

### **Chapter 2631 The Second Master of the Xia Family in the Divine Offering Land!**

While Duan Ling Tian, Qin Yu, and Zheng Qiu continued on their journey to the County City of Nine Specters County, a travel-weary figure appeared in the Yun family's estate in the Divine Offering Land.

The figure bowed at the Great Young Master of Yun family, Yun Qing Yan, before respectfully greeting him. "Young Master."

The figure wore a panicked expression on his face at this moment. If Duan Ling Tian was here, he would be able to recognize this man. This man was none other than Yun Ye, the powerhouse from the Yun family who was stronger than most Heavenly Emperors. Previously, he had almost killed Duan Ling Tian in Yan Huang Realm. Due to the intervention from Xia Jie, the Third Master of the Xia family, he failed to kill Duan Ling Tian and had to miserably flee back to the Divine Offering Land.

When Yun Qing Yan saw the expression on Yun Ye's face, he frowned. "What's it? Did something happen?" He knew Yun Ye would not be in this state if it was not serious.

"Young Master, I received news from someone in the Xia family that Miss Ning Xue has gone to the Realm Battlefield without the knowledge of the Clan Leader of the Xia family!" Yun Ye said in a low voice.

Yun Qing Ye's expression changed drastically upon hearing this. He looked at Yun Ye as his eyes gleamed coldly, "What? Are you sure the news you received isn't fake?"

"I had gone to verify this news with a few people from the Xia family. I'm certain the news is real. However, since the Clan Leader of the Xia family is also in the Realm Battlefield, I'm afraid he's not aware of this yet. After all, the Realm Battlefield is vast with many entry points." Yun Ye smiled bitterly.

"Her cultivation base hasn't recovered to its original state. Her strength now is much weaker compared to before. In fact, she's much weaker than the weakest person to enter the Realm Battlefield. Why did she risk her life to enter the Realm Battlefield?" Yun Qing Yan said with a darkened expression.

"As the Eldest Miss of the Xia family, I think Miss Ning Xue only has one purpose of entering the Realm Battlefield. She's probably trying to recover her strength and get stronger in a short period of time," Yun Ye speculated out loud.

Yun Qing Yan's expression darkened even more upon hearing Yun Ye's words. He knew Yun Ye's speculation was most likely right. The reason Xia Ning Yue had gone to the Realm Battlefield to get stronger was so she could annul their engagement again after 1,000 years!

Yun Qing Yan clenched his teeth and said with a growl, "Just to avoid marrying me, you're willing to risk your life and enter the Realm Battlefield? Do you really despise me so much? After 1,000 years, when the tunnels connecting the Divine Offering Land to the Devata Realms are opened again, I'll definitely search for Duan Ling Tian and cut him into pieces before destroying his corpse to make you give up all hope!" As he spoke, his eyes gleamed with resentment and rage.

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Meanwhile, in the Xia family, a tall middle-aged man with a strong body like an iron tower with a curly beard hurriedly approached Xia Jie, the Third Master of the Xia family. He glared at Xia Jie like a provoked lion as he asked in a low voice, "Third brother, are you the one who sent Ning Xue into the Realm Battlefield?"

"Second brother, what are you talking about? I don't understand what you're saying!" Xia Jie replied flippantly as he briefly glanced at the middle-aged man before he continued with what he was doing.

The middle-aged man was Xia Tie, the Second Master of the Xia family. His expression became darker as he looked at Xia Jie. "Apart from you, there's no one in the Xia family who would dare to send her in. With her current strength, there's no way she could've entered the Realm Battlefield without any help!"

"Second brother, please don't make baseless accusations when you don't have any evidence. Even if eldest brother were here, I'd still say the same thing. I don't know what you're talking about," Xia Jie said nonchalantly. He was clearly not bothered with Xia Tie, his second brother.

Xia Tie glared at Xia Jie and coldly said, "Xia Jie! I know you hate me and eldest brother because of that matter. However, this is about Ning Xue. Can you put aside your hatred from that incident for a moment? Moreover, we only did that for your good. If that woman lived, you would have died. We only did it to protect you!" Xia Jie's tone grew grimmer as he spoke.

Xia Jie suddenly lifted his head, revealing his face under the messy hair. He sneered before he said, "You only did it to protect me? In my opinion, both of you were protecting the Xia family. I had said at that time that I would sever my ties with the Xia family to avoid dragging the family into the matter. However, what did both of you do at that time? You deliberately lured me away so that you could kill her! Do you know why I'm still alive? Revenge! If it weren't for that, I wouldn't be able to survive until today!" As he spoke, his sneer deepened.

Xia Tie said in a low voice, "Stop it! Stop talking about that incident. I came to tell you that you're being too reckless. You know what the Realm Battlefield is like. With Ning Xue's current strength, she'll definitely die in there! If anything happens to her, you'll be indirectly responsible for her death! Don't you love her a lot? Why are you so muddle-headed this time and sent her in there?" He became angrier and angrier as he spoke.

"Muddle-headed? We all know eldest brother is the muddle-headed one. Xue'er has already found a partner and had even given birth to a daughter, but he still insists on marrying her to that brat from the Yun family! Is the family's interest more important than his daughter's happiness?" Xia Jie said with a cold smile. Finally, he decided to confess and said resolutely, "That's right. I was the one who sent Xue'er to the Realm Battlefield. The Xia family has destroyed my happiness, I wish the same won't happen to my niece. Moreover, I've also promised Xue'er that if anything were to happen to her, I'll send her daughter and her friends back to the mundane realm safely after 1,000 years! At that time, if you and eldest brother try to stop me from fulfilling her wish, I'll sever our ties as brothers. The only way you can stop me is to kill me!" As soon as he finished speaking, he disappeared in a flash.

