#### SOVEREIGN 2171

Chapter 2171 Duan Ling Tian Returns

Ke'er took a deep breath and suppressed her excitement. She looked at Gan Ru Yan and asked urgently through Voice Transmission, "Sister, where is he now? How is he?"

"Zi'er said he was last seen in Sin City." Gan Ru Yan told Ke'er everything the purple-clad girl had told her through Voice Transmission. "Three years ago, he entered..." She repeated the news that was currently spreading in the Dao Martial Saint Land.

However, Gan Ru Yan did not bother mentioning how Duan Ling Tian had killed Xie Kang Xun since she found the entire thing absurd.

"Those who survive a catastrophe are bound to have good fortune. Don't worry too much." Gan Ru Yan consoled Ke'er after she finished telling Ke'er what she had learned.

"A trap left behind by three Eminent Devils? He's the only survivor?" Ke'er's face paled when she learned about what her man had gone through. Although she was not with him, she knew her man must have gone through a tough time. She felt her heart ached for the man whom she regarded as her life. "Young Master..." At this moment, tears were brimming in her eyes.

A tall purple figure stood straight as he hovered in the air above the mountain near the Fire Worship Sect's estate in the Western Region. It was a young man dressed in a purple robe. This young man was tall and handsome. He had dashing eyebrows and bright eyes, and he possessed a graceful bearing. He made everything in his surroundings dim in comparison to him.

"I can't believe the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect has come out of his closed-door cultivation. He has even broken through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!" The young man muttered under his breath, "Fortunately, he didn't sentence Ke'er and our daughter to death. However, I must find a way to get them out of the sect. I can just leave them there."

This young man was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had just come from Sin City in the central region.

While Duan Ling Tian was traveling, he learned that the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect had come out of his closed- door cultivation. Not only that, but his cultivation base was at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. This made him the fourth powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Ninth Form in the Dao Martial Saint Land.

Duan Ling Tian's heart sank when he learned about this. His heart was filled with worries for Ke'er and their daughter. Thus, he hastened his speed to return to the Fire Worship Sect.

When Duan Ling Tian arrived, he asked around and learned that the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect had not decided on Ke'er and their daughter's punishment yet. He instantly sighed in relief.

Then, Duan Ling Tian hid outside the Fire Worship Sect's estate, biding his time until he found a chance to enter the Fire Worship Sect to save Ke'er and their daughter.

With my current strength, I'm no match for the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect even if I use the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword, and unleash all my strength. I must find a way to

rescue Ke'er and our daughter!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He knew his strength very well. If he unleashed all his strength and wielded the Jasper Celestial Sword, he was confident he could kill a powerhouse at the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Eighth Form! However, he was no match for someone at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

"Don't tell me I need to return to the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate for another year so I can break through to the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?" Duan Ling Tian continued to mutter to himself as a frown appeared on his face.

Duan Ling Tian had meant a year in the outside world. Who knew if the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect would punish Ke'er and their daughter during that one year? He did not dare to take this risk. If something happened to Ke'er and their daughter, he would never be able to forgive himself in his entire life!

Duan Ling Tian was still thinking of a way to rescue Ke'er and their daughter from the Fire Worship Sect when the Fire Worship Sect released a statement. This statement was released under the direct order of Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect.

The content of the announcement was as followed:

I, Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, would like to invite Duan Ling Tian, the prodigious disciple of Fire Worship Sect, to return to the sect. I promise that no one in the sect would snatch his Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, away from him! If Duan Ling Tian doesn't feel at ease, he can hide his Devilseal Tablet outside before he returns. At that time, I, Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, will swear on the lightning penalty oath to prove that my words are true!'

The moment the statement was released, not only did it confuse everyone in the Fire Worship Sect, but it shocked them as well.

"Lord Sect Leader didn't even hesitate to release this statement. He's going to let Duan Ling Tian return? Unbelievable!"

"That's why they say that Lord Sect Leader appreciates talent as much as he does his life. I finally witness that today!"

"Since Lord Sect Leader has released this statement, I'm sure Duan Ling Tian will return. When he returns, the True Ranking is going to change again. He'll definitely rank first on the True Ranking!"

"Of course! Three years ago when Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian killed Elder Xie Zong from the Black Kshetra Sect, his strength was already on par with the person who's ranked first on the True Ranking. After three years, I'm sure he has grown even stronger with his innate talent!"

"I'm really looking forward to Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian's return! Ever since he left, our Fire Worship Sect is like a puddle of dead water. It's no longer as lively as when he was here."

The disciples of Fire Worship Sect began to discuss among themselves. Most of them were happy, and they hoped Duan Ling Tian would return to the Fire Worship Sect.

"Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is allowed to return?"

"Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian can come back?"

When the Fire Worship Sect disciples who had good relationships with Duan Ling Tian, including Liu Yun and Liu Mu, heard the statement released by their Sect Leader, they were overwhelmed with excitement as well.

"Why would Lord Sect Leader release such a statement?!"

As the saying went, 'There will be people who're happy, and there'll be people who're not'.

When the direct disciple of Sanctum Leader Lu Tie of Azure Dragon Sanctum, Bu Hong, learned about this, his expression turned grim immediately.

Lu Tie, the Sanctum Leader of Azure Dragon Sanctum, had a similar expression as well. He could not wait to get his hands on the Super Saint Weapon in Duan Ling Tian's possession. However, since the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect had made a promise to Duan Ling Tian, he did not dare to covet Duan Ling Tian's Super Saint Weapon even if he was a hundred times more courageous.

Meanwhile, in the Enforcement Hall.

When Dong Lin, the elder from the Enforcement Hall, heard the statement released by the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect, his expression changed immediately.

"Damn it! How can Lord Sect Leader be so stupid?!"

Dong Lin's father, Dong Yuan Jin, the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall, narrowed his eyes when learned about this matter. "Duan Ling Tian!"

Outside the Fire Worship Sect's estate.

"The Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect is dreaming!" Duan Ling Tian scoffed when he heard the announcement made by the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect.

There was no problem with Tang Xuan's promise. Instead, his promise seemed to protect Duan Ling Tian.

However, Duan Ling Tian knew Tang Xuan had only made this promise because he possessed the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet. Coincidentally, this Super Saint Weapon was capable of subduing the Devil Clans.

In the future, if the Devil Clans invaded Upper Province, the Fire Worship Sect would have the upper hand if they had the Devilseal Tablet.

At that time, Tang Xuan would probably ask to borrow the Devilseal Tablet from Duan Ling Tian at the critical moment. It would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to decline his request at that time.

"To Tang Xuan, as long as he's able to defeat the Devil Clans, the Devilseal Tablet won't even be as valuable as a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapon!" Duan Ling Tian knew this very well.

When one was at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage like Tang Xuan, one would not need the Devilseal Tablet at all if one's opponent was not a Devil. As for Devil Cultivators in the Dao Martial Saint Land, Tang Xuan did not need the Devilseal Tablet to deal with them since he was extremely powerful.

If I have another Super Saint Weapon like the Traceless Sword or the Nine Cloud Sword, I don't think he would be so nice!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian had, indeed, guessed correctly. If he had another offensive Super Saint Weapon like the Traceless Sword or the Nine Cloud Sword, Tang Xuan would not have released such a statement at all since even he would covet the Traceless Sword and the Nine Cloud Sword.

"Since it's like that, I'll return to the Fire Worship Sect and meet the Sect Leader!" Duan Ling Tian's eyes gleamed as he made up his mind. He decided there was no need for him to hide the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, before he returned to the Fire Worship Sect. He did not think Tang Xuan would make a move against him since Tang Xuan could not be sure if he had the Devilseal Tablet in his possession.

Moreover, although Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was lower than Tang Xuan's, since he had broken through to the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he was immune to all Soul Searching Secret Tactics. For this reason, he was not worried the Sect Leader would use such a tactic on him.

I'm back, Fire Worship Sect!' Three days later, Duan Ling Tian flew across the sky and entered the Fire Worship Sect. He flew above the White Tiger Sanctum at the east of the Fire Worship Sect ostentatiously. It was completely different from how he had to sneak out from the Fire Worship Sect's estate several years ago. All this was due to the difference in his strength from then and now.

#### Chapter 2172 Trespassing on the White Tiger Sanctum

Duan Ling Tian who was flying above the White Tiger Sanctum had also changed into the exclusive uniform of a Fire Worship Sect true disciple. How could the sight of a true disciple flying ostentatiously above the White Tiger Sanctum go

#### unnoticed?

"Is that our Fire Worship Sect true disciple?" The White Tiger Sanctum disciples were the first to notice this. They were stunned when they saw a true disciple had trespassed on the White Tiger Sanctum. They knew there was a rule that prohibited Saint Land disciples, both elite and true disciples, from trespassing on any of the Four Symbols Sanctums without permission from the respective

#### Sanctum Leader.

However, at this moment, a true disciple was flying above the White Tiger Sanctum as though nobody was there. Based on the direction the true disciple came from, it was apparent he had just returned to the Fire Worship Sect.

"Isn't he too bold? This is the White Tiger Sanctum, one of the Four Symbols Sanctums! It's not a place where a mere true disciple like him can act as he likes!"

"Just wait and see. The Silver Flame Elders from our White Tiger Sanctum will

catch him and send him to the Enforcement Hall!"

"The way he's acting is akin to provoking the White Tiger Sanctum!"

Many White Tiger Sanctum disciples discussed with among themselves, filled with righteous indignance.

"What if he's a direct disciple of Lord Sanctum Leader or one of the elders in the White Tiger Sanctum?" Some White Tiger Sanctum disciples asked.

"Impossible! Even the direct disciples of Lord Sanctum Leader or the elders always keep to themselves when they come to the White Tiger Sanctum. They wouldn't act so arrogantly! This person is clearly looking down on the White Tiger Sanctum!"

