for me?"

A few days ago, he had also heard the news of Duan Ling Tian being a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and how his strength was almost on par with a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse after he transformed into one. For this reason, he was even more polite to Duan Ling Tian compared to before.

"Elder, I'd like to ask if I want to be exempted from serving my sentence, who should I look for?" Duan Ling Tian asked without beating around the bush.

“An exemption?” Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder was momentarily stunned before he smiled wryly. “Duan Ling Tian, I know you’re strong, but in order to be completely exempted from your punishment, you have to pass the Saint Land assessment successfully before you can become a Saint Land disciple. When it’s time to participate in the assessment, you can apply for temporary leave from the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine,” the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder explained patiently.

“Elder, as far as I know, I can also obtain an exemption if I manage to successfully comprehend the Divine Ability from a Sanctum, right? I remember this was the case for Senior Brother Sun De!” Duan Ling Tian asked again.

Swoosh!

The moment he finished speaking, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder could not help but widen his eyes. He gasped as a hint of confusion filled his eyes. “Y-you have successfully comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum?!”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. At the same time, Sun Saint Energy surged out from his body and transformed into the silhouette of a gigantic Black Turtle that shrouded him.

“It really is the Black Turtle’s Barrier!” The Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder gasped again when he saw the Black Turtle’s silhouette.

In less than a month, two Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples actually successfully comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum one after another!

Did they not say that the treasured Divine Ability from the Black Turtle Sanctum was the hardest to comprehend?

Was somebody pulling his leg?

Since Duan Ling Tian had already comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum, it was obvious what had to be done next.

The Vermilion Bird Sanctum’s Bronze Flame Elder from the registration area contacted another Punishment Zone’s elder to bring Duan Ling Tian to an elder from the Punishment Zone who was in charge of exempting disciples from their punishments.

As long as Duan Ling Tian showed that he had comprehended the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, to that Silver Flame Elder, he would be instantly exempted from his punishment. He would be able to leave the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine and head to the Saint Land to be a disciple there!

Whoosh!

Under the Silver Flame Elder’s gaze, Duan Ling Tian cast the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier again, as the gigantic silhouette of a Black Turtle appeared and protected him.

Even the elder could not help but gasp when he saw this.

“Duan Ling Tian, you really live up to your fame! I heard you’ve already mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities previously. Now, you mastered another high-grade Divine Ability,” the Silver Flame Elder said with an envious expression on his face. He had only mastered two high-grade Divine Abilities.

The person standing before him had mastered four high-grade Divine Abilities. Not only that, but they were four different types of high-grade Divine Abilities :

Offensive Divine Ability!

Defensive Divine Ability!

Movement Divine Ability!

Assist-type Divine Ability!

These four Divine Abilities caused him to feel envious.

“This is the exemption letter. From now on, you no longer have to serve your sentence in the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.” The Silver Flame Elder handed the exemption letter of the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine to Duan Ling Tian.

With this exemption letter, Duan Ling Tian would not be stopped when he left the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine. Otherwise, he would be stopped by the patrolling elders of the Four Symbols Sanctum’s First Mine before he could even go far.

“Duan Ling Tian, you’ve already successfully mastered the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum so you can directly head to the Saint Land. As long as you cast the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, to the Saint Land’s patrolling elder, he’ll bring you to the Saint Land to register as a Saint Land disciple! If you have any unfinished business in the Black Turtle Sanctum, it’s better for you to return to the Sanctum first. Once you become a Saint Land disciple, it would be difficult for you to return to the Four Symbols Sanctums again,” the Silver Flame Elder said before Duan Ling Tian left.

Duan Ling Tian did not have any unfinished business in the Black Turtle Sanctum so he directly made his way to the Saint Land after he left the Four Symbols Sanctums’ First Mine.

Soon after, he was stopped by a Saint Land’s patrolling elder.

After Duan Ling Tian cast the Black Turtle’s Barrier, the Saint Land’s patrolling elder brought him to the Saint Land.

This was his first time coming to the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land so he looked around curiously.

The Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land was a desert with mountains and lakes but not a shade of green could be seen.

In this desert, apart from the mountains and lakes, everything appeared to be red. It looked like flowers from afar. Naturally, they were not really flowers.

To human beings, without these, it would be difficult for them to survive.

Fire!

The red flowers that filled the ancient and mysterious desert were actually fire that human beings had to depend on to survive.

The flames gave the desert a mysterious vibe.

Numerous vast altars could be seen everywhere in this desert. In the middle of the altars, there were large braziers held up by brackets. Dazzling fire rose up high causing a heatwave that made people sweat.

However, it seemed like the people were not troubled nor irritated by it. Instead, they kneeled on the ground and bowed to the braziers. To be more precise, they were bowing to the fire.

Upon closer inspection, one could see the reverence in their eyes as they looked at the fire. It was as though the fire was a religion and they were the devoted followers.

In fact, this was the truth.

These people were natives to the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. They were ordinary people who provided for themselves and lived a life of seclusion here.

They believed in the fire, and they were the most devoted followers of the fire.

In their eyes, fire was everything. The world existed because of fire.

'Could it be that the sect's came from this?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the people worshipping the fire.

As he followed the Saint Land's patrolling elder, Duan Ling Tian saw many active volcanoes as well in the desert.

The volcanoes were constantly spewing lava. Every time they spewed lava, it caused the sky to turn red for a moment, turning the surroundings bright.

"Due to the volcanoes, there's no night in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land... Perhaps, night would fall once the volcanoes become inactive!" The Saint Land's patrolling elder explained.

"That volcano..." Soon after, a huge volcano entered Duan Ling Tian's sight.

Like a moon that was surrounded by stars, this volcano was surrounded by other smaller active volcanoes. Due to the reason it did not spew lava, the visual impact was very strong since it was surrounded by volcanoes that were spewing lava.

"This volcano is also an active volcano. However, the frequency of it erupting is not high. It would only erupt once a month," The Saint Land's patrolling elder explained as though he could read Duan Ling Tian's mind.

Chapter 1983: Otherworldly Islands

Upon hearing the Saint Land's patrolling elder's words, Duan Ling Tian nodded and continued to shift his gaze upward.

In the sky, above the gigantic volcano, numerous islands were floating in the air. Buildings were thinly scattered on these islands. Numerous suspended islands surrounded a gigantic floating island like stars surrounding a moon. This gigantic floating island was the Main Island.

"That gigantic floating island is the Main Island of our Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. It's also the place where you'll be staying," the Saint Land patrolling elder told Duan Ling Tian, "As for those islands surrounding the Main Island, they're the residences of our Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land's Bronze Flame Elders and true disciples. Each of the Bronze Flame Elders and true disciples has their own floating islands."

"True disciples?" Duan Ling Tian knew about the Bronze Flame Elders, but this was his first time hearing about true disciples. He turned to look at the Saint Land's patrolling elder with a confused expression and asked, "Elder, what are true disciples?"

The Saint Land's patrolling elder responded to Duan Ling Tian's question, "True disciples are the most outstanding disciples in our Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. They're also the future pillars of the sect. There are two ways to become a true disciple. One, one has to possess an indigo Innate Spiritual Root or higher with a cultivation base above the Divine Saint Stage. Second, by having a cultivation base at the Saint Celestial Stage disciple!"

Monstrous geniuses who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Root or higher?

Cultivation base at the Saint Celestial Stage?

Upon hearing the Saint Land's patrolling elder's words, Duan Ling Tian's eyes narrowed instantly. He finally understood what the two words 'true disciple' meant. True disciples represented the future of the Fire Worship Sect.

If that was the case, then it made sense that they had their own floating islands around the Main Island.

Suddenly, as though he was reminded of something, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Elder, could it be that Silver Flame Elders, Golden Flame Elders, Guardians, the Vice Sect Leaders, and the Sect Leader are residing in the Main Island?" His eyes were trained on the gigantic island above him.

"Of course not!" The Saint Land's patrolling elder shook his head and said, "In our Fire Worship Sect, whoever has a position as a Silver Flame Elder or higher would be given a residence on the Otherworldly Island."

"Otherworldly Island?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled.

"Follow me." After the Saint Land's patrolling elder motioned to Duan Ling Tian, he rose up into the air.

Duan Ling Tian followed him closely. He discovered the Saint Land's patrolling elder was bringing him higher and higher. They continued to fly upward even after they passed the Main Island.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian had a better look at the Main Island.

In terms of size, the gigantic Main Island was not any smaller than the Black Turtle Sanctum. There were mountains and lakes on it and many lush green plants. There were also many buildings on it.

The buildings were built and organized in an orderly manner. From afar, it looked pleasant to the eyes

‘Don’t tell me the Otherworldly Island is above the clouds in the sky?’ Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly when he saw the Saint Land’s patrolling elder passing through the clouds and flew even higher.

He realized he had guessed correctly when the Saint Land’s patrolling elder passed through the clouds, and he saw the scenery behind the clouds.

“These are the Otherworldly Islands?” After passing through the clouds, Duan Ling Tian looked at the numerous floating islands in the distance.

These floating islands situated above the clouds above the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land’s Main Island were separated into four levels.

There was only one floating island on the highest level.

The level below had five floating islands.

Further down, there were ten floating islands.

At the bottom, there were 50 floating islands.

“That’s right! These are the Otherworldly Islands!” The Saint Land’s patrolling elder nodded. “Look at that highest Otherworldly Island. That’s the cultivation place of the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect! Currently, Lord Sect Leader is in closed-door cultivation.”

The Saint Land’s patrolling elder had a respectful expression on his face when he spoke about the Sect Leader.