Xia Tie trembled in fury and his expression, that was partially hidden by his curly beard, turned unsightly. It took him a while to regain his composure. A hint of helplessness could also be seen in the depths of

reddish-brown eyes. A bitter smile appeared on his face as he shook his head. "When eldest brother finds out about this, he'll be enraged."

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Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of what was happening in the Divine Offering Land. At this moment, he was traveling with Qin Yu and Zheng Qiu to the County City of the Nine Specters County.

After checking the contents of the twenty-odd Spatial Rings from the robbers, he could not find any pills at all. He thought to himself, 'It seems like the primitive Spirit Nourishing Pill that the City Governor gave me is truly precious. In any case, those robbers really had a lot of Celestial Stones. There are about 100 prominent Celestial Stones and even more mediocre Celestial Stones. As for primitive Celestial Stones, there are countless of them. There are also a few Celestial Weapons.' He had killed the robbers before they could even take out their Celestial Weapons after all.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian heard a voice that was sent through Voice Transmission. It was from Qin Yu. "Duan Ling Tian, is it true that you just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven about half a year ago just like the people from the Silverwurm Army said?"

Duan Ling Tian was taken aback by this sudden question. He turned to Qin Yu and transmitted his voice. "Do you believe them?"

"I find it difficult to believe those people's words, but I believe in your words!" Qin Yu replied through Voice Transmission. It was clear he would believe Duan Ling Tian regardless of how preposterous or unbelievable Duan Ling Tian's words were.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Qin Yu meaningfully before he asked through Voice Transmission, "Is it important whether I've just ascended or not?" He did not intend to conceal this matter. However, ever since he met Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City, he was made aware that it would only put him in a disadvantageous position if he recklessly revealed that he had just ascended about half a year ago. Although there was no one who could threaten him in Bloody Specter City, the County City of the Nine Specters County was a different story.

### **Chapter 2632 County Governor's Estate of Nine Specters County**

"Is it really that important?" Duan Ling Tian asked in return.

Qin Yu was taken aback when he heard this. When he regained his composure, he looked at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully with a faint smile on his face and replied via Voice Transmission, "No, it's not important."

Based on the meaningful look Qin Yu had shot him, Duan Ling Tian knew Qin Yu had ascertained that he had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven half a year ago. It seemed like Qin Yu also knew how he had gotten so strong. He thought to himself, 'Qin Yu is not an ordinary person.'

After that, they no longer conversed.

Since they met the robbers, the Black and White Heroes, they no longer encountered other robbers. Duan Ling Tian was not surprised since Zheng Qiu, the special envoy sent by the County Governor of Nine Specters County, who was a Violet Sun Golden Celestial served as a deterrent. Robbers with a

weaker cultivation base would not dare to approach them after they probed Zheng Qiu's cultivation base from afar. Only the Black and White Heroes, who were Violet Sun Golden Celestials, would dare to attack them. Alas, all of them were unlucky and were killed!

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Three months later.

Zheng Qiu suddenly said, "The County City of Nine Specters County lies ahead of us."

Duan Ling Tian who was silent felt his heart skip a beat. 'We've arrived at the County City of the Nine Specters County?' He looked in the distance and saw an incredibly large plain. The little dot gradually grew larger and larger, looking like a giant beast.

'So this is the County City of Nine Specters County?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when the complete sight of the County City of Nine Specters County appeared before his eyes.

The city was ten times bigger than Bloody Specter City. Its visual impact was strong, and it had a majestic and magnificent air about it. Numerous carriages and people could be seen coming in and out of the city in the hundreds.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu followed behind Zheng Qiu as they flew above the County City in just a blink of an eye. Duan Ling Tian discovered their surroundings were getting more and more crowded. The city was bustling with people. Most of them seemed to be in a hurry, there were only a few people who were standing around and chatting.

'It took three months for us to arrive. I didn't expect it would take so long to travel here from Bloody Specter City. If I were to travel at top speed without using the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, it would only take me half a month to arrive,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Naturally, he knew they took longer because they were accommodating Qin Yu whose speed was the slowest among the three of them.

After they had entered the city, Zheng Qiu turned to Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu before he asked, "I suppose this is your first time here?" When he saw both of them nodding, he began to give an introduction of the County City of Nine Specters County to them before they arrived at the County Governor's estate.

The County Governor's estate was the most powerful force in the entire Nine Specters County with many affiliated families. These families managed the industries in the County City. Every month, they would have to submit 50% of their profits to the County Governor's estate as a form of taxation.

"Among these families, there are five families who are the strongest. My Zheng family is one of them," Zhen Qiu said with a hint of pride. Although he had helped the Zheng family a lot, if the Zheng family was not capable, they still would not be able to come this far. For instance, there was the family of an elder of the inner estate who was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, but his family did not attain

much success even with the help he had given them. This was due to the existence of many rotten apples in the Great Overarching Golden Celestial's family.

In the County City of the Nine Specters County, the physical strength of the family was not the most important, the family had to be skilled in other areas as well. Moreover, there was also the unspoken rule that the families could not be stronger than the City Governor's estate.

When they arrived at the inner city located in the east of the County City, they saw a magnificent place that looked like an Imperial Palace with its golden tiles and red bricks, Zheng Qiu said, "We've arrived at the County Governor's estate."

'So this is the County Governor's estate?' Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu were both dumbstruck by the opulence of the estate that occupied half of the inner city in the east of the County City. The area it occupied was two times bigger than Bloody Specter City.

