

Chapter 2061: Green-clad Old Man

'If I'm able to devour Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root, at the very least my Innate Spiritual Root will turn dark blue, if not indigo!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the unconscious Bu Hong with a hint of greed in his eyes. 'My Innate Spiritual Root is merely a step away from transforming into an indigo Innate Spiritual Root!' He was excited when he thought about this.

Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time as he used the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, with Elder Huo's help, to devour Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root so he could improve his own Innate Spiritual Root!

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had asked Elder Huo to check if there were any cultivators at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or above watching since they would be able to see through his 10,000 Swords Territory with their Spiritual Eyes. He would not be able to devour Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root if such powerhouses were present. However, he was in luck since there were no powerhouses at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or above present on the scene. Since he had nothing to worry about, he began to devour Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root.

Just as Duan Ling Tian had expected, his Innate Spiritual Root had transformed into a dark blue one. It was on the verge of turning indigo.

'Who would've thought I would encounter a windfall right before I leave the Fire Worship Sect. I think I'll be able to turn my Innate Spiritual Root into an indigo one if I devour one or two more blue Innate Spiritual Roots!' Duan Ling Tian's heart raced when he thought about this.

"Bu Hong, you only have yourself to blame for this. I hope you won't go crazy when you discover you're nothing but trash now!" Duan Ling Tian said calmly as he looked at Bu Hong. He did not feel guilty devouring Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root. Since Bu Hong had intended to humiliate him, it was only just that Duan Ling Tian crippled his Martial Dao innate talent!

In Dao Martial Saint Land, people were considered trash if they did not possess Innate Spiritual Roots since it meant they would not be able to cultivate.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian withdrew his 10,000 Swords Territory. He reappeared before Wen Yan and the Saint Land disciples.

Everyone was shocked by what they saw. Not only was Duan Ling Tian unharmed, but he even held an unconscious and bleeding Bu Hong in his hands.

"This..."

Most of the Saint Land disciples were shocked speechless by what they had seen.

"Senior Brother!" Wen Yan cried out. She was the first to regain her senses. Her expression changed dramatically as she said in a trembling voice, "Duan Ling Tian... What have you done to my senior brother?"

“Relax,” Duan Ling Tian said calmly as he looked at Wen Yan. His expression was indifferent as he continued to say, “Your senior brother is not worth breaking the sect’s rules for. He’s just unconscious. However, if no one stops his bleeding soon, I can’t guarantee he won’t bleed out and die.”

When Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, he tossed Bu Hong over to Wen Yan as though he was tossing trash.

Wen Yan immediately caught Bu Hong and staunched his bleeding once she confirmed he was alive. She would not be implicated if Bu Hong had already died. However, Bu Hong was handed back to her alive. If he bled out and died, she would be responsible for his death. This was not a crime she could bear.

“Second on the True Ranking? 421st on the Supreme Saint Ranking? He’s grossly overrated,” Duan Ling Tian said disdainfully in front of everyone. He left as soon as he finished speaking and continued his journey back to his residence.

The Saint Land disciples finally regained their senses after Duan Ling Tian left.

“I can’t believe this! Duan Ling Tian managed to severely injure Senior Brother Bu Hong to the point that he’s unconscious?” A Saint Land disciple said with great difficulties.

“I’m not dreaming, am I?”

Slap!

The person who had spoken was slapped by his friend. His friend asked him innocently, “Does it hurt?”

Slap!

He retaliated by slapping his friend as well. “Does it hurt?”

“Ouch!” His friend was almost in tears and said in an aggrieved tone, “It seems like we’re not dreaming.”

Their conversation caused many Saint Land disciples to laugh. Apart from that, their conversation also proved that they were not dreaming.

Everything they had seen was real!

“Hmmp! Didn’t I tell you Senior Brother Ling Tian would emerge victorious?”

“That’s right! Senior brother Duan Ling Tian hasn’t lost once since he joined the Fire Worship Sect!”

“Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian wouldn’t lose to anyone weaker than a Silver Flame Elder... In fact, he might even be able to hold his ground if faced with a Silver Flame Elder!”

“I agree with you.”

The few Saint Land disciples who had faith in Duan Ling Tian felt vindicated. No one believed them earlier. Currently, no one could contest their words.

Meanwhile, Wen Yan had left in a hurry with an unconscious Bu Hong in tow. Her expression was dark. She could feel everyone looking at her with a strange gaze as she left. She felt as though she was going to explode from anger.

'Duan Ling Tian, I won't let this matter go!' Wen Yan thought to herself angrily as she left in a huff.

Wen Yan suddenly turned to look at the unconscious Bu Hong as though she had thought of something. 'If I cripple senior brother, will the Enforcement Hall punish Duan Ling Tian?'

Wen Yan was about to act on her plan when she thought to herself again, "Wait! If Duan Ling Tian swears on the lightning penalty oath that he did not cripple senior brother, won't the blame fall on me?" She quickly dismissed her earlier idea when she thought of this. If the Enforcement Hall suspected her and she could not prove her innocence by swearing on the lightning penalty oath, she would be in deep trouble.

Based on this, one could see what kind of person Wen Yan was. It was no surprise she would report Gan Ru Yan.

"Useless trash!" Wen Yan vented her frustration on the unconscious Bu Hong.

How would Bu Hong feel if he knew the junior sister he cared for so deeply thought of crippling him to place the blame on Duan Ling Tian and even called him trash? However, it was destined that he would remain unaware of this.

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After Duan Ling Tian returned to his residence, news of him defeating Bu Hong who was ranked second on the True Ranking swept through the Fire Worship Sect like a storm. It shocked everyone in the sect.

"Duan Ling Tian defeated Senior Brother Bu Hong? Is there any truth to this news?!"

"Duan Ling Tian was ranked fourth on the True Ranking and 537th on the Supreme Saint Ranking. However, I still had my doubts about his strength before this. Who could've guessed he's able to easily defeat Senior Brother Bu Hong!"

"What sort of monster is Duan Ling Tian? He grew so strong within a year of joining the Fire Worship Sect!"

"Senior Brother Bu Hong was ranked second on the True Ranking and 421st on the Supreme Saint Ranking... Duan Ling Tian will take his place now that he has been defeated!"

"That's true. Senior Brother Bu Hong's going to drop a place on the True Ranking. However, on the Supreme Saint Ranking, they'll swap rankings. Senior Bu Hong's lucky that Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is already ranked on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Otherwise, he would be kicked out of the Supreme Saint Ranking!"

Everyone in the Fire Worship Sect was excitedly discussing the rankings on the True Ranking and the Supreme Saint Ranking.

No one in Fire Worship Sect doubted Bu Hong's defeat in Duan Ling Tian's hands. However, if outsiders heard about this, they might find it hard to believe.

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In the evening.

A green-clad old man appeared on the island Duan Ling Tian was living on. He had appeared out of thin air as though he was a ghost.

The old man had long flowing white hair but his face was as smooth as a baby's skin. He looked kind. From a distance, he looked like an immortal.

"This little fellow is quite strong. Not only was he not bullied in the Enforcement Hall, but he even defeated Bu Hong who was ranked second on the True Ranking after leaving the Enforcement Hall... Is there a need for Ru Yan to send someone to pass a message to me so that I can look out for him?" The old man looked at the mansion on the island as he muttered to himself, "I wonder if this little fellow is interested in becoming my disciple?"

Chapter 2062: The Seventh Form of Saint Celestial Stage, Heaven Defying Form!

Based on the green-clad old man's words, it was obvious he was Gan Ru Yan's master. He was Qing Huo, one of the three great Guardians of the Fire Worship Sect.

About a month ago, Qing Huo received a voice transmission jade token from someone his direct disciple, Gan Ru Yan, had sent. She had asked him to look out for a young man named Duan Ling Tian. At that time, Duan Ling Tian was serving in the Enforcement Hall.

Qing Huo had heard of Duan Ling Tian, but he did not pay much attention to him prior to that. After he received the voice transmission jade token from his direct disciple, he had investigated him. The result of his investigation had shocked him.

A new disciple who had joined the Fire Worship Sect for less than a year had caused so many incidents in the Fire Worship Sect! Moreover, he had also offended quite a number of high-ranking officials in the Fire Worship Sect. He had even offended Dong Yuan Jin, one of the Vice Hall Masters in the Enforcement Hall. Dong Yuan Jin was stronger than most Golden Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect.

Qing Huo had paid close attention to the happenings in the Enforcement Hall. However, he discovered Dong Yuan Jin did not make any move at all. Soon after, he learned that Dong Yuan Jin did not personally make a move but he had sent the First Silver Flame Elder in the Enforcement Hall to avenge his son, Dong Lin. However, the First Silver Flame Elder was cowed by Duan Ling Tian! In the end, the First Silver Flame Elder had stood by idly as he watched Duan Ling Tian beat up Dong Lin.

When Qing Huo learned about this, his interest in Duan Ling Tian whom he had never met began to grow. However, at that time, he had no thoughts of asking him to be his direct disciple.

Today, Duan Ling Tian had completely defeated Bu Hong who was ranked second on the True Ranking. This sparked Qing Huo's interest in accepting him as his disciple. For this reason, he had come here.

"Duan Ling Tian!"

Qing Huo was a straightforward man. He did not plan to beat around the bush and called out to Duan Ling Tian immediately. His voice that contained Saint Origin spread through Duan Ling Tian's mansion on the island.

"Hm?" Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian who was cultivating in the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda heard someone calling out for him.

Duan Ling Tian was still confused when Elder Huo suddenly appeared on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and solemnly warned him, "This person's cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!"

"Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes widened when he heard Elder Huo's words. He did not doubt Elder Huo's words.

A powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage was not someone he could deal with at the moment. The Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage was also known as the Heaven Defying Form! Once one had broken through to this stage, they would no longer be bound by mortality. One would have the lifespan of an immortal. Naturally, such powerhouses could still be killed.

