

Chapter 2101: Sanctum Leader of the Azure Dragon Sanctum

“No... It’s impossible!! M-my c-cultivation speed! Why has it become so slow? How’s it possible?!”

Bu Hong was lying prone on the floor in one of the rooms in the mansion on the floating island. His eyes were lifeless and his face was pale as he alternated between mumbling to himself and growling. It was as though he had gone insane. He was in a wretched state.

Ever since Bu Hong was defeated and knocked out by Duan Ling Tian, the new monstrous prodigy who had quickly risen in ranks in the Fire Worship Sect, he was very determined to cultivate to get stronger when he woke up due to the humiliation he had suffered. He needed to get stronger. Being defeated and knocked out by Duan Ling Tian in public was a huge humiliation to him. He had sworn to redeem himself. Bu Hong planned to challenge Duan Ling Tian to a Death Duel so he could kill Duan Ling Tian in the Palace of Death to wash away his humiliation.

However, when Bu Hong was trying hard to cultivate, he discovered he could not sense any Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. After a while, with much effort, he finally managed to sense Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy again. Unfortunately, he discovered he could only faintly sense the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. As for his cultivation speed, it was as slow as a snail when he tried to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy.

‘Even the idiots with red Innate Spiritual Roots can cultivate faster than this!’ Bu Hong thought to himself at that time.

In the beginning, Bu Hong thought his slow speed when absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was only a side effect from being knocked out by Duan Ling Tian. He thought he would recover after a few days.

However, as the days passed, things remained the same. Bu Hong’s heart sank. At that point, he realized he had a problem. He was completely ruined!

Bu Hong had regained some strength at this time and his eyes gleamed sinisterly. It was filled with hatred as though he could not wait to tear Duan Ling Tian into a million pieces. ‘What did Duan Ling Tian do to me?!’

‘Master! I have to see master!’ After taking a deep breath, Bu Hong remembered his master, the Sanctum Leader of the Fire Worship Sect’s Azure Dragon Sanctum

The true disciples who were hovering near Bu Hong’s residence after they heard him scream were surprised when they saw him flying out of his residence and disappeared from their sight in just a blink of an eye. Even then, they could vaguely determine the direction he was heading toward.

“It seems like Senior Brother Bu Hong is heading to the Azure Dragon Sanctum,” a true disciple said once he regained his senses.

“Is he planning to look for his master?” Another true disciple asked.

“Is he going to look for his master to ask him to avenge him?” Another one of the true disciples said as he shook his head. There was a hint of disdain in his eyes when he looked at the direction Bu Hong was headed in.

As a true disciple, not only did Bu Hong not diligently cultivate to get stronger after he was defeated, but he even went to his master to whine and complain! How embarrassing!

The Fire Worship Sect had a rule that forbade Saint Land disciples from going to the Four Symbols Sanctums regardless if they were true disciples or Saint Land disciples unless they had permission from the Sanctum Leaders. People who violated that rule would be severely punished. Nevertheless, that rule did not apply to a few people. These people were the direct disciples of the Sanctum Leaders of the Four Symbols Sanctums.

The direct disciples of the Sanctum Leaders would certainly be protected by their masters even if they enter the Four Symbols Sanctums without prior permission or notification. Their masters would definitely cover for them by saying they had invited their direct disciples over.

Since Bu Hong was the direct disciple of the Sanctum Leader of the Azure Dragon Sanctum, he, naturally, enjoyed this privilege.

Upon leaving the Fire Worship Sect’s Saint Land and entering the Azure Dragon Sanctum, Bu Hong easily entered the place of cultivation for high-ranking officials from the Azure Dragon Sanctum.

The place of cultivation for high-ranking officials from the Azure Dragon Sanctum was similar to the other three Sanctums. It was located in a quiet area and was forbidden to most people.

“Bu Hong?” Bu Hong’s arrival had surprised one of the Azure Dragon Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elders. His expression had turned grim when he saw a disciple barging into the forbidden area. However, when he realized it was Bu Hong, his expression changed immediately. A fawning smile appeared on his face when he saw Bu Hong. After all, Bu Hong was not only the direct disciple of the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum, but he was also the first direct disciple of the Sanctum Leader. With Bu Hong’s monstrous innate talent, his future achievement would definitely surpass the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum. At the very least, he would become a Vice Sanctum Leader! It would only do him good to flatter Bu Hong.

Soon after, the Azure Dragon Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder realized that Bu Hong seemed to be in a hurry and had ignored him. He caught a glimpse of Bu Hong’s grim expression and pale face.

The Azure Dragon Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder was, naturally, not annoyed. However, he was confused. “What happened?”

As the first direct disciple of the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum and one of the Fire Worship Sect’s prodigies, what could have caused Bu Hong to lose his composure?

‘Could it be because of Duan Ling Tian again?’ The Azure Dragon Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder suddenly remembered the incident where Bu Hong was defeated and knocked out a while ago. ‘After that incident, Bu Hong had remained quiet... Now that he has come to the Azure Dragon Sanctum to look for Lord Sanctum Leader, don’t tell me Duan Ling Tian has provoked him again?’ The expression on his face

was interesting, to say the least, when he thought about this. 'Duan Ling Tian is really a freak... I don't know which hole he came from. He managed to rise to the second place among the young prodigies in less than a year after joining the Fire Worship Sect!' The Azure Dragon Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder fell into a daze when he thought about Duan Ling Tian's meteoric rise in the sect. Nobody had risen so quickly in ranks in the history of Fire Worship Sect!

...

"Master!" Bu Hong called out respectfully after he rushed to the Azure Dragon Sanctum from the Saint Land when he arrived at the doorstep of his master's residence.

"Come in!" A booming voice rang from inside the mansion soon after.

Based on the voice, it definitely belonged to a man. Not only was the voice loud, but it was also hoarse.

Bu Hong entered the mansion and reached the familiar front yard. He stood respectfully in front of a pavilion. A middle-aged man with a strong build stood in the pavilion. His muscles made the robe he was wearing seemed tight. The middle-aged man was as solid as iron. His face was angular. He had bushy eyebrows and thick lips, making him look fierce. This was the Sanctum Leader of the Azure Dragon Sanctum, Lu Tie!

Bang!

A loud noise rang in the air as Bu Hong knelt in front of Lu Tie.

After Bu Hong knelt down, he lowered his head and said in a hoarse voice, "I have embarrassed you, master."

"Stand up," Lu Tie said indifferently. It was difficult to tell what he felt based on his words alone.

"Yes, master." Bu Hong did not dare to disobey Lu Tie. He stood up immediately, but his head was still lowered. It was as though he was ashamed to face his master.

"I heard about what happened from Yan'er," Lu Tie said indifferently just like before, "It's not unreasonable that Duan Ling Tian defeated you. However, with your Martial Dao innate talent and your indigo Innate Spiritual Root, it won't take long for you to surpass Duan Ling Tian if you cultivate diligently. At that time, you can get even with him and wash away the humiliation that you've suffered!" Lu Tie's voice turned gentle when he spoke. There was a hint of encouragement in his tone as well.

Lu Tie was extremely satisfied with his first direct disciple. He was lucky that Bu Hong had accepted him as his master since he possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root. With Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root, he was certainly qualified to be the direct disciple of one of the Vice Sect Leaders or even the Guardians and the Sect Leader himself.

Among all the Fire Worship Sect's Golden Flame Elders, Lu Tie was the only one whose direct disciple possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root. The other Golden Flame Elders greatly treasured their disciples with blue Innate Spiritual Roots, let alone him who had a direct disciple with an indigo Innate Spiritual Root!

“Master... I’m afraid there’s no chance for me surpassing Duan Ling Tian,” Bu Hong said helplessly. His body trembled when he heard Lu Tie’s words that contained high hopes for him. He clenched his hands tightly and veins were prominent on his forehead. It was obvious his emotions were in turmoil.

Upon hearing Bu Hong’s words, Lu Tie’s expression darkened. He looked at Bu Hong as though he was about to lose his temper. “What do you mean? Just because you’re defeated once, you’ve decided to give up?”

Bu Hong only smiled bitterly. With his current cultivation speed, how could he avenge himself? The gap between him and Duan Ling Tian would only grow wider and wider. He would never be able to catch up to Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, Lu Tie realized that his first direct disciple was acting strangely. His expression darkened even more. “What’s the matter?”

Bu Hong took a deep breath before he recounted everything about his current condition to Lu Tie. He did not dare to hide it from his master.

“What you’re saying is that your Innate Spiritual Root seems to have disappeared?” Lu Tie’s expression changed drastically. He said, “I’m going to take a look at your Innate Spiritual Root in the depth of your soul with my Divine Consciousness. Don’t resist it.”

After Bu Hong nodded, Lu Tie extended his Divine Consciousness to enter Bu Hong’s body and soul to try and sense his Innate Spiritual Root.

Chapter 2102: Malicious Gaze

Lu Tie seemed as though he had been struck by lightning after he tried to sense Bu Hong’s Innate Spiritual Root with his Divine Consciousness. His eyes were wide open and an expression of disbelief and horror appeared on his face as he cried out, “H-how this possible?!”

Upon seeing Lu Tie’s reaction, Bu Hong trembled in fear. “Master! M-my... Is there something wrong with my Innate Spiritual Root?”

If there was something wrong with his Innate Spiritual Root, it would make sense why his cultivation speed was so slow. What mattered the most was if he could fix his Innate Spiritual Root! If it could be fixed, he would be able to regain his innate talent and his cultivation speed would return to normal. He would still be a prodigy in the Fire Worship Sect with his indigo Innate Spiritual Root. As long as he had time, he would be able to avenge himself and kill Duan Ling Tian in the future!

“There’s nothing wrong with your Innate Spiritual Root...” Lu Tie answered as he shook his head stiffly.

Bu Hong’s eyes lit up immediately when he heard Lu Tie’s words. “There’s nothing wrong with my Innate Spiritual Root?” In his opinion, as long as there were no problems with his Innate Spiritual Root, there would certainly be a way to resolve the issue regarding his cultivation speed. He sighed in relief.

“There’s nothing wrong with your Innate Spiritual Root...” Lu Tie hesitated for a moment before he eventually said in a low voice, “Because you no longer have an Innate Spiritual Root! Your Innate Spiritual Root is gone”

Your Innate Spiritual Root is gone!

When Bu Hong heard these words, it was as though he had been struck by lightning. He was so shocked that he crumpled to the ground in despair. Earlier, although he was afraid and uncertain, he still held a sliver of hope in his heart. However, Lu Tie's words had completely cut off all his hopes.