When Zheng Qiu brought Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu to the main gates, he reminded them, "The County Governor's estate has a rule whereby those who aren't Great Overarching Golden Celestials or stronger can't enter or exit by crossing the wall. If caught, the person would be severely punished!"

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian finally noticed many people shuffling in and out of the main gates. No one dared to take a shortcut and jumped over the wall. It could be seen that the rule was strictly enforced.

At the main gates of the County Governor's estate, two rows of golden-armored soldiers who were guarding the gates greeted Zheng Qiu respectfully when they saw him. "Elder Zheng Qiu."

Apart from that, people who were entering and exiting the estate also respectfully greeted Zheng Qiu when they saw him.

Duan Ling Tian was not surprised since Zheng Qiu was an inner-estate elder. Moreover, Zheng Qiu was the second strongest Golden Celestial. In other words, he was the fourth strongest person in the county after the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials and the strongest Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County. How could anyone dare to be disrespectful to him?

Zheng Qiu looked at one of the golden-armored soldiers and asked, "Have the other inner-estate elders arrived?"

"Elder Zheng Qiu, eight inner-estate elders had arrived before you," the golden-armored soldier replied hurriedly.

'It seems like Bloody Specter City is located furthest away from the County City of Nine Specters County.' It was not difficult for Duan Ling Tian to come to this conclusion. The other inner-estate elders were probably sent to fetch the other candidates from the other cities in the Nine Specters County as well.

"Okay." Zheng Qiu nodded slightly toward the soldier before he entered the County Governor's estate. Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu followed him in. They were not stopped by the guards.

When Duan Ling Tian entered the County Governor's estate, he heard the whispers in his surroundings.

“So they are the people Elder Zheng Qiu went to fetch?”

“Which city was Elder Zheng Qiu sent to? I heard people talking about it, but I’ve forgotten about it.”

“Elder Zheng Qiu went to Bloody Specter City, right?”

“Bloody Specter City? That’s the city that’s governed by Lord Liu Feng Gu, right?”

“Yes, it is! It’s also the furthest city from the County City of Nine Specters County. I wonder why Lord Liu Feng Gu left the County Governor’s estate to become a City Governor in a city so far away.”

“I heard there are more to the matter than what we’ve been told.”

At this moment, Zheng Qiu scoffed loudly.

Upon hearing this, many of those people shuddered in fear and stopped gossiping immediately.

‘It looks like the City Governor used to be famous in the County Governor’s estate. Otherwise, people wouldn’t have remembered him,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

“Elder Zheng Qiu, did Lord City Governor of Bloody Specter City use to stay in the City Governor’s estate?” Qin Yu asked. He was not privy to what happened in the past, therefore, he was surprised.

“Yes. City Governor Liu used to be an outstanding advisor of Lord County Governor. However, due to certain matters, he went to Bloody Specter City.”

“What matter was it?” Qin Yu asked curiously. He could not figure out why Liu Feng Gu would leave the County Governor’s estate to become a City Governor in Bloody Specter City. Bloody Specter City seemed small and insignificant compared to the large and rich County City of the Nine Specters County.

“It’s not convenient for me to speak of that matter.” Zheng Qiu shook his head. Then, he seemed to recall something as he turned to Duan Ling Tian. He advised him, “Duan Ling Tian, if... I said if, Lord Revered Elder Zhou Tong wants to take you in as his disciple, do not reject him!” He had just recalled that one of the two men from the Bloody Specter City was highly talented, and it was possible that the Revered Elder might want to accept him as his disciple.

### **2633 The Location With The Best Cultivation Environmen**

When Zheng Qiu recalled the reason Liu Feng Gu had to leave the County Governor’s estate, he sighed inwardly. He did not wish a young genius like Duan Ling Tian to share the same fate as Liu Feng Gu’s direct disciple. For this reason, he had advised Duan Ling Tian earlier.

Before Duan Ling Tian could respond, Qin Yu could not help but ask, “Zhou Tong? Elder Zheng Qiu, is Revered Elder Zhou Tong one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in our Nine Specters County? The other Great Overarching Golden Celestial is our County Governor, right?” As one of two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County, he had, naturally, heard about Zhou Tong. In fact, Zhou Tong was also famous in the other counties that were ruled by King Qing’s mansion.

“Yes, that’s him. Revered Elder Zhou Tong is one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County. His strength and position are only second to Lord County Governor,” Zheng Qiu replied

to Qin Yu's question, but he was looking at Duan Ling Tian instead. It seemed as though he was afraid Duan Ling Tian did not know who Zhou Tong was.

Duan Ling Tian was taken aback. He recalled the story Liu Feng Gu had told him, and it took him a while to regain his composure before he calmly replied, "Elder Zheng Qiu, I already have a master, and I'll never accept a second one!" He said it emotionlessly, clearly showing he was speaking the truth and was not making up an excuse. He had recognized Sword Saint Feng Qing Yang, the person who had taught him the Sovereign Heart Sword, as his master although he had not met Feng Qing Yang. In fact, he did not even know if Feng Qing Yang was still alive after escaping to the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms. Regardless, he still recognized Feng Qing Yang as his master.

Zheng Qiu's expression changed drastically. He immediately asked Duan Ling Tian via Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, do you know the reason why City Governor Liu left the Count Governor's estate for Bloody Specter City?" Without waiting for Duan Ling Tian's reply, he disclosed everything that happened back then.

Zheng Qiu's words also verified that Liu Feng Gu was telling the truth. 'It looks like I won't be able to renege on our deal,' Duan Ling Tian thought. Although he was certain Liu Feng Gu was not lying, he still felt a slight ripple in his heart when he heard the confirmation from Zheng Qiu.