“The Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect?” When Duan Ling Tian heard his words, he narrowed his eyes immediately as a cold glint flashed in the depths of his eyes.

At this moment, due to the Sect Leader being in closed-door cultivation, his wife and daughter were merely being held in the Saint Land Enforcement Hall and were not punished yet.

However, once the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect came out of closed-door cultivation, the Sect Leader will be punished.

Their punishment would probably be death.

If it was possible, he wished the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect would not come out of closed-door cultivation forever. However, Duan Ling Tian knew this was impossible.

“The five Otherworldly Islands below are the cultivation places of our Fire Worship Sect’s two Vice Sect Leaders and three Guardians,” the Saint Land’s patrolling elder added.

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian also regained his senses.

He had heard of the two Vice Sect Leaders of the Fire Worship Sect before.

As for the three Guardians, their names were famous! Rumor had it that the three Guardians were all old powerhouses from the Fire Worship Sect. Their positions in the Fire Worship Sect were equivalent to the Four Great Kamapas of the Black Kshetra Sect that was equally as famous as the Fire Worship Sect.

“Xie Zong!” Duan Ling Tian could not help but recall Elder Xie Zong from the Black Kshetra Sect when he thought about the Four Great Kamapas from the Black Kshetra Sect. He had snatched his Devilseal Tablet and killed Elder Ku in the Azure Cloud Mansion in the Lower Province previously.

As far as he knew, Xie Zong was the son of the Golden Lion King, one of the Four Great Kamapas in the Black Kshetra Sect! He had already regarded Xie Zong as his mortal enemy since then.

However, Xie Zong was too strong. He could only put aside their enmity for the time being.

When he had gotten stronger, he would definitely look for Xie Zong and kill him to avenge Elder Ku and snatch the Devilseal Tablet back.

‘Xie Zong... Just you wait! I’ll be coming for you soon! At that time, I’ll show you that the person you regarded as an ant previously is able to kill you!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes shone coldly.

Meanwhile, the Saint Land’s patrolling elder who was still talking caused Duan Ling Tian to regain his senses.

“Then ten Other Worldly Islands below are the cultivation places of the ten Golden Flame Elders of our Fire Worship Sect... However, most of the time, these the Otherworldly Islands are usually vacant because the ten Golden Flame Elders are either sent to the Four Symbols Sanctums to be in charge there or to the various major mines at the Four Symbols Sanctums! You came from the Four Symbols Sanctums so I’m sure you know how important the Four Symbols Sanctums and the major mines in the Four Symbols Sanctums are to our Fire Worship Sect, right?!” The Saint Land’s patrolling elder continued to add.

Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Naturally, he knew about this.

In the Fire Worship Sect, not only did the Four Symbols Sanctums provided the Fire Worship Sect with new talents, but it was also the gate to the Fire Worship Sect.

If somebody came to attack the Fire Worship Sect, the Four Symbols Sanctums would be the first to bear the brunt!

With four Golden Flame Elders guarding such an important place, one would feel more at ease.

As for the major mines in the Four Symbols Sanctums, they were the second gate of the Four Symbols Sanctums. If the Four Symbols Sanctums fell, they would stand in and block the second wave of attack.

Coupled with the fact that the major mines had first-grade Saint Stone ores, the major mines in the Four Symbols Sanctums were also guarded by the remaining six Golden Flame Elders of the Fire Worship Sect.

This way why it was so difficult to meet a Golden Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land.

Usually, these ten Golden Flame Elders would stay in the Four Symbols Sanctums and the major mines in the Four Symbols Sanctums.

Those in charge in the Fire Worship Sect were the Silver Flame Elders and the Bronze Flame Elders. These group of Silver and Bronze Flame Elders in the Saint Land was managed by the two Vice Sect Leaders of the Fire Worship Sect. In the Fire Worship Sect, the two Vice Sect Leaders were the strongest after the Sect Leader and the Guardians. Not only that, they were even stronger than the ten Golden Flame Elders.

For this reason, the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land that was guarded by them was also the third line of defense of the Fire Worship Sect.

If a powerful enemy attacked, the three lines of defense would be more than enough to stall for time until the three strongest Guardians and Sect Leader make their appearance.

'Fire Worship Sect... As expected from one of the three strongest forces in the Dao Martial Saint Land!' Duan Ling Tian mused inwardly.

"As for the remaining 50 Otherworldly Islands, I'm sure you can guess those are the residences for the Silver Flame Elders," the Saint Land's patrolling elder said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. It was not difficult to guess after all.

"You can look at the Otherworldly Islands from afar. However, if you approach it, let alone you, even I would be severely punished!" A hint of fear could be seen the Saint Land's patrolling elder's eyes when he reached the end of his sentence.

The Saint Land's patrolling elder was merely a Bronze Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. He was still not qualified enough to cultivate in the Otherworldly Island.

"Let's go! I'll bring you to register yourself. The registration area of our Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land is at the Main Island." The Saint Land's patrolling elder motioned to Duan Ling Tian once again. As soon as he finished speaking, he descended to the Main Island that was located far below.

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, followed him as well. When he got closer to the Main Island, he saw many people on the island.

These people were wearing the exclusive uniform of a Saint Land disciple.

The chest part of the uniform was embroidered with a fiery red flame. It was a signet.

This was something the exclusive uniforms for the elders and disciples from each of the Four Symbols Sanctum did not have.

'The exclusive uniforms of the Saint Land's Silver Flame Elders in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine and this Saint Land's patrolling elder also have this signet. I guess it's the symbol of the Saint Land!' It was not difficult to guess this as well.

Chapter 1984: What Is Your Name?

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was still in the exclusive uniform of a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple.

When he appeared together with the Saint Land's patrolling elder, it, naturally, attracted the attention of many Saint Land disciples.

"A Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple?" Some of the Saint Land disciples shifted their gaze to Duan Ling Tian's uniform.

"Just some time ago, there was a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple who entered the Saint Land and became a Saint Land disciple after comprehending the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum. It has only been less than half a month and there's another Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple coming here?" A Saint Land disciple said in surprise.

Although they were far away, Duan Ling Tian still heard him. Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew this Saint Land disciple was talking about Sun De when he was talking about the other Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple.

More than ten days ago, Sun De had successfully comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, Black Turtle's Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum. Not only did he obtain a full exemption from his punishment at the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, but he was also allowed to enter the Saint Land and become a disciple.

Moreover, Sun De was partly responsible for Duan Ling Tian appearing here today. After all, if Sun De did not cast the Black Turtle's Barrier in front of him, he would not have been able to comprehend the Black Turtle's Barrier so quickly.

"Don't tell me this Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple has also successfully comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum? After all, there's still some time to go before the Saint Land's assessment takes place. The Four Symbols Sanctums' disciple who comes to the Saint Land now would either have comprehended the treasured Divine Ability of their Sanctum or is a monstrous genius with a high innate talent and has received the recommendation from their Sanctum Leader," another Saint Land disciple chimed in.

However, this Saint Land disciple's words caused many people to scoff at his words. "Did you say he has also comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier? I think you're thinking too much!"

"That's right! The Black Turtle's Barrier is not just the treasured Divine Ability in the Black Turtle Sanctum! It's the number one defensive Divine Ability in our Fire Worship Sect! The difficulty level in comprehending it is definitely higher than most high-grade Divine Abilities in our Fire Worship Sect!"

“It’s not easy to comprehend the Black Turtle’s Barrier! In my opinion, I think this Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple must have obtained the recommendation from the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum for having a high innate talent!”

“I think so too!”

The group of Saint Land disciples discussed among themselves. Based on their words, it could be seen they believed Duan Ling Tian had been recommended by the Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum.

Faced with such misunderstanding, Duan Ling Tian only smiled nonchalantly. He was not bothered by it at all.

The Saint Land’s patrolling elder beside him, on the other hand, shook his head after hearing the words of the Saint Land disciples while they were traveling. This was because he knew very well this Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple next to him was not recommended by the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum. Instead, he had successfully comprehended the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum. That was why he was bringing him to register himself. This was one of his responsibilities as a Saint Land’s patrolling elder!

“So many people!” When Duan Ling Tian passed by a public square stretched out as far as the eyes can see, he saw many people were gathered there.

With a glance, he could see there were at least thousands of people there. The thousands of people might not be a huge number compared to the people in the four Sanctums.

However, what was this place?

Usually, a Fire Worship Sect’s disciple who could enter the Saint Land was either a genius with monstrously high innate talent or was highly talented with Divine Abilities that he managed to comprehend the treasured Divine Ability from his Sanctum before his cultivation base had even reached the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage or one who possessed a cultivation base at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage and above and had passed the Saint Land assessment.

Due to these reasons, Duan Ling Tian was surprised when he saw so many people in the Saint Land’s public square.

The thousands of people here in the Saint Land’s public square might not all necessarily be Saint Land disciples of the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land. Even then, there are at least several thousands of them who were Saint Land disciples.

What kind of strength did the Fire Worship Sect possess to have several thousands of people at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage and above?

“This is the Central Square of our Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land’s Main Island. This is also the busiest place. Over here, apart from the palaces that have their own duties to attend to, this is the place where many Saint Land disciples discuss the martial arts. Many disciples who encounter obstacles in their cultivation would come here. Who knows they might be hit with a sudden inspiration and obtain a chance to break through!” The Saint Land’s patrolling elder said about the place below them.

This was the Central Square of the Saint Island!

Duan Ling Tian once again glanced at the thousands of people on the Central Square as he asked, "Elder, how many Saint Land disciples are there in the Saint Land?"