He had lost his Innate Spiritual Root and innate talent!

"H-how's that possible?" Now that Bu Hong had lost all hopes, he had fallen to the depths of despair.

At this moment, Bu Hong heard his master, Lu Tie, growled as he said through clenched teeth, "Duan! Ling! Tian!" This was his first time seeing his master so angry.

"Don't worry, Hong'er. I'll avenge you!" Lu Tie promised Bu Hong solemnly as his eyes glinted coldly.

"Master, y-you think the disappearance of my Innate Spiritual Root is related to Duan Ling Tian?" Bu Hong heard the hidden meaning behind Lu Tie's words.

"It has to be him!" Lu Tie said in a cold voice, "Previously, when Duan Ling Tian was still in the Black Turtle Sanctum, First Silver Flame Elder Li An had brought his direct disciple, Gu Chun, to question Duan Ling Tian. He had accused Duan Ling Tian of destroying Gu Chun's Innate Spiritual Root! At that time, no one, including me, believe Duan Ling Tian's capable of that. After all, apart from the fact that cultivators below the Saint Celestial Stage aren't able to sense Innate Spiritual Roots, even powerhouses at the Saint Celestial Stage can only sense Innate Spiritual Roots. They can't destroy them without damaging the owner's soul!"

Lu Tie paused before he continued to say, "Since Li An and Gu Chun have no evidence, and Gu Chun wasn't entirely sure Duan Ling Tian had destroyed his Innate Spiritual Root, Gu Chun didn't dare to swear on the lightning penalty oath. The matter ended just like that. Originally, I thought it was just a joke, and Li An and Gu Chun were trying to frame Duan Ling Tian. However, it seems like Duan Ling Tian knows a technique to destroy Innate Spiritual Roots. I don't believe it's a coincidence that your Innate Spiritual Root has disappeared after you fought him!"

Lu Tie was right in his speculations.

"Apart from me, he has also destroyed someone else's Innate Spiritual Root?" After listening to Lu Tie's explanation, Bu Hong was certain Duan Ling Tian had used the same technique to destroy his Innate Spiritual Root.

"Hong'er, I'll seek revenge for you. Stay here and wait for my good news," Lu Tie said before he vanished into thin air. He did not even wait for Bu Hong to respond to him.

Lu Tie left in a rage. Although he had two direct disciples, he had high hopes for Bu Hong. However, everything was ruined now. When Lu Tie left, his anger was at its boiling point! Currently, there was nothing he wanted more than to kill Duan Ling Tian to vent his anger! Since he was certain Duan Ling Tian was the one who destroyed his direct disciple's Innate Spiritual Root, there was no need for him to tread carefully. Whether he had to forcefully use the Soul Searching Secret Tactic or some other techniques, he must destroy Duan Ling Tian!

Unfortunately, Lu Tie was destined to be disappointed.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian was not even in the Fire Worship Sect. He had to wait for Duan Ling Tian to return before he could seek revenge from him.

And that was how Lu Tie discovered Duan Ling Tian had left the Fire Worship Sect!

Meanwhile, Dong Yuan Jin, one of the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall, also learned about this. "Duan Ling Tian has left the Fire Worship Sect? How's that possible?!" He found it hard to believe. He had ordered his men to keep a watch on Duan Ling Tian who had humiliated his son, Dong Lin, several times. How did he manage to leave the Fire Worship Sect without alerting anyone? Even if he refused to believe it, the fact remained that Duan Ling had left.

Dong Yuan Jin found out about this because Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum, had gone to the Enforcement Hall to accuse Duan Ling Tian of destroying Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root. The Enforcement Hall had sent Enforcement Elders along with Lu Tie to break into Duan Ling Tian's residence, but they did not see Duan Ling Tian. They searched for him in the sect, and still, they could not find him. They could only come to the conclusion that Duan Ling Tian had indeed left the Fire Worship Sect despite Dong Yuan Jin's men keeping a watch on him.

"Don't worry, father... Since we are sure Duan Ling Tian has destroyed Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root, he won't be able to escape the severe punishment that awaits him when he returns!" Dong Lin laughed sinisterly, "Moreover, according to Sanctum Leader Lu, Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An's direct disciple, Gu Chun, also had his Innate Spiritual Root destroyed by Duan Ling Tian back then... With these two crimes, it's enough for us to sentence him to death!"

Dong Lin paused for a moment as though he had recalled something. He said warily, "However, many people from the Enforcement Hall know about Duan Ling Tian destroying Bu Hong's Innate Spiritual Root. If word of this spread out and Duan Ling Tian learns about it, I'm afraid he won't return to the sect!"

If Duan Ling Tian did not return to the Fire Worship Sect, regardless of how serious his crime was, there was nothing the Enforcement Hall of the Fire Worship Sect could do. They could not even convict him of being guilty before they confront him, which meant they could not simply send men out to hunt for him. After all, it's impossible to convict Duan Ling Tian based on the words of one man!

"Lin'er, I'm pleased that you thought about this." Dong Yuan Jin looked delighted when he heard Dong Lin's words. "I've thought about this too. I've already issued a gag order on our men. News of this will not spread beyond the Enforcement Hall before Duan Ling Tian returns. As long as we contain the news, Duan Ling Tian will be unaware of it." Dong Yuan Jin said confidently.

"Father, you're brilliant!" Dong Lin's eyes brightened and he had a reverent expression on his face.

After a while, a frown appeared on Dong Yuan Jin's face. "However, I still can't figure out how he managed to leave the sect without alerting anyone." Dong Yuan Jin was hung up over the fact that Duan Ling Tian managed to leave without his knowledge even though he had his men keeping watch over him.

...

Currently, Duan Ling Tian who was in Sin City was unaware that a trap had been set for him in Fire Worship Sect. They were just waiting for him to fall into the trap.

“I’ve finally broken through!” It was just as Duan Ling Tian had expected. He had taken almost two months to break through to the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage!

Naturally, for Duan Ling Tian to be able to break through so quickly in an environment without a Spirit Gathering Formation was all due to his Innate Spiritual Root that was close to turning indigo, the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, and his hard work.

‘About fifty days have passed on the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. This means a little more than five days have passed in the outside world,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘In the next few days, I’ll work on mastering the Divine Abilities... Once the ten days I paid for are up, I’ll leave the inn and look for my next prey! It’s about time for my Innate Spiritual Root to turn indigo.’ The ten days he meant clearly referred to the time in the outside world.

Four days in the outside world were equivalent to more than a month on the fourth floor of Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda. After a month, Duan Ling Tian left the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Although Duan Ling Tian did not break through again while he mastered his Divine Abilities, he became extremely skilled. Moreover, he was also very close to another breakthrough.

Duan Ling Tian walked out of the room and breathed in the fresh air that contained the smell of flowers. He had a contented expression on his face. After a while, he left the room with a courtyard that he had been staying in for ten days to check out. He left Welcome Inn immediately after he checked out.

After Duan Ling Tian left the inn, he was deeply aware of a few people surreptitiously looking at him. They would look at him briefly before turning away. “Hm?”

If Duan Ling Tian was not a Weapon Specialist who mastered the art of reconnaissance in his past life, he would not have been able to notice the malicious gazes that were trained on him even though he had an extraordinary cultivation base.

Chapter 2103: Trapping His Opponents

‘Is it possible that they’re planning to rob and kill me?’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, but he was, naturally, not worried. It would do those people good if they left him alone. If they provoked him, he would devour all their Innate Spiritual Roots. Duan Ling Tian’s Innate Spiritual Root was very close to turning into an indigo one after all!

“Elder Huo, what are these people’s cultivation bases like?” Duan Ling Tian asked Elder Huo for his help to probe these people’s cultivation bases for his own safety. They had been staring at him sinisterly for a while now.

Elder Huo replied to Duan Ling Tian immediately, “They’re all at the Quintessential Saint Stage... There’s nothing to worry about!”

“Quintessential Saint Stage cultivators?” Duan Ling Tian said with a laugh when he heard Elder Huo’s words, “Do I look so weak that even weaklings at the Quintessential Saint Stage dare to target me?”

It was fortunate that these people who were keeping an eye on Duan Ling Tian were not aware of his thoughts. Otherwise, they would have been infuriated.

Although Quintessential Saint Stage cultivators were not at the top of the food chain in Dao Martial Saint Land, they were still considered to be above average. However, to Duan Ling Tian, they were only weaklings. It seemed like Duan Ling Tian had forgotten he was merely at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage. Any Quintessential Saint Stage cultivator would not pay much attention to him when they discovered what his cultivation base was. It was only natural for them to assume he was a regular cultivator at the Exemplary Saint Stage.

Shou!

Duan Ling Tian no longer worried about those people who were keeping an eye on him when he found they were only cultivators at the Quintessential Saint Stage Cultivators. Following that, he instantly left Welcome Inn. If Elder Huo had told him those people posed a threat to him, he would have extended his stay in Welcome Inn.

'If I can't defeat you, I'll just avoid you. Although it's important to improve my Innate Spiritual Root, it's even more important to preserve my life!'

...

When Duan Ling Tian left Welcome Inn...

"Leaving! He's leaving!"

"You and your team will continue tailing him. My team and I will return to the alliance to report this matter to our leader!"

"Alright!"

The group of people who were spying on Duan Ling Tian split into groups of twos. One group continued to follow after him while the other group headed in the opposite direction. It was clear these people were from the Ground Ax Alliance! The other group who was headed in the opposite direction was making their way back to the Ground Ax Alliance's estate to inform their leader that their target had left Welcome Inn. They did not dare to slack since their leader had emphasized on the importance of their target.

'Huh? Not all of them came along...' Soon after, Duan Ling Tian noticed that the people who were following had split into two groups. Not all of them had followed him. This made him feel suspicious. He only snorted before he flew out of Sin City. Although he did not travel faster than the speed of an ordinary cultivator at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage, he left Sin City quite quickly.

"He has left Sin City!" The members from the Ground Ax Alliance exclaimed when they saw Duan Ling Tian leaving Sin City.

"Should we continue following him?"

“Of course! Leader has given the order to follow him closely once he leaves the inn. Naturally, we’ll have to follow him even if he leaves Sin City!”

“Judging by his speed, I think his cultivation base is at the Exemplary Saint Stage at most... I don’t understand why leader places such great importance on him and is even willing to give out such great rewards just for this person.”

“In my opinion, leader is going to arrive soon.”