This is a provocation to our White Tiger Sanctum and the Four Symbols Sanctums!"

There were some people who seemed to think that the world was not chaotic enough among the White Tiger Sanctum disciples.

Just when Duan Ling Tian was about to leave the White Tiger Sanctum and enter the Saint Land...

The sound of two people scoffing angrily could be heard as the sound of wind whistling approached Duan Ling Tian. "Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow when he sensed the auras from the two people who were approaching him. However, he did not pay them any attention and continued to make his way to the Saint Land at a speed that was neither fast

nor slow.

The Silver Flame Elders of Fire Worship Sect were only at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. They did not pose any threat to Duan Ling Tian now.

"Hold up!" "How dare you?!"

Two people bellowed at the same time. Their voices were deafeningly loud. It was the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum. They moved at lightning-speed toward Duan Ling Tian. In just a short while, they arrived in front of Duan Ling Tian, blocking his path. One stood behind him, and the other stood in front of him. Duan Ling Tian had no choice but to stop moving.

When Duan Ling Tian stopped moving, the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum finally saw Duan Ling Tian's face. They found his face familiar.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian did not disguise himself using the disguise he used when he was at the Fire Worship Sect. He had come without any disguise.

Naturally, the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum found Duan Ling Tian's real appearance familiar because they had seen his portrait in the

past.

"Elder Lin and Elder Zhong have made a move!"

At the same time, a group of White Tiger Sanctum disciples who came out to have look recognized the two Silver Flame Elders who stepped out to block the true disciple.

"I think this true disciple is doomed!"

"Of course! He dares to openly trespass on the White Tiger Sanctum. Even Lord Sanctum Leader's direct disciple wouldn't act so boldly!"

"Eh? Why do I find this true disciple slightly familiar?" "I also think he looks familiar."

The group of White Tiger Sanctum disciples found Duan Ling Tian to be slightly familiar as well but none of them could recall who he was at the moment.

The Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum were glaring at Duan Ling Tian and deciding on what they should do with him when a voice rang in the air...

"I remember now! H-he's Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian!" A White Tiger Sanctum disciple cried out. His eyes were filled with excitement and admiration as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

"S-Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian?"

"I think you're right... He's indeed Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian! He looks completely different from before. He must have taken off his disguise! I've seen his true appearance on a portrait before!"

"I've seen it as well. Moreover, his body is similar to the person in the portrait!"

The portrait they mentioned were the portraits that Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King and one of the Four Great Karmapas of the Black Kshetra Sect, had distributed to the masses.

Almost everybody in the Fire Worship Sect had seen Duan Ling Tian's portrait before. It took a while for people to recall his face since it had been a few years since they last saw the portraits.

"Duan LingTian... Y-You're Duan Ling Tian?!"

Naturally, the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum elders heard the discussions in their surroundings. Their expressions were no longer angry. Instead, it was replaced by a solemn expression.

At this time, they finally remembered the portraits they had seen a few years ago. The young man before them perfectly resembled the person in the portraits.

"What? Are there people who've been impersonating me, elders?" When Duan Ling Tian saw the solemn expressions on the two Silver Flame Elders' faces, he

shook his head and chuckled.

One of the White Tiger Sanctum's Silver Flame Elders scoffed before he said, "So what if you're Duan Ling Tian? Every house has its rules, and every sect has its laws... Duan Ling Tian, you're a true disciple. How dare you disregard the sect's law and trespass on the White Tiger Sanctum. I'll send you to the Enforcement Hall and let the Enforcement Hall punish you!"

"That's right! Duan Ling Tian, although Lord Sect Leader asks for your return, you can't disregard the sect's laws.

Today, you'll have to go to the Enforcement Hall with us!" The other White Tiger Sanctum's First Silver Flame Elder said.

In just a blink of an eye, the atmosphere turned tense.

The group of White Tiger Sanctum disciples was staring at Duan Ling Tian intently, wondering how he would handle the situation...

"Elders, if I'm not mistaken, there's a clause in the Fire Worship Sect's rules..." Duan Ling Tian looked at the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum with a piercing gaze. "If a Saint Land disciple is capable of defeating a Sanctum Leader of the Four Symbols Sanctums, he or she can walk freely in any of the Four Sanctums and is exempted from punishment!" Duan Ling Tian said clearly before the Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum had a chance to reply.

Duan Ling Tian knew the rules in the Fire Worship Sect very well. That was how he knew about this clause.

"You..." Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, the expressions of the two Silver Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum changed immediately to one of disbelief and confusion.

An absurd thought rose in their minds in unison...

Is Duan Ling Tian stronger than the Sanctum Leader of the White Tiger Sanctum?'

The Sanctum Leader of the White Tiger Sanctum was a Golden Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect. His cultivation base was at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He could be considered as one of the strongest cultivators at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

The group of White Tiger Sanctum disciples was also shocked. All of them stared at Duan Ling Tian with their mouths agape.

Don't tell me Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian wants to challenge the Sanctum Leader of our White Tiger Sanctum?' All of them had the same thought in their

minds.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian spoke up again. He sounded confident. "If the White Tiger Sanctum takes offense to me trespassing, then, the Sanctum Leader of the White Tiger Sanctum should come and fight me! If I'm defeated, I'll willingly go to the Enforcement Hall and accept my punishment!"

Duan Ling Tian's words that contained rich Sun Saint Origin, both intentionally and unintentionally, swept through the White Tiger Sanctum, causing a commotion!

"Duan Ling Tian?"

"Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian has returned? The Sect Leader has only released his statement a few days ago, but he's back so soon?"

"Not only did he return, but it seems like he's in our White Tiger Sanctum... Based on his words, it seems like he's challenging Lord Sanctum Leader?"

"It seems like someone blocked his path. I remember there's a clause that allows a disciple to walk freely in the Four Symbols Sanctums as long as he or she can defeat a Sanctum Leader!"

"So is Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian trying to obtain the right to walk freely in the Four Symbols Sanctums?"

All of the White Tiger Sanctum disciples, except for those who were in the midst of closed-door cultivations, instantly stopped what they were doing and made their way to the source of the voice. Even a few Silver Flame Elders and Bronze Flame Elders from the White Tiger Sanctum went over to have a look.

The White Tiger Sanctum was in an uproar over Duan Ling Tian's words...

Suddenly, a boisterous voice rang in the White Tiger Sanctum. It seemed as though it could shake Heaven and earth.

"Duan Ling Tian! You want to challenge me?!"

## Chapter 2173 Stunned

The group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples' eyes lit up when they heard the energetic voice. All of them flew closer to Duan Ling Tian to take a look.

"Lord Sanctum Leader!"

"Listen! Did you hear? Lord Sanctum Leader seems quite angry!"

"How can he not be angry? Duan Ling Tian's provoking him! With his temper, do you think he'll be able to keep calm?!"

"How bold of Duan Ling Tian to challenge Lord Sanctum Leader. Don't tell me he's really confident he can defeat Lord Sanctum Leader?"

Many White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples discussed among themselves. They were not certain if Duan Ling Tian was strong enough to defeat the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum. After all, they had witnessed how monstrously strong Duan Ling Tian was a few years ago.

Since Duan Ling Tian had come to the Fire Worship Sect, he had not lost before. He had won all the challenges that he had issued. He had only returned to the Fire Worship Sect today, but he had already issued a challenge. However, this time his opponent was not a disciple from the Fire Worship Sect but a Golden Flame Elder who was also the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum! The Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum from the Four Symbols Sanctums could be considered as quite strong among the Golden Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect.

When the people present on the scene recalled Duan Ling Tian's previous feats and thought of the strength of the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, they were not certain what the outcome would be like.

"Lord Sanctum Leader's cultivation base is at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage while Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was at the Third or Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage three years ago. Now that three years have passed, I wonder if he has grown strong enough to defeat Lord Sanctum Leader." "One's cultivation becomes slower as the level becomes higher, especially once one reaches the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. Every level is harder to break through than the one before. Even if Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was at the Fourth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage three years ago, it doesn't mean he'll be able to break through to the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in three years."

"I agree! This is why I think Lord Sanctum Leader has a higher chance of winning!"

"I can't wait to see Lord Sanctum Leader beating him up! How dare he act so outrageously in the White Tiger Sanctum? Does he think he can easily bully the White Tiger Sanctum?"

After discussing among themselves, most of the White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples felt the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum would win if he fought Duan Ling Tian.

## Whoosh!

A thunderous noise rang in the air as a figure appeared close to Duan Ling Tian. Those White Tiger Sanctum disciples with a weaker cultivation base could not catch the figure's movement at all. It seemed as though he had appeared out of thin air.

It was a tall middle-aged man with a sturdy body. He was dressed in the exclusive uniform of an elder of the Fire Worship Sect. However, the flames on his robes were gold. There was an embroidery of a tiger with the word 'King' on its forehead on the robe as well. It was not difficult to guess the middle-aged man's identity from his uniform. It was Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum!

Lu Qing's face was covered with his beard. His eyes were big and framed by a pair of thick eyebrows. His hair was disheveled. All in all, he had a valiant and dangerous aura about him. As he hovered in the air, he looked like a ferocious tiger that was about to go on a hunt.

The moment Lu Qing appeared, the group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples immediately greeted him respectfully.

"Lord Sanctum Leader!" "Lord Sanctum Leader!"

Lu Qing nodded indifferently as he stared at Duan Ling Tian intently. "Duan Ling Tian, I've never met you before. However, I've heard a lot about you. It seems like you're a rare prodigy who only comes along every one thousand years in the Fire Worship Sect... You're probably the first person whom Lord Sect Leader has to personally invite back to the sect. I admire you a lot."

Although Lu Qing said he admired Duan Ling Tian, his tone was filled with disregard. This was because he knew the reason why the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect had released a statement asking for Duan Ling Tian's return. It was only because the Sect Leader wanted to borrow the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, that Duan Ling Tian possessed to deal with the Devil Clans if they invade the Upper Province!

"Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum. I've heard about you as well," Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently

"Duan Ling Tian, I know you have a high innate talent. I'm sure you've made huge progress in your cultivation base now that several years have gone by... However, are you certain you can defeat me? If

you really think so, I must admit that I've overestimated you in the past. Currently, you're nothing but a brainless boor in my eyes." Lu Qing's tone turned colder when he heard the indifference in Duan Ling Tian's voice. It sounded like a provocation to him.

"Well, we'll find out if I'm strong enough to defeat you or not once we get this started." Duan Ling Tian seemed unbothered by Lu Qing's tone that had turned colder. He maintained his indifferent manner as though Lu Qing was insignificant in his eyes. Indeed, he really did not think much of Lu Qing.

Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum and a Golden Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect, was only at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage at most. Disregarding everything, Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base alone was higher than Lu Qing's cultivation base. Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

YOU!" Lu Qing became furious when he saw Duan Ling Tian's disregard of him. The Saint Origin in his body instantly surged out from his body with killing intent.

Some of the White Tiger Sanctum disciples who had a weaker cultivation base were pushed back on their feet from this force.

"Where does Duan Ling Tian get his courage from? How dare he look down on Lord Sanctum Leader?!"

Duan Ling Tian's nonchalance surprised the group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples. They wondered why Duan Ling Tian spoke as though he had already won the fight.

"Lord Sect Leader is furious! I'm afraid Duan Ling Tian is going to get his skin flayed today even if he's not killed!"

Many of the White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples shook their heads and said a silent farewell to Duan Ling Tian when they saw how furious Lu Qing was.

"Duan Ling Tian has only left the sect for a few years, but he thinks he's invincible now."

"He should be taught a lesson today so he knows his place. How dare he act so outrageously in front of the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum? He's seeking death!"

"Well, Lord Sect Leader personally invited him back to the sect so I don't think Lord Sanctum Leader will kill him. However, I'm certain he'll suffer a lot of injuries today!"

Most of the White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples did not have high regard for Duan Ling Tian. They felt he was looking for trouble.

A small number of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples had a solemn expression on their faces as they watched the scene that was unfolding before their eyes. They all had the same thought in their minds.

"Duan Ling Tian is just as confident as before. Is it possible that he really is strong enough to defeat Lord Sanctum Leader?"

Naturally, these people did not dare to give voice to this thought. The others would definitely curse them if they knew what they were thinking.

The Saint Origin surged out of Lu Qing's body and he was about to make a

move...

Suddenly, a slightly impatient voice rang in the air. "Too slow!" Duan Ling Tian had a frown on his face when he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian's words further enraged Lu Qing, causing his Saint Origin to skyrocket immediately. His body was trembling violently from anger, and he prepared to strike...

"Sanctum Leader Lu, since you're not going to make a move, I'll make a move first!" Duan Ling Tian's impatient voice rang in the air again.

As Duan Ling Tian spoke, he moved his right hand quickly. A dazzling golden light appeared immediately on his body. It was his Sun Saint Origin!

Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Origin that swept out from his right hand grew brighter and brighter, blocking the sky from view. It seemed as though it had transformed into a gigantic hand.

As Duan Ling Tian moved his hand, the gigantic hand that was formed from his Sun Saint Energy moved toward Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, as well.

Boom!

Rumble!

tic hand clenched into a fist that resembled a mountain before it

smashed down on Lu Qing!

This strike from Duan Ling Tian contained only Sun Saint Origin. He did not use any martial tactics, Divine Abilities or Saint Weapons.

However, this strike was more than enough to deal with Lu Qing.

When the gigantic hand reached out to grab Lu Qing, Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Origin swept out. It completely overpowered Lu Qing's Saint Origin.

Although Duan Ling Tian was only at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Sixth Form, his Sun Saint Origin was far superior to the Saint Origin of an ordinary cultivator at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. His Sun Saint Origin was comparable to the Saint Origin of a cultivator at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. It was only natural that his Sun Saint Origin easily overpowered the Saint Origin of a cultivator at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

"Arghhh-"

Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, could not move at all since the gigantic hand was holding him in place. He could only howl in pain as his face turned red. The Saint Origin in his body continued to surge out of his body. It was obvious he was using all his strength at this moment. Even then, he was still overpowered and defeated.

"T-T-This..." "H-How is this possible?!" Upon seeing this, the group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples were

stunned.

Chapter 2174 Duan Ling Tian's Strength

When Duan Ling Tian moved his right hand and the gigantic hand appeared, it seemed as though it was capable of plucking the sun, the moon, and the stars from the sky.

Lu Qing, the awe-inspiring Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, was completely overpowered. He was utterly defenseless before Duan Ling Tian, he could not strike back at all!

There was an expression of disbelief and shock on the faces of the group of elders and disciples from the White Tiger Sanctum when they saw this scene.

Prior to this, Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, was powerful in the eyes of the disciples and elders of White Tiger Sanctum. However, today, they witnessed how helpless Lu Qing was and how he had been subdued by a Fire Worship Sect true disciple!

Was there ever a Fire Worship Sect true disciple who was so abnormally strong?

Whoosh!

Under the watchful eyes of the others, the gigantic hand that was holding onto a struggling Lu Qing released its grip on him suddenly.

When Duan Ling Tian unclenched his hands, the gigantic hand that was formed from his Sun Saint Origin did the same, releasing Lu Qing.

When Lu Qing was released, he felt as though he had regained his freedom again. At this moment, he felt relieved that he had survived a disaster. Before long, terror overwhelmed him. He was terrified by Duan Ling Tian's strength!

Swoosh!

Before Lu Qing could react, Duan Ling Tian raised his right hand and smashed it down again at lightning speed. The gigantic hand instantly moved up before it slammed down on Lu Qing again.

Boom!

A loud explosion rang in the air. Lu Qing who did not have time to react at all since the beginning was crushed by the gigantic hand and fell to the ground violently.

After a while...

Boom!

Rumble!

A series of explosions reverberated in the air. The ground in the White Tiger Sanctum shook violently. While Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, was free-falling, the gigantic hand smashed down on him again.

However, Duan Ling Tian's attack held no killing intent. After he smashed Lu Qing down for the final time, he made the gigantic hand formed from his Sun Saint Origin vanished with just a thought.

Even then, Lu Qing was covered in dust despite not suffering grievous injuries. How could he not be covered in dust when he was slammed to the ground so violently that he was almost buried in the ground.

To the group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples, all of this happened too quickly. The Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum was helplessly smashed to the ground by a true disciple in just a blink of an eye. He was plastered to the ground as though he was a specimen that was pinned on a board.

The group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples had an expression of disbelief and fear on their faces when they saw this.

"Sanctum Leader Lu, please excuse me." Duan Ling Tian looked at Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, who had just gotten up from the ground before he flew away. It seemed as though he did not see the grave expression on Lu Qing's face.

To Duan Ling Tian, defeating someone at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage did not bring him any sense of achievement at all, even if the other party was the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum and a Golden Flame Elder of Fire Worship Sect.

If the people from the White Tiger Sanctum did not obstruct Duan Ling Tian's path, he would not have made a move at all.

Only several years have passed, but Duan Ling Tian has become so strong?' After Duan Ling Tian left, Lu Qing's face turned green before it paled. At the same time, he seemed to have recalled something, causing his eyes to widen. 'D- Don't tell me the news from Sin City is true? Duan Ling Tian really killed Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King and one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect?'

Previously, although Lu Qing had heard the news of Duan Ling Tian killing Xie Kang Xun, similar to most people, he did not think it was anything more than a rumor. However, now that he had suffered defeat in Duan Ling Tian's hands, he could not help but give the rumor credence.

When Duan Ling Tian had struck earlier, all he felt was the suffocating force from the gigantic hand that smashed him. The gigantic hand felt as though it held the power of Heaven and earth. No matter how much he struggled, he could not free himself at all!

The gigantic hand is formed only from his Saint Origin. Even an ordinary cultivator at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage won't be able to do that! It feels as though he's at the peak of the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage or possibly even the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!' The moment Lu Qing thought of this, a hint of confusion could be seen in his eyes. 'It's only been a few years, but he has grown so strong... What kind of fortuitous encounter did he have?" The confusion in his eyes was replaced with a look of jealousy.

In Lu Qing's opinion, it was not possible for Duan Ling Tian to grow so monstrously strong in just a few years. He had to have a fortuitous encounter.

After a while, Lu Qing's face turned red when he sensed the stares from the White Tiger Sanctum elders. He did not acknowledge them at all before he flew away like a gust of wind and disappeared before everyone's sight. Today, he, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, had been greatly humiliated! If he knew then what he knew now, he would have pretended to be in closed-door cultivation and let Duan Ling Tian go. Unfortunately, there was no medicine for regret in this world...

The people who regained their senses first were the Silver Flame Elders. They only exchanged a look and smiled wryly when they saw their Sanctum Leader had left without a word.

"I can't believe Duan Ling Tian has grown so strong in just a few years. It's crazy!" A Silver Flame Elder from the White Tiger Sanctum said as he sighed emotionally.

"You're right. If I didn't personally witness this, I would find it hard to believe as well. Lord Sanctum Leader was like a helpless three-year-old in front of Duan Ling Tian. He could not strike back at all!"

"Even an ordinary powerhouse at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage wouldn't be able to defeat Lord Sanctum Leader so easily, right?"

"Duan Ling Tian may very well be at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! I didn't personally see this, I wouldn't believe he has grown so strong in such

a short time!"

"Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage? Does this mean the rumor of him killing Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King of Black Kshetra Sect, is true?"

"Based on the current situation, I won't be surprised if it's true."