"In the Fire Worship Sect, there are only four people whose cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or above... They're Sect Leader Tang Xuan and the Wind, Fire, and Cloud Guardians!" Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself, "It seems likely that my visitor is one of the Guardians. I wonder which Guardian it is and why he came looking for me."

Duan Ling Tian left the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and his room. When he exited his mansion, he flew up into the air. After a few moments, he saw a green-clad old man standing before him.

Since Duan Ling Tian had entered the Fire Worship Sect, regardless if they had a high rank or not, everyone he met was dressed in a white robe. The only difference would be the patterns embroidered on their robes. This was his first time meeting someone who was not dressed in white!

This was also one of the reasons Duan Ling Tian knew this old man had an extraordinary position in the Fire Worship Sect. He was certain the green-clad old man was one of the Guardians in the Fire Worship Sect.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian appeared before the green-clad old man.

The old man did not emit any aura at all. He seemed like an ordinary old man. However, Duan Ling Tian knew very well that someone who could hide his aura so well was certainly very strong. It was no easy feat after all to hide one's aura.

"Greetings, Guardian!" Duan Ling Tian instantly cupped his hand and bowed respectfully to the green-clad old man.

Qing Huo was surprised Duan Ling Tian managed to guess his identity so quickly. He could not help but ask, "How do you know I'm a Guardian of the Fire Worship Sect?"

“In the Fire Worship Sect, I’m afraid only the Sect Leader and the three great Guardians possess such noble bearing. It’s not hard for me to figure this out.” Duan Ling Tian flattered the old man without any hint of hesitation. He had confirmed his suspicion that the green-clad old man was one of the Guardians in the Fire Worship Sect.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian did not guess who the old man was based on his noble bearing. It was because Elder Huo had informed him the old man’s cultivation base was at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. There were only four people in the Fire Worship Sect who possessed such a cultivation base.

Sect Leader Tang Xuan of the Fire Worship Sect was still in closed-door cultivation. There were only the Guardians left.

Nonetheless, Duan Ling Tian did not know which of the three great Guardians the green-clad old man was.

“You know how to flatter people as well? How curious. I thought you only know how to cause trouble.” Qing Huo shook his head and smiled when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words.

“You must be joking, Guardian... I’ve never caused any trouble.” Based on Qing Huo’s words, Duan Ling Tian knew the other party was aware of what happened ever since he had joined the Fire Worship Sect.

Duan Ling Tian meant it when he said he had never caused any trouble. It was other people who looked for trouble with him!

“Never caused any trouble?” Qing Huo shook his head and looked at Duan Ling Tian and said teasingly, “Perhaps, you didn’t actively cause trouble with the others. However, as far as I know, Wen Yan didn’t offend you in any way. Why did you humiliate her the first time you met her? How’s that not causing trouble?” Qing Huo sounded amused when he spoke.

“It’s not!” Duan Ling Tian shook his head firmly and said, “Wen Yan might not have provoked me. However, my sense of justice is very strict. Wen Yan is the scum of Fire Worship Sect. I don’t think it’s wrong for me to beat up someone like that when I see them.” Duan Ling Tian sounded very righteous when he spoke. It was as though he was doing the public a favor by beating up Wen Yan.

Qing Huo obviously did not believe Duan Ling Tian’s words. He asked bluntly, “I didn’t know you have such a strong sense of justice. Let’s not beat around the bush. What’s your relationship with Gan Ru Yan?” It seemed as though he knew Duan Ling Tian had beaten up Wen Yan for Gan Ru Yan.

“Guardian Qing Huo, why don’t you ask your disciple that instead of asking me?” Duan Ling Tian asked with a wry smile. He no longer maintained his righteous facade.

“How do you know I’m Qing Huo?” Qing Huo was surprised when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words.

“Among the three great Guardians of the Fire Worship Sect, you’re probably the only one who would show a hint of emotion when Wen Yan is mentioned. After all, she’s the reason your direct disciple is imprisoned in the Enforcement Hall,” Duan Ling Tian said confidently.

Earlier, when Qing Huo had mentioned Wen Yan, Duan Ling Tian had sensed a tiny fluctuation in his emotion.

Duan Ling Tian was a Weapon Specialist in his past life after all. He was more astute than ordinary people.

Out of all three Fire Worship Sect's Guardians, Qing Huo was the only one who would be prejudiced against Wen Yan. Wen Yan had caused his direct disciple to be imprisoned in the Enforcement Hall after all.

Qing Huo was momentarily stunned when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. After a while, he began to laugh. After he stopped laughing, he looked at Duan Ling Tian intently and asked, "Duan Ling Tian, are you interested in becoming my disciple? I heard that your master is a sectless cultivator, but I don't mind. After meeting you, I have to say that I really like your attitude. If you become my direct disciple, I promise I won't spare any efforts to nurture you. What I give Ru Yan will also be given to you!"

If Duan Ling Tian became Qing Huo's disciple, he would treat him as well he treated Gan Ru Yan.

"Huh?" Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard Qing Huo's words. He did not expect Qing Huo had come all the way here just to ask him to be his direct disciple!

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Meanwhile, in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. In the quasi third-rate force, the Azure Cloud Mansion.

There was another uninvited guest who had shown up at the Azure Cloud Mansion. Instead of bringing a large group of men, this man had shown up alone. To be more accurate, the visitor was not a man but a monster. The monster was four meters tall. It possessed the body of a human and the head of an ox. It looked like a minotaur.

"What monster is this?"

Many Black Armored Guards were killed. The remaining Black Armored Guards retreated outside the Main Mansion of the Azure Cloud Mansion. They were all frightened.

Chapter 2063: A Frightened Ox Devil

The Black Armored Guards' strength was far inferior compared to the four meters tall monster.

"Humans are so weak!" The monster with a minotaur appearance was from the Ox Devil Clan in the Land of Exile. It was an elite warrior from the clan that had come to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land not too long ago. Before it arrived at the Azure Cloud Mansion, it had killed numerous people.

The Ox Devil had killed ordinary humans, Martial Cultivators, Dao Cultivators, and Devil Cultivators during its journey here. It had absorbed all their vital essences, effectively increasing its strength.

In the Land of Exile, cultivations resources were rare and the environment was not good. To increase their strength, devils had to devour other devils to absorb vital essence! The stronger a devil was, the

more devils it had killed. If the devils cultivated by absorbing the Heaven and Earth Energy in their surroundings, it would take them a very long time to increase their strength.

As much as the devils opposed each other in the Land of Exile, they were united when they left the Land of Exile. They all shared common enemies whom they could devour vital essences from after all! They no longer had to kill each other.

During the Human-Devil Era, the devils had joined forces to invade the Saint Province Realm and slaughtered many humans. The Saint Province Realm only regained peace when the human powerhouses managed to chase the devils back to the Land of Exile and repair the space barrier. However, the survivors from that era would not forget the devils' reign of terror.

'Humans? He... Did he call us humans? Is it a Saint Beast?' Many Black Armored Guards thought to themselves when they heard the monster's words.

"It's slightly stronger than the powerhouse from the Upper Province who came before this. Currently, we can only wait for Lord Commander to bring Lord Mansion Master here," one of the Black Armored Army's Centurions said solemnly.

"Lord Mansion Master!" The eyes of many Black Armored Guards brightened when the Mansion Master was mentioned. It was as though he was their lifebuoy and they were drowning.

Almost a month ago, the former Commander of the Black Armored Army had been killed. Duan Ru Feng, the Mansion Master of Azure Cloud Mansion, had appointed Centurion Tong Zhong as the new Commander of the Black Armored Army. Nobody objected to it. Everyone was very happy with the decision.

Tong Zhong was the only Exemplary Saint Stage powerhouse in the Black Armored Army, excluding the former Commander. It was only natural he would be appointed as the new Commander of the Black Armored Army.

Meanwhile, in the Main Mansion of the Azure Cloud Mansion. Tong Zhong finally found Duan Ru Feng and informed him of what was happening.

"A minotaur-like monster?!" Duan Ru Feng who was sitting on the main seat abruptly stood up when he heard Tong Zhong's report.

Tong Zhong might not know what the minotaur-like monster was, but Duan Ru Feng who had inherited a legacy from the Devil Clan knew what the monster was. It was a member of the Ox Devil Clan in the Land of Exile!

"An Ox Devil trespassed into the Azure Cloud Mansion?" There was a hint of dread in Duan Ru Feng's eyes as his expression turned grim.

Sou!

Following that, Duan Ru Feng waved his hand and brought Tong Zhong with him as he headed out. During the journey, he asked Tong Zhong, "How tall is the monster?"

“About four meters tall,” Tong Zhong replied after he took a moment to recall the monster’s height.

“About four meters tall?” Duan Ru Feng sighed in relief when he heard Tong Zhong’s words. With his current strength, he could, at most, summon a Saint Devil Puppet Land from the Saint Devil Altar in the Land of Exile that possessed the strength of a powerhouse at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

If it was one of the elders from the Ox Devil Clan, Duan Ru Feng doubted he would be a match for it even if he summoned a Saint Devil Puppet and used the Super Saint Weapon, the Asura Saber!

Duan Ru Feng sighed in relief because he knew an Ox Devil about four meters tall only possessed a cultivation base at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. It did not pose a threat to him at all.

‘However, how did a member of the Ox Devil clan appear in the Dao Martial Saint Land? Could it be because Dugu and I had broken through to the Quintessential Saint Stage and we’ve affected the stability of the space barrier when we absorbed the pure Devil Qi from the Land of Exile?’ Duan Ru Feng’s expression turned grave when he thought of this.

Previously, Duan Ru Feng and Dugu had intentionally suppressed their cultivation base and maintained it at the Exemplary Saint Stage instead of breaking through to the Quintessential Saint Stage was because they needed to absorb pure Devil Qi from the Land of Exile to perfectly break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage since they cultivated the legacies from the Devil Clan. Although no physical damage was done to the space barrier, it would affect its stability.

‘Perhaps, the matter of me summoning a Saint Devil Puppet almost a month ago has also worsened the situation,’ Duan Ru Feng thought to himself.