The people from the Ground Ax Alliance discussed among themselves as they continued to follow Duan Ling Tian even after he left Sin City. Naturally, they maintained a certain distance from Duan Ling Tian to avoid alerting him. However, they were unaware that Duan Ling Tian was already aware of their presence.

Duan Ling Tian moved north after he left Sin City. When he saw a mountainous forest with a complex terrain, he thought it was a suitable place to carry out his plan. “This is a good place.”

Duan Ling Tian had planned this before he left Sin City. He planned to make the people who were following to show themselves. At that time, he would interrogate them about their intention of following him. If it was proven they were following him with ill intent, he would not hesitate to devour their Innate Spiritual Roots.

Duan Ling Tian began to descend as he approached the mountainous forest.

Shou!

Duan Ling Tian abruptly descended into the mountainous forest, completely disappearing from the sight of the members from the Ground Ax Alliance.

“Why did he come here?”

“Is it possible there’s something valuable here?”

“Could it be the treasure vault from the powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?”

The members from the Ground Ax Alliance began to discuss among themselves when they saw Duan Ling Tian disappearing into the mountainous forest. Their eyes shone brightly when they discussed the possibilities of him being here and the importance their leader had placed on him. They believed there had to be a special reason for their leader to order them to follow a cultivator who was only at the Exemplary Saint Stage.

“Our Ground Ax Alliance will hit the jackpot if it’s truly the treasure vault left behind by the powerhouse of Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!”

The eyes of the people from the Ground Ax Alliance member shone even more brightly as they continued to think about it. Although they knew they would not be able to partake in a share of the treasures the powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage had left behind, there was no doubt their leader would greatly reward them.

“He has already entered the mountain forest... We should keep up! We don’t want to lose him now!” One of the members of the Ground Ax Alliance suddenly reminded.

“Yes! We should hurry in case we lose track of him!”

Shou! Shou! Shou! Shou! Shou!

In just a blink of an eye, everyone from the Ground Ax Alliance who had been following Duan Ling Tian descended into the mountainous forest as well. However, they were surprised when they landed since they seemed to have lost track of Duan Ling Tian. They did not seem him at all. It was as though he had vanished into thin air after entering the mountainous forest

“He has disappeared?”

“We were just right behind him before he entered the forest. How did he disappear so quickly?”

“He shouldn’t have been able to disappear so quickly based on his speed!”

The people from the Ground Ax Alliance were shocked. They found the entire matter baffling. After all, it was impossible for an ordinary cultivator at the Exemplary Saint Stage, or even if he was at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage, to disappear from their sight so quickly without leaving a trace!

“What happened? Did we really lose him?”

“If leader finds out we lost him, we’re going to be severely punished based on the importance placed on him!”

“Being punished is the least of our worries! I’m more worried the Ground Ax Alliance will miss the chance to obtain the treasures left behind by the powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!”

The members of the Ground Ax Alliance became anxious and worried when they discovered they had lost Duan Ling Tian.

“Should we split up and search for him?” One of the Ground Ax Alliance’s members suggested.

“That’s a good idea. There are nine of us here. We’ll split into groups of threes. We’ll search in the north, east, and west directions respectively to look for that purple-clad young man. What do you think?”

Another Ground Ax Alliance’s member began to plan. The other eight members agreed to his plans.

“There’s no need to search for me. I’m right here!” A cold voice rang in the air just as the members from the Ground Ax Alliance were about to leave.

All of the members from the Ground Ax Alliance clearly heard the voice, causing them to turn to look at the owner of the voice. Their eyes widened in shock when they saw a person materializing out of thin air.

“That’s amazingly fast,” one of the Ground Ax Alliance members said. Naturally, they were not stupid to think he had really appeared out of thin air. Due to this reason, they were instantly wary.

The strongest among them were only a few people at the peak of the Quintessential Saint Stage while the remaining ones were at the Intermediate and Mastery Quintessential Saint Stage.

Not a single one of them was aware when the purple-clad young man had appeared.

'Saint Celestial stage powerhouse!'

The nine members of the Ground Ax Alliance all shared the same thought. Their expressions changed immediately!

The person they had been tailing was a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse! They had assumed that Duan Ling Tian was an Exemplary Saint Stage cultivator based on his speed. However, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian had intentionally misled them. It was entirely possible that he had noticed their presence since earlier and had planned to lure them out.

"All of you are from the Ground Ax Alliance?" Duan Ling Tian asked. He had been hiding close by earlier so he heard their conversations.

Chapter 2104: A Glimpse of the Sword

As Duan Ling Tian spoke, his Sun Saint Energy that had been raised by the Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, was emitting a terrifying aura that made the people from Ground Ax Alliance feel suffocated.

With Duan Ling Tian's current cultivation base at the peak of the Exemplary Saint Stage, his Sun Saint Energy was similar to the Saint Energy of a powerhouse at the Quintessential Saint Stage. However, with the help of the Elementary Devouring Tactic, it was comparable to the Saint Origin of a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!

For this reason, the men from Ground Ax Alliance were trembling violently in fear when they felt Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Energy shrouding them and pressuring them.

The few Ground Ax Alliance members with weaker cultivation bases were the first to give in. One of them said in a trembling voice, "Yes, my lord." Their heads were lowered in a submissive gesture. They did not even dare to look at Duan Ling Tian in the eyes.

The remaining members from the Ground Ax Alliance did not put up a fight when they discovered that Duan Ling Tian was a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse. At this moment, all of them resented the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance.

If they had known that the purple-clad young man before them was a Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse, they would not have dared to follow him even if the rewards that were offered were amazing!

Things were, naturally, easier when dealing with a group of scared people. No matter what Duan Ling Tian asked, they answered him honestly.

"The Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance has his eyes on me?" Duan Ling Tian finally learned these people were sent by Yao Bu Ji, the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, to spy on him. However, none of them knew why Yao Bu Ji had asked them to tail him. However, they had speculated that Duan Ling Tian must have information regarding the treasure vault that was left behind by the powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless when he heard the speculation of the Ground Ax Alliance's members. He thought that they were very imaginative to come up with such a conclusion.

'How strange... Why is the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance keeping an eye on me?' Duan Ling Tian was confused. He was certain no one had seen his face when he killed the two members from the Ground Ax Alliance outside of Sin City. 'That's right! After I killed those two people, there was a strange energy from the Dao Talismans they carried on their bodies. Is there something to do with that?' This was the only possibility that made sense to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian quickly asked Elder Huo's opinion regarding this matter.

"That's possible!" Elder Huo said, "The Dao Talismans they carried disappeared after they died. It could be a sign that the Dao Talismans had been activated, and the catalyst for the activation of the talismans is their deaths! It's likely the Dao Talismans are similar to a Mirror Image Talisman that can record the carrier's surroundings. You've probably been recorded in the act of killing those two men. The Dao Talismans probably transmitted the scene to the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance!"

"There are Dao Talismans like that?" Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he found out about the existence of such a talisman from Elder Huo.

"Of course," Elder Huo answered with so much conviction that Duan Ling Tian did not even doubt him.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'I'll have to study up on the various types of Dao Talismans when I return to Sin City. That aside, there's no reason for the Leader of Ground Ax Alliance to involve so many people when I've only killed two men from the alliance... Could it be because of the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword?!' Duan Ling Tian mulled over the matter for a moment when he remembered the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword that he found in one of the Spatial Rings of the members of the Ground Ax Alliance. The Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword used to belong to an old man who was killed by the two men from the Ground Ax Alliance.

Duan Ling Tian was quite certain that the conclusion he came to was right.

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian looked at the people from the Ground Ax Alliance and asked in a deep voice, "What's the cultivation base of the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance? Apart from him, what are the cultivation bases of the high-ranking officials in the alliance?"

Based on what the people from the Ground Ax Alliance told him, Duan Ling Tian learned that their leader, Yao Bu Ji, was the strongest in the Ground Ax Alliance. He was the only one at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in the Ground Ax Alliance. Apart from that, Yao Bu Ji's strength could be considered to be above average among powerhouses at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land even if he was not on the top of the list.

For example, Bu Hong whom Duan Ling Tian previously defeated was also at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He was ranked at the 421st place on the Supreme Saint Ranking before he was defeated. On the other hand, Yao Bu Ji who was also at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage was ranked at the 266th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Based on this alone, one could see the difference in their strength!

“The strongest person in the Ground Ax Alliance is only a powerhouse at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?” Duan Ling Tian was not afraid at all when he learned that Yao Bu Ji was a lot stronger than Bu Hong.

With Duan Ling Tian’s current strength, along with the Jasper Celestial Sword, it would only take a split second for him to kill Yao Bu Ji as long as Yao Bu Ji was not at the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or above!

Yao Bu Ji was the only person at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, the Spiritual Eye Form, in the Ground Ax Alliance. This meant, no one, apart from Yao Bu Ji, in the Ground Ax Alliance would be able to capture Duan Ling Tian’s movement if used the Jasper Celestial Sword with the Sovereign Heart Sword’s third technique.

Yao Bu Ji might be able to faintly see the Jasper Celestial Sword, but he would have died after that!

Duan Ling Tian looked at the nine members from the Ground Ax Alliance before he asked indifferently, “So, do the nine of you want to live or die?” He sounded emotionless when he spoke.

“My lord, I wish to live!”

“My lord, I wish to live as well!”

When the nine Ground Ax Alliance members heard Duan Ling Tian’s words, they quickly answered him.

What a joke! Why would they choose to die if there was a chance they could live?

“Then, lead the way to the Ground Ax Alliance’s estate!” Duan Ling Tian said indifferently again. However, a hint of killing intent could be seen in his eyes this time. It was obvious he was furious and planned to storm the fort.

The nine men from the Ground Ax Alliance could not help but gasp when they heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. Did he mean to go to the Ground Ax Alliance’s estate? Was he planning to turn himself in? However, the purple-clad young man did not seem like he intended to do that! If that was the case, there was only one possibility left...

‘He’s not afraid of leader...’ The nine members of the Ground Ax Alliance shared the same thought as bitter smiles appeared on their faces. They wondered what kind of person their leader had offended! They knew the person did not ask about the cultivation bases of the leader and high-ranking officials of the Ground Ax Alliance for no good reason! It was obvious he was investigating them!

Naturally, the nine men from the Ground Ax Alliance did not dare to reject Duan Ling Tian’s request. They immediately led Duan Ling Tian out of the forest and returned to Sin City.

Soon after they left the forest, one of the members of the Ground Ax Alliance said hesitantly, “My lord... I used a communication jade token earlier before entering the forest. I’m afraid that at this moment, our leader should be making his way here.”