"Why? You're taken aback by the sight of the thousands of people at the Central Square?" The Saint Land's patrolling elder asked with a smile.

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian did not deny it. "There are already thousands of Saint Land disciples at the Central Square alone. There should be at least 3000 to 5000 of Saint Land disciples in the Saint Land, right?"

When Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he waited for the Saint Land's patrolling elder to reply.

"We don't have as many as 3000 to 5000 disciples!" Upon hearing his words, the Saint Land's patrolling elder shook his head. "I've just told you that many come here when they encounter obstacles in their cultivation. They came here in hopes of being inspired. It might not necessarily be an obstacle in the cultivation base. It could be their martial tactics or Divine Abilities as well. I'm sure you know in our Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land, 99% of the Saint Land disciples are at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage and above... Among these people, there are also some who are at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage. However, most of them are definitely at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage! Among the Saint Land disciples at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage, most of their cultivation base has been stuck at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage for several hundreds of years or even thousands of years! Not being able to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage means they can't become a true disciple or even a Bronze Flame Elder!" The Saint Land's patrolling elder explained patiently.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He understood this.

After all, not every Saint Land disciple at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage could break through to the Saint Celestial Stage.

One would have to rely on one's innate talent and opportunity to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage. It mostly depended on one's innate talent.

Usually, it was almost impossible for those with green Innate Spiritual Root or lower to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage unless they came across some fortuitous encounter!

Even a person who possessed a green Innate Spiritual Root would not find it easy to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage. Only those who possessed blue Innate Spiritual Roots or above could break through to the Saint Celestial Stage without encountering a huge obstacle.

Naturally, they would still encounter small obstacles.

For example, Duan Ling Tian who possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root. His cultivation base was only at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage. Due to the reason that his cultivation speed was too fast, he would not be able to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage for the time being no matter how hard he cultivated because his cultivation base at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage had yet to stabilize.

This was considered a small obstacle.

“Actually, the thousands of Saint Land disciples gathered here in the Central Square account for more than half of the Saint Land disciples. There are about 2,000 over Saint Land disciples in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land.” When the Saint Land’s patrolling elder spoke again, Duan Ling Tian realized he had guessed wrongly.

However, even if he had guessed wrongly, the number of Saint Land disciples in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land was still astonishing.

This meant that there were over 2,000 people at the Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage or above in the Fire Worship Sect, and most of them were at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage at least!

‘As expected from the three most powerful sects in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land, their legacy and strength are not something first-rate forces can compare to, let alone those forces below first-rate forces,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Put everything else aside, based on the news he learned from the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder Guo Xiong, the Hong Clan, Hong Xu’s clan, was one of the third-rate forces in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. It had been easily annihilated by Li An who was just a Silver Flame Elder.

Li An was strong and could be considered as one of the strongest among the many Silver Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect. This was enough to show the difference in strength between a sect like the Fire Worship Sect and a third-rate force.

‘A slightly stronger Silver Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect could already annihilate a third-rate force in the Upper Province with his own strength. Doesn’t this mean that a slightly stronger Golden Flame Elder alone in the Fire Worship Sect can also easily annihilate a second-rate force in the Upper Province? If the Vice Sect Leaders and the three great Guardians are sent out, wouldn’t it be easy for them to annihilate a first-rate force then?’ The moment Duan Ling Tian thought of this, he could not help but gasp. At the same time, he became deeply aware of how strong the Fire Worship Sect was.

Put aside the Fire Worship Sect’s group of Saint Land disciples, just the high-ranking officials of the Fire Worship Sect alone were strong enough to travel and change the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

“As for the palaces that have their own duties to carry out, you can come here and learn about them after you’ve registered as a Saint Land disciple,” the Saint Land’s patrolling elder told Duan Ling Tian again before bringing him to the registry for new disciples in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land. They did not make any stops on the way over.

When they had almost arrived at the registry for the new disciples in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land, the Saint Land’s patrolling elder suddenly looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, “What is your name?”

Ever since Duan Ling Tian came to the Saint Land and cast the treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, from the Black Turtle Sanctum, the patrolling elder realized he still did not know the name of the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who came from the Four Symbols Sanctums!

Chapter 1985: The Registry For New Disciples

“Duan Ling Tian!” Duan Ling Tian smiled in response to the Saint Land’s patrolling elder’s question.

He had a good impression of this patrolling elder who had been patiently explaining the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land to him.

“Duan Ling Tian?!” However, as soon as Duan Ling Tian revealed his name, the Saint Land’s patrolling elder suddenly came to a halt. His eyes were as wide as saucers as he stared at Duan Ling Tian in shock. “Y-You’re Duan Ling Tian? That Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple Duan Ling Tian who could transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and who’s bold enough to offend the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder and the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect as soon as he arrived at the Fire Worship Sect?”

“You’ve heard of me before, Elder?” Duan Ling Tian was surprised as well when he saw how surprised Saint Land’s patrolling elder was.

His name had even spread to the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land?

“Of course, I’ve heard of you!” The Saint Land’s patrolling elder nodded his head before smiling wryly. “Instead of saying you’re famous in the Four Symbols Sanctums, other than those who are in closed-door cultivation and those who’re not bothered with the affairs of the world, I think there are not many people who haven’t heard of you! I didn’t expect the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who mastered the Black Turtle Sanctum’s most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, that I’m escorting would be Duan Ling Tian! Based on what I know, you’ve already mastered three high-grade Divine Abilities. The three Divine Abilities you mastered are of the offensive, defensive, and assist-type kind. Currently, you’ve mastered the Black Turtle Sanctum’s most treasured Divine Ability, that’s also the number one defensive Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect. You’ve mastered all four types of Divine Abilities! Put everything else aside, your comprehension of Divine Abilities can only be compared to Lord Sect Leader and the three Guardians in the Fire Worship Sect! Even the two Vice Sect Leaders of our Fire Worship Sect can’t compare to you in this regard!”

When the Saint Land’s patrolling elder finished speaking, there was a hint of envy and jealousy in his eyes.

Compared to Duan Ling Tian, he felt as though he had lived his life in vain.

As a Saint Land’s Bronze Flame Elder, he had only mastered one high-grade Divine Ability. It was a world of a difference compared to Duan Ling Tian.

‘It’s fortunate that he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, and his cultivation base is only at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage. It’s still a mystery whether he can break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage or not! Otherwise, he would really anger a person to death!’ The Saint Land’s patrolling elder thought to himself.

When he recalled how Duan Ling Tian possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, he instantly felt a lot better.

Although he was a Saint Land’s Bronze Flame Elder, he had a green Innate Spiritual Root. It was much better than Duan Ling Tian in this regard.

However, the Saint Land's patrolling elder would never expect that Duan Ling Tian no longer possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root but a blue one instead! It was a grade higher than green Innate Spiritual Roots that were above yellow Innate Spiritual Roots.

There were not more than ten people in the Fire Worship Sect who possessed blue Spiritual Roots! Moreover, if nothing bad happened to those with blue Innate Spiritual Roots, they would at least become a Silver Flame Elder in the sect. They might even stand a chance of becoming a Golden Flame Elder.

"You flatter me, Elder. I'm merely lucky!" When Duan Ling Tian saw the jealousy and envy in the Saint Land's patrolling elder's eyes, he only smiled calmly.

Duan Ling Tian's modest attitude earned the respect of the Saint Land's patrolling elder. At the same time, he could not help but sigh inwardly. 'Duan Ling Tian's extremely talented at comprehending Divine Abilities, but his conduct is really good... Unfortunately, although God made him extremely talented in comprehending Divine Ability, he did not give him a monstrously high innate talent. Otherwise, he would be an extremely favored prodigy in the Fire Worship Sect!'

In the Fire Worship Sect, only those young monstrous genius disciples who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots were qualified to be called prodigies!

Naturally, the title 'prodigy' could be used in different ways nowadays. Those who stood out in a crowd, those who possessed heaven-defying talent, and those who were strong were all prodigies as well.

In the past, when the Dao Martial Saint Land was still one, during an era, only one person was qualified to be called a prodigy in the entire Dao Martial Saint Land.

That prodigy was none other than Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang! He had taken the world by storm, baffling everyone!

After the Saint Land's patrolling elder motioned to Duan Ling Tian, he descended first. "Let's go! The registry for new disciples for the Saint Land is just in front."

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, followed after him.

The registry for new Saint Land disciples was a side palace that was very inconspicuous. If Duan Ling Tian was asked to look for it himself, he might not be able to find it at all.

"Elder Xiao Zhen, aren't you patrolling today? Why did you suddenly come here?" When Duan Ling Tian followed the Saint Land's patrolling elder into the side palace, a voice that was full of vigor rang from inside. A middle-aged man behind the counter in the side palace greeted the Saint Land's patrolling elder.

The middle-aged man's clothes were identical to the Saint Land's patrolling elder. He was also a Saint Land's Bronze Flame Elder.

Elder Xiao Zhen?

Duan Ling Tian finally learned the name of the Saint Land's patrolling elder who brought him all the way here.

"Elder Ding Zhong, as the saying goes, 'No one comes to the hall of trinity without a reason!' The reason I came this time is to bring somebody to you. Now that I've brought him to you, it's time for me to go back to my patrolling duty," Xiao Zhen, the Saint Land's patrolling elder, replied.

After he finished speaking, he bade farewell to the middle-aged man before he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a smile and said, "I'll take my leave first. Elder Ding Zhong will handle the rest of the matter for you."

"Thank you, Elder Xiao Zhen." Xiao Zhen flew away as Duan Ling Tian thanked him.