"If I refuse Zhou Tong, do you think he'll kill me like he did to City Governor Liu's direct disciple?" Duan Ling Tian asked via Voice Transmission as he looked at Zheng Qiu.

When Zheng Qiu saw Duan Ling Tian's determination, he knew it was useless to keep persuading him. He said, "Well, I'll ask for a favor from the County Governor to save your life when I see him later. This can be considered as repayment for what happened earlier."

"Elder Zheng Qiu, didn't you say we're here because of King Qing's Mansion? If King Qing's Mansion wants us, Zhou Tong wouldn't be able to kill me for his personal reason, right?" Duan Ling Tian frowned as he asked via Voice Transmission.

Since King Qing's Mansion had gathered Golden Celestials below the age of 100 in the Nine Specters City, they could be considered as people from King Qing's mansion. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian did not think Zhou Tong would dare to kill him for his personal reason.

"Well, if King Qing's mansion learns about you and values you, Revered Elder Zhou Tong certainly wouldn't dare to kill you. The problem is King Qing's mansion is unaware of you at the moment even if you're extremely brilliant. If Revered Elder Zhou Tong kills you before King Qing's Mansion learns about your existence, Lord County Governor will certainly cover for Revered Elder Zhou Tong once you die. After all, King Qing's Mansion might take offense if they learn the truth. After speaking so much, I'm sure you understand what I'm trying to say, right?" Zheng Qiu replied via Voice Transmission.

"Yes, I understand." Duan Ling Tian nodded. His expression darkened when he realized the perilous situation he was in. Zheng Qiu had just said the County Governor of Nine Specters County would try his best to protect Zhou Tong because of Zhou Tong's value if Zhou Tong killed him before he was recognized by King Qing's Mansion!

'It seems like I'll have to get stronger as quickly as possible so that I can defeat Zhou Tong and bring him back to City Governor in exchange for the location of the Celestial Fire,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. Currently, he was extremely motivated to get stronger. He wished he had the strength to defeat Zhou Tong now.

At this moment, Qin Yu asked, "Elder Zheng Qiu, where will we be staying?"

"I'm not sure, but I'll bring you to a place for you to stay in temporarily. Meanwhile, I'll meet Lord County Governor to report about the Black and White Heroes. At that time, I'll ask about his arrangement for both of you," Zheng Qiu replied. After he brought them to his residence, he said before he left, "Please stay here for the time being. If there's anything you need, don't hesitate to speak to my servants. I'll take my leave now to meet Lord County Governor!"

As they sat in the compound of Zheng Qiu's residence, Qin Yu took in the rich Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy. He closed his eyes and said in a delighted voice, "This place is very rich with Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy!"

"It can be seen that Elder Zheng Qiu is truly the second strongest Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County. The cultivation environment here is even better than City Governor Liu's Tranquil Alcove!" Duan Ling Tian exclaimed. He could sense the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was the most concentrated and richest in Zheng Qiu's room, but even in other places in Zheng Qiu's residence, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was still richer than the best cultivation location in Bloody Specter City!

"Hmm?" Duan Ling Tian discovered that Qin Yu, at some point, had sat down cross-legged and begun to cultivate. He could vaguely see the mist-like Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy continuously entering Qin Yu's body at a very fast speed.

'Hmm, it's natural that Qin Yu is more fascinated by the cultivation environment here compared to me,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. After all, he had at least cultivated in the City Governor's Tranquil Alcove so the cultivation environment here was not too shocking for him. On the other hand, the best cultivation location Qin Yu had ever been to was the valley where the Black Dragon Army's camp was located.

Duan Ling Tian exhaled audibly before he also sat down cross-legged to cultivate as he held a prominent Celestial Stone in his hand. He did not consume a primitive Spirit Nourishing Pill because there was one that had yet to be completely digested. Therefore, there was no need to take another one.

'After nine months, I only have two primitive Spirit Nourishing Pills left. I'll try to procure more. After all, without the pills, my cultivation speed will slow down considerably,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself before he began to cultivate. Three months ago, he was given four Spirit Nourishing Pills. During the journey to the County City, he had consumed two pills to cultivate when he had time.

When Duan Ling Tian was cultivating, he seemed to have forgotten about the passage of time. Who knew if it was hours or a few days when he was finally woken up by Zheng Qiu's voice.

"Both of you are really lucky. Not too long ago, Lord County Governor, Revered Elder Zhou, and a few elders had prepared a cultivation location for you. It's a good location with a great cultivation



environment. The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy there is almost as rich as the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in Lord County Governor and Revered Elder Zhou Tong's cultivation place. Their cultivation places are considered the best in Nine Specters County," Zheng Qiu said as a hint of envy flashed in his eyes. Although his cultivation environment was quite good, it was still a far cry compared to the County Governor and Zhou Tong's cultivation environments!

Qin Yu's eyes brightened in excitement when he heard Zheng Qiu's words.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian seemed to detect an underlying meaning in Zheng Qiu's words. "The best cultivation environment for us? Elder Zheng Qiu, does this mean not everyone is allowed to cultivate in the location that Lord County Governor has prepared?"

### **Chapter 2634 Latent Dragon Abyss**

Zheng Qiu led Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu away from his residence to the east of the County Governor's estate. They passed through many places before they eventually arrived near a stone platform that was located in a vast open space. At glance, many people could be seen practicing and sparring. Apart from that, based on their auras, all of them shared a common trait; they were all younger than 100 years old! "These people are the Golden Celestials younger than 100 years old. They're from the cities in Nine Specters County and some are from neighboring places of County City. The former is like both of you, selected by their respective City Governors. The latter is personally selected by the County Governor's estate," Zheng Qiu explained to Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu.