Almost as soon as that person finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian seemed to sense other people’s presence. He stared into the distance, in the direction of Sin City. “They’re here!”

Whoosh!

Along with the sound of wind whistling in the air, a swift figure was approaching them at a high speed. The figure was extremely fast. His speed far surpassed a powerhouse at the Second Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

After a few moments, the figure appeared in front of the group of people from the Ground Ax Alliance. It seemed like the appearance of that figure had roused the morals of the people from the Ground Ax Alliance. All of them bowed and greeted the figure simultaneously, "Lord Leader!"

The figure was none other than the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, Yao Bu Ji!

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian studied the person who had just appeared. Yao Bu Ji was a middle-aged man with an average appearance. He would not stand out in a crowd.

Yao Bu Ji did not bother with the group of people from the Ground Ax Alliance when he arrived. He only looked at Duan Ling Tian with a piercing gaze. After all, Duan Ling Tian was the person who had killed his men and taken the Spatial Ring that contained a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapon. He had seen this through the Major Mirror Image Talisman.

Yao Bu Ji said coldly, "You..." However, he was interrupted by the sound of a sword cry.

Xiu!

The short-lived sound disappeared as soon as it appeared.

Yao Bu Ji's eyes widened in fear as he could see a sword moving toward him at lightning speed. It was so fast that it seemed impossible to dodge it.

Stab!

The men from the Ground Ax Alliance heard the soft noise of a sword penetrating the flesh after they heard the sword cry. They all trembled in fear. Subsequently, all of them witnessed a scene they would not forget for the rest of their lives!

The Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, Yao Bu Ji, a powerhouse at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, who was ranked at the 266th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking was killed in just one blow. There was a wound between his brows!

Duan Ling Tian moved to Yao Bu Ji's body. His eyes shone brightly and he was thrilled when he discovered Yao Bu Ji possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root!

Chapter 2105: A Reclusive Sectless Cultivator

Indigo Spiritual Root! Duan Ling Tian was delighted by this! His Innate Spiritual Root would definitely turn indigo if he devoured a yellow Innate Spiritual Root! Although Yao Bu Ji was only a sectless cultivator, he was still the leader of an alliance in Sin City. With his cultivation base at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, his Innate Spiritual Root would definitely not be bad. At least it would definitely be better than a yellow Innate Spiritual Root.

Before arriving at Sin City ten days ago, Duan Ling Tian had disguised himself. His current disguise was different from the ones he used at the Fire Worship Sect and Clarity City.

Since the members of the Ground Ax Alliance who were present were merely Quintessential Saint cultivators, Duan Ling Tian did not think it was necessary to use the 10,000 Swords Territory to block the sight of the members of the Ground Ax Alliance's members when he devoured Yao Bu Ji's Innate Spiritual Root.

Under the horrified gazes of the Ground Ax Alliance's members, Duan Ling Tian called out to Elder Huo and quickly devoured Yao Bu Ji's Innate Spiritual Root with Elder Huo's help."Elder Huo!"

Indeed, Yao Bu Ji did not disappoint Duan Ling Tian. Yao Bu Ji possessed a blue Innate Spiritual Root!

After devouring Yao Bu Ji's Innate Spiritual Root, Duan Ling Tian's Innate Spiritual Root successfully transformed into an indigo Innate Spiritual Root just like Elder Huo had predicted.

"Your Innate Spiritual Root is now an indigo Innate Spiritual Root."

When Duan Ling Tian heard Elder Huo's words, he instantly tried to sense the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in his surroundings. He used his cultivation method, the Nine Dragons War Sovereign Technique, to absorb the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy and circulated it a few times in his body.

'This cultivation speed is more than one time faster than my previous speed!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes shone as bright as the stars when he discovered his new cultivation speed.

Subsequently, Duan Ling Tian took Yao Bu Ji's Spatial Ring and drop his body to the ground!

Thud!

Yao Bu Ji's body fell on the ground and turned into a bloody pulp.

When the members of the Ground Ax Alliance heard the sound of their leader falling to the ground, they quickly regained their senses. Their eyes were filled with terror when they looked at Duan Ling Tian as though they had seen a ghost. When they recalled what had just happened, they still found it hard to believe.

"I... Am I dreaming?"

"Someone as strong as our leader was killed in just a move! He didn't even have time to finish his sentence!"

"That man didn't even launch a sneak attack. He directly attacked our leader, and yet, our leader didn't even stand a chance to react before he was killed."

The nine Ground Ax Alliance's members whispered among themselves with trembling voices. The purple-clad young man's strength was out of their expectations. No matter what, their leader was still a powerhouse at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage who was ranked 266th on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Someone like that was killed in just a move by the purple-clad young man! The purple-clad

young man had to be terrifyingly strong! Was he at the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or higher?

Duan Ling Tian overheard the conversations between the Ground Ax Alliance's members and glanced at them indifferently. He planned to leave them alone. His body moved as he prepared to leave. In his opinion, these Ground Ax Alliance's members were sent by their leader, Yao Bu Ji, to follow him. They did not intend to kill him so he had no reason to kill them as well. Since Yao Bu Ji was dead, there was less of a reason for him to make things difficult for them.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to leave, one of the Ground Ax Alliance's members mustered up his courage and called out, "My lord!"

It took Duan Ling Tian by surprised, and he came to a halt.

"Hm?" Duan Ling Tian glanced at the man from the Ground Ax Alliance who called him. He asked with a slight frown, "Is there anything else?"

The other Ground Ax Alliance's members were just about to sigh in relief when they saw Duan Ling Tian was preparing to leave and had no intention of making things difficult for them. However, their hearts jolted in fear when they heard their companion calling out to Duan Ling Tian.

"Idiot! What do you think you're doing?!"

"Damn it! This jinx was about to leave... Why are you stopping him? What if he regrets letting us go and decides to kill us?"

"Don't drag us along with you if you want to die!"

The other Ground Ax Alliance's members were sending angry Voice Transmissions to the Ground Ax Alliance's member who stopped Duan Ling Tian from leaving. How they wished they could turn back time and seal his mouth!

However, the Ground Ax Alliance member who had spoken up ignored them. He looked at Duan Ling Tian respectfully as he asked, "My lord, may I know your name?"

"Is there a reason why you're asking?" Duan Ling Tian said coldly as though he had no intention of revealing his name.

"My lord! Previously, Yao Bu Ji, the former leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, was ranked 266th on the Supreme Saint Ranking," the Ground Ax Alliance's member said solemnly, "Today, we're lucky enough to witness your strength when you killed Yao Bu Ji. If we know your name, we can help spread the news of you replacing Yao Bu Ji on the Supreme Saint Ranking! However, if your rank's already higher than Yao Bu Ji, then, please treat it as though I didn't say anything!" The Ground Ax Alliance's words sounded sincere as though he was saying it for Duan Ling Tian's benefit.

Upon hearing this, the other Ground Ax Alliance's members felt vexed. Why did they not think of this? If they had spoken up, they would be able to flatter this powerhouse! They might not have to worry about him regretting his decision and coming back to kill them!

"My lord, he's right! If you tell us your name, we'll definitely spread word about the incident today."

“Don’t worry, my lord... If there’s anyone who doesn’t believe it, we’re willing to swear on the lightning penalty oath to prove that we’re telling the truth!”

Although the other eight Ground Ax Alliance’s members were slower on the uptake, it did not stop them from fawning over Duan Ling Tian like the other member of the Ground Ax Alliance.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the Ground Ax Alliance’s members and nodded slightly as he said, “I’m Li Feng!” As soon as he finished speaking, he vanished before the nine members of Ground Ax Alliance like a gust of wind.

After Duan Ling Tian’s departure, the nine Ground Ax Alliance’s members sighed in relief when they thought about how they managed to escape death.

“Li Feng?... Is there anyone like that on the Supreme Saint Ranking?” One of the Ground Ax Alliance’s members asked curiously.

“I pay very close attention to the Supreme Saint Ranking... I don’t think there’s anyone called Li Feng that’s ranked on the Supreme Saint Ranking! It seems like Li Feng is a reclusive sectless cultivator!” Another Ground Ax Alliance member said.

Although the Supreme Saint Ranking was a list of 1,000 strongest people in the Dao Martial Land, there were many powerful reclusive people who preferred to stay hidden. Therefore, they were not ranked on the Supreme Saint Ranking regardless of how strong they were.

In the Ground Ax Alliance’s members’ opinion, Li Feng who had killed the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, Yao Bu Ji, was probably a reclusive sectless cultivator. Now that he had made his appearance, he instantly shot up to 266th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking.

“Li Feng’s going to be famous in Sin City and the Dao Martial Saint Land after today!” All the members of the Ground Ax Alliance were certain of this.

The people from the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land had the opinion that the Upper Province alone was enough to represent the entire Dao Martial Saint Land.

This was indeed the truth. Currently, the Lower Province was much weaker than the Upper Province. After all, all the strong ones tended to live in the Upper Province!

...

When the group of Ground Ax Alliance’s members returned to Sin City, they did not dare to slack and began to spread word about what had happened. The news instantly caused a stir in Sin City.

Yao Bu Ji, the Leader of the Ground Ax Alliance, was a cultivator at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage who ranked 266th on the Supreme Saint Ranking. He could be considered as famous in Sin City. It was only natural that his death would shock the sectless cultivators in Sin City.

“A powerhouse called Li Feng killed Yao Bu Ji? Moreover, he killed Yao Bu Ji with a direct attack without using any underhanded methods?”

Many sectless cultivators were shocked when they learned about this.

“Yao Bu Ji could be considered as above average among powerhouses at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in the Dao Martial Saint Land... Someone like that was killed in just one move? Li Feng has to be at the powerhouse at the Fourth Form Saint of the Celestial Stage or above!” Many people speculated.

They believed that even the strongest powerhouses at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in the Dao Martial Saint Land would not be able to kill Yao Bu Ji in just a move!

As the news spread, Li Feng’s name spread like a wildfire in Sin City.

Chapter 2106: Does Duan Ling Tian have a Super Saint Weapon?

The Supreme Saint Ranking was widely acknowledged in the Dao Martial Saint Land, and its ranking would be updated once a month. A published list would be released once a month to the people on the Dao Martial Saint Land. It was published in the form of a booklet similar to magazines on earth where Duan Ling Tian was from in his past life.