At the same time, the middle-aged man behind the counter, the Saint Land's Bronze Flame Elder Ding Zhong, who was in charge of the registration of new Saint Land disciples studied Duan Ling Tian intently.

"A Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple?" When Ding Zhong saw the exclusive uniform Duan Ling Tian was wearing, he raised an eyebrow before he smiled.

In his opinion, since this Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple was brought here by their Saint Land's patrolling elder before the Saint Land's assessment, he must have received a recommendation from the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Someone like that must have a monstrously high innate talent. He must be a Martial Dao genius who possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root or above at least.

Even if such a person had not grown into their full potential, it was more than enough for him to treat them with respect and even flatter them.

If someone like that did not die an untimely death, he would at least be a Silver Flame Elder in the future. He might even stand a chance in becoming a Golden Flame Elder.

As the saying went, 'You can ignore me today, but you'll be unworthy to forge a connection with me tomorrow!'

For this reason, Ding Zhong also wanted to forge a good relationship with this genius disciple who came from the Black Turtle Sanctum before he grew into his full potential.

Ding Zhong said to Duan Ling Tian politely and enthusiastically, "Little Brother, can you please pass me the recommendation letter that Sanctum Leader Wu gave you. I'll help you register!"

The surname of the Sanctum Leader of Black Turtle Sanctum was Wu.

Duan Ling Tian knew about this as well.

Duan Ling Tian who was originally confused by Ding Zhong's enthusiasm finally realized Ding Zhong had misunderstood him after hearing his words. He must have thought Duan Ling Tian was recommended by the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum to enter the Saint Land.

Due to this reason, Ding Zhong was so enthusiastic.

“Elder Ding Zhong, I think there’s a misunderstanding. I don’t have any recommendation letter,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

“You don’t have a recommendation letter?” Duan Ling Tian’s words stunned Ding Zhong. Even the two young men standing nearby were baffled.

Ding Zhong quickly regained his senses and said, “Little Brother, please don’t joke. The fact that you manage to make your way here before the Saint Land’s assessment means you’re qualified to become a Saint Land disciple. If you’re not recommended by the Sanctum Leader Wu, don’t tell me you’ve successfully comprehended make the Black Turtle Sanctum’s most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier?” When he finished speaking, he laughed since he thought it was absurd.

The other two young men nodded their heads as well, thinking it was it was absurd.

When Duan Ling Tian saw this, he did not say anything. He instantly cast the Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, in response to Ding Zhong’s words.

Swoosh!

At this moment, the Sun Saint Energy surged out of Duan Ling Tian’s body without warning, before it transformed into a gigantic silhouette of a Black Turtle that shrouded him.

When Ding Zhong and the other two saw this, their expressions froze immediately.

At this moment, thousands of wild horses seemed to be galloping across his heart.

How was this possible?!

Before the Saint Land’s assessment took place, two Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciples had come here one after another in less than two weeks. Moreover, both of them had successfully comprehended the Black Turtle Sanctum’s most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier?

Since when did the Black Turtle Sanctum’s most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, become so easy to comprehend?

Was it still their Fire Worship Sect’s number one defensive Divine Ability?

Ding Zhong was dumbfounded. The other two young men were dumbfounded as well.

“Elder Ding Zhong, can you help me register?” It was only until Duan Ling Tian had spoken that Ding Zhong regained his senses.

“Sure! Of course!” A smile appeared on Ding Zhong’s face again.

A person who could successfully comprehend their Fire Worship Sect’s number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier, was also worthy of his respect.

Such a person would definitely achieve more than him if his Martial Dao innate talent was not bad.

“What is your name, little brother?” Before Ding Zhong helped Duan Ling Tian to register, he asked a routine question.

Although it was just a routine question, the warm smile on Ding Zhong’s face put Duan Ling Tian at ease.

“Duan Ling Tian.” However, the smile on Ding Zhong’s face froze again when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s reply.

Chapter 1986: Guan Xiu

Ding Zhong was not unfamiliar with the name Duan Ling Tian.

Although this name had spread in the Fire Worship Sect recently, due to the reason the person only had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, he did not regard the person very highly. Moreover, he had even told more than one person that Duan Ling Tian was only a commoner who had gotten lucky.

A commoner was still a commoner. Although he was lucky, he would not be able to rise up.

So what if he was talented at comprehending Divine Abilities? It was destined that he would be unable to achieve a lot without having a high innate talent.

So what if he could transform into a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?

Even if a commoner who only had the yellow Spiritual Root was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior, the dragon members in the dragon clan would never treat him like an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon either.

Other than being a symbol of status, the Eight-clawed Divine Dragon of the dragon clan was a symbol of strength as well! On top of that, the reason the Eight-clawed Divine Dragon had such a lofty position in the dragon clan was mainly because of their Martial Dao innate talent and their strength.

In Ding Zhong’s opinion, Duan Ling Tian had none of these.

The strong ones were revered in the dragon clan. It was impossible for the dragon clan to acknowledge someone weak.

“So you’re Duan Ling Tian.” Ding Zhong’s expression changed immediately. The smile on his face had disappeared and was replaced with a cold expression.

Although he had heard about the strength Duan Ling Tian had displayed a few days ago that was close to the Saint Celestial Stage, he still did not regard him highly.

In his opinion, that was basically Duan Ling Tian’s limit!

After all, Duan Ling Tian only had a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, and his limit was the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage. Even if he progressed further, it would be extremely difficult for him to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage.

When he died, his strength would probably only be at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

Such a person was not worthy for him to fawn over.

“Huh?” Duan Ling Tian was puzzled when he saw the change in Ding Zhong’s expression.

Soon after, he was hit by a pang of realization. He only shrugged as a helpless smile appeared on his face. However, he did not say anything.

Duan Ling Tian was not a fool.

He could roughly guess the reason why Ding Zhong had treated him nicely before. He must have thought Duan Ling Tian had a bright future ahead of him and was trying to use this chance to flatter him.

Ding Zhong's change of expression must be due to the reveal of his name. He must have thought it pointless to flatter him anymore.

There were two reasons for this. First, like most people in the Fire Worship Sect, Ding Zhong thought he possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Second, Ding Zhong did not think that he could fight against Li An. He felt that Duan Ling Tian would die in this battle between him and Li An.

No matter what the reason was, it had told him one common truth. In Ding Zhong's opinion, he was no longer worthy. That was why Ding Zhong's attitude toward him had taken a dive so dramatically.

'How superficial...' Although Duan Ling Tian had seen many scenes like that in his life, he still could not help but shake his head and sigh emotionally when he saw this.

Naturally, he was not bothered by it. It was not important if Ding Zhong treated him nicely or not as long as he settled the registration for him and did not try to harm him.

Fortunately, despite being a snob, Ding Zhong did not make things difficult for Duan Ling Tian during the registration process.

After he finished registering Duan Ling Tian, he turned to look at the young man on his left side and said, "Go bring a few of the uniforms for Saint Land disciples for him."

As soon as he finished speaking, he turned to look at another young man and said, "Prepare the identity token and the crystal card to store the Contribution Points for him."

"Yes!" The two young men were Ding Zhong's helpers in the registrar for new Saint Land disciples. Naturally, they would do as they were told.

Perhaps, it was due to Ding Zhong's influence, when their gaze swept across Duan Ling Tian, a hint of contempt could be seen in their eyes.

Duan Ling Tian merely ignored them.

Everyone was entitled to their own opinion, so he chose to overlook it. It was fine as long as they did not look for trouble with him.

'The Saint Land disciple has an identity token?' Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed. When he was in the Black Turtle Sanctum, he was only given uniforms exclusive for Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples and not an identity token.

It seems like preferential treatment was given to Saint Land disciples.

'As for the crystal card storing the Contribution Points, it must be the same with Moon Illumination Sect's crystal card that stored Merit Points. The Contribution Points inside will most likely allow me to

exchange for valuable items in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land!' It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to figure this out.

Very soon, the two young men prepared a few sets of Saint Land disciple's uniforms, an identity token, and a crystal card for Duan Ling Tian.

"Thank you." Faced with Ding Zhong and the two young men's cold expressions, Duan Ling Tian nodded his head at them politely before he turned around to leave.

After he left, he discovered that he did not know where the residence of the Saint Land disciples was located!

Duan Ling Tian wanted to turn around and return to the registry. However, when he recalled the unapproachable vibes from the three people, he dismissed the idea.

'It's fine. I won't look for them. I'll just look for someone else and ask around.' Duan Ling Tian left as soon as he thought about this.

"Elder Ding Zhong, isn't it a little inappropriate that we didn't send him to the residence of the Saint Land disciples? It's his first time coming to the Saint Land after all," one of the young men asked as he looked at Ding Zhong after Duan Ling Tian had left.

"Why? Do you plan to fawn over him?" Ding Zhong smiled contemptuously as he said, "Even if Duan Ling Tian is immensely talented in comprehending Divine Abilities, he won't have any great achievements in the future since he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root!"

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian finally found a Saint Land Disciple and asked him for directions to the residence of Saint Land disciples.

"Thank you, Senior Brother." After getting the answers he wanted, Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, happy. He thanked the Saint Land disciple whom he had stopped.

The Saint Land disciple before him was a burly middle-aged man. He had a simple and good-natured appearance. In other words, he looked like an honest man.

Faced with Duan Ling Tian's gratitude, he quickly waved his hand. "We're both disciples from the same sect. There's no need to be so polite." Based on his words, one could tell he was a decent person.

"Junior Brother!" The burly middle-aged man called out to Duan Ling Tian when he saw he was about to leave.

"Yes?" Duan Ling Tian looked at the burly middle-aged in confusion.