Initially, only the Silver Flame Elders of White Tiger Sanctum were discussing Duan Ling Tian's current strength. After a while, the White Tiger Sanctum Bronze Flame Elders and disciples began to join in the discussion. In the end, they came to the conclusion that Duan Ling Tian, a rare prodigy from the Fire Worship Sect, had probably killed Xie Kang Xun, one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect!

"Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King and one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect, is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He's ranked 18th on the Supreme Saint Ranking! If Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian really killed him, he must have taken over his ranking, right?" One of the White Tiger Sanctum disciples muttered under his breath.

"It won't be too long from now before the new Supreme Saint Ranking is released. I think it'll reach the western region and the Fire Worship Sect in just a few days," another White Tiger Sanctum disciple chimed in.

Currently, the group of White Tiger Sanctum elders and disciples was unaware that the new Supreme Saint Ranking had already been released in the central region. People around that area who initially did not believe Duan Ling Tian had killed Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King of Black Kshetra Sect, widened their eyes in disbelief when they saw the person who was ranked 18th on the Supreme Saint Ranking. They were speechless. Their faces were flushed as though someone had slapped them.

As it turned out, Duan Ling Tian, the prodigy from Fire Worship Sect, really did kill Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King and one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect!

They could choose not to believe in the rumors, but they had no choice but to believe in the Supreme Saint Ranking!

Duan Ling Tian who had left the White Tiger Sanctum finally arrived in the vicinity of the Fire Worship Sect's Saint Land. "Saint Land... It has been such a long time since I was here!"

However, Duan Ling Tian did not land in the Saint Land nor did he return to his mansion on the floating island. Instead, he flew even higher above the clouds where a group of floating islands was located. He flew all the way up before he came to a halt at the highest point where one floating island was located.

"I, Duan Ling Tian, have returned to the Fire Worship Sect after seeing the announcement Sect Leader made. Sect Leader, I came here to look for you, hoping that you'll keep your promise and swear on the lightning penalty oath." Duan Ling Tian said at a neither hurried nor slow pace as he hovered in the air in front of the floating island. He remained calm as though he did not place any importance in the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect.

An elder who was on patrol was about to reprimand the true disciple who appeared in the cultivation place of the Sect Leader when he came to a halt suddenly.

"Duan Ling Tian? He's back?"

Chapter 2175 Arrogant? Conceited?

When the elder on patrol discovered that the true disciple was Duan Ling Tian, he no longer approached him and continued patrolling in other areas. He knew the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect had released a statement asking for Duan Ling Tian's return, but he did not expect Duan Ling Tian would return so quickly.

I wonder how strong Duan Ling Tian has become after these few years?' The elder on patrol thought to himself as he made a move to leave, 'However, I'm sure I'm no match for him. After all, he was capable of killing Xie Zong, the son of Black Kshetra Sect's Golden Lion King, three years ago. I'm only slightly stronger than Xie Zong now.'

The elder on patrol was well aware of his own strength. Although he was a Silver Flame Elder in the Fire Worship Sect, he was only a Silver Flame Elder with average strength. His cultivation base was only at the Third Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. Perhaps, he might be able to stand on even ground with Duan Ling Tian three years ago, but now, he was certain there was a huge gap between their strength.

Duan Ling Tian's voice spread out and was clearly transmitted to the floating island and mansion before him. This was the cultivation place of Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect.

Currently, Tang Xuan was not the only one who lived in the mansion on the floating island.

"Duan Ling Tian? H-He's back?" Gan Ru Yan who was in the courtyard of the mansion was stunned. A confused expression could be seen on her face when she heard Duan Ling Tian's voice.

She had heard about the statement that the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect released, but she did not expect Duan Ling Tian to return so soon. Only three days had passed since the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect released a statement. Naturally, she was unaware that long before the statement was released, Duan Ling Tian had been hiding in the vicinity of the Fire Worship Sect. He had been paying attention to everything that had been happening in the Fire Worship Sect.

In fact, Duan Ling Tian had waited for three excruciating days that felt like years before he returned to the Fire Worship Sect. He had waited before he returned because he was afraid if he returned too quickly, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect would figure out that he had the Devilseal Tablet in his possession.

"Young Master?" A small cry resonated in the air. A girl who looked identical to Gan Ru Yan ran out from a room in the courtyard. The moment she appeared, everything her surroundings seemed to pale in comparison. The girl was none other than Ke'er who had just put her daughter to sleep.

As soon as Ke'er's daughter fell asleep, she suddenly heard the voice that she had been dreaming about day and night.

Her young master had returned to the Fire Worship Sect!

When Gan Ru Yan saw her younger sister charging out from the room in a hurry, her expression turned tense. It seemed as though she had turned into a gust of wind as she moved to stop Ke'er. She said solemnly, "Yu Yan, you can't act recklessly! If you accidentally reveal the fact that he's your man, Lord Sect Leader would never let him go!"

"Sister, I know... I know..." Ke'er nodded with a sad expression on her face.

Duan Ling Tian was her man. He was even more important to her than her own life. How could she possibly do something that might put his life in danger? Although she longed to be reunited with her man, she held herself back when she thought of the consequences. Tears streamed down her face as her emotions overwhelmed her.

"Young master, Ke'er is here. Please don't blame me. It's not that I don't want to see you but I can't," Ke'er muttered to herself. She felt as though her heart had been stabbed by a knife.

"Huh?" As the saying went, 'A married couple shares a heart'.

Currently, Duan Ling Tian felt a pang in his heart, causing him to fall into a daze. He quickly regained his senses as he waited for the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect to come out.

However, before the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect made an appearance, three uninvited guests had already appeared.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! The sound of wind whistling sounded as three figures appeared near Duan Ling

Tian.

The three figures consisted of a green-clad old man, a purple-clad young man, and a beautiful red-clad lady.

The old man had white hair, and he looked like a sage.

The young man was handsome and had a graceful bearing, making it seemed as though spring had arrived.

The lady was stunning. She had a seductive figure and a delicate face that could cause men's imagination to run wild.

When these three people appeared, Duan Ling Tian's gaze instantly landed on the green-clad old man. He took the initiative to greet the old man. "Guardian Qing

Huo."

Duan Ling Tian had met this old man once. At that time, the old man had wanted to take Duan Ling Tian in as his direct disciple, but Duan Ling Tian had rejected his offer. He knew the old man was Guardian Qing Huo, one of the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect.

The Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect, also known as the Three Guardians of Wind, Fire, and Cloud are Zi Feng, Qing Huo, and Hong Yun. It seems like the purple-clad young man and the beautiful red-clad lady standing next to Guardian Qing Huo are Guardian Zi Feng and Guardian Hong Yun,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when he greeted Qing Huo, 'Among the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect, the strongest one is Guardian Zi Feng. Rumor has it that he has long broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He's one of the pillars of the Fire Worship Sect. The second strongest is Guardian Qing Huo, who's also Gan Ru Yan's master. His cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He's ranked in the top 20 on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Last but not least is Guardian Hong Yun. Although she's a woman, her cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. She's one of the very few female powerhouses at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in th^ Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!'

Feng, Qing Huo, and Hong Yun. It seems like the purple-clad young man and the beautiful red-clad lady standing next to Guardian Qing Huo are Guardian Zi Feng and Guardian Hong Yun,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when he greeted Qing Huo, 'Among the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect, the strongest one is Guardian Zi Feng. Rumor has it that he has long broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He's one of the pillars of the Fire Worship Sect. The second strongest is Guardian Qing Huo, who's also Gan Ru Yan's master. His cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. He's ranked in the top 20 on the Supreme Saint Ranking. Last but not least is Guardian Hong Yun. Although she's a woman, her cultivation base is at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. She's one of the very few female powerhouses at the Seventh Fom of the Saint Celestial Stage in th^ Upper Province of the Dao Martial Saint Land!'

If it was before, perhaps, he would feel a little wary when faced with the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect. However, currently, he did not feel wary at all. If he fought with them at this moment, he had no need to be afraid of them if he unleashed all his strength.

"Duan Ling Tian, you finally came back," Guardian Qing Huo said as he studied Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian smiled awkwardly before he looked at the two people standing next to Guardian Qing Huo. "If I'm not mistaken, you must be Guardian Zi Feng and Guardian Hong Yun, right?" He had spoken very casually as though he was speaking to his equal. Naturally, with his strength, he stood on even ground with the Guardians of Fire Worship Sect.

Guardian Qing Huo's expression changed immediately when he heard Duan Ling Tian's off-handed remark. He might be able to disregard Duan Ling Tian's impoliteness, but it did not mean the other two Guardians were like him.

Just as expected, the expressions on Guardian Zi Feng and Guardian Hong Yun's faces darkened immediately. Guardian Hong Yun, in particular, looked extremely offended.

As Guardians of Fire Worship Sect, they held a high position in the sect. Their positions were only inferior to the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect. Even the two Vice Sect Leaders of Fire Worship Sect had to be respectful to them, let alone the Golden Flame Elders, Silver Flame Elders, and Bronze Flame Elders.

However, today, a true disciple from the Fire Worship Sect had spoken to them in such an off-handed manner that lacked respect. It was as though he was speaking to another true disciple, not the Guardians of Fire Worship Sect. How could the two people who were usually treated with much respect not be angered by this?

"How dare you?!" Hong Yun spat out these words in a low voice. Her expression was solemn as she glared at Duan Ling Tian. "You're Duan Ling Tian? You... Do you know who you're talking to? Just because you have that bit of innate talent, how dare you be so arrogant, conceited, and rude in front of your elders? Didn't your sectless master teach you any manners?" Her voice was extremely cold.

Zi Feng looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly and remained silent since Hong Yun had already said the words he wanted to

At the same time, Guardian Qing Huo who was standing next to them remembered that Gan Ru Yan, his direct disciple, had asked him to look after Duan Ling Tian. He quickly sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Duan Ling Tian, apologize to the two Guardians now!"