An Ox Devil had managed to pass through the space barrier into the Dao Martial Saint Land. Did this mean all devils would be able to cross over to the Dao Martial Saint Land as well?

If that was the case, did this not mean that he and Dugu were the cause of the calamity that would befall the Dao Martial Saint Land?

Duan Ru Feng’s expression darkened. Naturally, he did not feel guilty even if he was really the cause of the calamity. If he did not absorb the pure Devil Qi from the Land of Exile to perfectly break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage, he would not have been able to master the technique of summoning a Saint Devil Puppet from the Land of Exile. If he did not master this technique, the Azure Cloud Mansion would have ceased to exist a month ago. Not only that, but he and his family and friends would be used by Li An, an elder from the Fire Worship Sect, to harm his son, Duan Ling Tian. Therefore, he did not feel guilty even if he was indeed the cause of the devils’ invasion in the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Duan Ru Feng would do anything for his son, his wife, his daughters-in-law, and his grandchild. He was not afraid even if he had to bear such a heavy sin. In his heart, his family was the most important.

“Lord Mansion Master!”

“Lord Mansion Master!”

When Duan Ru Feng rushed outside the Main Mansion of the Azure Cloud Mansion with Tong Zhong, the group of Black Armored Guards was filled with joy when they saw him. It was as though they had seen their savior.

Faced with the excited Black Armored Guards, Duan Ru Feng felt heavy-hearted. At this moment, he felt the weight of the world on his shoulders.

Under the watchful eyes of the Black Armored Guards, Duan Ru Feng put Tong Zhong down and stood in front of the Black Armored Guards. In their eyes, Duan Ru Feng's back seemed extremely straight. At this moment, they felt extremely safe.

"How did you come from the Land of Exile?" Duan Ru Feng asked the Ox Devil that was four meters tall.

"Human, you have no right to question me!" The Ox Devil said contemptuously when it heard Duan Ru Feng's question.

"Is that so?" Duan Ru Feng narrowed his eyes when he heard the Ox Devil's words. He instantly cast the technique to summon a Saint Devil Puppet from the Saint Devil Altar in the Land of Exile.

When the Saint Devil Puppet emerged from the whirlpool, the expression of disdain on the Ox Devil's face was replaced with an expression of fear and disbelief.

"Saint...Saint Devil Puppet? You... You're a mere human from the Saint Province Realm. You're only at the Quintessential Saint Stage. How did you manage to summon a Saint Devil Puppet from the Exiled Realm?!"

At this moment, not only did the Ox Devil recognize the humanoid stone figure, but it discovered the Saint Devil Puppet was a lot stronger than it was. It was instantly frightened.

"That's none of your business." Duan Ru Feng smirked as he flew out and merged with the Saint Devil Puppet to control it.

The Ox Devil's only thought was to flee when faced with the Saint Devil Puppet that was obviously a lot stronger than it was. It turned around in an attempt to escape at its fastest speed. It had to inform the tenth elder of the Ox Devil Clan about this.

There were people in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land who posed a threat to the elite warriors from the Ox Devil Clan.

Chapter 2064: A Plan to Leave the Fire Worship Sect

The Ox Devil that was about 4 meters tall only possessed a cultivation base at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. With its strength, it was only wishful thinking if it thought it could escape from the Saint Devil Puppet that Duan Ru Feng controlled. After all, the Saint Devil Puppet that Duan Ru Feng controlled had strength comparable to a powerhouse at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. The Ox Devil would not be able to endure a single hit from the Saint Devil Puppet.

It did not take long before the Ox Devil that could be considered as an elite warrior from the Ox Devil Clan was killed by the Saint Devil Puppet that Duan Ru Feng controlled. After he had killed the Ox Devil, he had absorbed its blood essence as well.

Although Duan Ru Feng knew of the technique to absorb blood essence because Black Nether had done so using his body in the past, he had never tried it before. Due to its taboo nature, he had never attempted it. This was why his strength was inferior to Dugu.

Ever since Dugu broke through to the Quintessential Saint Stage, he had used the technique of absorbing blood essences on many powerhouses in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. For this reason, his cultivation base quickly approached the Saint Celestial Stage! However, Duan Ru Feng's refusal to absorb humans' blood essences did not mean he had the same qualms when it came to absorbing devils' blood essences.

Duan Ru Feng did not hesitate when he absorbed the blood essence of the Ox Devil who came from the Land of Exile!

"It's a pity my current Soul Energy is insufficient for me to cast the Soul Searching Secret Tactic on it. Otherwise, I might gain some information from it." Various expressions flitted across Duan Ru Feng's face after he absorbed the Ox Devil's blood essence.

'I don't know if this Ox Devil is the only one who managed to pass through the space barrier to the Dao Martial Saint Land or an entire hoard of Ox Devils manage to cross over as well,' Duan Ru Feng thought to himself as a hint of dread appeared in his eyes. 'Regardless, it's best if I go into closed-door cultivation for now to properly absorb the Ox Devil's blood essence. As soon as that's done, I should be able to break through to the Saint Celestial Stage!'

Although Duan Ru Feng was not certain about the situation regarding the Ox Devil Clan, an ominous feeling rose in his heart. He felt as though the Dao Martial Saint Land was about to return to the Human-Devil Era!

If they intended to survive a chaotic time such as the Human-devil Era, they needed to get stronger. Otherwise, they would eventually be killed and their blood essences absorbed by the devils. They would only serve to strengthen the devils.

Whether it was for himself or for his loved ones and the Azure Cloud Mansion, Duan Ru Feng must become stronger in a short time! This was the only way he could protect the people he loved during such dangerous times!

After speaking to Tong Zhong and instructing him to speak to the Black Armored Guards, Duan Ru Feng left in a hurry and returned to the Main Mansion to go into closed-door cultivation.

The Black Armored Guards stared at Duan Ru Feng's departing figure in a daze. It took a while before they regained their senses. They could be considered lucky to be in the Azure Cloud Mansion. After all, they had a powerful Mansion Master who managed to kill an elite warrior from the Ox Devil Clan.

The people from the Mountainshade Black Market were undoubtedly lucky as well. Their leader was strong enough to keep them safe and sound from the elite warriors of the Ox Devil Clan.

However, the other quasi-third-rate forces were not as fortunate. For instance, the quasi third-rate force that Duan Ling Tian had been in, the Mystical Sky Mansion, was annihilated by an elite warrior from the Ox Devil Clan. Many of Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials and disciples were killed and

devoured. There were only a few lucky Mystical Sky Mansion's high-ranking officials and disciples who made it out of the Mystical Sky Mansion in time. One of them was Wang Fei Xuan who was fairly close to Duan Ling Tian during his time in the Mystical Sky Mansion. Moreover, she had a crush on him as well.

After Wang Fei Xuan fled the Mystical Sky Mansion, she returned to the fourth-rate force, the Tyrannical Saber Mansion. However, she discovered the Tyrannical Saber Mansion in ruins. Many lives were lost and corpses were strewn all over the place. Her grandfather was killed before his blood essence was absorbed, turning him into a dried corpse.

"Grandpa!" Wang Fei Xuan knelt by her grandfather's body as tears flowed down her face. Her delicate appearance would rouse others' sympathy if they were to see her.

After a while, Wang Fei Xuan stopped crying and wiped the tears off her face. Her eyes flashed coldly. A flame of hatred rose in her heart.

"The minotaur-like monster called himself an elite warrior from the Ox Devil clan... What's the Ox Devil Clan?" Wang Fei Xuan was confused since she had never heard of the Ox Devil Clan before.

The Ox Devil Clan seemed to have appeared out of thin air. Moreover, the Ox Devil who claimed he was an elite warrior of the clan seemed to possess heaven-defying strength as well! Even someone as strong as the Mansion Master of the Mystical Sky Mansion was killed in just a blow!

A sense of helplessness rose within Wang Fei Xuan when she recalled the scene of the Ox Devil slaughtering the people in the Mystical Sky Mansion.

Was there hope for revenge? Would she be able to seek revenge?

After leaving the Tyrannical Saber Mansion, Wang Fei Xuan walked around aimlessly. Along the way, she saw a lot of dried corpses strewn all over the place. The corpses brought along with it unwanted memories, causing her to almost break down!

For some inexplicable reason, Wang Fei Xuan found herself heading in the direction of the Azure Cloud Mansion. Maybe it was because the person she liked was the Young Mansion Master of the Azure Cloud Mansion or maybe she knew the Azure Cloud Mansion was strong so it would be safer there? Whatever the reasons were, she found herself there.

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Naturally, Duan Ling Tian who was in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land was unaware of the chaos breaking out in the Lower Province.

After he turned down the Fire Worship Sect's Guardian Elder Qing Huo's offer to take him as a direct disciple, Duan Ling Tian stealthily made his way to the Saint Land disciples' residence on the Saint Island. He had stayed there for a while in the past.

Duan Ling Tian had come here today to find a person. This person was none other than the Saint Land disciple whom he had asked for direction from when he first arrived in the Saint Land. This person was Guan Xiu!

When Duan Ling Tian challenged Yang Wen to a Death Duel, Guan Xiu had betted heavily on him without any hesitation at all. For this reason, although he did not interact with Guan Xiu much, he could tell he was a reliable and kind person.

Duan Ling Tian planned to ask him for help to leave the Fire Worship Sect.

“Senior Brother Ling Tian!” Guan Xiu was extremely excited and passionately greeted Duan Ling Tian when he saw him. He had personally witnessed Duan Ling Tian’s meteoric rise in the Saint Land.

“Guan Xiu,” Duan Ling Tian responded with a smile.

‘Senior Brother Ling Tian, you still remember me?’ Guan Xiu was pleasantly surprised when Duan Ling Tian called his name.

“Of course I remember you. Otherwise, why would I be here?” Duan Ling Tian said teasingly.

“Is there a reason you came to look for me?” Guan Xiu asked curiously as he tried to suppress his excitement.