"Why don't I bring you there?" The burly middle-aged man asked.

"It's alright" Duan Ling Tian knew it was not convenient for the other party. He could see this from the direction the man was heading to so he rejected his good intention.

"Are you sure?" The burly middle-aged man asked hesitantly.

"It's fine." Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled. Then, he turned around and headed in the direction the burly middle-aged man had pointed out to him earlier.

At the same time, a young man who was passing by approached the burly middle-aged man and asked curiously, "Guan Xiu, do you know that Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple?"

Based on the young man's clothing, he was also a Saint Land disciple.

"No." Guan Xiu, the burly middle-aged man, shook his head and smiled innocently. "He must be a new disciple who has just arrived at our Saint Land. He didn't know the direction to our Saint Land disciple's residence so he came to ask me for directions."

"Must be? He's definitely a new disciple who has just arrived at our Saint Land!" The young man said with certainty. "Not only that, but he most likely has been recommended by the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum. The Saint Land's assessment for the Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples will only be held after some time. The fact that he arrived early means he's got a high innate talent. Otherwise, he won't be recommended by the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum."

"Personally recommended by the Sanctum Leader of the Black Turtle Sanctum? He's so amazing?" Guan Xiu was a little slow. Although he noticed Duan Ling Tian was wearing the Black Turtle Sanctum's uniform, he did not think too much about it.

"I really got to hand it to you. It was such a good opportunity but you just passed it up like that! If it were me, I'd definitely try to get close to a genius like that. However, you didn't even bring him there when he asked you for directions. If you manage to forge some sort of friendship with him, you might be able to benefit from him for your whole life!" The young man said exasperatedly to Guan Xiu as he looked at him.

"Can we still be considered friends if I'm so calculative?" It was clear that Guan Xiu did not agree with the young man's words.

"Guan Xiu, go chase after him. There's still a chance for you." The young man glanced at the silhouette in the distance before he reminded Guan Xiu.

"No!" Guan Xiu was stubborn. "I won't make friends with someone based on such reasons. We can't be considered friends if I approach him with such intentions!" He left as soon as he finished speaking.

"What a fool!" Seeing how ungrateful Guan Xiu was, the young man cursed exasperatedly.

After about 15 minutes, Duan Ling Tian finally arrived at the Saint Land disciples' residence.

The Saint Land disciples' residence was not separated into various grades and levels. For this reason, there was no fight.

The Saint Land disciples' residence was situated inside a vast valley.

The Saint Land disciples' houses, on the other hand, were numerous little courtyards situated around the valley. There were plants in the little courtyards along with a stone table and a few stone stools. Behind the little courtyard was a standalone stone house. The door of the stone house was a stone door. With just one glance, one could tell that the soundproof ability of the houses was very good.

Chapter 1987: Yang Wen

Not only was the Saint Land disciple's residence not separated into various grades and levels, but there was a total of 3,000 little courtyards provided for the Saint Land disciples as well.

The 3,000 little courtyards were situated inside the vast valley and were arranged like terrace houses in every corner. However, due to how vast the valley was, it did not seem overcrowded even though there were 3,000 little courtyards.

Currently, there were only over 2,000 Saint Land disciples in the Fire Worship Sect. Even if all the Saint Land disciples stayed here, there would still be many vacant houses left.

"The cultivation environment here is similar to the Primus house I stayed in back in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine! Wait a minute! Although there are also ten Spirit Gathering Formations here, the richness of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy here is even better than the Primus house!" After Duan Ling Tian found a house, he entered it.

"This must be because this area is close to a quasi Celestial-grade mine.." It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to figure this out.

"I hope I'll be able to comprehend the third stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword in a go this time!" After shutting the door, Duan Ling Tian took out the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and entered the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda before immersing himself in comprehending the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the Sovereign Heart Sword.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base had reached a bottleneck. It was impossible for him to break through to the Early Quintessential Saint Stage for the time being. Moreover, he had mastered four high-grade Divine Abilities, the only thing he lacked now is an ability that could help him during a crucial moment.

For this reason, he decided to focus on comprehending the Sovereign Heart Sword. Currently, the Sovereign Heart Sword only needed one more push before it would successfully enter the third stage.

"The person earlier s-seems to be wearing the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples' uniform?" Duan Ling Tian did not know when he came to the Saint Land disciples' residence and was looking for a courtyard to stay in, he had attracted the attention of a few Saint Land disciples.

Naturally, these Saint Land disciples were unaware of his identity.

...

After a day, shocking news spread in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. The Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, Duan Ling Tian, had successfully comprehended the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, and was exempted from his punishment at the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine. He had come to the Saint Land and had officially become a Saint Land disciple!

This news raised a huge commotion in the Saint Land immediately.

“Duan Ling Tian? The Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior?”

“That Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who offended the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An and Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect the moment he arrived at the Fire Worship Sect? That rebel?”

“Rumor has it that although he only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root, due to the reason he’s a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and the fact that he has comprehended three high-grade Divine Abilities, his combat ability is close to a powerhouse at the Saint Celestial Stage!”

“Currently, he has even successfully comprehended our Fire Worship Sect’s number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier. Doesn’t this mean his strength is comparable to the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?”

“Impossible! The Black Turtle’s Barrier is only a defensive Divine Ability and only grants him a defensive ability. It wouldn’t grant him any extra strength at all. If anything, only his defense is comparable to that of a powerhouse at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. In terms of offense, he’s definitely inferior to a powerhouse at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!”

“I heard that his cultivation base has already entered the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage. Unfortunately, he only has a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. It’s hard to say if he’ll be able to break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage!”

“Even if he could, with his Martial Dao innate talent, it’ll be hard for him to achieve anything great!”

The Central Square and the Saint Land disciple’s residence were filled with people discussing the same thing.

“Looks like the Black Turtle Sanctum’s disciple who resides at that little courtyard must be Duan Ling Tian!” Many Saint Land disciples shifted their gazes to the little courtyard Duan Ling Tian was staying in.

These Saint Land disciples were those who personally witnessed Duan Ling Tian coming and entering the Saint Land disciple’s residence yesterday.

One spread to ten, and ten spread to a hundred.

Soon after, most of the Saint Land disciples knew where Duan Ling Tian stayed.

“Junior Brother Ling Tian has also comprehended the Black Turtle’s Barrier?” Sun De had just come out of his house today. He was about to head to the Reward Palace in the Central Square to see what tasks he could complete to earn Contribution Points. During this time, he heard many people whispering among themselves at the Saint Land disciples’ residence.

This was how learned that Duan Ling Tian had also come to the Saint Land and had become a Saint Land disciple as well. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian’s situation was a lot like him as well.

“I can’t believe it. It hasn’t even been two weeks, but Junior Brother Ling Tian and I came to the Saint Land one after another and became Saint Land disciples. Moreover, we’re able to come here because

we've both comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier successfully! I think, currently, the Black Turtle Sanctum must be in an uproar over this news, right?" Sun De muttered to himself.

Sun De was none other than the person whose Primus House was snatched by Duan Ling Tian in the Punishment Zone of the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine.

Due to the pressure from Duan Ling Tian, he had successfully comprehended the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, during the critical moment. For this reason, he was exempted from his punishment. As soon as he left the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine, he came to the Saint Land and became a Saint Land disciple!

...

It was just as Sun De had guessed. The Black Turtle Sanctum was in an uproar. In fact, the word 'uproar' might not even be sufficient to describe it.

Due to the news from the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine and the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land, the Black Turtle Sanctum was in a complete uproar!

"Duan Ling Tian has successfully comprehended the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, and was exempted from serving his sentence in the Four Symbols Sanctums' First Mine? He has entered the Saint Land and become a Saint Land disciple?"

"My goodness! Is this true? It hasn't been even two weeks, and yet our Black Turtle Sanctum already has two disciples who have successfully comprehended the most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier?"

"Apart from being our Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier is the number one defensive Divine Ability in the Fire Worship Sect! It's widely acknowledged as the most difficult Divine Ability to comprehend among the Divine Abilities in all four Sanctums. However, a Divine Ability with such a high level of difficulty was comprehended by two people in just less than two weeks?"

"Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is monstrously talented!"

"Indeed! If only he didn't have a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Even if he only possesses a green Innate Spiritual Root, his future would be boundless. Currently, I'm afraid it's going to be difficult for him to further raise his strength."

"That's right! The limit that his Innate Spiritual Root imposed on him is just too huge!"

"Originally, I was wondering why would he come to the Fire Worship Sect when he's a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior. His position would be equivalent to an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon if he goes to the dragon clan! Now that I think about it, it has to be because he only possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. How can the arrogant dragon clan regard him as an Eight-clawed Divine Dragon and treat him with respect with such an Innate Spiritual Root?"

"I think so too! I think he came to our Fire Worship Sect because he was ostracized by the dragon clan and could no longer stay there!"

Everyone in the Black Turtle Sanctum was constantly discussing this. Their topic revolved around Duan Ling Tian.

News of Duan Ling Tian comprehending the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, and entering the Saint Land to become a Saint Land disciple had also spread to the Four Symbols Sanctums!

It also caused a great commotion in the Four Symbols Sanctums!

Bang!

A loud bang resonated inside a vast mansion at the east of the Black Turtle Sanctum. An old man shattered a stone table that was just recently bought into dust again.

This old man was none other than the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An!

"How's this possible?! H-He has actually comprehended the Black Turtle's Barrier and left the Four Symbols Sanctum's First Mine to enter the Saint Land!" As Li An muttered to himself. He had a sullen expression on his face.