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu instinctively turned to look at the stone platform and the 12 young men with strong auras. Apart from four pairs of men who were sparring, the other four men were looking at them as well.

"Down the stairway, in the middle of the stone platform, is the cultivation location for you in the County Governor's estate from today onward," Zheng Qiu said.

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu averted their eyes to where Zheng Qiu was looking. They saw a giant pit in the middle of the giant stone platform. It was not dug out, but it was deliberately built when the stone platform was made.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu followed Zheng Qiu and landed on the center of the stone platform before the stairway. The stairway led into the giant pit where one could see its interior clearly. There were about 20 stone chambers with stone doors on the side of the stairway. The 20 stone chambers were separated by every 30 steps.

Zheng Qiu began to explain, "This stairway has a total of 900 steps. The first 30 steps down the stairway is where the first stone chamber is located. It's also the one with the worst cultivation environment. After another 30 steps, you have the second stone chamber with a slightly better cultivation environment compared to the first one. Naturally, the last and innermost stone chamber has the best cultivation environment. It's comparable to the cultivation environment of Lord County Governor and Revered Elder Zhou Tong. The cultivation environment of the second last stone chamber is roughly the same as the cultivation environment in my room while the third to last stone chamber has the same cultivation environment in my courtyard." He paused for a moment before he continued to speak, "Lord

County Governor named this place the Latent Dragon Abyss. This place is created by him and many revered elders and inner-estate elders. You can temper yourself in this place. You'll have to rely on yourself to obtain the chamber with the best cultivation environment. You'll have to defeat the occupant of the stone chamber you want to claim for your own if it's already occupied!"

Based on Zheng Qiu's explanation, Duan Ling Tian easily understood the rules and situation of the Latent Dragon Abyss. The cultivation environment was the best in the stone chamber at the bottom of the stairs. If one wanted to claim an occupied chamber, one would have to challenge the occupant. Naturally, the battle for the chamber would be conducted under a set of rules to prevent mishaps. The combatants can only defeat the opponent without severely injuring their opponent. However, the challenged party could severely injure the challenger but was not allowed to kill or cripple the challenger.

"The occupant of the stone chamber in the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss who managed to stay in the room for a month will receive three primitive Spirit Nourishing Pills as well?" Duan Ling Tian's eyes brightened when he learned about this. He was, naturally, excited since he was running out of pills.

Swoosh!

Without saying anything to Zheng Qiu and Qin Yu, Duan Ling Tian quickly made his way to the stone chamber located in the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss.

Seeing that Duan Ling Tian had rushed into the Latent Dragon Abyss, Zheng Qiu, naturally, understood his plan. A bitter smile appeared on his face as he complained good-naturedly, "This kid is so... I'm not even done talking!" He turned to Qin Yu and said, "Qin Yu, I don't think you're in the mood to listen to me as well. In any case, after staying here for a week or two, you'll eventually learn about what I had to say. I'll let you explore this place on your own." After he finished speaking, he flew into the air and disappeared from the Latent Dragon Abyss.

From the beginning, Qin Yu's gaze had been following Duan Ling Tian when Duan Ling Tian had gone into the Latent Dragon Abyss. However, since Zheng Qiu was around, he decided to stay put. As soon as Zheng Qiu left, he shot into the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss as well.

After Zheng Qiu left, he thought to himself, 'I think the Latent Dragon Abyss will be very lively today,' He knew Duan Ling Tian was strong so he did not doubt Duan Ling Tian would be able to occupy the stone chamber in the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss. He even thought the stone chamber was specially designed for him.

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In Latent Dragon Abyss.

"Who's he?"

"I haven't seen him before."

Duan Ling Tian who had rushed into the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss, naturally, attracted the attention of the young men who had come out of their stone chambers. They watched as Duan Ling Tian made his way to the deepest part of the abyss.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian looked at the stone door closely. Needless to say, the stone door was from the stone chamber with the best cultivation environment. He lifted his hand and a gust of wind landed on the door violently, producing a booming noise. He said confidently, "I, Duan Ling Tian, have come to challenge you for this stone chamber!" His voice was calm when he spoke.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Qin Yu had finally arrived.

Apart from the few young men who had just exited their respective stone chambers, more and more people began to emerge from their respective stone chambers when they heard the commotion.

"H-he intends to challenge the occupant of the deepest stone chamber?"

"Heavens! He's really brave! Although the occupant is less than 100 years old, he's a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. He's much stronger than us"

"This person is unfamiliar so he must be new."

"Based on what I heard, the representatives from Bloody Specter City aren't here yet. Could he be from Bloody Specter City?"

"Eh? Another unfamiliar face?" Someone soon discovered Qin Yu.

"This man must have come with the purple-clad young man. To date, we haven't seen the candidates from Bloody Specter City. If I'm not mistaken, they should be the two candidates from that city," a young man said.

Many people agreed with this young man's words.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sound of wind blowing whistled in the air as more figures entered from outside. As soon as they reached the deepest area of the abyss, all of them turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

"Didn't the purple-clad young man come with Elder Zheng Qiu?"

"Right. Elder Zheng Qiu seems to be responsible for escorting and guarding the candidates from Bloody Specter City. It seems like he's one of the candidates from Bloody Specter City."

"I remember he has a companion with him."

"He's over there!"

A few of them who had just entered the Latent Dragon Abyss shifted their gazes to Qin Yu. They knew he had come together with Duan Ling Tian.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A rumbling sound rang in the air as the stone door that Duan Ling Tian was looking at slowly opened.