“Yes. I hope you’ll do me a favor,” Duan Ling Tian said without beating around the bush.

“How can I help, Senior Brother Ling Tian? I won’t refuse you if it’s within my capability to help!” Guan Xiu said solemnly when he learned about the purpose of Duan Ling Tian’s visit.

Put aside the fact that Duan Ling Tian had helped Guan Xiu earned so many Contribution Points in the Palace of Death, he was honored Duan Ling Tian had come to him for help!

“It’s nothing difficult...” Duan Ling Tian said before he got into the details. He needed Guan Xiu to bring something out of the Fire Worship Sect and put it near the barren hills that were located thousands of miles south of the Fire Worship Sect. The thing he wanted Guan Xiu to bring out of the Fire Worship Sect was a small box that could not be placed in a Spatial Ring. Most importantly, stability must be maintained throughout the journey. It could not be shaken, not even a little bit!

“You can find the small box on the branch of that tree tomorrow morning. I’ll place it on the branch to the left,” Duan Ling Tian said as he pointed to a tree in the residence of the Saint Land disciple. “You only have to deliver the box to its destination. After you deliver it, you may leave immediately,” Duan Ling Tian instructed Guan Xiu.

Guan Xiu nodded in agreement.

“What kind of box is it? It can’t be placed in a Spatial Ring, and it can’t be shaken. It doesn’t matter. Since it’s Senior Brother Ling Tian, I’ll just do as he said.” After Duan Ling Tian left, Guan Xiu had a lot of questions on his mind, but after a while, he dismissed all those thoughts.

Guan Xiu would never expect that Duan Ling Tian was actually getting him to smuggle him out of the sect. The box contained the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. Duan Ling Tian would be in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. As long as little box was not shaken and its stability was maintained, he would not be expelled from the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

This was why Duan Ling Tian had stressed on the importance of keeping the box stable to Guan Xiu.

It could be seen that Duan Ling Tian had thought long and hard before he came up with this plan to leave the Fire Worship Sect!

Chapter 2065: Leaving the Fire Worship Sect

Guan Xiu was an insignificant Saint Land disciple in the Fire Worship Sect. Moreover, he barely had any interactions with Duan Ling Tian. He would not be targeted by the people whom Duan Ling Tian had offended. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian had gone to him for his help.

Duan Ling Tian was very cautious when he went to the Saint Land disciples' residence. With the help from Elder Huo who was in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, he managed to avoid notice and arrived at the tree in the Saint Land disciples' residence that he had pointed out to Guan Xiu yesterday.

"I hope that everything goes well." After taking a deep breath, Duan Ling Tian placed the little box he prepared on the branch. He had shrunk the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda inside the box. After that, he entered the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda with just a thought.

All that was left was to wait for Guan Xiu to collect the box.

Meanwhile, the people who were sent to spy on Duan Ling Tian began to search for him frantically when they realized that they had lost him. Moreover, they spread the news of his disappearance as well.

At once, many powerhouses from the Saint Land of the Fire Worship Sect began to make their way to the Four Symbol Sanctums.

They only had one objective in mind. They were going to inspect everyone who was leaving the Fire Worship Sect to see if Duan Ling Tian was there. If they found out Duan Ling Tian was leaving, they would bring the news back to Dong Yuan Jin, one of the Vice Hall Masters in the Enforcement Hall.

It was fortunate Duan Ling Tian did not plan to leave the Fire Worship Sect in such a direct way. Otherwise, he would not escape notice even with Elder Huo's help. He could certainly disguise himself, but his figure and aura would give him away. For this reason, he did not dare to take the risk. As long as someone was familiar with him, they would be able to see through his disguise.

...

Meanwhile, it was tranquil in the Saint Land disciples' residence unlike the chaotic Four Symbols Sanctums.

While Vice Hall Master Dong Yuan Jin's men were stationed all around the Fire Worship Sect's Four Symbol Sanctum and watched over every soul that was leaving the sect, a figure walked out of one of the stone houses in the Saint Land disciples' residence. It was obvious this person was a Saint Land disciple.

"It's time!" The Saint Land disciple was none other than Guan Xiu whom Duan Ling Tian looked for yesterday. He was the key factor that would determine whether Duan Ling Tian would be able to safely leave the Fire Worship Sect. As long as Guan Xiu did not make any mistakes, he should be able to leave the Fire Worship Sect without any problems.

Soon after, Guan Xiu approached the tree that Duan Ling Tian had pointed out to him yesterday. It was just like he said. There was a small box at the place they had agreed on.

Although Guan Xiu was extremely curious about the content of the box since Duan Ling Tian had told him to take care not to even shake it, he managed to suppress his curiosity. He did not open the box to have a look at all.

“Don’t worry, Senior Brother Ling Tian... I’ll do a good job!” After taking a deep breath, Guan Xiu carefully picked up the box and made sure it was stable before he flew out of the Saint Land of the Fire Worship Sect. After he left the Saint Land, he made his way south with the small box.

There was a rule in the Fire Worship Sect that stated disciples were not allowed to carelessly enter any of the Four Symbols Sanctums. However, disciples could leave the Fire Worship Sect if they take the route around the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Apart from carefully guarding the little box in his hand, Guan Xiu did not pay attention to anything else along the way. He did not even realize there were Silver Flame Elders spying on him. However, they did not make things difficult for him. They just looked at him to make sure he was not Duan Ling Tian before they allowed him to leave the Fire Worship Sect.

‘I hope nothing bad happens...’ Duan Ling Tian felt anxious the entire time he was hiding in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. He was not worried the Silver Flame Elders would stop Guan Xiu or harm him since he was not Duan Ling Tian. The Silver Flames Elders would never expect that Duan Ling Tian was inside the box that Guan Xiu was carrying anyway. He was more worried that Guan Xiu would make a mistake and accidentally shake the small box. If that happened, the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda would definitely expel him. At that time, he would be discovered by the Silver Flame Elders, and he would fail in his mission to stealthily leave the Fire Worship Sect.

Fortunately, Guan Xiu was very reliable. The small box remained stable in his hands. It did not move so much as an inch even after he had traveled hundreds of miles away from the Fire Worship Sect!

‘Guan Xiu is really dependable. I will remember this favor.’ Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief after they were hundreds of miles away from the Fire Worship Sect. After all, even if Guan Xiu accidentally shook the box now, causing the Seven Treasures Exquisite to expel him, the high-ranking officials whom he had offended would not find out anyway.

Among the high-ranking officials in the Fire Worship Sect whom Duan Ling Tian had offended, the Black Turtle Sanctum’s First Silver Flame Elder Li An was just a small problem. After all, he had offended people with higher positions like the Sanctum Leader of the Azure Dragon Sanctum and Dong Yuan Jin, one of the Vice Hall Masters in the Enforcement Hall.

If they discovered Duan Ling Tian had left the Fire Worship Sect, he would die unless he returned to the sect.

With Guan Xiu’s speed, it did not take long for him to travel a thousand miles.

“This should be the place Senior Brother Ling Tian spoke of,” Guan Xiu muttered to himself as he looked at the barren hills before him. After he landed, he placed the small box on the ground and left without looking back.

After confirming that Guan Xiu had left, Duan Ling Tian came out of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda and put the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda away before he tossed the small box into his Spatial Ring.

“Finally! I’m out!” Duan Ling Tian was in a great mood as he looked at the hills surrounding him.

Since Duan Ling Tian had managed to leave the Fire Worship Sect without anyone noticing, he did not have the worry about the high-ranking officials whom he had offended. He could do as he pleased without any worries.

“I left the Fire Worship Sect to improve my Innate Spiritual Root!” Duan Ling Tian did not forget his purpose of leaving the Fire Worship Sect. If it was not because he wanted to improve his Innate Spiritual Root quickly so he could improve his cultivation speed, he would not have just left the Fire Worship Sect. After all, Ke’Er and their daughter were still imprisoned in the Enforcement Hall of the Fire Worship Sect. They were in a precarious situation. All he wanted to do now was to quickly get stronger as fast as he could to rescue Ke’er and their daughter.

The rules in the Fire Worship Sect were strict, he would not have many chances to improve his Innate Spiritual Root. However, it was different once he left the Fire Worship Sect.

‘Although I desperately need to improve my Innate Spiritual Root, I won’t simply devour anyone’s Innate Spiritual Root. Otherwise, I’m no different from those cold-blooded Devil Cultivators.’ Duan Ling Tian was certain about this. He would not harm the innocent. It did not matter that he wished to quickly improve his Innate Spiritual Root.

‘Where in the Upper Province should I go to quickly improve my Innate Spiritual Root?’ With that question in mind, Duan Ling Tian continued to make his way south.

After a few days, he saw a city and decided to take a break there. Perhaps, he would also be able to find out about places where he could quickly improve his Innate Spiritual Root.

‘A place that’s most suitable for me to improve my Innate Spiritual Root should be a place with many wicked people. I won’t feel bad devouring their Innate Spiritual Root that way!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian found the busiest restaurant in the city and entered before he took a seat by the window. After he placed his order, he began listening in on the conversations in his surroundings.

Restaurants were always a good place to find out what was happening. Duan Ling Tian believed he would obtain the information he wanted here.

Time continued to pass. It was already afternoon. At this time, the restaurant became livelier, and it was so full that there were no seats left empty.

So far there was nothing noteworthy that Duan Ling Tian could glean from the conversations going on around him. However, he was not anxious. He continued to patiently listen to the conversations around him.

If there was no information on the first day, he would come back on the second day.

If there was still no information on the second day, he would come back on the third day.

If he still could not find any information on the third day, he would look for someone and ask.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian could just directly ask for the information he wanted, but he decided not to do that yet. Although he had been in the Upper Province for quite some time, he had spent most of his time in the Fire Worship Sect. There were still many things he did not know about the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. He planned to use this opportunity to learn more about the Upper Province.

"I heard Medicine King Sun Ying's herb garden was robbed about six months ago... I heard he imprisoned three people who came from the Lower Province so that they would work in the garden for him!" Someone said.