It did not occur to him that Duan Ling Tian whom he wished to kill would successfully comprehend their Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, just like Sun De.

Not only that, but he had also entered the Saint Land and became a Saint Land disciple!

When he received this news, he felt a sense of crisis.

In the eyes of the Black Turtle Sanctum's disciples, Duan Ling Tian only possessed a yellow Innate Spiritual Root. Although he was a Nine-clawed Dragon Warrior and had mastered four different types of high-grade Divine Abilities, his achievements in the future were limited.

However, he knew that Duan Ling Tian possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root, not a yellow one.

He found out about this through the hard way. Wei He, his Great Direct Disciple, was sentenced to death by the Saint Land Enforcement Hall because of this!

After a long while, Li An lifted his face that had a grave expression on as his cold eyes looked in the direction of the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. He muttered to himself, "It's not a bad thing that he went to the Saint Land. In that case, Yang Wen and my two other direct disciples can make a move against him!"

Yang Wen whom Li An mentioned was the elder biological brother of Yang Wu whom Duan Ling Tian killed when he first arrived at the Fire Worship Sect's Black Turtle Sanctum. Yang Wen was also the eldest son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect.

Yang Wen entered the Saint Land many years ago to become a Saint Land disciple.

Right now, his cultivation base had even entered the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. For this reason, he had become a true disciple.

After learning that his younger brother was killed, Yang Wu was furious. He could not wait to go to the Black Turtle Sanctum to kill Duan Ling Tian!

Although he was afraid of the Fire Worship Sect's rule and could not kill Duan Ling Tian, he wanted to torture Duan Ling Tian and teach him a lesson!

However, the Fire Worship Sect had a rule stating that Saint Land disciples were not allowed to enter the Four Symbols Sanctums privately without permission from a Golden Flame Elder.

Otherwise, they would be regarded as violating the sect's rule and would be severely punished!

"Currently, Yang Wen must have learned about the Duan Ling Tian arriving at the Saint Land, right?" Li An's eyes brightened.

Chapter 1988: Knocking On The Door To Seek Revenge

In the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land, there were two types of Saint Land disciples. First, there were the elite disciples. Whichever Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples who managed to enter the Saint Land from the Four Symbols Sanctums to become a Saint Land disciple were considered an elite disciple. Most of the Saint Land disciples in the Saint Land were elite disciples. Second was the true disciples. Unlike the elite disciples, the number of true disciples in the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land was not high. There were only about 170 of them.

99% of these true disciples were powerhouses who had already entered the Saint Celestial Stage. The remaining ones were those geniuses who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots.

With just a blue Innate Spiritual Root, it was enough to allow one to enter the Saint Celestial Stage and become a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse if there was no accident, let alone someone who possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root.

In the current Fire Worship Sect, there were not more than ten people who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots. Some of them were from the older generations in the Fire Worship Sect.

Just take the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect for example, he possessed the indigo Innate Spiritual Root. Similarly, two of the three great Guardians of the Fire Worship Sect and one of the two Vice Sect Leaders possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots as well.

The remaining Guardian and Vice Sect Leader, on the other hand, possessed blue Innate Spiritual Roots. However their Innate Spiritual Roots were dark blue, it was very close to an indigo Innate Spiritual Roots.

For this reason, geniuses who possessed indigo Innate Spiritual Roots were given special treatment and could directly become true disciples without having to reach the Saint Celestial Stage due to their bright future. However, there was a rule stating that their cultivation base had to be at the Divine Saint Stage at least. It was as easy as eating and sleeping for these geniuses with indigo Innate Spiritual Roots to break through to the Divine Saint Stage.

In the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land, all of the elite disciples lived in the vast valley that had been intentionally set up for them. There was a total of 3,000 small courtyards for them to live in. Moreover, the cultivation environment there was even better than the Primus houses in the Four Symbols Sanctums.

As for the true disciples, they did not stay on the Main Island.

They lived on the independent floating islands surrounding the Main Island. They all occupied an island that had a mansion. There was also a large open space in front of the mansion for them to practice their martial tactics and Divine Abilities.

Creak —

A faint sound resonated from one of the independent floating islands.

A young man pushed open the door of one of the rooms in the mansion on the island.

The young man was tall and had a huge build. There was an expression of indifference on his face.

If Duan Ling Tian saw this young man, he would be able to see that he resembled Yang Wu whom he had killed by about 50% to 60%. This young man was none other than Yang Wu's elder brother, Yang Wen!

"Just a little bit more... I'm certain I can successfully comprehend it during my next closed-door cultivation!" Yang Wen muttered to himself as he walked out of the room.

As the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land true disciple, apart from possessing a cultivation base at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, Yang Wen had even mastered a high-grade movement Divine Ability. During these few years, apart from cultivating, he's also devoted his time to comprehend a high-grade offensive Divine Ability.

It was during his recent closed-door cultivation that he finally saw a glimpse of success while he was comprehending the high-grade offensive Divine Ability!

'Unfortunately... Little Wu is no longer here to see me master a second high-grade Divine Ability!' The moment Yang Wen thought of this, his expression turned grave when he recalled Yang Wu, his younger brother, who regarded him as his idol.

Although 90% of the Fire Worship Sect's Four Symbols Sanctums knew the reason of Yang Wu's death and felt that he had sought death, as Yang Wu's biological brother, he did not think so. In his eyes, his brother could do no wrong. Even if his brother had acted outrageously, as an elder brother, he would support him until the end regardless if he was right or wrong!

Due to this reason, when he learned Yang Wu had been killed, he had regarded Duan Ling Tian as his mortal enemy. He would not rest until he killed Duan Ling Tian.

"Duan Ling Tian has entered the Saint Land?" When Yang Wen left his floating island to go the Central Square in the Main Island, he heard the discussion of a few Saint Land disciples who were passing by.

Based on their discussion, he learned that his enemy, the one who killed his younger brother, had already entered the Saint Land and become a Saint Land disciple.

"He has actually comprehended the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier?" When Yang Wen found out how Duan Ling Tian had entered the Saint Land, a hint of jealousy flashed across his eyes.

Yang Wen was also from the Black Turtle Sanctum of the Four Symbols Sanctum. He had tried comprehending the Black Turtle Sanctum's most treasured Divine Ability, the Black Turtle's Barrier, but he yielded no results even after so many years.

In the end, he could only give up and comprehend a high-grade movement ability that he had mastered. Currently, he was in the process of comprehending another high-grade Divine Ability.

"Even if I can't kill or cripple you openly... I still want you to have a taste of what it's like to wish you're dead!" Yang Wen's eyes flashed coldly as he left the Central Square at an extremely fast speed as he made his way toward the residence of Saint Land disciples.

He moved menacingly. Anyone could tell he was harboring ill intent.

He was not Li An. As the Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder, naturally, it was not convenient for him to make a move on a Black Turtle Sanctum's disciple, let alone torturing the disciple until he wished he was dead. It would affect his reputation since people would say he was bullying the weak.

If news of it spread out, the Fire Worship Sect would be humiliated. This could cause many geniuses who planned to join their sect to change their minds and join the other two great sects instead. If that happened, it would be a great loss for the Fire Worship Sect.

Due to this reason, Li An feared the Fire Worship Sect's high-ranking officials would expel him from the Fire Worship Sect out of rage.

However, all this did not apply to Yang Wen. He was not a Fire Worship Sect's elder. He was only a disciple of the Fire Worship Sect just like Duan Ling Tian. Even if news of him torturing Duan Ling Tian spread out because he was avenging his brother, it would not affect the Fire Worship Sect's reputation at all. Moreover, as long as he did not kill or cripple Duan Ling Tian, he would not be violating the Fire Worship Sect's rules at all.

This was a loophole in the Fire Worship Sect's rules. It had always been there, and it seemed as though it had been intentionally left there.

Due to this loophole in the rules, there were some people in the sect who were tortured to the point they wished they were dead.

These people who were tortured until they wished that they were better off dead would usually work even harder after that. Some of them managed to seek revenge. Those who did not manage to seek revenge discovered they had progressed further because of it.

One could say this loophole in the Fire Worship Sect's rules had inspired many of the Fire Worship Sect's disciples.

Naturally, in the Fire Worship Sect, there were very few people who would go to the extent of torturing someone until they wished they were dead unless there was great enmity involved and the other person did not accept the Death Duel.

"It's Senior Brother Yang Wen!" When Yang Wen appeared at the Saint Land disciples' residence in that vast valley, it attracted many people's attention.

Yang Wen used to be a Saint Land disciple who lived here as well. However, after he had broken through to the Saint Celestial Stage and became a true disciple, he had, naturally, left this place.

However, many Saint Land disciples remembered him and could recognize him in just a glance.

Whoosh!

Yang Wen moved very quickly and arrived at the side of the valley.

There were five Saint Land disciples gathered there. They were originally talking but became distracted by Yang Wen's presence.

They felt a little awkward with Yang Wen there.

"Senior Brother Yang Wen!"

"Senior Brother Yang Wen!"

"Where's Duan Ling Tian staying?" Yang Wen glanced at the five Saint Land disciples. A hint of arrogance could be seen in his eyes as he looked at five of them.

When the five Saint Land disciples heard his words, they realized they were not his target. They instantly sighed in relief before simultaneously pointing to a direction.

Yang Wen looked at the direction where the five Saint Land disciples were pointing at. Soon, his gaze was trained on a small courtyard, and he immediately flew out.

However, when he reached outside the small courtyard, he did not force his way in. Instead, he sat cross-legged in the air and shut his eyes to attain mental composure.