At the same time, a cold and emotionless voice rang from behind the door, "Are you planning to challenge me for this stone chamber?"

When the door was fully opened, it revealed a young man with a medium build and an average appearance. He looked so average that it would be hard to locate him in a sea of people. Although his expression was calm, his eyes were fierce as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. It was as though he could not wait to kill Duan Ling Tian!

### **Chapter 2635 Zhou Fei**

"Zhou Fei has come out!"

"Inexperienced people are usually fearless. This guy just came from Bloody Specter City, and he wants to challenge Zhou Fei for the best stone chamber for cultivation!"

"I heard his name is Duan Ling Tian. Even his name sounds as arrogant as him."

"You're right, he's really arrogant. He has just arrived at the Latent Dragon Abyss, and he's already challenging the occupant of the best stone chamber. Does he really think it's easy to take over the best stone chamber?"

Someone scoffed. "If it were so easy, I would've already challenged Zhou Fei!"

"How badly do you think Zhou Fei will injure him?"

The onlooker discussed Duan Ling Tian and the occupant of the best stone chamber, Zhou Fei. It was clear from their discussion that they did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to take over Zhou Fei's stone chamber.

"Zhou Fei is a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial, he's also Revered Elder Zhou Tong's godson. Who hasn't heard of Revered Elder Zhou Tong? He's famous in the Nine Specters County!"

"I heard that Revered Elder Zhou Tong took a liking to Zhou Fei because of his innate talent and high cultivation base. Initially, he accepted Zhou Fei as his direct disciple, and later on, he made Zhou Fei his godson. That's why Zhou Fei who used to be called Chen Fei changed his last name to Zhou."

"Rumor has it that Zhou Fei renounced his former master to become Revered Elder Zhou Tong's disciple."

"I heard about that as well. Zhou Fei's former master was extremely furious by Zhou Fei's betrayal. In the end, I heard he was killed by Revered Elder Zhou Tong!"

Someone made a shushing noise before saying softly, "Lower your voice. Are you seeking death?"

The soft discussions in the surroundings were, naturally, heard by Duan Ling Tian. Through this, he learned about the identity of the young man who stood before him.

'Zhou Tong's godson?' Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he studied the young man called Zhou Fei. Zhou Fei was able to remain calm with no changes in his expression despite the discussions of his betrayal of his former master and how his former master was killed by Zhou Tong. He continued to observe the seemingly unaffected Zhou Fei, unable to figure him out, before he finally discovered a gleam of anger in his eyes. He chuckled inwardly. 'Well, he's not as unaffected as he seems to be. I thought he didn't care.'

Swoosh!

While Duan Ling Tian was still observing Zhou Fei, Zhou Fei made a move. Unexpectedly, he did not move toward Duan Ling Tian. Instead, he made his way to the group of onlookers. His gaze was fixed on one man,

'It seemed like this man is the one who said Zhou Tong betrayed his former master to follow Zhou Tong.' Duan Ling Tian recognized the man who seemed to have become Zhou Fei's target.

At this moment, Zhou Fei said in an icy-cold voice, "I don't think choosing a leader to follow is a betrayal." His voice was so cold that it made people feel as though they were in an ice cave.

The expression of the young man who had spoken carelessly earlier changed drastically. He shook his head in panic and hastily waved his hands. "Zhou Fei, I... I was just casually talking. I.. It doesn't mean anything."

"Since you dare to utter such words, you should be prepared to pay the price," Zhou Fei said coldly. His eyes were like chips of ice as he flipped his hand. A knife appeared in his hand instantly.

Buzz!

In the next moment, lights radiated from Zhou Fei's palm, and the sound of a saber cry rang in the air.

A miserable and wretched cry rang in the air, accompanied by the soft sound of something being cut. The noises were particularly loud since it had been quiet in the Latent Dragon Abyss.

The expressions of the onlookers changed dramatically when they saw this. All of them looked at Zhou Fei warily and fearfully.

Duan Ling Tian's expression turned grave as he thought to himself, 'How vicious! He severed that man's arm just because he had spoken the truth.'

Since there were rules where they were prohibited from permanently crippling or killing anyone in the Latent Dragon Abyss, Zhou Fei did not dare to destroy the arm. This allowed the man to quickly grab his severed arm so he could reattach it.

'Even if the arm is reattached, he would have to rest for a long time to completely recover. During the healing process, he would have to spend a great deal of energy to take care of his arms to prevent problems in the future. This would inevitably delay and affect his cultivation,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

“If it’s not because we’re prohibited from killing and permanently crippling someone in the Latent Dragon Abyss, you would have died!” Zhou Fei said as he coldly looked at the young man whose arm was severed.

The man was so scared that he lowered his head, afraid to meet Zhou Fei’s gaze. He was afraid he would incur Zhou Fei’s wrath again.

Meanwhile, the onlookers, those who were there from the beginning and those who arrived later due to the commotion, looked at Zhou Fei warily.

“He’s so ruthless!”

“We really should avoid offending Zhou Fei!”

At this moment, Zhou Fei shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian. He studied Duan Ling Tian in a contemptuous manner for a moment before he said nonchalantly, “You’re Duan Ling Tian? Well, if you sever your arm and kowtow to me three times, I’ll pretend like you didn’t challenge me. Otherwise, I’ll sever all four of your limbs to make you suffer when I defeat you!” His eyes gleamed viciously as he spoke.

The onlookers shifted their attention to Duan Ling Tian instantly, and they began to discuss furtively among themselves.