For this reason, Li Feng’s name spread in Sin City, the Central Region, and the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. Another sectless cultivator had appeared in the public’s eyes. Moreover, he was immediately ranked 266th on the Supreme Saint Ranking as soon as he debuted.

Everyone who had a copy of this month’s Supreme Saint Ranking list instantly learned about Li Feng. From a nobody, Li Feng became the most talked about person overnight in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Even Duan Ling Tian did not expect this to happen. Ever since he killed Yao Bu Ji, the former Leader of Ground Ax Alliance, and returned to Sin City, he had looked for another inn to stay in so he could cultivate. Now that he possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root, he wanted to strike while the iron was hot and break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage!

‘I won’t come out from closed-door cultivation as long I don’t break through to the Quintessential Saint Stage!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as soon as he entered the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda.

Regardless of what was happening outside and how talked about Duan Ling Tian was, it would blow over after a while.

Li Feng’s name was mentioned several times in Sin City before it gradually died down. Naturally, this was because the incident happened in Sin City and the people there were the first to know that Li Feng had killed Yao Bu Ji who was ranked at the 266th place on the Supreme Saint Ranking.

However, outside of Sin City, many smaller cities were still talking about Li Feng. It was during this time that Li Feng’s name spread in the Central Region.

...

At the border of the Western Region. Inside Clarity City’s Qiu Clan’s estate.

At dawn, an old voice excitedly broke the silence in Qiu Mu Qing's residence. "Miss Mu Qing, there's good news!"

Naturally, the person was only standing outside Qiu Mu Qing's residence. He did not dare to enter without her permission. The old man stood outside holding a booklet. On the cover of the booklet, the words, 'Supreme Saint Ranking', were written beautifully. It was the latest list of the Supreme Saint Ranking.

A few moments later, a maid walked out and said to the old man, "Elder Liang, miss invites you to come in."

After that, the old man followed the maid into the residence of the Qiu Clan's Young Miss, Qiu Mu Qing. He was led to the pavilion in the front yard of her residence.

As usual, Qiu Mu Qing looked delicate and ethereal like a fairy that had descended to the mortal world.

"Elder Liang, what good news did you bring so early in the morning?" Qiu Mu Qing asked with a smile when she saw the old man walking into the pavilion.

The old man was the Second Elder of the Dongfang Clan, Dongfang Liang. He was also one of the few Saint Celestial Stage powerhouses living in Clarity City. If people saw how respectful he was to the Qiu Clan's Young Miss, they would be shocked.

After all, in Clarity City where Saint Celestial Stage powerhouses were rare, their statuses were extremely high. Moreover, he was not just an ordinary Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse, he was the Second Elder of the Dongfang Clan. Even the Clan Leader of Dongfang Clan had to be respectful to him. However, he seemed like a servant to the daughter of the Clan Leader of Qiu Clan. Indeed that was the truth. Initially, Dongfang Liang had been opposed to it. However, when he realized Qiu Mu Qing did not treat him like a slave and treated him respectfully even though he had sworn on the lightning penalty oath, he gradually began to accept his role.

This was probably what the saying, 'To win one over with kindness,' meant.

Dongfang Liang passed the latest list of the Supreme Saint Ranking to Qiu Mu Qing and said, "Take a look, Miss Mu Qing. Look at the second page!"

Qiu Mu Qing took the booklet and flipped it to the page that Dongfang Liang mentioned. Soon after, her eyes brightened. This was because she had seen Li Feng's name.

"Li Feng, a reclusive sectless powerhouse. Currently staying in the north of the Central Region in Sin City. He killed Yao Bu Ji who was ranked 266th on the Supreme Saint Ranking during a fight, effectively taking over his spot on the Supreme Saint Ranking!" Apart from that sentence, the entire page was filled Yao Bu Ji's past achievements, it served as a foil to show how amazing Li Feng was. Moreover, the booklet even speculated that Li Feng's true strength could probably rank in the top 200 of the Supreme Saint Ranking!

Central Region, Sin City! Li Feng! A Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!

Qiu Mu Qing was extremely certain this Li Feng was the man she missed. Naturally, she knew the name Li Feng was just a pseudonym. Li Feng's real name was Duan Ling Tian. He was one of the Fire Worship Sect's Eight Great Prodigies. He was already famous prior to this!

'It has been quite a while since he has left, but I feel like I've just met him yesterday,' Qiu Mu Qing mused inwardly as complex emotions could be seen in her eyes. If it was before, she would never believe that she would like a man whom she had only met for a day. In fact, she thought she would gradually forget about him after everything had died down and time had passed. However, it seemed like she had a hard time forgetting about him. For so many years, she had never been interested in a man, but now there was a man who was entrenched deeply in her heart. She could not let him go at all.

'Perhaps it's time for me to leave Clarity City,' Qiu Mu Qing thought to herself as her eyes gleamed.

"Miss Mu Qing, do you think it's Lord Li Feng?" Dongfang Liang could not help but ask when he saw Qiu Mu Qing had finally regained her senses. His instincts told him it was the same Li Feng who had behaved so domineeringly in the Qiu Clan back then, but he was not entirely sure.

"It's him," Qiu Mu Qing said with a nod, "Before he left, he told me he was going to the Central Region's Sin City!"

Dongfang Liang could not help but gasp when he heard the confirmation from Qiu Mu Qing.

It was really him!

...

Meanwhile, in the Western Region. The latest list of the Supreme Saint Ranking was also circulating in the Fire Worship Sect, one of the three great sects in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. Everyone in the Fire Worship Sect had heard about Li Feng now. However, none of them would ever imagine even in their wildest dreams that Li Feng was Duan Ling Tian, a true disciple of the Fire Worship Sect!

...

In Fire Worship Sect's Azure Dragon Sanctum.

Recently, the first direct disciple, Bu Hong, of Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon, had been staying in Lu Tie's mansion.

A few days ago, a piece of news from the Central Region's Sin City further infuriated Bu Hong. In the booklet, it was stated that he had gone to Sin City. When did he go to Sin City in the Central Region? When did he kill the brother of a deputy leader of an alliance called the Black Crow Alliance and made an enemy out of the alliance?

Although Bu Hong was not afraid of the Black Crow Alliance since he had the support of the Fire Worship Sect and the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum, he was still outraged over being wrongly accused.

“Li Feng, a reclusive sectless cultivator, had killed Yao Bu Ji who was ranked 266th on Supreme Saint Ranking and took over his place on the ranking.”

Bu Hong looked dejected as he pored over the booklet. His ranking had dropped from 421st place to the 537th place.

“It would be great if I can be like Li Feng and enter the top 300 on the Supreme Saint Ranking and be known in the Dao Martial Saint Land. Master would’ve been proud of me. With my former Innate Spiritual Root, it would only be a matter of time before I enter the top 300 on the Supreme Saint Ranking. In fact, it’s possible that I could even rank in the top 100, top 50 or top 30 on the Supreme Saint Ranking with my indigo Innate Spiritual Root. In the Dao Martial Saint Land, I can be considered as a top prodigy,” Bu Hong muttered to himself. His eyes were bloodshot and his body trembled. He felt as though he had fallen from Heaven to Hell overnight. “It’s all gone now! All gone! It’s Duan Ling Tian’s fault. If it’s not for him, would I be in this position? Would I lose my indigo Innate Spiritual Root?”

After a while, Bu Hong fell strangely silent. He could vividly remember the scene when he fought Duan Ling Tian back then. He was extremely calm at this moment, and he was suddenly struck by an important thought.

‘Back then, when Duan Ling Tian defeated me, even if his strength was enhanced with his assist-type Divine Ability, it’s impossible for him to be stronger than me even if he has mastered all his Divine Abilities to their highest degrees. However, his attack seemed to have divine help. It was so outrageously fast that I didn’t even have time to react! Based on his strength at that time, even if he had used a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword, he still wouldn’t be as strong. Now that I think about it, it’s likely that he was using a 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword, a Super Saint Weapon on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking.’

Chapter 2107: The Traceless Sword

Bu Hong’s master was Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum. He was also one of the strongest Golden Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect. A person like him would, naturally, own a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapon.

For this reason, Bu Hong had a better understanding of Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapons compared to others. ‘If the sword he used is merely a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword, even with his assist-type Divine Ability and if he used all his martial tactics and Divine Abilities that he has mastered to their highest degrees, it would still be impossible for his attack to be so fast! I’ve already opened my Spiritual Eyes when I broke through to the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage that’s also known as the Spiritual Eyes Form. Even then, I barely managed to catch a glimpse of his attack! What does this mean? Doesn’t this mean his sword is of a higher grade than a Thousand Saint Inscriptions Weapon?’

Bu Hong continued his train of thought. ‘In the Dao Martial Saint Land, swords that are higher grade than Thousand Inscriptions Saint Swords are 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword! There’s a total of ten 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Weapons in the Dao Martial Saint Land. They’re the Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking... Only two of Super Saint Weapons are swords! They’re the Nine

Clouds Sword and the Traceless Sword... I wonder which one does Duan Ling Tian possess?!' Bu Hong's breath quickened when he thought about this.

"If Duan Ling Tian didn't destroy my Innate Spiritual Root, I won't expose this matter since I'll challenge him to a Death Duel and kill him in the Palace of Death. That way I'll be able to obtain his 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword for myself," Bu Hong muttered to himself with a vicious glint in his eyes, "However, since my Innate Spiritual Root has been destroyed, it's impossible for me to surpass him. If that's the case, is there a need for me to keep this to myself? Should I only tell my master or should I spread this news so that everyone will know about it?!" A hint of hesitance could be seen in Bu Hong's eyes as though he was in a dilemma. "If I only tell it to master, there's no way he'll tell anyone about it. It's a 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword, a Super Saint Weapon on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking after all. Even master would be tempted by it."

Bu Hong knew that humans were selfish. He was certain that if he told his master, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum, his master would definitely choose to keep the news to himself and forbid him from telling anyone about it. Everyone wanted a Super Saint Weapon to themselves!

"Whatever... I'll tell master about it first. With my master's strength, it shouldn't be hard for him to kill Duan Ling Tian and snatch that 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword. It can also be counted as seeking revenge from Duan Ling Tian!" Finally, Bu Hong made up his mind to tell his master alone about his suspicion that Duan Ling Tian owned a 10,000 Inscriptions Saint Sword.

'If my master obtains the sword, he'll definitely feel indebted to me since he wouldn't have managed to obtain it if weren't got me!' Bu Hong thought to himself. In his opinion, it did not matter who killed Duan Ling Tian as long as Duan Ling Tian died. If his master killed Duan Ling Tian and obtained the Super Saint Weapon, it could be considered as the sword being kept in the family. It would only benefit and not harm him. Since he had made up his mind, he instantly went to look for his master.