He cultivated as he waited quietly.

It was not that he did not want to force his way in. However, if he did, the consequences were not something he could afford to bear.

First of all, every stone house behind the small courtyard that the Saint Land disciples lived in had a very strong soundproof effect. Not only that, but a Formation stopping Divine Consciousness from entering was also laid inside.

Apart from opening the door, the only other method to alert the person inside was to destroy the Formation stopping Divine Consciousness from entering or to destroy the stone house.

However, if he did this, there was a huge possibility that the person inside would go crazy due to Qi deviation!

According to the Fire Worship Sect's rules, whoever disrupted the cultivation of a fellow disciple and caused the person to go insane would be sentenced to death regardless of his innate talent and position.

Naturally, Yang Wen wished Duan Ling Tian would go insane, but he was unwilling to pay for it with his own life.

Otherwise, he would not have just planned to torture Duan Ling Tian until he wished he was dead. He felt Duan Ling Tian's life was not as valuable as his own life, therefore he would not sacrifice his own life just to kill Duan Ling Tian

Chapter 1989: Sword Warding Heart

Although Yang Wen could not kill Duan Ling Tian now, it did not mean he could not kill Duan Ling Tian in the future.

He could not kill Duan Ling Tian now because he was afraid of the Fire Worship Sect's rules. In the future, if he had an opportunity, he would definitely kill Duan Ling Tian to avenge his younger brother, Yang Wu!

"What's Senior Brother Yang Wen doing?"

"It looks like he's waiting for Duan Ling Tian to come out."

Yang Wen had attracted the attention of many Saint Land disciples. They figured out Yang Wen had come here because of the new disciple, Duan Ling Tian. They could tell he was not here to have a heartfelt talk with Duan Ling Tian. This could be seen from his menacing attitude. They were certain he came with ill intent.

"Does Duan Ling Tian and Senior Brother Yang Wen has enmity with each other? I've never heard of this before!"

"Me too! Not only that, prior to this, one of them is in the Saint Land and the other one was in the Four Symbols Sanctums. I don't think they've met, right?"

"What's going on?"

Many Saint Land disciples were puzzled.

"No way! Don't tell me all of you don't know about the enmity between Senior Brother Yang Wen and Duan Ling Tian?" A Saint Land disciple asked in shock. It seemed like he was surprised they did not know about what happened.

"Why? Do you know something?" The group of Saint Land disciples shifted their gaze to this Saint Land disciple.

"Do you still remember when Duan Ling Tian arrived at the Fire Worship Sect's Black Turtle Sanctum, and how the enmity between him and the Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An begin?" The Saint Land disciple asked in response, keeping the others in suspense.

"Of course!" As soon as he finished speaking, another Saint Land disciples nodded and chimed in, "It's because Duan Ling Tian killed the son of Li An's best friend!"

The other Saint Land disciples nodded.

They had also heard of this before.

Due to this reason, they admired Duan Ling Tian a lot since not everyone was bold enough to publicly offend a Fire Worship Sect's Silver Flame Elder the moment they arrived at the sect.

"Since all of you know about this, then, do you know who's Li An's best friend?" The previous Saint Land disciple asked again.

"Who?"

"Stop with the guessing game! Just tell us who he is!"

"That's right! If you continue to keep us guessing, do you believe we'll beat you up?!"

Many Saint Land disciples were furious when this Saint Land disciple kept them guessing. They stared at him furiously as though they would beat him up if he continued to keep them guessing.

Although some Saint Land disciple maintained their composure, the looks they gave this Saint Land disciple were not kind anymore.

At this moment, another Saint Land disciple who had been thinking suddenly cried out, "It's Yang Chong!" It was clear he had only just remembered this.

"Yang Chong? Oh, yes, I remember now! It's Yang Chong!"

"I remember as well! That person whom Duan Ling Tian killed that day was Yang Wu, the son of the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect!"

The moment this Saint Land disciple spoke, another two Saint Land disciples chimed in as well.

"Don't tell me Senior Brother Yang Wen has connections with Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect?" At the same time, the Saint Land disciples present on the scene began to guess.

Meanwhile, most of the Saint Land disciples shifted their gaze to the Saint Land disciple who liked to keep them guessing. All of them were eagerly waiting for his answer.

He no longer dared to keep them guessing after seeing how furious they were. He answered without beating around the bush, "Senior Brother Yang Wen is none other than the eldest son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect! Yang Wu whom Duan Ling Tian killed was Senior Brother Yang Wen's brother!"

Clamor!

The instant the Saint Land disciple's words left his mouth, the entire scene fell silent for a moment before a commotion broke out.

"Senior Brother Yang Wen is the son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect?"

"My goodness! Is this real? I've not heard of it before!"

"Me neither!"

After learning that their Fire Worship Sect's true disciple, Yang Wen, was the son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, many Saint Land disciples present on the scene were shocked. Prior to this, they did not know Yang Wen was the son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect.

"Senior Brother Yang Wen really hid this well. To think he's the son of the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect!"

"Before this, I've only heard that Senior Brother Yang Wen is a very haughty person. Now I finally understand! To think he did not rely on his father and forged a name for himself with his own strength!"

After the Saint Land disciples found out about Yang Wen's identity, all sorts of feelings welled up in their hearts.

"In that case, it makes sense why Senior Brother Yang Wen came for Duan Ling Tian with ill intention. Since Duan Ling Tian killed his younger brother, it would be impossible for him to let the matter go!"

"That's right! Perhaps, Senior Brother Yang Wen won't be bold enough to kill or cripple Duan Ling Tian due to the sect's rules. However, he can still torture Duan Ling Tian. This is an unspoken rule in the sect after all."

"Does this mean Duan Ling Tian is doomed?"

"Of course! Although he's strong and invincible among those below the Saint Celestial Stage, his strength is nothing compared to Senior Brother Yang Wen who's at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!"

"That's right! There's a huge gap between the Saint Celestial Stage and the Quintessential Saint Stage. They're like thousands of miles apart! Duan Ling Tian's strength can't be compared to Senior Brother Yang Wen's strength at all!"

"Looks like Duan Ling Tian would have his skin stripped off him even if he's not killed or crippled!"

After finding out about Yang Wen's identity, the group of Saint Land disciples was no longer surprised by Yang Wen's fury toward Duan Ling Tian. Instead, they began to pity Duan Ling Tian.

Although they had heard that Duan Ling Tian's strength was very close to the Saint Celestial Stage, being close to it was very different from being at the Saint Celestial Stage after all!

For this reason, in their opinion, it was impossible for Duan Ling Tian to be a match for Yang Wen. He was destined to be tortured by Yang Wen!

Due to the reason that the soundproof effect of the stone houses in the Saint Land disciples' residence was very good, Duan Ling Tian who was in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda was unaware of what was happening outside. He did not know a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse was waiting for him to go out.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was standing as straight as a javelin in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda! He did not move at all just like a statue. Nobody knew what he was doing.

Time passed by quietly.

A day went by.

Two days went by.

...

Duan Ling Tian only moved after a month had passed.

With a raise of his hand, a plain and unadorned three-foot-long blade appeared in his hand. It was the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword!

With just one glance, the Jasper Celestial Sword appeared like an ordinary sword.

Swish!

However, when Duan Ling Tian wielded it, it emitted a terrifying aura as though it could destroy the universe.

Translucent sword Qi gleamed around the Jasper Celestial Sword. The pressure it emitted was heavy as well.

“Heartfelt Sword, Sword Shadowed Heart, Sword Warding Heart, Sword-Heart Illumination, and Heart-Sword Amalgamation...” Duan Ling Tian muttered with his eyes closed. Nobody knew who he was talking to.

He continued to mutter the names of the five major stages of the Sovereign Heart Sword repeatedly. It was as though he did not know how being tired felt like as he continued to mutter to himself for a long time.

Time flew by.

Another month went by.

Duan Ling Tian who remained motionless after he took the Jasper Celestial Sword out a month ago finally moved again.

A month ago, he wielded the Jasper Celestial Sword and held it horizontally.

Swish!

This time, he wielded the sword vertically before he became motionless again.

In just a blink of an eye, another month went by.

However, this time, Duan Ling Tian still did not move. He stood there, gripping his sword. He looked like a statue of a sword cultivator.

“What a powerful sword Qi!” Elder Huo’s figure suddenly appeared in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. His eyes widened in shock as he looked at Duan Ling Tian who was hovering in the air as he gripped his sword.

Although Duan Ling Tian looked ordinary holding on to his sword, Elder Huo could clearly sense the extremely powerful sword Qi emanating from his body. Not only that, but it was extremely dense as though it could slice through anything.

If one paid close attention, one could see that the air around Duan Ling Tian seemed to be rippling outward as though it was affected by an invisible energy.

“He’s almost there! I hope he succeeds. If he succeeds, his achievement in the Sovereign Heart Sword would be able to reach the summit of the offensive martial tactics in this mundane realm! Not only that, but it would be even more powerful than most of the top-tier offensive martial tactics in this mundane realm!” Elder Huo muttered to himself before disappearing into thin air.

The air continued to ripple even after Elder Huo left.

By the tenth day, the air around Duan Ling Tian rippled visibly and they spread even further out. It was as though a terrifying force was cutting the air.

“Sword Warding Heart... Oh, I see! I understand now!” Duan Ling Tian suddenly opened his eyes. His eyes were so bright.

Meanwhile, the air around him no longer rippled since it was no longer affected by the piercing energy.

In the next instant, Duan Ling Tian let go of his grip on the sword. At the same time, the Jasper Celestial Sword transformed into a sword ray and swept across the sky. Its speed sped up, and in the end, it disappeared into the air as though it had merged with the air.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

...