“It seems like Zhou Fei is truly furious.”

“I wonder if this guy from Bloody Specter City is smart. If he knows what’s good for him, he should sever one of his arms. After all, it’d heal in no time. If Zhou Fei severed all four of his limbs, it would be difficult for him to completely recover.”

“That’s right. It might take a while, but a severed arm would be completely healed with time. However, to have all four limbs severed is a different story altogether.”

“Of course, the process of healing is much more difficult compared to just having an arm severed.”

The onlookers were curious about what Duan Ling Tian would do.

Only Qin Yu was unperturbed. He knew what choice Duan Ling Tian would make. He thought to himself, ‘There’s no doubt Zhou Fei is highly talented for being a Yellow Sun Golden even though he’s less than 100 years old. Unfortunately, his opponent is Duan Ling Tian who’s a monstrous genius...’

The onlooker continued to discuss among themselves. Most of them were certain that Duan Ling Tian would choose to sever his arm instead of persisting to challenge Zhou Fei for the stone chamber with the best cultivation environment.

“Duan Ling Tian, this man from Bloody Specter City, should surrender now that he witnessed Zhou Fei’s strength, right?”

“Well, if he’s smart, he’ll sever his arm, kowtow, and beg for forgiveness.”

“Based on his appearance, he seems like a smart person. He should know what’s the best course of action to take.”

At this time, Duan Ling Tian casually spat out a word as he glanced at Zhou Fei, “Idiot!”

Everyone, including Qin Yu who had confidence in Duan Ling Tian, was shocked by this. They did not expect Duan Ling Tian would scold Zhou Fei who was the godson of the Zhou Tong, a Revered Elder in the County Governor’s estate. Was he not afraid of offending Zhou Tong?

When Zhou Fei regained his senses, he was breathing heavily out of anger. His chest rose and fell quickly as he said, “H-how dare you call me an idiot?” He looked at Duan Ling Tian fiercely as killing intent surged from his body. It was clear he wanted to cut Duan Ling Tian into pieces and turn them into ashes!

Duan Ling Tian frowned impatiently, “Just make your move.” He glanced at the stone chamber before he said again, “I can’t wait to cultivate in there.” The way he spoke was as though the stone chamber was already his.

Meanwhile, the onlookers gasped loudly when they heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. They looked at him as though he was a dead man walking.

“Is this guy from Bloody Specter City insane?”

“Zhou Fei is Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s godson because he’s highly talented. He’s not a weakling. Moreover, he didn’t rely on his relationship with Revered Elder Zhou Tong to obtain the stone chamber with the best cultivation environment in the Latent Dragon Abyss.”

“This guy from Bloody Specter City should have heard us saying that Zhou Fei is a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. However, he’s acting as though he didn’t hear us at all. Does he think he’s capable of taking on a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial?”

“If he comes from King Qing’s Mansion, he might be strong enough to defeat Zhou Fei. However, he’s from Bloody Specter City where the cultivation environment and resources aren’t very good. How can he possibly defeat Zhou Fei under those circumstances?.”

Everyone, except for Qin Yu, thought Duan Ling Tian was overestimating himself. There was no way he would be a match for Zhou Fei.

At this moment, Zhou Fei said, “How arrogant! Since you prefer to have four of your limbs severed, I’ll fulfill your wish!” His Celestial Origin Energy surged up like a flame, causing the temperature in the Latent Dragon Abyss to rise.

Bang!

A loud explosion sounded in the air as the flame on Zhou Fei’s body seemed to explode before he lunged toward Duan Ling Tian.

Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!

The ear-piercing sound of a saber cry rang in the air, accompanied by the dazzling lights of saber rays.

**Chapter 2636 Defeating Zhou Fei!**

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Numerous saber rays shot toward Duan Ling Tian. With so many saber rays, it was inevitable that some of them would land on the stone wall of the Latent Dragon Abyss. The saber rays left visibly deep marks on the wall.

The masonry of the Latent Dragon Abyss was extremely unique. Otherwise, with his Celestial Origin Energy and the profundity of his Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, Zhou Fei's saber rays would have caused more damage to the wall. It could be considered impressive that he even managed to leave marks on the wall. After all, the walls were so hardy that even an ordinary Crimson Sun Golden Celestial would not be able to leave a mark on it. Based on this, one could see how powerful Zhou Fei's attack was. Moreover, he had not even taken out his Celestial Weapon yet.

"So powerful!"

"This is the strength of a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial!"

As Zhou Fei charged toward Duan Ling Tian in the sky full of saber rays, the onlookers held their breaths and stared unblinkingly at the sight before them. The saber rays were like mini suns surrounding Zhou Fei. As they swept toward Duan Ling Tian, it seemed as though they were going to drown him.

Upon seeing this, everyone, except for Qin Yu, was certain Duan Ling Tian would have four of his limbs severed.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian's calm voice rang out. "Is this all you got?" Although his voice was not loud, it sounded deafening in everyone's ears.

Xiu! Xiu! Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!

Before anyone, including Zhou Fei, had time to reach, a series of sword cries rang in the Latent Dragon Abyss.

'Duan Ling Tian is making his move!' Qin Yu thought to himself.

Countless sword rats appeared among the saber rays at this moment.

As soon as the thought appeared in Qin Yu's mind, the sword rays shone with an intense and dazzling radiance, lighting up the entire Latent Dragon Abyss. It was blindingly bright that most people had to squint their eyes to see.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

At the same time, a series of explosions resounded in the air.

When the onlookers finally opened their eyes, they were shocked to see the saber rays that surrounded Zhou Fei had completely vanished. It... It seemed like Zhou Fei's attack had been nullified! Only the sword rays remained. They were like a school of piranhas swimming toward their prey as they headed for Zhou Fei.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!