...

"Master!" Bu Hong cried out as he entered the backyard of his master's residence.

Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon, who was gardening stopped to look at Bu Hong. He instantly asked, "Hong'er, what's wrong?"

Ever since Bu Hong learned that Duan Ling Tian had quietly left the Fire Worship Sect, he had shut himself in Lu Tie's residence. In order to relieve Bu Hong's boredom, he had placed the latest list of Supreme Saint Ranking in Bu Hong's room. He did not expect Bu Hong would come looking for him so quickly.

"Master, I just remember something important!" Bu Hong said solemnly.

"Oh? What's the matter?" Lu Tie knew direct disciple very well. He was someone who knew how to differentiate between what was important and what was not. If he said there was something important, there was no doubt it was important.

"Master... I suspect that Duan Ling Tian defeated me using a Super Saint Weapon!" Bu Hong said without beating around the bush.

A Super Saint Weapon!

As soon as Bu Hong finished speaking, Lu Tie's eyes widened in shock and he had an expression of disbelief on his face. His heartbeat began to quicken as well.

There were only ten Super Saint Weapons in the Dao Martial Saint Land and they were known as the Dao Martial Saint Land's Ten Great Saint Weapons.

Even the Fire Worship Sect only had one of the Super Saint Weapons that the sect had inherited. It was passed down from the sect leaders of old until it was finally passed down to the current Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect.

Based on this, one could see how rare a Super Saint Weapon was!

However, Lu Tie's first direct disciple had just told him that Duan Ling Tian possessed a Super Saint Weapon?

How could it not be shocking?

"Hong'er, are you sure that Duan Ling Tian has a Super Saint Weapon?" Lu Tie's expression was solemn when he looked at Bu Hong.

"Master, Duan Ling Tian..." Bu Hong began to recount everything in detail to Lu Tie about his battle with Duan Ling Tian.

Bu Hong's suspicion was not without basis, Lu Tie had no reason to doubt his words.

"If it's true, he probably has the Nine Cloud Sword or the Traceless Sword on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking," Lu Tie said after he paused for a moment, "Based on your words, I think he has the Traceless Sword... The Traceless Sword, like its name, is traceless and impossible to guard against!"

"Your cultivation base is at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, the Spiritual Eyes Form. With your Spiritual Eyes, it's only natural that you'll be able to catch a small glimpse of the Duan Ling Tian using the Traceless Sword... It is impossible for those below the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage who haven't awoken their Spiritual Eyes to see the Traceless Sword," Lu Tie said, "The rumor of Duan Ling Tian mastering a mysterious swordplay makes sense if he has the Traceless Sword. Even your junior sister suffered in his hands. Without the sword, he's probably not even a match for her!" Lu Tie became more certain the more he spoke. The junior sister he mentioned was obviously Wen Yan.

"The Traceless Sword... How lucky of him to obtain the Traceless Sword that's one of the Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking!" An envious expression appeared on Bu Hong's face.

Even Lu Tie, Bu Hong's master, seemed convinced after Bu Hong had told him what had happened. He was extremely certain now that Duan Ling Tian had used the Traceless Sword, one of the Ten Great Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking!

“He’s lucky indeed... However, it’s a pity the sword will soon belong to me!” Lu Tie sneered as his eyes glinted. Based on his words, it was obvious he was very confident that he would be able to obtain the sword from Duan Ling Tian. Although Duan Ling Tian was strong, he was still lacking compared to Lu Tie.

“Hong’er, all credits will go to you if I obtain the Traceless Sword!” Lu Tie looked at Bu Hong with a smile. No matter how he looked at his direct disciple, he found Bu Hong extremely pleasing to his eyes.

“Master, if you want the Traceless Sword, you must personally act against Duan Ling Tian... If Duan Ling Tian returns now, he’ll be brought to the Enforcement Hall to be questioned about the destruction of my Innate Spiritual Root,” Bu Hong said worriedly, “Once he’s proven guilty, the Enforcement Hall will surely punish him even if they don’t sentence him to death. However, since he has offended Dong Yuan Jin, the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall, Dong Yuan Jin would surely bring up the case of him destroying the Innate Spiritual Root of Gu Chun, Li An’s direct disciple. At that time, it won’t be difficult for Dong Yuan Jin to deal with him... If he dies in the Enforcement Hall, I’m afraid you won’t have a chance to obtain the Traceless Sword!”

Upon hearing Bu Hong’s words, Lu Tie furrowed his brows. “That’s true!”

The Enforcement Hall’s Vice Hall Master, Dong Yuan Jin, was a vicious man who would seek revenge for the smallest grievances. Moreover, his position was higher than Lu Tie, and he was stronger than Lu Tie as well. If Dong Yuan Jin obtained the Traceless Sword, it would be impossible for Lu Tie to snatch it from him. And in the case of the Traceless being discovered by the Enforcement Hall, it would be even more impossible for him to obtain it.

In just a second, Lu Tie made up his mind. He looked at Bu Hong and said, “Hong’er! I plan to go to the Enforcement Hall and drop the charges against Duan Ling Tian. I’ll say that your Innate Spiritual Root was destroyed due to your own mistakes during cultivation. However, there’s no need for you to worry. Even without the Enforcement Hall, I’ll kill Duan Ling Tian and avenge you!” Lu Tie said confidently.

“I believe in you, master.” Bu Hong nodded. He knew this was the best course of action. This was the only way for his master to obtain the sword in Duan Ling Tian’s possession.

It was fortunate that Duan Ling Tian was unaware of what was going on. Otherwise, he would have been rendered speechless.

When did he obtain the Traceless Sword, one of the Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking? How come he himself did not know about this?

Chapter 2108: Something has Gone Wrong!

The complaint Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of the Azure Dragon Sanctum, had lodged against Duan Ling Tian for destroying his direct disciple’s Innate Spiritual Root was only known to those in the Enforcement Hall due to the intervention by Dong Yuan Jin, one of the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall. Not only did it not spread out of the Enforcement Hall, but it did not spread in the Fire Worship Sect as well, let alone outside of the Fire Worship Sect.

Lu Tie understood Dong Yuan Jin's purpose in doing so. In fact, he even agreed with it. After all, it would only alert Duan Ling Tian if word of it got out, and as a result, he might not return to the Fire Worship Sect out of fear. Lu Tie did not want this to happen.

Although Lu Tie's action of withdrawing his complaint against Duan Ling Tian did not affect the Fire Worship Sect since nobody knew about it, it caused quite a stir in the Enforcement Hall.

Lu Tie's actions could be considered as slanderous so he had to be punished somehow according to the rules of the Fire Worship Sect. However, the Enforcement Hall elder who was in charge of this was merely a Silver Flame Elder so he did not have the authority to punish Lu Tie. Under these circumstances, Dong Yuan Jin as one of the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall had to deal with this matter.

"Sanctum Leader Lu, are you certain you want to withdraw your complaint against Duan Ling Tian?" Dong Yuan Jin looked at Lu Tie with a frown and asked in confusion, "Can you tell me the reason why?"

Naturally, Dong Yuan Jin did not believe Lu Tie's lies about Bu Hong destroying his Innate Spiritual Root while he was cultivating due to a Qi deviation. He thought Lu Tie must have an ulterior motive for doing so. Indeed, he had guessed correctly, but he would never be able to guess the reason why.

Faced with Dong Yuan Jin's question, Lu Tie seemed fearless. He answered indifferently, "Vice Hall Master Dong, I've already said everything that has to be said."

Lu Tie, naturally, knew why Dong Yuan Jin was so dissatisfied and kept pressing him for a reason. He knew Dong Yuan Jin was just feeling disgruntled for losing a good chance to avenge his son, Dong Lin.

"Sanctum Leader Lu, I advise that you tread carefully! You'll be charged for slandering another person. Although Duan Ling Tian's not in the Fire Worship Sect at the moment, the Enforcement Hall holds the right to punish you according to the sect's rules!" Dong Yuan Jin said in a deep voice. There was clearly a hidden threat in his words.

However, was Lu Tie someone who was easily threatened?

"Vice Hall Master Dong, I understand what you're saying. I'll accept the punishment from the Enforcement Hall. However, if I'm not mistaken, my punishment should be a light one since I admitted my wrongdoing." Lu Tie maintained his composure from the beginning until the end as though he did not think much about the punishment he was about to receive. Indeed, he could care less about the punishment. It would only be some insignificant flesh wound. With his cultivation base at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, the physical punishment would only feel like scratches to him.

Dong Yuan Jin no longer said anything after he saw how determined Lu Tie was. However, a sense of suspicion rose in his heart. He had a feeling that Lu Tie was hiding something.

...

Dong Lin's expression changed drastically when he learned about what happened from his father. He found it difficult to accept, but there was nothing he could do to change it. "What? Sanctum Leader Lu withdrew his complaint against Duan Ling Tian?"

Eventually, Dong Lin could not do anything but accept it. However, it did not stop him from feeling resentful. He finally found a chance to seek revenge from Duan Ling Tian but that chance had vanished all of a sudden. How could he not feel resentful?

...

A few days later, the arrival of someone disturbed the tranquility in the Fire Worship Sect.

It was none other than Yang Chong, the fifth elder of the Northern Plethora Sect, who was a close friend of Black Turtle Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder Li An. He had come to see Li An. However, he discovered that Li An was not in the Fire Worship Sect when he went to the Black Turtle Sanctum.

Upon Yang Chong's request, a few of Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elders went to check on Li An's Soul Pearl and they discovered that Li An's Soul Pearl had shattered. Moreover, it seemed like it had shattered quite a while ago.

"Something's gone wrong!" Yang Chong's expression turned grim when he saw Li An's shattered Soul Pearl.

The Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elder Teng Shan looked at Yang Chong and asked in a deep voice, "What's the matter, Elder Yang Chong?"

Guo Xiong and Meng Jin who were also Black Turtle Sanctum's Silver Flame Elders turned to look at Yang Chong in confusion. They had no idea what Yang Chong meant when he said something had gone wrong.

Naturally, they were all inwardly shocked at First Silver Flame Elder Li An's death.

Under the watchful eyes of the three Black Turtle Sanctum elders, Yang Chong began to recount what had happened. "Some time ago..."