However, Duan Ling Tian ignored Qing Huo's Voice Transmission. He looked at Hong Yun fearlessly as he said in a calm voice, "Don't tell me I was wrong? Are you not Guardian Hong Yun?" It seemed as though he did not notice the furious expression on Hong Yun's face.

"You..." Qing Huo's expression changed immediately. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would act this way even after listening to his Voice Transmission. He instantly gave up on helping Duan Ling Tian and thought to himself, 'Ru Yan, it's not that master didn't comply with your wish. However, Duan Ling Tian is too arrogant and conceited! It's not a bad idea to teach him a lesson."

In Qing Huo's opinion, Duan Ling Tian was different from before. Although Duan Ling Tian had behaved in an unrestrained manner previously, he was never arrogant. Currently, it seemed as though he viewed everyone as insignificant. Qing Huo knew Hong Yun would not kill Duan Ling Tian because she would not disrupt the plan of the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect. For this reason, he decided to stand aside and watch as Hong Yun taught Duan Ling Tian a lesson so he would not act so arrogantly in the future!

## 2176 A Battle With Guardian Hong Yun!

"Ever since I, Hong Yun, have broken through to the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage and become a Guardian of Fire Worship Sect, this is my first time meeting such an arrogant disciple in the Fire Worship Sect!" Hong Yun said coldly. It seemed as though her voice could freeze everything in her surroundings. Her expression darkened when she saw that Duan Ling Tian seemed unbothered. "I won't kill you today for Sect Leader's sake. However, I'll have to teach you some manners!"

It was obvious that Hong Yun was furious. As soon as she finished speaking, an invisible energy surged out of her body even though she did not make a move. The energy swept toward Duan Ling Tian like an angry dragon. Although this was not the extent of her strength, it was more than enough to injure and send cultivators below the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage flying if they were caught off-guard.

As soon Hong Yun's Saint Origin swept toward Duan Ling Tian, she was certain it would send Duan Ling Tian flying.

Zi Feng and Qing Huo also did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to block this attack from Hong Yun.

However, would the outcome be the same as their expectations?

When the invisible energy was only a foot away from Duan Ling Tian...

Swish!

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. He did not move as a wave of invisible energy swept out toward Hong Yun's invisible energy and clashed with it.

#### Boom!

The sound of explosions reverberated in the air, causing the air around them to turn turbulent. Wind blew violently, and it made Duan Ling Tian and Hong Yun's robes flutter loudly.

The red-clad Guardian stood her ground and did not move at all.

Duan Ling Tian was the same.

The atmosphere turned tense immediately.

Silence.

"How's this possible?!" When Qing Huo regained his senses, he was bewildered. He did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to nullify Hong Yun's attack. This was not something anyone was capable of. Only those above the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage were capable of something like that.

A hint of surprise could be seen in Zi Feng's eyes. Qing Huo was not the only one who was baffled.

Naturally, the person who was most surprised was Hong Yun.

"I've underestimated you!" Guardian Hong Yun glared at Duan Ling Tian as she said in a low voice, "No wonder you're so arrogant. It seems like you are somewhat capable..."

Hong Yun paused for a moment before she said, "However, I'll show you why you can't be rude to your elders just because you're a little strong!"

As soon as Hong Yun finished speaking, her red robe began to flutter in the air.

Whoosh!

Hong Yun seemed to have transformed into a bolt of red lighting as she charged toward Duan Ling Tian. It was obvious that she would not let him go if she did not teach him a lesson today!'

As a powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, Hong Yun managed to slightly pressure Duan Ling Tian even though she had not unleashed her full power.

When Hong Yun was charging toward Duan Ling Tian, he suddenly said in a calm voice, "Guardian Hong Yun, just unleash your full power!"

"How arrogant!" Hong Yun was further enraged when she heard Duan Ling Tian's words. Her expression turned cold immediately. Her seductive body trembled in anger as waves of energy surged out of her like a raging tide.

Qing Huo shook his head. Although Duan Ling Tian managed to nullify Hong Yun's earlier attack, he did not think Duan Ling Tian was a match for Hong Yun. Hong Yun could be considered as his junior sister so he knew very well how powerful she was.

Hong Yun was a Guardian of Fire Worship Sect. She was a cultivator at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage who was ranked 16th on the Supreme Saint Ranking. However, her ranking was not so high three years ago. Her ranking had only risen because of the deaths of many powerhouses at or above the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage in the trap that was left behind by three Eminent Devils.

For this reason, there was a great shuffle in the Supreme Saint Ranking. Many people's ranks had risen a few places just like Hong Yun.

Duan Ling Tian did not continue to remind Hong Yun to unleash her full power when he saw she had no intention of doing so. Instead, he quickly cast his assist-type Divine Ability. "Elementary Devouring Tactic!"

The moment Duan Ling Tian cast the Elementary Devouring Tactic, whirlpools began to appear around him.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The whirlpools began to absorb all the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy around Duan Ling Tian as his Sun Saint Origin skyrocketed. His Sun Saint Origin emitted an extremely powerful aura.

Whoosh!

When Hong Yun sensed the aura, her eyes narrowed immediately. "S-Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?" She could clearly sense that after Duan Ling Tian cast the assist-type Divine Ability, the Saint Origin in his body had been raised to the Saint Celestial Stage Sun's Flame. It was not the aura of an ordinary cultivator at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. Although it was not at the level of a cultivator at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, it was quite similar! Her Saint Origin could not compare to Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Origin at all before she cast an assist- type Divine Ability/

"Good! Good! Very good!" At this time, Hong Yun no longer thought Duan Ling Tian was being arrogant or conceited. His current strength was enough to let him speak to them as equals.

Disrespectful to elders?

The other two Guardians and Hong Yun merely held positions higher than Duan Ling Tian. They were addressed as elders because of their superior strength. Since Duan Ling Tian's strength was not inferior to their strength, why should he treat them as elders?

## Conceited?

Based on Duan Ling Tian's power, he was not conceited. He was only talking to them as equals.

The three Guardians thought Duan Ling Tian was conceited because they did not think Duan Ling Tian's strength was comparable to their strength.

Even then, Hong Yun had no intention of retreating. Instead, she felt thrilled now that her interest was piqued.

#### Swish!

At this moment, Hong Yun no longer dared to act carelessly. She instantly cast her assist-type Divine Ability to raise her Saint Origin. In the end, her Saint Origin was no longer inferior to Duan Ling Tian's Sun Saint Energy.

"How's this possible?" When Qing Huo and Zi Feng regained their senses, they saw the horror and disbelief in each other's eyes.

Naturally, they had noticed what Hong Yun had noticed. They were baffled by Duan Ling Tian's strength.

"It seems like he really killed Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion and King and Karmapa of Black Kshetra Sect." Qing Huo sent a Voice Transmission to Zi Feng.

"If he really killed Xie Kang Xun with three strikes, I'm afraid Hong Yun's no match for him!" Zi Feng replied through Voice Transmission with a solemn expression on his face.

"I agree." Qing Huo smiled wryly.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian had already engaged in hand-to-hand combat with Hong Yun. Neither of them used martial tactics or Divine Abilities. They were just using their strength.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Two waves of energy close to the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage clashed repeatedly, causing the sound of explosions to reverberate in the air. The force of the repeated collisions was so strong that the ground began to quake. At this moment, it seemed as though both of them were evenly matched.

At this moment, the elder on patrol had returned when he heard the commotion. As soon as he arrived, he saw a scene he would never forget in his life.

### "H-How is this possible?!"

Duan Ling Tian, a true disciple of Fire Worship Sect, was fighting with Hong Yun, one of the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect. What was even more shocking was the fact that both of them seemed to be evenly matched.

Guardian Hong Yun is a powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. She's ranked 16th on the Supreme Saint Ranking! How's Duan Ling Tian evenly matched with her?\_

At this moment, the elder on patrol felt as though he was dreaming. However, it was clear that the scene before him was real.

"D-Don't tell me the rumor about Duan Ling Tian killing Xie Kang Xun, the Golden Lion King of Black Kshetra Sect is true?' The moment the elder on patrol thought of this, he was thoroughly shocked. He did not regain his senses for a long time.

## 2177 One of a Kind

After they tested each other's strength for a while, Hong Yun took out a long red whip.

## Swish! Swish! Swish!

Hong Yun swung the long whip and it moved like a ferocious red-banded snake. She emitted an impressive aura as she sent her Saint Origin into the red whip in her hand.

#### Swoosh!

The red whip released a terrifying aura immediately like a red-banded snake that was about to strike. Based on this, one could tell Hong Yun's long whip was no ordinary Saint Weapon.

"A Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapon?" Duan Ling Tian knew what the weapon was as soon as he sensed its aura. He raised his hand and a sword appeared in his hand. Naturally, it was not the Jasper Celestial Sword. It was a Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword.

Duan Ling Tian had obtained this Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword from a member of the Ground Ax Alliance when he arrived in Sin City three years ago. He was lucky to arrive at that time. If he was 15 minutes late, he would not have been able to obtain the sword. One could say Duan Ling Tian had fate with that Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword.

When Duan Ling Tian first obtained the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword, he did not dare to wield it openly. However, currently, he was strong enough to do so. He was strong enough to keep other people from snatching the sword away from him. Those who were weaker than him, naturally, would not dare to harbor any thoughts about his sword. On the other hand, those who were stronger than him usually

had their own Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapons. Naturally, they would not covet his Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword.

When the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword appeared in Duan Ling Tian's hand, his aura changed immediately as though he had turned into a different person. With his sword in hand, it seemed like he held the world in his hands as well.

When Duan Ling Tian took the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword out, he poured his Sun Saint Origin into the sword without reservation.

## Swish! Swish! Swish!

The sound of sword whistling sounded in the air. The tip of the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword shone with a blinding and dazzling light.