Duan Ling Tian was stunned when he heard this.

Chapter 2066: Qiu Mu Qing

"I heard he has announced that he'll kill those three people from the Lower Province if he sees them again!" Duan Ling Tian heard the other person said.

Based on that, Duan Ling Tian was certain that Medicine King Sun Ying was the owner of

the herb garden they landed in when they first arrived in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

At that time, Sun Ying had imprisoned them and forced them to labor in the herb garden. They made a mess of the garden before they escaped with the spirit medicine in Sun Ying's herb garden with Zhu Lu Qi's help and Elder Huo's plan. At that time, Duan Ling Tian was not certain about the identity of the herb garden's owner.

"Medicine King Sun Ying? The expert in Medicine Refinement Dao who's also a Quasi

Celestial Grade Saint Refinement Master? The sectless cultivator who's ranked 275th on the Supreme Saint Ranking?"

Duan Ling Tian felt a hint of dread the more he learned about the owner of the herb garden.

A sectless cultivator who was ranked 275th on the Supreme Saint Ranking was definitely at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage even if he was not at the peak of it. He was definitely not a simple person.

'Lucky we managed to escape. Otherwise, we would've died!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself in relief when he discovered how strong Sun Ying was. After all, he only managed to rank on the 421st place on

the Supreme Saint Ranking after defeating Bu Hong, a true disciple from the Fire Worship Sect, with the Jasper Celestial Sword.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was no match for Sun Ying even if he used the Jasper Celestial Sword.

‘Palace Master Zhu should have successfully returned to the Lower Province and warned the Azure Cloud Mansion by now... Hopefully, father manages to bring the others away from the Azure Cloud Mansion and is hiding somewhere safe away from the men that Yang Chong sent.’ Duan Ling Tian recalled Zhu Lu Qi when Medicine King Sun Ying was mentioned.

Zhu Lu Qi was supposed to return to the Lower Province and go to the Azure Cloud Mansion to warn them about the impending danger upon Duan Ling Tian’s request. However, Duan Ling Tian would never expect that not only did Zhu Lu Qi fail to return to the Lower Province to warn the Azure Cloud Mansion due to an error in the Inter-Province Transport Formation, but he had been dead for a month now! He was killed by the tenth elder from the Ox Devil Clan.

‘Senior Brother Gu Li...’ Duan Ling Tian thought of Gu Li after that, ‘I wonder how he’s doing.’

Duan Ling Tian was so lost in his thoughts that he did not notice the two figures that approached his table. The two figures belonged to a young man and a young woman.

The young man was tall and handsome but still fall short in comparison to Duan Ling Tian. With or without his disguise, Duan Ling Tian was still much more handsome than him. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian’s bearing was much better as well!

For this reason, the young man could not help but frown. A sense of inferiority rose in his heart when he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It caused him to feel uneasy and dissatisfied.

On the other hand, the young woman next to the young man possessed a perfectly exquisite face. She had an unintentional seductive air about her. Just standing there, she outshone everything in her surroundings. There was no doubt she was an extremely beautiful woman. She was only slightly inferior compared to Duan Ling Tian’s wives, Ke’er and Li Fei. She could be considered as a rare beauty in the Dao Martial Saint Land. Although the young woman was extremely beautiful, she had an approachable vibe about her. She appeared very pure like a celestial when dressed in her long flowing white robe.

“Excuse me, there are no empty seats left in the restaurant. Is it okay if we share this table with you?” The white-robed woman asked Duan Ling Tian who was lost in his thoughts with a smile on her face. Her voice was soft and pleasing to the ears.

Duan Ling Tian regained his senses when she spoke. Naturally, Duan Ling Tian did not notice them approaching him because he did not sense any hostility from them.

“Sorry... What did you say?” Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened when he saw the white-robed girl. He had never seen anyone so beautiful since he came to the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land apart from Gan Ru Yan who looked identical to Ke’er.

“Can we share this table with you? There are no more empty seats left in the restaurant,” the white-robed girl repeated what she had said patiently. Her cheeks reddened involuntarily when she looked

into the eyes of the young man before her. His gaze was pure unlike other men who usually looked at her lecherously. She was instantly impressed and had a favorable impression of the young man before her. This was the first time she had a favorable impression of a male who had no blood relations with her.

“Of course.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. He immediately agreed to the white-robe girl’s request since he had a good impression of her as well. All this while, Duan Ling Tian did not look at the young man standing next to her at all.

A hint of jealousy and anger could be seen in the young man’s eyes when he saw how the young girl’s cheeks had reddened when she spoke to Duan Ling Tian. He had always treated the young girl as his woman, but the girl had never acted so shyly in front of him before. This undoubtedly made him angry.

“Thank you.” The white-clothed girl thanked Duan Ling Tian and sat down next to him. Her cheeks turned even redder after she sat down.

The tables in the restaurant all had two benches on the sides. Since the young girl did not wish to sit with the young man she came with, she decided to sit next to Duan Ling Tian even though he was a stranger. She felt safer with him since it seemed like he did not have any lecherous thoughts about her unlike most men, including the young man who came with her.

Duan Ling Tian was surprised by the white-robed girl’s action. When he regained his senses, he could smell a unique fragrance that made him relax.

The young man who was already angry became angrier when he saw the white-robed girl had chosen to sit next to a stranger instead of sitting with him.

“Qing’er, how can you sit with a stranger? Hurry, come and sit next to me,” the young man said after he sat down on the other bench. It was obvious he had only decided to share a table with a stranger because he thought that girl would sit next to him.

“This will be the final time I’m telling you this, Dongfang Zhu. Don’t call me Qing’er. We’re not that close. You can call me Qiu Mu Qing,” the young girl said with a hint of anger. Her gentle expression turned cold when she spoke.

Qiu Mu Qing! When Duan Ling Tian heard her name, he thought to himself, ‘What a nice name!’

Based on her words, Duan Ling Tian knew Qiu Mu Qing was not interested in the young man who came with her. In fact, she seemed disgusted by him. This confused Duan Ling Tian. ‘Why did she agree to have a meal with Dongfang Zhu in this restaurant if she’s disgusted by him?’

A woman’s heart was really mysterious.

Duan Ling Tian’s good impression of her lessened a little.

Upon hearing Qiu Mu Qing’s words, Dongfang Zhu’s eyes flashed coldly. However, he maintained the smile on his face as he said, “It is impolite for me to address you by your full name... Since you’re unhappy with the way I addressed you, I’ll just address you as Young Miss Mu Qing. Is that okay with you?”

“You can just call me Miss Qiu,” Qiu Mu Qing said indifferently.

“Fine... I will address you that way. If you want me to address you as Miss Qiu, I’ll address you as Miss Qiu,” Dongfang Zhu said in an attempt to appease her. However, he cursed inwardly, ‘After I marry you, I’ll deal with you. Let’s see how you beg mercy when you’re under my body.’

“Miss Qiu, how about sitting next to me...” Dongfang Zhu said to Qiu Mu Qing. He had hoped she would get up and sit next to him. He did not want to miss an opportunity to get close to her. Moreover, she was sitting next to a man who was better looking than him and had a better bearing than him.

“It’s fine. I’m comfortable sitting here.” Qiu Mu Qing rejected Dongfang Zhu’s invitation.

Dongfang Zhu’s expression darkened immediately. He shifted his attention to Duan Ling Tian after he failed to make any progress with Qiu Mu Qing.

“I’m Dongfang Zhu ... I’m the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan. The Dongfang Clan is one of three major clans in Clarity City. My father’s the Clan Leader of Dongfang Clan!” Dongfang Zhu said arrogantly to Duan Ling Tian. His expression was one of pride.

Chapter 2067: A Domineering Duan Ling Tian!

Clarity City was the name of the city Duan Ling Tian was currently in. It was a small city located near the southern border of the Western Region.

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had familiarized himself with the social climate of the city based on the conversations in his surroundings. In Clarity City, excluding the alliance of sectless cultivators, there were three great clans. The three great clans were the Feng Clan, the Qiu Clan, and the Dongfang Clan. All of them were third-rate forces in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. Out of the three clans, the Feng Clan was the strongest!

‘Qiu Mu Qing... Could she be from the Qiu Clan?’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when he heard Dongfang Zhu’s arrogant words. He had completely ignored Dongfang Zhu.

“Brat, did you hear what I said?” Dongfang Zhu was infuriated when he saw Duan Ling Tian ignoring him. His eyes flashed coldly as though he was about to attack Duan Ling Tian.

He was the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan after all. When had he ever been slighted in Clarity City?

However, Duan Ling Tian kept ignoring him. Instead, he turned to look at Qiu Mu Qing who was sitting next to him and asked, “If I’m not mistaken, you should be the only daughter of the Clan Leader of Qiu Clan, right?”

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had heard the customers in the restaurant talking about the Qiu Clan. They had mentioned the Qiu Clan had a Young Miss, but they did not mention her name.

Those people had spoken about the current situation in Clarity City as well. Although the three clans had a major influence in Clarity City, the Feng Clan was undoubtedly the strongest. The remaining two clans had to join forces if they wanted to defeat the Feng Clan.

The two clans, the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan, had been trying to find ways to secure their ties to each other. A marriage alliance would definitely achieve that.

Apparently, the Clan Leader of Qiu Clan intended to marry his only daughter off to the Young Master of Dongfang Clan. However, rumor had it that the Young Miss of Qiu Clan was not interested in the Young Master of Dongfang Clan. Due to this reason, the matter of marriage had dragged on for a long time.

Initially, Duan Ling Tian did not make the connection. After thinking about it, he figured the white-robed girl sitting next to him and the young man sitting opposite him had to be the two main characters of the customers' conversations.

Duan Ling Tian had closed the distance between him and Qiu Mu Qing when he turned to speak to her.

Qiu Mu Qing's cheeks reddened immediately when she felt Duan Ling Tian's hot breath on her. She asked in surprise, "You... Do you know me?"