Naturally, Yang Chong did not reveal that Li An had brought several Saint Celestial Stage powerhouses from the Northern Plethora Sect to investigate Duan Ling Tian's background. He merely said that Li An brought several Northern Plethora Sect's Saint Celestial Stage powerhouses to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land. He realized something was wrong when Li An did not return even after a long time had passed. He became certain something had gone wrong when he discovered the Soul Pearls of all the Saint Celestial Stage had shattered as well! He intended to go to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land immediately to investigate what had happened, but when he arrived at the nearest Inter-province Transportation Formation, he discovered that the Formation could not be activated.

At that time, Yang Chong only thought there was something wrong with that specific Inter-province Transportation Formation. However, when he went to other places with Inter-province Transportation Formations, he discovered they were not working as well. Then, he began to hear from people who lived close to Inter-province Transportation Formations say that it had been a while that all Inter-province Transportation Formations had stopped working.

"This is why I came to the Fire Worship Sect. Indeed, as I expected, Li An had met with an accident!" Yang Chong looked distressed as he said, "I heard from people who are familiar with Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province that connect to the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province say that if there's something wrong with the Inter-province

Transportation Formations in the Lower Province, it would affect the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province as well!”

Yang Chong took a deep breath before he continued to say, “However, if the problems lie with the Upper Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations, the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province won’t be affected. This is because the latter isn’t dependent on the former. The Lower Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations won’t be affected because it isn’t dependent on the former to activate it since it transports people from the Lower Province to random and unspecified locations in the Upper Province.”

This was similar to when Duan Ling Tian, Gu Li, and Zhu Lu Qi were randomly transported to a place in the Upper Province. They were not directly transported to an Inter-province Transformation Formation in the Upper Province.

“This is why I’m certain that something’s wrong with the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province!” Yang Chong concluded.

“Something’s wrong with the Lower Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations?” Guo Xiong said solemnly, “Based on what I know, the Lower Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations are more stable than the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province. It’s said that when our predecessors laid the Inter-province Transportation Formations, they had merged it with the Sealant Grand Formation that’s also used to seal the Land of Exile. It shares the Defensive Formation from the Sealant Grand Formation. As for the Sealant Grand Formation’s Defensive Formation, even if several powerhouses at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage join forces, they wouldn’t be able to break the Formation, let alone a single Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse!”

Apart from being the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Silver Flame Elder, Guo Xiong was also the Black Turtle Sanctum’s Enforcement Elder. He was a knowledgeable person as well. He studied the history of the Dao Martial Saint Land when he had the time. He had read about the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province, and its merge with Sealant Grand Formation that was set up by human powerhouses to seal the Land of Exile during the Human-Devil Era. The Sealant Grand Formation was used to seal the path connecting the Land of Exile to the Dao Martial Saint Land. The path was, naturally, a tear in the space barrier.

Since the tear in the space barrier was sealed, the Devil Clans from the Land of Exile had not been able to cross over to the Dao Martial Saint Land for hundreds of thousands of years. Based on this, it could be seen that the Defensive Formation in the Sealant Grand Formation was extremely powerful.

Although there were not many devils at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, there was still a number of them. Even then, they failed to destroy the Sealant Grand Formation!

Due to this reason, Guo Xiong thought it was unlikely that the Lower Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations that shared the Defensive Formation with the Sealant Grand Formation would be destroyed even if several powerhouses at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage joined forces, let alone a single Saint Celestial Stage powerhouse.

'However, if it's true that the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province have issues, does this mean there's a problem with the Sealant Grand Formation as well?' Guo Xiong's face paled instantly when this thought crossed his mind. Various complex expressions flitted across his face...

Central Region. Sin City.

Bang!

In a quiet room at an inn, there was an explosion from the fourth floor of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda that had transformed into a speck of dust in the corner. A violent gust of wind swept out in the room in full force.

Loud laughter could be heard accompanying the sound of the explosion.

It was none other than Duan Ling Tian who was laughing joyously as he sat cross-legged in the air. There was an air of excitement around him!

He had successfully made a breakthrough! After two months, he finally managed to break through.

"Early Quintessential Saint Stage." After Duan Ling Tian stopped laughing, he tried to mobilize the Sun Saint Energy in his body and discovered the changes in his

Sun Saint Energy. "Currently, my Sun Saint Energy is comparable to the Saint Origin of a powerhouse at the First Form of the Saint Celestial Stage without the need to use the Elementary Devouring Tactic!"

'There are so many advantages to having a light indigo Innate Spiritual Root. What happens when I improve it to a violet Innate Spiritual Root? How terrifying would my cultivation speed be at that time?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself delightedly.

However, Duan Ling Tian's good mood did not last long. When he left the inn, he heard a few sectless cultivators' talking. Apparently, there was something wrong with a few Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province. It could no longer send people to the Lower Province!

Chapter 2109: The Rise of the Human-Devil Era?!

'The Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province can no longer send people to the Lower Province?' Duan Ling Tian's expression changed drastically when he heard this. The joy he felt from his breakthrough disappeared in just a blink of an eye!

Perhaps, it did not affect most people from the Upper Province since most of them did not go to the Lower Province often. However, this news was like a lightning bolt that struck Duan Ling Tian. Naturally, this was because his family and friends were in the Lower Province!

'Maybe it's just a few Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province that have problems,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself in an attempt to calm and console himself. How was it possible for all the Inter-province Transportation Formations that connected the Upper Province and the Lower Province to have problems? He refused to believe it. He chose to think of it as a baseless rumor.

However, as Duan Ling Tian wandered the streets of Sin City, the news he heard made it hard for him to hold onto his belief.

'Is it really possible that there are problems with all the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province?' Duan Ling Tian frowned. If there was really no way to go to the Lower Province, it meant that he would not be able to see his family and friends ever again. When he thought of this, he became even more anxious and distressed.

"I heard that it's the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province that have problems... There's nothing wrong with the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Upper Province. We can't activate the Inter-province Transportation Formations here because they're affected by the problems with the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province."

"I've heard about it as well... We need to rely on the Lower Province's Inter-province Transportation Formations to receive us when we go to the Lower Province. On the other hand, when one comes to the Upper Province from the Lower Province, one doesn't have to rely on the Upper Province's Inter-province Transformation Formations. It's one-sided and random."

"Now that there's something wrong with the Lower Province's Inter-province Transformation Formations, this means people from the Lower Province won't be able to come to the Upper Province and vice versa."

"I've never wanted to go to the Lower Province anyway. It's so remote that birds don't even shit there. It doesn't bother me that there's something wrong with the Lower Province's Inter-province Transformation Formations."

Similar conversations could be heard all over Sin City.

Most people had the mindset where if something did not affect them, the matter would be irrelevant to them.

To the people in the Upper Province, it did not affect them much even if they could not go to the Lower Province.

However, people soon discovered things were not as simple as they thought.

"Do you really think the matter is so simple and the only consequence is that we can't go to the Lower Province?"

Soon after, a terrifying news began to spread in Sin City like a wildfire. It was spread by the sectless cultivators in Sin City.

"If there's a problem with the Lower Province's Inter-province Transformation Formations, it means there's also a problem with the Sealant Grand Formation our predecessors set up hundreds of thousands of years ago!"

"Are you telling me you don't know the purpose of the Sealant Grand Formation that has existed for hundreds and thousands of years?"

“The Sealant Grand Formation is the Formation that seals the Land of Exile... More accurately, it seals the tear in the space barrier that stands between the Dao Martial Saint Land and the Land of Exile!”

“You don’t even know what the Land of Exile is? We’ll have to start with the war that happened during the Human-Devil Era 100,000 year ago...”

...

Human-Devil Era.

Land of Exile.

Devil Clans.

These things that were previously not known were made known to the public, causing panic in the city.

At this point, many people learned about how dark it was 100,000 years ago during the Human-Devil Era. During that era, a group of Devil Clans invaded the Dao Martial Saint Land from the Land of Exile through the tear in the space barrier. They massacred everyone they encountered and absorbed their vital essence and life blood, turning them into dried corpses. This was 90% of the devils’ means to improve their strength.

‘Human-Devil Era? Land of Exile? Devil clans?’

During this time, Duan Ling Tian also learned about the Human-Devil Era, the Land of Exile, and the Devil clans. ‘There are a few devils at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage? The Lower Province’s Inter-province Transportation Formations share the Defensive Formation with the Sealant Grand Formation? If there’s a problem with the Lower Province’s Inter-province Transformation Formations, it means there’s also a problem with the Sealant Grand Formation. It’s likely that it can no longer seal the tear in the space barrier that stands between the Dao Martial Saint Land and the Land of Exile!’ Duan Ling Tian’s expression turned grim.

Previously, when Duan Ling Tian first learned he might not be able to return to the Lower Province, his first thought was that he would not be able to see his family and friends anymore. At that time, he was not worried about their safety. Since his father was at the Azure Cloud Mansion, he believed his father would be able to keep everyone safe. However, that was before he found out the Devil clans might invade the Lower Province.

‘If the Devil clans really invade the Dao Martial Saint Land, they’ll invade the Lower Province first. 100,000 thousand years ago, the Dao Martial Saint Land hasn’t been split into the Upper and Lower Province so there were many powerhouses, including powerhouses at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. However, currently in the Lower Province, even powerhouses at the Quintessential Stage are a rarity, let alone powerhouses at the Saint Celestial Stage! If the Devil clans invade the Lower Province, I’m afraid no humans will survive!’

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was about to go crazy from being worried! His family and friends were all in the Lower Province. If the Devil clans invaded, it would be impossible for them to fight back with their strength!

...

“The Devil clans will invade the Dao Martial Saint Land again? They’ll only be invading the Lower Province, right? The Upper Province is a different realm from the Lower Province after all!”

“Doesn’t this mean it won’t affect us even if the Devil clans come from the Land of Exile through the tear in the space barrier?”

“That seems to be the case. I’ve wasted my time worrying about nothing. I think we’re safe.”

“If the Devil clans really invade the Lower Province, the people there are finished. However, since there are problems with the Lower Province’s Inter-province Transformation Formations, this means the Devil clans won’t be able to come to the Upper Province!”

“Previously, I’d planned to go to the Lower Province. It’s fortunate that I ended up not going. Otherwise, I would’ve been stranded there!”

Many people in Sin City expressed their relief as they discussed among themselves.

However, similar to when the first news broke, they were quickly refuted.

“You think it won’t affect the Upper Province and they won’t be able to come here? Are you dreaming?”

“That’s right! There is no shortage of devils at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage and Formation experts in the Devil Clans. It’s within their abilities to repair or even set up a new Inter-province Transportation Formation. At that time, they’ll be able to come to the Upper Province!”