"Take this, Duan Ling Tian!" Hong Yuan snarled as she cracked her whip. She charged at Duan Ling Tian with her whip that resembled a red-banded snake.

At this moment, Hong Yun had regarded Duan Ling Tian as her enemy. She no longer regarded him as an ordinary true disciple in Fire Worship Sect. For this reason, she no longer held back when she attacked. It seemed like she would not stop until she had defeated Duan Ling Tian!

## Swoosh!

Hong Yun moved like the wind. Due to her red robe, she looked like a fiery meteor as she flew across the sky.

## Buzz!

Hong Yun cracked her whip in the air. It looked like a red-banded snake moving in the air, it was extremely eyecatching.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he watched Hong Yun charging at him with her whip. He thought to himself, 'It's time to end this!' In the next moment, a formidable energy surged out of his body! It seemed as though he had turned into a sword that could cut through anything.

Sword Controlling Technique!' As soon as this thought appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind, the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword in his hand glided out suddenly as though it had a life of its own.

#### Swoosh!

As soon as the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword in Duan Ling Tian's hand flew out, the brief cry of a sword sounded in the air. The sword glinted in front of Hong Yun before she could reach Duan Ling Tian. The sword with its terrifying aura was very close to Hong Yun's hand that was holding the long whip.

The aura shocked Hong Yun, causing her body to tremble. When she regained her senses, she discovered she had no time to block the attack from the incredibly fast Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword that seemed to be even more powerful than the force of a cultivator at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. It seemed as though the sword had mysteriously appeared.

At this moment, Hong Yun could see the scene where her hand was crippled.

Qing Huo and Zi Feng cried out in horror when they realized what was going on, "Watch out!"

Both of them charged out simultaneously in an attempt to save her. Unfortunately, they were too late.

At the critical juncture, an awe-inspiring voice reverberated in the air. It seemed like it came from all directions. "One should be lenient whenever possible!"

Zi Feng and Qing Huo looked relieved as soon as they heard the voice as though they had encountered a life savior. Clang!

A loud noise resounded in the air. A translucent wall had appeared between Hong Yun and the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword, blocking its attack.

Just when the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword was about to lose its momentum, the wall began to disappear as well.

At this time, the Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword continued to slash forward but it was no longer a threat to Hong Yun.

Duan Ling Tian retrieved the sword and no longer attacked Hong Yun. At the same time, he seemed to have realized something as he turned to look at the space nearby. "The Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect?"

A figure appeared at this moment. It was a tall middle-aged man with a sturdy build. He wore a long white robe embroidered with red fiery flames. He had an elegant appearance. His eyes had a commanding look to them that made people yield to him. Whether it was his body or his appearance, everything was almost perfect.

The robe he's wearing seems a little similar to the uniforms of the Fire Worship Sect elders and disciples...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Naturally, it only bore a slight resemblance to the uniforms of the Fire Worship Sect elders and disciples. Duan Ling Tian had never seen the flames embroidered on the robe before. It was obvious that it was one of a kind. Upon closer inspection, one would see the flames resembled a divine dragon that twined around the wearer's body as though it was protecting the wearer.

Duan Ling Tian knew the middle-aged man standing before him was Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect!

You're finally willing to come out?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as stared at Tang Xuan with a sharp gaze.

When Duan Ling Tian was engaged in combat with Hong Yun earlier and they were evenly matched, Elder Huo had informed that a powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage was hiding nearby and studying him. At that time, he already knew who that person was. In the Fire Worship Sect, only Sect Leader Tang Xuan had broken through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! There was no need to guess at all. In order to lure the other party out, when Hong Yun took out her Thousand Inscriptions Saint Weapon and fought with all her might, he had taken out his Thousand Inscriptions Saint Sword and wielded it with all his strength as well. Not only that, he even used the technique from the third stage of the Sovereign Heart Sword. The instant he attacked, he acted as though he was going to cripple Hong Yun. This was because he wanted to force Tang Xuan who was hiding to reveal himself.

Although Hong Yun was rude to Duan Ling Tian, he did not take offense since he knew it was just human nature. After all, she did not know about his strength. If they switched places, perhaps, he might be even ruder. Due to this reason, he did not intend to really cripple Hong Yun. He was prepared to call his sword back to him before it could hurt her. As it turned out, there was no need for him to do that because his plan worked.

Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, who was hiding was forced to reveal himself.

Tang Xuan was also studying Duan Ling Tian from head to toe with sharp eyes. After a while, he asked, "Duan Ling Tian. Aren't you worried you won't be able to call your sword back to you if I didn't make a move? I'm really curious. How did you know I was hiding nearby?"

Tang Xuan's words shocked Duan Ling Tian.

He saw through my plan?!' Duan Ling Tian was baffled. Faced with Tang Xuan's knowing gaze, he felt as though he had been stripped naked and could not hide anything from Tang Xuan.

Meanwhile, Zi Feng, Qing Huo, and Hong Yun who had survived a disaster were shocked as well when they heard Tang Xuan's words. "Huh?"

"I can't believe you saw through my plan, Sect Leader. However, even if you didn't make a move earlier, Guardian Hong Yun would still be safe. As for how I noticed you, it was just a coincidence," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, the Three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect finally realized what was going on.

Duan Ling Tian had attacked so viciously with his flying sword because he wanted the Sect Leader who was hiding nearby to reveal himself.

Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, continued studying Duan Ling Tian before he complimented him generously. "A sword-wielding technique that you can control as you like... Your attainment in the Sword Dao is, indeed, one of a kind!"

#### 2178 Guardian Ling Tian

One of a kind!

This was what Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, had to say about Duan Ling Tian's achievement in Sword Dao.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by Tang Xuan's assessment. After all, he cultivated the Supreme Sword Dao Mental Cultivation Method, the Sovereign Heart Sword. It was a rare Sword Dao technique that was superior to the other Sword Dao martial tactics in this mundane realm. However, he was slightly taken aback that Tang Xuan was able to see this. Just as expected of the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect!

"One of a kind?" Meanwhile, the three Great Guardians of Fire Worship Sect finally regained their senses. They were baffled by Tang Xuan's words. They did not expect the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect would compliment Duan Ling Tian's achievement in Sword Dao. However, when Zi Feng and Qing Huo recalled how Duan Ling Tian's sword had disappeared the instant it appeared, they agreed with Tang Xuan. Putting Tang Xuan aside, both of them had never seen such a sword technique before.

As for Hong Yun, despite discovering that Duan Ling Tian had no intention of crippling her hand, she still trembled in fear when she recalled the scene earlier. Duan Ling Tian's speed was too fast! Before she even realized what was happening, the sword was already near her. When she finally regained her senses, it was too late for her to block his sword. If Tang Xuan did not make a move, and if it was not for the fact that Duan Ling Tian had no intention of hurting her, she would not be able to prevent her hand from being crippled.

"Duan Ling Tian, it seems like the rumor is true. Based on your strength and your achievement in Sword Dao, it won't be difficult at all for you to kill Golden Lion King Xie Kang Xun, one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect." Tang Xuan's eyes were gleaming as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was as though he was looking at a rare treasure. In fact, he really did think of Duan Ling Tian like a rare treasure. After all, Duan Ling Tian was even more powerful than Hong Yun, one of the Guardians of Fire Worship Sect. If it was a Death Duel, Hong Yun would have been killed in ten moves.

Yes. I did kill Xie Kang Xun." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

"You really killed Xie Kang Xun with three moves using your sword?" Hong Yun asked urgently as soon as Duan Ling Tian spoke. It seemed as though she could not wait to hear the answer.

Duan Ling Tian had almost crippled Hong Yun's hand earlier because she had let down her guard. Otherwise, she would not have ended up in such a sorry state. However, she might have let her guard down, but she knew very well that she was no match for Duan Ling Tian at all even if she was guarded.

Hongwanted to know if Duan Ling Tian really killed Xie Kang Xun with three moves because if it was true, it meant that Duan Ling Tian did not use all his strength when they fought earlier. Although she was stronger than Xie Kang Xun, she was just a little stronger than him.

"If I was serious about killing him, I could've killed him with just a move!" Duan Ling Tian said indifferently in response to Hong Yun's question.

The entire place fell silent immediately.

Duan Ling Tian's confident words echoed in everyone's ears. His words left no room for arguments.

"You can kill Xie Kang Xun with just a move if you wanted to?" At this moment, apart from Hong Yun, Zi Feng and Qing Huo also realized Duan Ling Tian's strength was comparable to a powerhouse at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! Among the three Guardians, Zi Feng was the only one who was at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

When Hong Yun recovered from her shock, she looked at Zi Feng and asked through Voice Transmission, "Guardian Zi Feng, do you think you'll be able to defeat Duan Ling Tian?" Zi Feng did not answer Hong Yun immediately. He thought about it for a moment before he said truthfully, "If he can really kill Xie Kang Xun with just a move, I might not be a match for him."

"It seems like he held back a lot when we fought earlier." Guardian Hong Yun smiled wryly.

Naturally, Hong Yun and everyone else were unaware that most of Duan Ling Tian's strength came from the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword. With the sword, he was stronger than most powerhouses below the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!

Tang Xuan regained his senses first. He smiled as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Good! Good! After all these years, the Fire Worship Sect finally has another powerhouse above the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage..."

Zi Feng, Qing Huo, and Hong Yun no longer dared to look down on Duan Ling Tian now that they had witnessed his strength. They were overwhelmed by their emotions when they heard Tang Xuan's words. From today onward, the Fire Worship Sect gained another powerhouse at the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! Moreover, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian's was special, he was no ordinary powerhouse at the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

"From now on, Duan Ling Tian will become the fourth Guardian of Fire Worship Sect!" Tang Xuan announced in front of Duan Ling Tian and the three Guardians of Fire Worship Sect.