"No, I don't. I'm just guessing." Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

Duan Ling Tian realized he had misunderstood the young girl. She was probably out with Dongfang Zhu not on her own free will. Her clan had probably forced her to go on this outing in hopes that feelings would grow between her and Dongfang Zhu.

It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to figure this out. It made sense why Qiu Mu Qing was going to have a meal with Dongfang Zhu even though she clearly despised him.

"Just guessing?" Qiu Mu Qing was slightly surprised but she did not doubt Duan Ling Tian's words. She had a favorable impression of this extraordinary man, and she could tell he did not say that to attract her attention.

"I heard some scum from the Dongfang Clan is forcing himself on you. Based on his words, I managed to guess what's happening," Duan Ling Tian responded, not caring about the consequences of his words.

When Qiu Mu Qing heard Duan Ling Tian's words, she was momentarily stunned before she began to laugh. When she laughed, her eyes were the shape of a crescent moon. She looked even more attractive when she was laughing.

Duan Ling Tian fell into a daze when he saw this!

At this moment, Qiu Mu Qing's beauty was comparable to Ke'er and Li Fei's beauty.

When Qiu Mu Qing saw the dazed expression on Duan Ling Tian's face, her cheeks reddened again. She appeared like a shy young girl.

...

Scum?

Dongfang Zhu who was seated across Duan Ling Tian and Qiu Mu Qing was shocked when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He was not an idiot. He knew Duan Ling Tian was referring to him as scum. He

did not expect there would be someone in Clarity City who dared to speak about him this way, in front of him no less!

Dongfang Zhu was already angry when he regained his senses. However, when he saw the shy expression on Qiu Mu Qing's face, he became even angrier. It was like adding fuel to fire.

Despite taking a few deep breaths, Dongfang Zhu could not contain his anger.

"Brat, you're seeking death!" Dongfang Zhu said angrily as he sprung up from the bench. He no longer said anything as he clenched his right fist that was shrouded with Saint Energy and attempted to punch Duan Ling Tian.

"Watch out!" Qiu Mu Qing cried out immediately. Her expression had changed when she saw Dongfang Zhu attacking Duan Ling Tian. She stood up in a hurry, intending to stop Dongfang Zhu. However, there was nothing she could do in such a short time since her strength was on par with Dongfang Zhu.

Pa!

Qiu Mu Qing was still anxious when she heard the crisp sound of a slap. Following that, a strong gust of wind blew in the restaurant.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's table became the center of attention.

"Eh? Isn't that Dongfang Zhu, the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan?"

"The white-robed girl standing opposite to him is Qiu Mu Qing, the Young Miss of Qiu Clan, right?"

"She's Qiu Mu Qing? She's indeed worthy of being praised as the most beautiful woman in Clarity City. She's truly gorgeous!"

"Although Dongfang Clan's Second Young Master is quite good looking, he doesn't seem compatible with Young Miss Qiu in terms of appearance and bearing!"

"I agree! However, the purple-clad young man standing next to Young Miss Qiu is much more handsome and has better bearing than the Dongfang Clan's Second Young Master... They look like a match made in heaven when they stand next to each other!"

"I think Young Miss Qiu suits the purple-clad young man better as well."

"What are they doing? Fighting for the girl's favor?"

The customers in the restaurant began to discuss among themselves. They did not seem to care about Dongfang Zhu at all as they spoke freely.

In Clarity City, apart from the three great clans, the sectless cultivators had their own alliance. For this reason, most people were not afraid the Dongfang Clan would seek revenge from them over such a small matter.

Upon hearing the conversations of the customers, Qiu Mu Qing began to blush. She snuck a peek at Duan Ling Tian. She sighed in relief when she realized Duan Ling Tian was not looking at her.

'He's so strong?' Qiu Mu Qing's eyes shone when she saw Duan Ling Tian grabbing Dongfang Zhu's hand. It seemed as though he was only lightly grabbing his hand, but Dongfang Zhu seemed to be in so much pain that his body even began to tremble.

"The purple-clad young man seems very powerful!"

"Yes. Dongfang Zhu is at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage at least. However, he seems as weak as a three-year-old in front of the purple-clad young man."

"There's nothing special about the Second Young Master of the Dongfang Clan after all!"

"He wants to marry the most beautiful woman in Clarity City with that strength? In his dreams! In my opinion, only talented young men like the purple-clad young man are qualified to marry Clarity City's most beautiful woman!"

"I agree."

The customers continued to discuss among themselves when they saw how helpless Dongfang Zhu was in front of Duan Ling Tian.

They were all praising Duan Ling Tian and even said only someone like Duan Ling Tian was worthy of marrying the most beautiful woman in Clarity City!

When Dongfang Zhu heard the conversations in his surroundings, he turned red with anger. His face was already red from the pain radiating from his hand.

"I don't know who you are, but it's best if you let go of me right now. Otherwise, today will be the day you die!" Dongfang Zhu roared threateningly as he struggled.

"Today will be the day I die?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes flashed coldly when he heard Dongfang Zhu's words. A sneer appeared on his face.

Duan Ling Tian began to speak to Elder Huo who was in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, "Elder Huo, help me devour his Innate Spiritual Root!"

"In front of so many people?" Elder Huo was stunned when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

"Don't worry! I can easily defeat the strongest person in this city with my strength!" Duan Ling Tian said domineeringly. He was very confident!

Even the Feng Clan that was the strongest force in Clarity City was only a third-rate force.

In third-rate forces, there were only a handful of people whose cultivation base was above the Saint Celestial Stage. Let alone powerhouses at the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, they did not even have powerhouses at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or below.

That was why Duan Ling Tian felt he had nothing to fear. Moreover, he was ranked 421st on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Although one could say it was all due to the Jasper Celestial Sword, the sword was still part of his strength.

"Let's begin." Elder Huo no longer hesitated when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words.

Soon after, Elder Huo said, "He only possesses a yellow Innate Spiritual Root."

"That's fine. Even mosquitos have some meat! Every bit counts," Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently. Then, he cast the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, as everyone looked on. Although Dongfang Zhu was still conscious, Duan Ling Tian proceeded to devour his Innate Spiritual Root!

Chapter 2068: The Bold Qiu Mu Qing

Hu! Hu! Hu!

All the customers in the restaurant saw whirlpools appearing around Duan Ling Tian as he grabbed Dongfang Zhu's hand.

The whirlpools caused the wind to blow violently in the restaurant.

"Ahhhhh!"

The moment the whirlpools appeared, everyone heard a piercing shriek. Dongfang Zhu was squealing like a pig that was about to be slaughtered. He looked like he was in extreme pain. His expression was twisted as he trembled violently.

Dongfang Zhu felt as though he was being torn into pieces!

"This... What's he doing?"

"This purple-clad young man doesn't seem like an ordinary person. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to make the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan stay still even though he's in so much pain!"

"Based on his expressions and screaming, he seems to be suffering from some indescribable pain. I wonder what the purple-clad young man is doing!"

"There seems to be a powerful Divine Consciousness around them... Is he using a Soul Attack to torture the Dongfang Clan's Second Young Master?"

"It's possible!"

The customers began to discuss among themselves as Duan Ling Tian devoured Dongfang Zhu's Innate Spiritual Root without a care in the world. Most of them were stunned by Duan Ling Tian's mysterious technique. Some of them could sense the Divine Consciousness and speculated that Dongfang Zhu was being tortured by a Soul Attack.

None of them would ever guess that Duan Ling Tian was devouring Dongfang Zhu's Innate Spiritual Root to strengthen his own Innate Spiritual Root. It would never cross their minds that such a thing was even possible!

Qiu Mu Qing, the Young Miss of Clarity City's Qiu Clan, was amazed by Duan Ling Tian's strength. However, a hint of sympathy could be seen in her eyes when she saw Dongfang Zhu being tortured by Duan Ling Tian.

“Ahh!” Dongfang Zhu continued to shriek in pain. His screaming caused chills to run up the spines of people who listened to it. It was as though they could feel his pain.

However, no one could imagine the pain Dongfang Zhu was in. His pain was not only physical, but he felt it in his soul as well! At this moment, he felt as though his soul was burning. A terrifying force seemed to be tearing his soul apart and extracting something from it! The only fortunate thing was the terrifying force quickly disappeared as soon it appeared. After a few moments, his soul seemed to have returned to its normal state.

Dongfang Zhu took in a deep breath. His robe was damp from his sweat. He was panting heavily. It felt as though death had just brushed past him.

Bang!

Suddenly, a loud noise resonated in the air. Duan Ling Tian had released Dongfang Zhu’s hand and gave him a slap that sent him flying.

Dongfang Zhu who was caught unprepared flew out the window and landed on the streets. People on the streets instantly gathered around. They all recognized him.

“Isn’t this the Dongfang Clan’s Second Young Master? Why does he look so wretched?”

“I saw him flying out of the restaurant... He must have suffered a beating in there.”

“Who’s so daring to treat the Second Young Master from the Dongfan Clan this way? I’m afraid only disciples from the Feng Clan dare to act this way. I wonder which prodigy from the Feng Clan did this.”

People on the streets began to gossip among themselves. They were shocked to see Dongfang Zhu in such a state. It was definitely a rare sight to be able to see the Dongfang Clan’s Second Young Master beaten up.

Dongfang Zhu threw up a mouthful of blood. He quickly got up and looked viciously into the restaurant before he left in a hurry.

‘No matter who you are, I won’t let this matter go! You must die today!’ Dongfang Zhu vowed to himself inwardly as he made his way back to the Dongfang Clan’s estate. He was going to complain to his father so he would send out the powerhouses in the clan to avenge him. He was going to kill the purple-clad young man in return for the humiliation he had suffered!

Meanwhile, inside the restaurant, Duan Ling Tian who had sent Dongfang Zhu flying with slap casually sat down under everyone’s watchful eyes.

“Miss Qiu, please sit,” Duan Ling Tian called out to Qiu Mu Qing.