“Are you so naive to think the devils are so useless?”

As this news circulated, many people in Sin City felt the precarious situation they were in. After all, the Devil clans would come to the Upper Province sooner or later!

“We can only hope now that it’s just a small malfunction with the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province and it doesn’t affect the space barrier. Otherwise, it won’t only be the Lower Province that would be decimated, even the Upper Province would be decimated!”

“The Human-Devil Era! It’s too scary to think about. I hope there won’t be an era like that again!”

“Just hearing about the Devil clans send chills up my spine. I really don’t want to fight them. If it’s possible, I don’t want to encounter any of the devils at all.”

The atmosphere in Sin City gradually grew tense.

As time passed, almost the entire Upper Province learned about this matter. Everyone felt a sense of danger.

Many people went to the various Inter-province Transportation Formations to see for themselves if it was working or not. Duan Ling Tian was one of these people.

For a month, Duan Ling Tian traveled at his fastest speed to various Inter-province Transportation Formations near Sin City. After that, he even went to check on those that were located further away, but

the results were the same. It was true that the Inter-province Transportation Formations could no longer send people to the Lower Province!

'Is there really a problem with the Lower Province's Inter-province Transformation Formation? Have the Devil clans invade the Lower Province? Is this the dawn of a new Human-Devil Era?' Various thoughts flashed in Duan Ling Tian's mind as his heart sank. The more he thought about it, the more worried he became. However, there was nothing he could do no matter how worried he was. At this moment, he felt absolutely powerless!

"Elder Huo... Is there another way?" Duan Ling Tian asked Elder Huo solemnly.

A few days ago, Duan Ling Tian had asked Elder Huo whether there was another way to return to the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land without using an Inter-province Transportation Formation.

Elder Huo had told him it was only possible if Duan Ling Tian was at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage and had passed the Heavenly Tribulation. At that time, he would be able to tear the space barrier between Upper and Lower Province by sheer force.

Naturally, this was not the most realistic solution. Even with a violet Innate Spiritual Root, Duan Ling Tian would require quite a long time to break through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, let alone the fact that he currently only possessed an indigo Innate Spiritual Root!

As the saying went, 'Water from a distance won't be able to put out a fire nearby!'

If too much time passed, there would not be any living person left in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!

Chapter 2110: Xie Zong Came Knocking on the Door

Duan Ling Tian was worried sick!

On the other hand, many people in the Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land were also almost driven mad by the anxiety by the thought of the Devil clans invading the Upper Province. They did not know if they would survive the invasion. At that time, hiding would be useless.

"If the Human-Devil Era dawns again, the devils will ran amok the Upper Province. Humans would be found regardless of where they hide."

"Damn it! Why do devils even exist?"

"If it weren't for this, I wouldn't know that Devil cultivators originated from the Devil Clans... The Devil clans during the Human-Devil Era are too terrifying!"

"I honestly hope these are just speculations and the Lower Province's Inter-province Transportation Formations weren't destroyed."

Similar discussions could be heard all over Sin City.

As time passed, people began to relax a little even though they were still worried about the Devil clans invading the Upper Province. After all, the Devil clans had yet to invade the Upper Province and

everything was pure speculation at this point. There was a chance the Inter-province Transportation Formations in the Lower Province were not destroyed and merely encountered a problem. Naturally, even if the speculations were true, there was nothing they could do now. They could only wait.

'It's useless to worry about it now. I can only hope it's all just baseless speculations.' Duan Ling Tian silently prayed in his heart as he returned to Sin City. He began to calm down as well.

As time went by, the atmosphere in Sin City began to change as well. People were no longer as anxious.

However, with the influx of people from various major forces caused the atmosphere in Sin City to turn tense again. These people from the major forces had come to Sin City to collect all sorts of resources. The reason was obvious. They had come to prepare for the Devil clans' invasions. With enough preparation, they could defend their estate when the Devil Clans invade. If they stocked up on resources, there was one less thing for them to worry about while they fought the devils.

This was currently the best solution.

"Recently, quite a number of people from the Black Kshetra Sect came to collect resources in Sin City. I heard they're offering double the price offered by ordinary forces."

"Other forces also followed suit and increased their price... However, not many people are willing to sell even with the price increase."

"Obviously. Although it's not certain the Devil clans would invade, it would be much better to be prepared for it. At such a time, only idiots would sell their resources."

Many patrons were gossiping in a restaurant in Sin City.

Based on their words, it could be seen they despised the actions of the major forces like Black Kshetra Sect.

Duan Ling Tian was seated near the window of the restaurant as he listened to the conversations in his surroundings. He narrowed his eyes that were gleaming coldly when he heard people mentioned the Black Kshetra Sect. He was instantly reminded of the time when Xie Zong, an elder from Black Kshetra Sect, snatched his Devilseal Tablet away!

The world was indeed small!

"Speaking of the Black Kshetra Sect, I saw Black Kshetra Sect's Elder Xie Zong earlier in the city!"

Duan Ling Tian heard one of the patron's words and his eyes narrowed again. His eyes were cold.

'Xie Zong is in Sin City?' At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt like he had seen his chance to seek revenge.

"Xie Zong? The son of the Golden Lion King, one of Black Kshetra Sect's Four Great Kamapas?"

"Yes! That's him!"

"Speaking of, he's really lucky... I heard he managed to get his hands on the Devilseal Tablet from someone in the Lower Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land not too long ago!"

“The Devilseal Tablet isn’t so special at that time since it’s only effective against Devil Cultivators... However, now that the Devil clans might invade the Upper Province, the Devilseal Tablet is going to be extremely useful. The Devilseal Tablet is even better at killing devils than ordinary Devil Cultivators!”

“If the Sect Leader of Black Kshetra Sect uses the Devilseal Tablet, even a devil at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage wouldn’t be able to win!”

“If the Human-Devil Era dawns again, the Devilseal Tablet will be the most useful Super Saint Weapon among the Ten Great Saint Weapons! Even if it’s not ranked in the top three of the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking, it’s destined to shine during the Human-Devil Era!”

Soon after, the patrons in the restaurant changed their topic to the Devilseal Tablet that was one of the Super Saint Weapons on the Ten Great Saint Weapons Ranking. They spoke about it for a long time.

When Duan Ling Tian heard the patrons discussing the Devilseal Tablet, his expression turned extremely dark. The Devilseal Tablet originally belonged to him and Xie Zong had forcefully taken it away from him.

‘Xie Zong, since you left the Black Kshetra Sect and came to Sin City, don’t ever think about going back!’ Duan Ling Tian’s gaze turned colder. People would shudder if they saw the look in his eyes.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, ‘I hope he still has the Devilseal Tablet with him... In that case, I’ll regain the Devilseal Tablet after I kill him!’

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian knew there was a slim chance that Xie Zong had the Devilseal Tablet with him. After all, the Devilseal Tablet was a Super Saint Weapon. Xie Zong would have probably given it to his father, one of Black Kshetra Sect’s Four Great Kamapas, when he returned to the Black Kshetra Sect!

The Black Kshetra Sect’s Four Great Kamapas shared the same fame as the three Guardians of the Fire Worship Sect. All of their cultivation bases were at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or higher.

‘Regardless if the Devilseal Tablet is with him or not, I must kill him since he came knocking on my door. Otherwise, I won’t be able to live with myself for getting Elder Ku and ten of our Azure Cloud Mansion’s Black Armor Guards killed!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as a hint of killing intent appeared in his eyes.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian paid his bills and left the restaurant. After that, he began to investigate Xie Zong’s whereabouts.

After fifteen minutes, he did not find anything.

After thirty minutes, he still did not find anything.

Only after an hour had passed did Duan Ling Tian manage to find where Xie Zong was.

“Xie Zong’s already at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. Moreover, there’s a Black Kshetra Sect elder at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage following him around. Although the elder would leave him alone occasionally, he didn’t go far...”

“If you act now and kill him, the Black Kshetra Sect elder at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage will kill you!” Elder Huo said to Duan Ling Tian, reminding him to not act recklessly.

Earlier, Duan Ling Tian had asked Elder Huo to investigate the cultivation bases of Xie Zong and the man near him. He could hear the eagerness in Duan Ling Tian’s voice when he spoke about killing Xie Zong. It seemed as though Duan Ling Tian could not even wait a second longer to kill Xie Zong.

“It’s better for you to wait for the right opportunity... Wait for them to be further apart before you attack,” Elder Huo continued to say as though he was afraid Duan Ling Tian would impulsively rush forward and kill Xie Zong.

“Don’t worry, Elder Huo. Xie Zong isn’t worthy for me to lose my life over!” Duan Ling Tian responded immediately. His heart felt warm when he heard the concern in Elder Huo’s voice.

‘Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage... Apart from that, from what Elder Huo said, he has just broken through to the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?’ Duan Ling Tian sneered. ‘Xie Zong, it seems like you didn’t improve at all. Perhaps, it didn’t even cross your mind that someone whom you used to treat like an ant is already strong enough to kill you with just one move!’

Duan Ling Tian meant what he said to Elder Huo. Xie Zong was not worthy for him to lose his life over.

However, two hours had passed, and Duan Ling Tian was feeling more and more frustrated as he watched Xie Zong and the Black Kshetra Sect elder went to buy resources. All this while, they were never too far from each other.

“Every time Xie Zong moves a little further away, the Black Kshetra Sect elder would, intentionally or unintentionally, draw closer to him again. He must be subconsciously protecting Xie Zong!” Duan Ling Tian was certain of this.

‘It’s pointless to wait. It’s time I make a move!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was not so reckless as to directly rush toward Xie Zong and attack him. If he had done that, he might be able to kill Xie Zong with a move, but it would be nigh impossible for him to escape from the Black Kshetra Sect elder who was at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage after that.

Put aside the fact that Duan Ling Tian would have exhausted all his Sun Saint Energy wielding the Jasper Celestial to kill Xie Zong with one move, even if he still had plenty of Sun Saint Energy, he was no match for the Black Kshetra Sect elder who was at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

Duan Ling Tian could kill Xie Zong with one move. Similarly, the Black Kshetra Sect elder could also kill him with one move!

‘I need a plan to lure the Black Kshetra Sect elder away... Otherwise, I need to think of a way to get Xie Zong to willingly leave the elder’s side. That’ll give me the perfect opportunity to kill him!’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he tried to come up with a plan.

‘That’s it!’

As the saying went, ‘Good things come to those who wait!’

After about fifteen minutes, Duan Ling Tian finally came up with a good plan.