After the Jasper Celestial Sword disappeared, the sounds of sword swishing did not stop. It continued to echo in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

After about 15 minutes, it finally ended.

At the instant the sound stopped, the Jasper Celestial Sword suddenly appeared back in Duan Ling Tian’s hand

Chapter 1990: Yang Wen’s Hesitation!

“Exactly 100 days!” When Duan Ling Tian put the Jasper Celestial Sword away, he fell momentarily silent before his eyes suddenly brightened as he recalled the time it took him to comprehend the Sovereign Heart Sword’s third stage, the Sword Warding Heart.

He was not in closed-door cultivation after all. For this reason, he still paid attention to the time flow.

“100 days in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda means ten days have passed outside...” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he took a crystal card out. He had obtained this at the registry for new disciples in the Saint Land. “I wonder what I can exchange with the Contribution Points in this crystal

card. I'll just head to the Central Square to have a look and see if there's anything I need. I might as well find some ways to earn more Contribution Points."

When he infused his Sun Saint Energy into the crystal card, it showed that he had 100 Contribution Points.

These 100 Contribution Points were given to all Four Symbols Sanctums' disciples who entered the Saint Land to become Saint Land disciples. It was a welcome gift by the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land to every new Saint Land disciple.

Duan Ling Tian kept everything before he pushed his door open.

Rumble!

The stone door opened, causing a dull sound to ring in the air.

When the stone door was pushed open, the true disciple, Yang Wen, who was sitting cross-legged in the air in the small courtyard in front of the stone house opened his eyes that were as bright as stars. Killing intent surged out of his body immediately.

"Duan Ling Tian's coming out!" Many people heard the commotion and turned their attention to the little courtyard Duan Ling Tian was staying in.

Most of the Saint Land disciples had a hint of pity in their eyes as they looked at Duan Ling Tian. In their opinion, since Duan Ling Tian had come out, it meant he was doomed. After all, that true disciple, Yang Wen, had been waiting for ten days.

Based on Yang Wen's posture, it was impossible that he would let Duan Ling Tian go!

Yang Wen might not dare to kill or cripple Duan Ling Tian due to his fear of the Fire Worship Sect's rule, but he was able to torture Duan Ling Tian until he wished he was dead!

Although Yang Wen did not say what he was going to do to Duan Ling Tian, based on the killing intent he emitted, everybody present on the scene could deeply feel his hatred toward Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian had killed his younger brother after all. The enmity would not be small.

"Huh?" Before the stone door was fully open, Duan Ling Tian already sensed the terrifying killing intent from outside. He immediately put his guard up. Apart from that, he did not rush to open the door. Instead, he slowly opened it.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian could clearly hear the discussion from outside.

"Senior Brother Yang Wen is a true disciple and his cultivation base is at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. It's easy for him to deal with Duan Ling Tian!"

"That's right! Duan Ling Tian is destined to be doomed!"

“It’s useless even if he has sensed the commotion and refuses to come out since Senior Brother Yang Wen is already certain that he’s not in closed-door cultivation. Even if Senior Brother Yang Wen destroys the stone house, he doesn’t have to worry about Duan Ling Tian becoming crazy due to Qi deviation.”

“So what if his strength is almost close to the Saint Celestial Stage? So what if he has successfully comprehended our Fire Worship Sect’s number one defensive Divine Ability, the Black Turtle’s Barrier? So what if he mastered four high-grade Divine Abilities? He’s still as useless as a clay chicken in front of a true Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!”

“If he wants to blame someone, he can only blame himself for killing Yang Wu, Senior Brother Yang Wen’s younger brother. Otherwise, why would Senior Brother Yang Wen make things difficult for him in the first place?”

Duan Ling Tian learned a lot about what was happening outside. He discovered that the killing intent came from a true disciple called Yang Wen.

‘I’ve long heard that Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect, has two sons. The youngest son, Yang Wu, was killed by me, and the eldest son is a Saint Land disciple in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land. However, I can’t believe that Yang Chong’s eldest son, Yang Wen, is actually a true disciple whose cultivation base has already entered the Saint Celestial Stage!’ Duan Ling Tian was surprised by this. Naturally, that was all to it.

Duan Ling Tian’s expression was as calm as usual. He did not show any signs of terror at all.

‘The fact that Yang Wen came, even if he daren’t kill or cripple me due to the sect’s rules, he must plan to torture me until I wish I’m dead!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as his eyes flashed coldly, ‘The Fire Worship Sect’s rules don’t prohibit disciples from torturing or humiliating another fellow disciple. Perhaps, this is the Fire Worship Sect’s way of encouraging its disciples to strive to be stronger!’

Rumble!

As the dull sound of the stone door being pushed resonated again, Duan Ling Tian sped up his movement. Soon after, the stone door was completely open.

Under everybody’s gaze, including Yang Wen’s, a tall and handsome young man appeared before their eyes. His calmness made a huge impression on them.

Although his uniform was similar to the rest of the Saint Land disciples, it did not conceal his extraordinary disposition. It caused the others to feel slightly ashamed of their ungainly appearance.

As soon as that young man walked out of the stone house and into the courtyard, Yang Wen instantly stood up in the air and glared at the young man before he asked in an interrogative manner, “You’re Duan Ling Tian?”

Yang Wen’s gaze was extremely piercing. If looks could kill, Duan Ling Tian would have died a few times over.

When Yang Wen glared at Duan Ling Tian and spoke to him rudely, Duan Ling Tian did not answer his question. Instead, he asked in return, “Yang Wen? The son of Yang Chong, the fifth elder of Northern Plethora Sect?”

When Yang Wen saw how this calm this young man was despite knowing who he was, he knew for certain the young man before him was Duan Ling Tian.

This was his first time seeing a Saint Land disciple being so arrogant in front of a true disciple.

“No wonder you dare to oppose Elder Li An! You’re indeed arrogant!” After confirming Duan Ling Tian’s identity, the killing intent Yang Wen emitted intensified.

The piercing gaze landed on Duan Ling Tian as though it was trying to cut him into a thousand pieces. “Do you think I’m like Elder Li An? Do you think I’ll find it inconvenient to make a move on you because of my identity?”

The moment Yang Wen finished speaking, he did not even wait for Duan Ling Tian’s reply before he began to make a move against Duan Ling Tian.

Meanwhile, the Saint Land disciples who were looking felt their hearts beat faster as they stared at the scene unfolding before them with utmost concentration.

In their opinion, Duan Ling Tian was doomed!

“Yang Wen, you can’t wait to kill me, right? In that case, I’ll give you a chance to kill me without violating the Fire Worship Sect’s rule!” Duan Ling Tian said.

However, as soon as Yang Wen heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, Yang Wen who was about to make his move came to a halt.

The Saint Land disciples were baffled and filled with disbelief.

Yang Wen asked, “What do you mean?” He could not help but frown.

“What else can I mean?” Faced with the frowning Yang Wen, Duan Ling Tian smiled nonchalantly as he said calmly, “If I’m not mistaken, there must be a place in the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land that allows disciples to sign a Death Duel and fight to death, right? I’ll give you this chance. Please lead the way!” Duan Ling Tian’s expression remained unchanged when he finished speaking.

In comparison to the frowning Yang Wen, Duan Ling Tian’s calm demeanor made him a victor in terms of bearing.

Please lead the way!

The moment Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Yang Wen’s expression changed drastically. Various expressions flitted across his face. Then, he stared at Duan Ling Tian intently and did not say anything. Nobody knew what he was thinking at this moment.

Clamor!

At the same time, the Saint Land disciples who heard Duan Ling Tian’s words finally regained his senses and burst into a commotion.

“My goodness! Based on Duan Ling Tian’s words, he wants to have a Death Duel with Senior Brother Yang Wen?” One of the Saint Land disciples cried out.

“A Death Duel? With Senior Brother Yang Wen? Where did he get his courage from?” Many Saint Land disciples widened their eyes in disbelief.

“He has only recently become a Saint Land disciple. Although he’s strong, he can only flaunt his strength in front of those whose cultivation base is below the Saint Celestial Stage. It’s absolutely impossible for him to be compared to a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!” Another Saint Land disciple chimed in confidently.

“If that’s the case, why’s he acting like that? Look at how calm he is. He doesn’t look like someone who’s seeking death!” Many Saint Land disciples found things a little peculiar.

“Didn’t anyone of you notice? Since Duan Ling Tian came out, his expression did not change at all. From the beginning until the end, he has remained calm. It’s as though he wouldn’t even blink if a mountain collapses before his eyes! This is either confidence or a bluff!” One of the Saint Land disciples guessed.

“Confidence? Don’t tell me you think he’s able to kill Senior Brother Yang Wen then?” At once, this Saint Land disciple’s statement caused the others to look at him disdainfully.

“Hurmph! He must be deliberately trying to make things look mysterious!” Many Saint Land disciples said with certainty.

They did not think Duan Ling Tian was a match to the true disciple, Yang Wen, whose cultivation base had already entered the Saint Celestial Stage. Duan Ling Tian was acting this way because he was deliberately trying to make things look mysterious in hopes that Yang Wen would retreat.

A Saint Land disciple who saw Yang Wen’s hesitation said, “Hey, look at that! When Duan Ling Tian suggested a Death Duel, Senior Brother Yang Wen seems to have hesitated a little! Don’t tell me he really thinks he’s not as strong as Duan Ling Tian?”

“You’re right!” One by one, the Saint Land disciples shifted their gaze to Yang Wen and noticed his hesitation as well.