"A Guardian of Fire Worship Sect?" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback by Tang Xuan's announcement.

"Congratulations, Guardian Ling Tian!"

"Congratulations, Guardian Ling Tian!"

Duan Ling Tian was still stunned when Zi Feng, Qing Huo, and Hong Yun began to congratulate him. They were sincere when they congratulated him. This was a world where the strong ones were revered after all. They all acknowledged Duan Ling Tian's strength.

Thank you, Guardians." Duan Ling Tian quickly expressed his gratitude when he regained his senses. He felt as though he was dreaming. He had become a Guardian of Fire Worship Sect just like this? He could still remember when he first arrived in the Fire Worship Sect and how he had lived in seclusion to cultivate.

The three Guardians only smiled when they heard Duan Ling Tian's words. After a while, they all took their leave. They all left with mixed emotions. It felt as though their world was turned upside down. Someone they had thought was an ordinary true disciple in the Fire Worship Sect had become someone who shared the same status with them and became the fourth Guardian in the Fire Worship Sect in just a blink of an eye! Out of three of them, Qing Huo was the one who felt this the most since he had more contact with Duan Ling Tian compared to the others.

To think I wanted to take him in as my disciple before this...' The moment Qing Huo thought of this, he felt he was really naive in the past. He felt his face turn hot and he wanted to dig a hole to hide in.

After the three Guardians left, Tang Xuan raised his hand and pricked his finger.

#### Swoosh!

As a drop of blood rose into the sky, Tang Xuan swore on the lightning penalty oath as he had promised to do in the announcement he made. He swore that no one in Fire Worship Sect would try to snatch the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, from Duan Ling Tian.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nine claps of thunder reverberated in the air in accordance with the lightning penalty oath that Tang Xuan had just sworn.

"Although you're more than strong enough to wield the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, I will still honor the promise I made before this, Guardian Ling Tian," Tang Xuan said with a smile as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Thank you, Sect Leader." Duan Ling Tian immediately expressed his gratitude.

"Guardian Ling Tian, aren't you curious how I know you have no intention of crippling Guardian Hong Yun's hand?" Tang Xuan asked.

Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Indeed, he had found the matter baffling.

"I could tell you have no intention of crippling Guardian Hong Yun's hand because when you wielded your sword earlier, it didn't have any killing or malicious intent. It was enough for me to see then that the fight was like a friendly match," Tang Xuan explained with a smile.

Upon hearing Tang Xuan's words, Duan Ling Tian was hit by a pang of realization. He was shocked at how astute the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect was.

It seems like I'll still have to tread carefully to save Ke'er and our daughter even if I've become a Guardian in Fire Worship Sect. If Tang Xuan finds out about it, I won't be the only one in danger. Ke'er and our daughter would be in danger as well.' Duan Ling Tian felt a hint of dread when he realized how astute Tang Xuan was. He had thought that becoming a Guardian in the Fire Worship Sect would make it easier for him to rescue Ke'er and their daughter since he would be able to go around the Fire Worship Sect unimpeded.

After all, In the Fire Worship Sect, a Guardian had a very lofty position. The position was only inferior to the Sect Leader. It was higher than the positions of Vice Sect Leaders and the other Golden Flame Elders and Silver Flame Elders.

"Guardian Ling Tian," Tang Xuan's expression suddenly turned solemn as he said, "After three days, I'll officially bestow you with the title in the Central Square of Saint Island before all the elders and disciples. At that time, we will release news about the fourth Guardian of Fire Worship Sect, Guardian Ling Tian, the number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land, to the western region and the rest of the Upper Province!" Tang Xuan had complimented Duan Ling Tian again when he called him the number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land!

There was another number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land. This person was Pei Si Hai, the direct disciple of the Nie Wu Tian, the number one powerhouse in the Dao Martial Saint Land. He was

famous for breaking through to the Eight Form of the Saint Celestial Stage before he had turned a hundred years old.

# 2179 The Number One Prodigy In The Dao Martial Saint Land?

Naturally, only the sectless cultivators acknowledged Pei Si Hai as the number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land. All of the strong forces in the Upper Province, including the three great sects, the Fire Worship Sect, the Black Kshetra Sect, and the Heaven Divination Sect, did not acknowledge Pei Si Hai as the number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land. This was because there was no proof that Pei Si Hai was not even a hundred years old before he had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

Duan Ling Tian, on the other hand, was different. Everyone knew his age. This was because he had come from the Lower Province, and many people knew of his stories from the Lower Province since a long time ago.

When people found out the Super Saint Weapon, the Devilseal Tablet, had appeared in the Lower Province, many sectless cultivators and members from the various sects in the Upper Province had gone to the Lower Province. When they were there, they had investigated Duan Ling Tian, the person who possessed the Devilseal Tablet, and this included his age! They even investigated his time back on the Mortal Continent, in the Ten Great Dynasties. They investigated his time in the Darkstone Empire, the Azure Forest Imperial Kingdom, the Crimson Sky Kingdom, Swallow Mountain County, Aurora City, Fresh Breeze Town and even the Li Clan. Duan Ling Tian was born in the Crimson Sky Kingdom so it was not difficult for them to find out his age.

He's not even 50 years old!' Tang Xuan was still shocked when he recalled the information that people from the Fire Worship Sect found out when they went to the Lower Province.

Duan Ling Tian was not even 50 years old but he was already as strong as a powerhouse at the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage! Even if Pei Si Hai was not a hundred years old, he still could not compare to Duan Ling Tian.

Pei Si Hai might have broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage before he had reached a hundred years old, but Guardian Ling Tian from the Fire Worship Sect had broken through to the Eighth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage before he had turned 50 years old. There was obviously a huge difference between them.

"You flatter me, Sect Leader." When Duan Ling Tian heard Tang Xuan calling him the number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land and he remembered all the difficulties he had faced, he felt overwhelmed by emotions

The number one prodigy in the Dao Martial Saint Land! This was not a title lightly bestowed. Only the most outstanding person in the Dao Martial Saint Land was qualified to be given this title. For this reason, although Duan Ling Tian's heart had been tempered by hardship, he still could not help but feel overwhelmed when he heard Tang Xuan's words.

"It's not flattery, it's the truth," Tang Xuan said with a smile. His eyes were the shapes of a crescent moon as he smiled. He found Duan Ling Tian extremely pleasing to his eyes the more he looked at him.

"Sect Leader, I'd like to take my leave if there's nothing else to discuss." Duan Ling Tian finally decided to bid Tang Xuan farewell. When TangXuan nodded, he descended through the clouds and made his way to the Saint Island below. He had not forgotten about his purpose of returning to the Fire Worship Sect and rescuing Ke'er and their daughter.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Ke'er and their daughter were no longer imprisoned in the Enforcement Hall that was located on the Saint Island. Instead, they were living in the Tang Xuan's cultivation place. They were personally monitored by the Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect.

It was only natural that Duan Ling Tian was not aware of this matter. After all, only a select few in the Fire Worship Sect knew about this matter. Apart from the people involved, only the Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall and a few Vice Hall Master knew about this.

"It's a pity that the Saint Girl has been defiled by someone in the Lower Province. If that person appears and finds out about this matter, he would be furious and vent his anger on me. It seems like the Saint Girl is not just his cousin..." Tang Xuan muttered to himself after Duan Ling Tian left. A hint of fear toward 'that person' could be seen in his eyes. "If it's not for this matter, I would've introduced Duan Ling Tian to him... I don't even know if I can preserve my life now, how can I possibly introduce Duan Ling Tian to that person?" Tang Xuan sighed. He shook his head helplessly before he returned to his cultivation place.

No one was around to hear Tang Xuan's words. If they heard his words, they would be shocked. Who was 'that person' that he could elicit such fear and dread from Tang Xuan who had already broken through to the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?

Previously, the commotion Duan Ling Tian and Hong Yun caused when they were fighting was so great that even Gan Ru Yan who was living with Tang Xuan heard it.

"It's quiet now?" Gan Ru Yan said when she could no longer hear anything.

"N-Nothing happened to Young Master, right?" Ke'er who was extremely beautiful had a worried expression on her face. She had heard the commotion as well. She knew it had something to do with Duan Ling Tian, and she could not help but worry.

"Don't worry." Gan Ru Yan quickly consoled Ke'er. "The fact that Sect Leader has personally invited him to return shows that he's important. Nothing will happen to him!" Despite her words, she thought to herself, 'Nothing will happen to him unless his identity is revealed.'

Previously, when Tang Xuan had looked for Gan Ru Yan and interrogated her about the identity of her sister's man, she could see how furious he was. If the sect leader found out her sister's man was Duan Ling Tian, he would flay Duan Ling Tian alive even if he did not kill him.

Naturally, Ke'er did not know about this. For this reason, she felt reassured when she heard Gan Ru Yan's words. However, she longed to reunite with the man whom she had sworn to give her life to. Not only did she long to reunite with her man, but she could not wait to introduce her daughter to Duan Ling Tian as well. She had been wishing for this in the past years. When Duan Ling Tian descended on the Saint Island, word of his return to the Fire Worship Sect and him defeating Lu Qing, the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, when he passed through the White Tiger Sanctum had spread to the Four Symbols Sanctums. It spread extremely quickly to the Azure Dragon Sanctum, the Vermilion Bird Sanctum, and the Black Turtle Sanctum.

"It has only been a few years but Duan Ling Tian's already strong enough to defeat the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum?"

"Is this true? Why do I feel like it has been exaggerated?"

"I find this hard to believe as well. The Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum is a Golden Flame Elder in our Fire Worship Sect. All Golden Flame Elders in the Fire Worship Sect are at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage!"

"If this is true, does this mean Duan Ling Tian's strength is stronger or comparable to a powerhouse at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage?!"

"My goodness! What did Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian go through in these few years? How did he become so strong?!" The conversations In the Azure Dragon Sanctum and the Vermilion Bird Sanctum revolved around Duan Ling Tian.