Qiu Mu Qing finally regained her senses when she heard his words. She quickly sat down. There was no joy in her eyes when she looked at Duan Ling Tian. Instead, a hint of worry could be seen in her eyes.

“It’s best if you hurry and leave Clarity City... Dongfang Zhu must have gone back to get more men. You won’t be able to leave once the powerhouses from Dongfang Clan arrives!” Qiu Mu Qing entreated

Duan Ling Tian to leave as soon as she sat down. She was quite fond of the young man who seemed different from most young men she knew. She was unwilling to see him suffer in the hands of the powerhouses from Dongfang Clan. That was why she had urged him to leave.

The customers nodded in agreement after they heard Qiu Mu Qing's words. They all agreed the purple-clad young man should leave and now was the best time to do so. If he waited any longer, the powerhouses from Dongfang Clan would arrive soon!

"Miss Qiu, I appreciate your concern." Duan Ling Tian only shook his head when he heard Qiu Mu Qing's words. "I still have matters to attend to in Clarity City. I can't leave just yet."

That was right. Duan Ling Tian had come to Clarity City to find information about places where there were a lot of wicked men in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. He had not achieved his purpose of coming here, there was no way he would leave.

Dongfan Clan? A mere third-rate force in the Upper Province of Dao Martial Saint Land was not worthy of his attention.

"Waiter! Get me another set of utensils!" Duan Ling Tian called out to the waiter as everyone watched him. He already had his utensils, the extra utensils were clearly meant for Qiu Mu Qing!

'Is he not afraid of death?' That was most people's thoughts.

"Waiter, it's okay," Qiu Mu Qing said as she stopped the waiter. After that, she placed a few Saint Stones on the table to pay for Duan Ling Tian's meal. She had a worried expression on her face as she grabbed Duan Ling Tian's hand and pulled him out of the restaurant. "Come with me!"

At this moment, Qiu Mu Qing seemed to have forgotten about the proper etiquette between males and females!

Duan Ling Tian was stunned as well as Qiu Mu Qing forcefully pulled him out of the restaurant. He had even forgotten to stop her.

How come he did not see this bold side of her earlier?

Qiu Mu Qing left the restaurant in a hurry as she held Duan Ling Tian's hand. Naturally, it attracted a lot of attention.

"Eh? Isn't this the Young Miss of Qiu Clan?"

"The Young Miss of Qiu Clan? The most beautiful woman in Clarity City? It's really her!!"

"What did I just see? The Young Miss of Qiu Clan is holding another man's hand!"

"I thought she's going to be married off to the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan? What's going on?"

"Earlier, Dongfang Zhu was thrown out of the restaurant, and now, the Young Miss of Qiu Clan is holding another man's hand. Is it possible that it isn't someone from the Feng Clan who threw Dongfang Zhu out of the restaurant?"

The people on the streets began to gossip among themselves when they saw Qiu Mu Qing holding Duan Ling Tian's hand.

A lot of men felt dissatisfied and heartbroken when they saw this!

The Young Miss of Qiu Clan was known as the most beautiful woman in Clarity City. However, she was currently holding another man's hand, and they seemed quite close.

"No wonder the Young Miss of Qiu Clan refuses to marry the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan. As it turns out, she already has someone else in her heart!"

People began to come to their own conclusion when they saw this. However, they learned about what happened from the customers that walked out of the restaurant.

"The purple-clad young man didn't know the Young Miss of Qiu Clan prior to this?"

"Are you sure?"

"If that's the case, is it love at first sight? She rather sit next to a stranger than the Second Master of Dongfang Clan... How pitiful! He's defeated by a stranger!"

"If it's true, then it's truly a pity. However, I don't think this is the first time the Young Miss of Qiu Clan met that purple-clad young man!"

"I agree. Maybe they only acted like strangers in front of Dongfang Zhu. Otherwise, she wouldn't have held the other man's hand."

Let alone the people on the streets, even Qiu Mu Qing did not expect herself to grab another man's hand on her own accord.

After Qiu Mu Qing and Duan Ling Tian left the restaurant, she pulled him into a deserted alley. Only then did she sigh in relief. When she regained her senses, she quickly let go of Duan Ling Tian's hand.

Chapter 2069: The Second Master of Qiu Clan

"I... I... Earlier, I..." Qiu Mu Qing was blushing when she let go of Duan Ling Tian's hand. Even her neck was red. She looked even more delicate like this.

Earlier, for reasons unknown to herself, Qiu Mu Qing became extremely anxious when she heard Duan Ling Tian said he had no intention of leaving Clarity City. When Duan Ling Tian asked the waiter to get her a set of utensils, she could no longer contain her anxiety. She had stopped the waiter and paid for Duan Ling Tian's meal before she hurriedly pulled him out of the restaurant. She was so anxious she had even forgotten about the proper etiquette between a man and a woman. She felt today was one of the craziest days in her life. She had even held a man's hand on her own accord. She found it hard to believe as well. If it was before, she did not think she would be capable of acting this way.

'Is it because I fell in love with him?' Qiu Mu Qing thought to herself before she quickly dismissed that thought. 'Impossible... It's my first time meeting him. How can I fall in love with him? At most, I'm a little fond of him. It's definitely not love!' Qiu Mu Qing defended her own actions to herself.

Duan Ling Tian coughed a few times to ease the awkward atmosphere when he saw how shy Qiu Mu Qing was after she released his hand.

“Miss Qiu, where do you intend to bring me?”

Qiu Mu Qing regained her senses when she heard Duan Ling Tian’s voice. However, she did not dare to meet Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. Instead, she lowered her head and shyly said, “You... You’re no longer safe in Clarity City... You... It’s best if you leave Clarity City.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be fine.” Duan Ling Tian was touched by Qiu Mu Qing’s concern. However, he said with a slight smile on his face, “Besides, I really have something to do in Clarity City. I can’t leave just yet.”

“If that’s the case, please come to the Qiu Clan with me!” Qiu Mu Qing said after a moment of silence. She no longer insisted that Duan Ling Tian leave when she saw how determined he was.

When Qiu Mu Qing finished speaking, she seemed to have recalled something. Her cheeks reddened again as she stuttered, “That... You... Please don’t misunderstand... I just thought... I feel responsible for the conflict between you and Dongfang Zhu that’s why I don’t want any harm to come to you.” Her excuse seemed weak even to herself.

“That’s not necessary...” Duan Ling Tian understood Qiu Mu Qing’s good intentions, but he gently refused her. He was not afraid of the Dongfang Clan at all.

It was best if people from the Dongfang Clan did not come looking for trouble with Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, he would kill them all!

“If you don’t come with me, I’ll feel bad... Please. If you return to the Qiu Clan with me, I’ll speak to my father and you can become a guest of our Qiu Clan.” Qiu Mu Qing began to feel anxious again when Duan Ling Tian rejected her. “If you’re a guest of the Qiu clan, the Clan Leader of Dongfang Clan won’t dare to harm you even if he wants to. The Qiu Clan is not afraid of the Dongfang Clan!”

“Fine, fine... I’ll go with you.” Duan Ling Tian gave in when he saw tears began to pool in Qiu Mu Qing’s eyes. After all, her kindness had touched him as well. She was a good girl.

A brilliant smile appeared on Qiu Mu Qing’s face when Duan Ling Tian agreed to her request. She was like a child who had been given candy.

Duan Ling Tian fell into a daze again when he saw Qiu Mu Qing smiled.

Qiu Mu Qing blushed when she saw Duan Ling Tian’s dazed expression. She quickly said to him before they return to the Qiu Clan, “Let’s go.”

...

At the entrance of the Qiu Clan’s estate, the Qiu Clan disciples guarding the entrance bowed respectfully when they saw Qiu Mu Qing. “Young Miss!”

“En.” Qiu Mu Qing nodded at them and gestured to Duan Ling Tian to follow her into the Qiu Clan’s estate.

When the Qiu Clan disciples saw Duan Ling Tian, they were shocked. It took them a while before they regained their senses.

“Am I imagining things? Did Young Miss bring a man back?”

“I’m not dreaming, am I? Is this really the Young Miss of our Qiu Clan?”

“Who’s that man? For Young Miss to bring him back to the estate, they must be quite close.”

The few Qiu Clan disciples stared at each other in shock. After all, the Young Miss of Qiu Clan had never been close to any men, let alone bringing a man home.

Even her outings with the Dongfang Clan’s Second Young Master, Dongfang Zhu, was forced upon her. As disciples of Qiu Clan, they knew this very well. However, today, their Young Miss had brought another man back to the Qiu Clan’s estate.

Apart from the Qiu Clan disciples guarding the entrance, all the disciples and servants Qiu Mu Qing and Duan Ling Tian encountered in the Qiu Clan’s estate were shocked as well.

“Young Miss brought an unknown man back to the Qiu Clan?”

This news spread like wildfire through the Qiu Clan’s estate and caused a commotion.

After Qiu Mu Qing brought Duan Ling Tian back to the Qiu clan, she brought him to one of the rooms in her residence. As the Young Miss of Qiu Clan, she, naturally, had her own independent residence in the Qiu Clan’s estate.

Apart from the servants’ quarters, there were a few rooms meant for guests in her residence.

There was no doubt Duan Ling Tian was the first guest to be invited to stay at Qiu Mu Qing’s residence.

“Miss Qiu, is it appropriate for me to stay in your residence? Won’t this tarnish your reputation? I can stay in another residence,” Duan Ling Tian said with a wry smile. He understood Qiu Mu Qing’s good intention, and he did not want to tarnish the kind-hearted girl’s reputation.

The Dao Martial Saint Land was somewhat similar to the olden days on earth, a girl’s reputation was extremely important.

“It’s fine. You can stay here in peace. I’ll go speak to father now. From now on, you’re my friend and a guest of the Qiu Clan!” Qiu Mu Qing said as she began to blush again. She instructed a few servants to tend to Duan Ling Tian before she left in a hurry.

A sense of warmth rose in Duan Ling Tian’s heart as he watched Qiu Mu Qing’s departing figure.