As for the Black Turtle Sanctum, it was even noisier.

"As expected of a disciple from our Black Turtle Sanctum! It has been only a few years and Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is already strong enough to defeat a Golden Flame Elder!"

"Based on Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian's progress, who else, apart from Lord Sect Leader, would be able to defeat him in a few years' time?"

"Amazing! Senior Brother Duan Ling Tian is amazing! To think the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum was thrown to the ground!"

When the disciples from Black Turtle Sanctum learned about Duan Ling Tian defeating the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum when he returned, they were overwhelmed by emotions. It was as though they were the ones who had defeated the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum.

In the Black Turtle Sanctum...

Elder Guo Xiong who was quite close to Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard the news. He only regained his senses after a long time. "It has only been a few years and he has grown so strong?"

Meanwhile, many people in the Four Symbols Sanctums recalled the news they had heard. At that time, they did not think the news was believable.

"Hey, do you think news of Duan Ling Tian killing Golden Lion King Xie Kang Xun, one of the Four Great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect, is true?" Since Duan Ling Tian managed to easily defeat the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum whose cultivation base was at the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage as soon as he returned, they began to think about it more.

"I think it's true!" Somebody replied.

"I don't think it's true. Duan Ling Tian might have defeated the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum, but this only proves his cultivation base is higher than the Fifth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. The Golden Lion King Xie Kang Xun of Black Kshetra Sect wasn't only a powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, but he was also ranked 18th on the Supreme Saint Ranking!" Many people said.

In the end, the majority of people believed it was not possible that Duan Ling Tian was capable of killing Golden Lion King Xie Kang Xu, one of the four great Karmapas of Black Kshetra Sect. They did not think the news was real.

While news of Duan Ling Tian easily defeating the Sanctum Leader of White Tiger Sanctum swept across the Four Symbols Sanctums and to the Saint Island, Duan Ling Tian was making his way to the Enforcement Hall in a hurry.

"Ke'er, wait for me..." Duan Ling Tian was overwhelmed by his emotions when he was near the Enforcement Hall.

## 2180 Dong Yuan Jin, Get Your Ass Out Now!

Duan Ling Tian had come to the Enforcement Hall for Ke'er and their daughter! If he had the opportunity and strength, he would instantly rescue them and bring them away from the Fire Worship Sect so they can reunite. However, he did not think it was possible to do so now. Put aside Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of the Fire Worship Sect, who was strong enough to extend his Divine Consciousness to monitor the Enforcement Hall anytime he liked, even if he did not, people from the Enforcement Hall would immediately notify him of the matter. Duan Ling Tian knew very well that if Tang Xuan got involved, it would be impossible for his family to leave the Fire Worship Sect even if he managed to rescue them out of the Enforcement Hall.

If Ke'er and our daughter are not in any immediate danger, I'll enter the fourth level of the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda to cultivate and break through to the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage as fast as I can!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he made his way to the Enforcement Hall, 'Once I break through to the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, there's no need for me to fear Tang Xuan, the Sect Leader of Fire Worship Sect, if I use the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword!' Duan Ling Tian was confident about this.

Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was currently at the Sixth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage. With the help of the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword, very few people below the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage Ninth Form in the Dao Martial Saint Land were a match for him. If he broke through to the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage, he would, naturally, grow terrifyingly strong with the Celestial Supreme Treasure, the Jasper Celestial Sword! At that time, even an ordinary powerhouse at the Ninth Form of the Saint Celestial Stage might not be able to defend against his sword.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian entered the Enforcement Hall.

I need to come up with an excuse for coming to the Enforcement Hall today. I can't let anybody know that I'm here for Ke'er and our daughter. I can say I'm here to look for Gan Ru Yan... Since I've looked for her before, this is a good excuse.' Duan Ling Tian was going to use Gan Ru Yan as an excuse for coming to the Enforcement Hall when he thought of an even better excuse. 'Ah, I almost forgot about him! At that time, if I didn't have any help, I'm afraid I wouldn't have been able to leave the Fire Worship Sect because of him! Since I've returned, it's only natural that I should look for him and thank him!' Duan Ling Tian's eyes gleamed with malice when he thought about this.

Several years ago, he had to sneak out from the Fire Worship Sect since it was extremely dangerous. This was all due to one person. This person was none other than Dong Yuan Jin, the Vice Hall Master of the Enforcement Hall. He was also the father of Elder Dong Lin whom he had conflicts with.

Although Duan Ling Tian had not met Dong Yuan Jin before, he had regarded the other person as his enemy since the other person had attempted to kill him numerous times. If he was given the chance, he would not let the other person go.

"Golden Crow's Wings!" Duan Ling Tian mobilized his Sun Saint Energy and cast the movement Divine Ability when he entered the Enforcement Hall before the patrolling elder of the Enforcement Hall realized what was going on.

At the speed of lightning, a pair of flaming wings appeared on Duan Ling Tian's back. He flapped his wings, causing a thunderous noise to reverberate in the air.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Duan Ling Tian charged forward and flew deeper into the Enforcement Hall like an arrow that had been shot. His speed was not inferior to an ordinary powerhouse at the Seventh Form of the Saint Celestial Stage.

"Who is there?!"

"Who?!"

After Duan Ling Tian had left like a gust of wind, a few patrolling elders appeared. They saw nothing when they arrived,

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian was already at the eastern side of the Enforcement Hall. It was a forbidden area in the Enforcement Hall. When he was on duty here a few years ago, he had been told that the Hall Master and the few Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall would cultivate here. No elders or disciples from the Enforcement Hall were allowed here. Naturally, there were a few people who were exempted from following this rule. The children and direct disciples of the Hall Master and the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall could come and go as they pleased. Nobody would say anything about this.

Duan Ling Tian stopped moving after he entered the forbidden area in the Enforcement Hall.

Without any warning, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he said loudly, "Dong Yuan Jin, get your ass out here now!" Since he had used Sun Saint Origin when he spoke, his voice was transmitted everywhere in the forbidden area.

Inside the forbidden area of the Enforcement Hall.

In a small and quiet valley where flowers were in full bloom and birds could be heard chirping over the sound of a waterfall that was located in the north. A mansion at the foot of a hill could be seen. It made for a very relaxing sight.

However, the sound of Duan Ling Tian's voice had broken the tranquility of the place.

Inside the mansion, Dong Lin's expression changed immediately when he heard the voice. "Who's that?!" He was shocked. He did not expect someone would be bold enough to speak so rudely to his father, Dong Yuan Jin.

Dong Lin found the voice familiar. It seemed like he had heard this voice before. However, he could recall where he had heard it before.

Meanwhile, other people were shocked by Duan Ling Tian's voice as well.

"Who's that? How dare this person cause a ruckus in the Enforcement Hall!"

"Based on his words, this person must be Vice Hall Master Dong's enemy. How brave! How bold of him to come to the Enforcement Hall and demand that Vice Hall Master Dong come out to see him!"

"I want to see who this person is!"

These people were the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall and their children and direct disciples. When they heard the provocative words, they could not contain their curiosity. All of them rose into the air excitedly as they made their way to the source of the noise. They were eager to see the person who had caused a ruckus in the Enforcement Hall.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian hovered in the air with his hands on his back after he finished speaking. He had a carefree expression on his face as he waited.

## Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As the sound of wind whistling resounded in the air, many figures from different directions appeared around Duan Ling Tian. They formed a loose circle around him. These people were the children and direct disciples of the Vice Hall Masters of the Enforcement Hall. All of them had flown up from the forbidden area below.

#### "Eh? This person looks familiar!"

"Based on his uniform, it seems like he's a true disciple in our Fire Worship Sect! Since when have there been such a bold true disciple? Not only did he trespass on the Enforcement Hall's forbidden area, but he even told Vice Hall Master Dong to get his ass out here!"

"Why do I feel like this true disciple is familiar? Don't you think so?"

Yes. The more I look at him, the more I feel like I've seen him before!"

"I guess I'm not the only one who feels this way!"

The people around Duan Ling Tian began to discuss among themselves as they pointed at him. Most of them had a frown on their faces as they tried to recall where they had seen this person before.

"I remember now!" A sudden cry startled the people in the surroundings.

Many people began to shift their attention to the person who had cried out. It was a young man. When he saw everyone's attention was on him, before anyone could speak, he quickly said, "He's Duan Ling Tian!"

Duan Ling Tian?!

The entire place fell silent as soon as the young man finished speaking. After a long time, they finally regained their senses. They instantly turned to look at the true disciple hovering in the air.

"You're right! He's Duan Ling Tian! I've seen his portrait before!"

"Yes! He's indeed Duan Ling Tian! I've also seen his portrait three years ago, but I couldn't recall it earlier!"

"It's true!"

"It's really Duan Ling Tian! He returned so quickly! The Sect Leader only released his statement three days ago, right?" Many people began to recognize Duan Ling Tian at this point.

"Since when did Duan Ling Tian has enmity with Vice Hall Master Dong?"

Many people were confused when they recalled Duan Ling Tian's provocative words.

"I'm not sure. I only know that Duan Ling Tian and Dong Lin, Vice Hall Master Dong's son, had quite a huge conflict before."

All of a sudden, a furious bellow sounded from below. "Duan Ling Tian!"

Under the watchful eyes of the others, a figure rose into the air and stood opposite Duan Ling Tian.

"It's Elder Dong Lin!" The moment the person appeared, many people recognized him immediately.

Dong Lin, an elder in the Enforcement Hall, was the son of Vice Hall Master Dong Yuan Jin of the Enforcement Hall. Everyone in the Enforcement Hall knew who he was.

"Duan Ling Tian, don't think you're exempted from death just because Lord Sect Leader had asked for your return..." Dong Lin said coldly as he glared at Duan Ling Tian.