Meanwhile, the servants were looking at Duan Ling Tian in shock and disbelief. After all, this was the first time their Young Miss brought a man back to the Qiu Clan. Moreover, she had brought him over to stay in her residence.

If news of this spread out, their Young Miss might not be able to marry!

“I’m Duan Ling Tian.” Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Qiu Mu Qing right before she disappeared from his sight.

Qiu Mu Qing had gone to a lot of efforts to help Duan Ling Tian. How could he not disclose his name?

“Duan Ling Tian!” Qiu Mu Qing’s eyes brightened and her cheeks flushed again when she heard Duan Ling Tian’s name.

While Qiu Mu Qing went to look for her father, the Clan Leader of Qiu Clan, a middle-aged man with a strong build accompanied by two servants arrived at the restaurant where Duan Ling Tian and Qiu Mu Qing were at earlier.

“I can’t believe the most beautiful woman in Clarity City is taken just like that!”

The middle-aged man with a strong build heard the voice, and his eyes lit up immediately.

“There’s progress between Qing’Er and Dongfang Zhu? That’s good... If that’s the case, the Qiu Clan can form an alliance with the Dongfang Clan in the future. We no longer have to worry about being oppressed by the Feng Clan!”

The middle-aged man with a strong build was none other than the Second Master of Qiu Clan, Qiu Gang Yi. He had strongly advocated for a marriage alliance between the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan. He was the one who had fanned the flames and asked the elders of the Qiu Clan to pressure the Clan Leader into forcing Qiu Mu Qing to go on a date with Dongfang Zhu. This had put the Clan Leader of the Qiu Clan in a difficult position.

Qiu Mu Qing was a filial daughter. She had decided to give in when she saw the difficult position her father was in.

However, she would rather die than marry Dongfang Zhu! She had only agreed to a casual outing with him because she did not want to place her father in a difficult position. Therefore, she obeyed the wishes of the elders and the Second Master of Qiu Clan. However, that did not mean she intended to marry Dongfang Zhu.

Qiu Mu Qing was a person, not an object. No one could force her if she was unwilling.

“What?! It’s not Dongfang Zhu? It’s the man who beat up Dongfang Zhu?” The Second Master of Qiu Clan, Qiu Gang Yi, soon learned about what had happened. His expression darkened immediately.

Chapter 2070: The Limelight

Earlier, a strange man had beaten up the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan in front of Qiu Mu Qing? Moreover, Qiu Mu Qing had openly held the man’s hand as they left the restaurant?

When Second Master Qiu Gang Yi of the Qiu Clan found out about this, his face turned red and he almost fainted from anger. Qiu Gang Yi’s eyes were cold as he said in a deep voice, “Qiu Mu Qing, that brat, has crossed the line! Doesn’t she know her actions will push Qiu Clan to the opposing side of Dongfang Clan? Let’s return to the clan!” Qiu Gang Yi took a deep breath as he motioned to the servant

standing behind him to leave. His eyes contained a hint of anger as he looked in the direction of the Qiu Clan's estate.

'I'll have to return to the clan and ask for an explanation from Qiu Mu Qing. What kind of man made her disregard the proper etiquette between a man and a woman? To think she openly held a man's hand. The marriage alliance between Qiu Clan and Dongfang Clan is no longer possible because of this incident. It's impossible for the Dongfang Clan to accept a woman with a tarnished reputation,' Qiu Gang Yi thought to himself as his expression turned grim.

The Dongfang Clan placed huge importance on their reputation. Today, many people had seen Qiu Mu Qing, the Young Miss of Qiu Clan, holding another man's hand as she left the restaurant. That was enough to tarnish her reputation. The Dongfang Clan would certainly decline the marriage alliance with the Qiu Clan.

During the journey back, Qiu Gang Yi's expression turned grimmer as he thought to himself, 'The Clan Leader has spoiled Qiu Mu Qing too much. I've never minded her behavior before this, but this time, she has acted too outrageously. To think she has destroyed the good relationship between the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan. She has to be severely punished! Even the Clan Leader can't protect her now!'

It was obvious Qiu Gang Yi was unaware that Qiu Mu Qing had brought the strange man back to the Qiu Clan's estate. Moreover, she had even brought the man to her residence so he could stay there.

"Second Master!"

"Second Master!"

At the entrance of the Qiu Clan's estate, the disciples on guard duty greeted and bowed respectfully when they saw Qiu Gang Yi who had returned.

"You! Have you seen the Young Miss? Has she returned?" Qiu Gang Yi asked in a deep voice as he looked at one of the disciples from Qiu Clan.

"Yes. She has returned." One of the disciples from Qiu Clan nodded.

"It's not just that. Young Miss brought a guest back as well," another disciple from the Qiu Clan chimed in.

"A guest?!" Qiu Gang Yi narrowed his eyes when he heard the disciples' words. His breathing quickened as he asked coldly, "The guest that Young Miss brought back... Is he a young man dressed in purple?" His voice was so cold that it made the others shiver.

"Yes." Several disciples from Qiu Clan nodded. At this moment, they finally realized there was something not quite right with Qiu Gang Yi's tone. They thought to themselves, 'Does Second Master know the man that Young Miss brought back?'

'Is she trying to rebel?' Qiu Gang Yi almost fainted from the anger when he heard the disciples' words. He managed to calm himself down after he took a deep breath.

Qiu Mu Qing had openly offended the Dongfang Clan when she left the restaurant holding the hand of the man who had humiliated Dongfang Zhu. This would undoubtedly cause a rift between Qiu Clan and Dongfang Clan. On top of that, she had even brought that man back to the Qiu Clan! Now that she had done that, was there any way to salvage the relationship between the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan.

Qiu Gang Yi was extremely furious that his face turned red again. When the disciple from Qiu Clan saw this, they did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Qiu Gang Yi quickly walked into the Qiu Clan's estate with a murderous expression on his face.

...

Meanwhile, Dongfang Zhu, the Second Young Master of Dongfang Clan, had returned to the restaurant in Clarity City. However, he was not alone this time. Two grey-clad old men stood next to him. It was obvious these men were elders who were sent out to avenge him.

"He left?" Dongfang Zhu discovered the purple-clad who had humiliated him had left with Qiu Mu Qing. He was too late!

Dongfang Zhu's expression darkened immediately. "How cowardly! I can't believe he left just like that!" However, he soon learned from the customers in the restaurant that Qiu Mu Qing had advised the purple-clad young man to leave, but the purple-clad young man refused to leave. When that happened, she had grabbed that man's hand and pulled him out of the restaurant in front of everyone's eyes.

"Qiu Mu Qing grabbed that man's hand and left?" Dongfang Zhu found this hard to believe. He did not think Qiu Mu Qing knew that man prior to today. How could she hold the hand of a stranger? Naturally, he thought it was impossible when he first heard about it. However, when he heard many customers saying the same thing and he recalled how shy Qiu Mu Qing was in front of the purple-clad young man, he felt that it might be possible after all!

"Bitch! Bitch!" Dongfang Zhu cursed loudly. He was so furious he felt as though he was going to vomit blood. He did not think Qiu Mu Qing who had acted so conservatively in front of him would act so brazenly with a stranger.

"Qiu Mu Qing is shameless!"

"Someone like that doesn't deserve to marry into our Dongfang Clan!"

The two elders from Dongfang Clan were furious when they heard the words of the customers in the restaurant. They felt Qiu Mu Qing's action was akin to slapping the Dongfang Clan's face.

Was there anyone in Clarity City who did not know the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan planned to have a marriage alliance through their Young Miss and their Second Young Master? To think Qiu Mu Qing had acted so boldly and disregarded her reputation for the sake of a stranger. This was undoubtedly a humiliation to the Dongfang Clan.

Dongfang Zhu and the two elders from the Dongfang Clan were still fuming when news came from the Qiu Clan. When they heard the news, they were further infuriated.

“The Young Miss of Qiu Clan brought a purple-clad young man back to the Qiu Clan’s estate and allowed him to stay in her own residence?”

The three people from Dongfang Clan were already furious when they heard about Qiu Mu Qing openly holding the hand of a strange man. They felt as though she had humiliated them. However, they became even more furious when they heard this news.

“Bitch! Bitch!” Dongfang Zhu continued to curse as his eyes gleamed viciously. He thought to himself, ‘I swear I’ll have you under my body even if I can’t marry you. You’re going to regret your actions today, Qiu Mu Qing!’

At this moment, the people from Dongfang Clan could feel the piercing gazes of the customers in the restaurant. They felt extremely embarrassed that they found it hard to lift their heads.

“Second Young Master, we should return to the clan! This matter no longer concerns you alone. It concerns the clan as well. Qiu Mu Qing and the Qiu Clan have gone too far!” One of the elders said to Dongfang Zhu before he flew out of the restaurant. He did not want to stay in the restaurant any longer than necessary.

“Qiu Clan! Qiu Mu Qing! How bold!” The other elder from Dongfang Clan muttered before he flew out of the restaurant as well.

Soon after, Dongfang Zhu followed suit and left the restaurant as well. His face was twisted with anger. He found the gazes from the people difficult to bear. He felt extremely humiliated.

“This is a humiliation to the Dongfang Clan!” One of the customers said. Now that the people from the Dongfang Clan had left, they could speak freely.

“I agree. Everyone in Clarity City knows about the marriage alliance between the Qiu Clan and the Dongfang Clan. Qiu Mu Qing’s actions have destroyed any chance of an alliance with the Dongfang Clan!”

“I heard that Qiu Mu Qing did not want to marry into the Dongfang Clan anyway. I’m sure this is the outcome she had wished for!”

“Her actions today are akin to giving the Dongfan Clan a slap. There’s no doubt it’s a humiliation!”

“Yes. If the Dongfang Clan doesn’t do anything about the incident today, they’ll become a laughing stock in Clarity City!”

Initially, words like that were confined to only customers in the restaurant. However, it did not take long before people in Clarity City were all saying the same thing.

The Dongfang Clan was instantly pushed into the limelight!