Another series of deafening explosions rang in the air again. It stirred up a hurricane, causing everyone's robes to flutter. Those with a weaker cultivation base staggered backward from the force of the wind.

A hint of anxiety could be heard in Zhou Fei's voice as he said threateningly, "My godfather is Revered Elder Zhou Tong in the County Governor's estate. If you dare to injure me, not only would you violate the rules of the Latent Dragon Abyss' rules, but you'll risk offending my godfather as well!" At this moment, he was no longer as arrogant and smug as before. Fear was apparent in his eyes as he looked at the tens of thousands of sword rays that were flying toward him. He tried to flee, but he discovered the sword rays had locked onto him. Even if he ran, they would still chase after him.

"People make mistakes, it's human nature..." Duan Ling Tian said indifferently with a dark expression on his face in response to Zhou Fei's threats.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, the sword rays brightened again. Their speed increased as they flew toward Zhou Fei, completely destroying the shield that Zhou Fei had conjured up in a hurry. In just an instant, the sword rays severed all four of Zhou Fei's limbs.

After that, Duan Ling Tian stopped his attack. He did not destroy Zhou Fei's limbs nor kill him.

After a moment of delay, Zhou Fei's wretched cry rang in the Latent Dragon Abyss. His miserable cries lasted for several breaths. When he stopped screaming, everyone could see he was drenched in sweat, and his eyes were bloodshot. It was obvious he had suffered extreme agony.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Zhou Fei split his Celestial Origin Energy into four and caught his limbs before reattaching them. After that, some colors finally returned to his pallid face. His eyes gleamed with resentment and anger as he glared at Duan Ling Tian and said, "Duan Ling Tian, as the challenger, you had severely injured the one you challenged. This is a blatant disregard for the rules set by Lord County Governor. I, Zhou Fei, will not let this matter go!"

Duan Ling Tian only spared Zhou Fei a dismissive glance before he said indifferently, "If you don't want to have your limbs severed again, hand over the access to the stone chamber!"

Zhou Fei's expression changed drastically upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. He threw a jade slip to Duan Ling Tian and glared at him before he left the Latent Dragon Abyss under everyone's watchful eyes.

During the battle earlier, apart from not wielding his Celestial Weapon, Zhou Fei had unleashed all his strength. Even then, he was thoroughly defeated by Duan Ling Tian. Moreover, he could see the entire process clearly. Duan Ling Tian did not wield a Celestial Weapon as well. Under these circumstances, he was aware he was no match for Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, he did not continue to fight after Duan Ling Tian had nullified his attack. He knew the gap between him and Duan Ling Tian was quite wide.

Upon gaining access to the stone chamber, Duan Ling Tian looked at Qin Yu and said, "Qin Yu, I'm going in." Following that, he sent his soul energy into the jade talisman that Zhou Fei had surrendered to him to claim ownership. This would allow the Formations in the stone chamber to recognize him and grant him entry.

Every stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss was the same. They had Formations that corresponded to jade talismans that allowed those who owned the jade talismans to come and go freely.

Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time and entered the stone chamber immediately, leaving the onlooker in the Latent Dragon Abyss looking at each other in silence.

Eventually, a blue-clad young man in the Latent Dragon Abyss broke the silence. "Heavens! That's... That young powerhouse from Bloody Spectre City actually defeated Zhou Fei and severed four of his limbs with just one move!"

"Indeed. It seems like he's in a different league from Zhou Fei based on how easily he defeated Zhou Fei!"

"I wonder what's his cultivation base? He should be stronger than a Green Sun Golden Celestial. After all, even Zhou Fei who's a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial was defeated with one move!"

"The name of the young powerhouse from Bloody Spectre City is Duan Ling Tian... I've never heard of someone like him in Bloody Spectre City."

Most people had regained their senses at this point. All of them were in shock and felt as though they were dreaming. To them, Zhou Fei was almost invincible. However, a newcomer from Bloody Specter City had easily defeated him with one move! They might not have noticed it yet, but they had begun to refer to Duan Ling Tian as a young powerhouse instead of that young man from Bloody Specter City.

Soon after, someone looked at Qin Yu and asked enthusiastically, "Brother, are you from Bloody Specter City as well?"

"Yes." Qin Yu nodded.

The same person asked, "I saw that young powerhouse from Bloody Specter City spoke to you earlier... Are both of you close?" The same person asked.

"I wouldn't say we're close even though we've chatted a few times. We merely came from the same place. We do talk though." Qin Yu said frankly.

Another person could not help but ask curiously, "Do you know his cultivation base? Is he a Green Sun Golden Celestial? Or a Blue Sun Golden Celestial? If he's a Blue Sun Golden Celestial, then he's probably the only Blue Sun Golden Celestial who's younger than 100 years old in the entire Nine Spectre County in the past 1,000 years!"

"I'm not sure." Qin Yu shook his head. It was true he did not know what Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was, but he knew for sure that Duan Ling Tian was not even a Crimson Sun Golden Celestial, let alone a Green Sun or a Blue Sun Golden Celestial!

'The Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that Duan Ling Tian mastered are likely at the heaven-grade,' Qin Yu thought to himself. It was only natural for him to think this way. After all, Duan Ling Tian was only a Heavenly Celestial who had just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven half a year ago. The only reason he was so powerful had to be due to his heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities.

A few people began to discuss among themselves again.

“I’m afraid things won’t bode well for him even if he’s a Blue Sun Golden Celestial... Not only did he offend Zhou Tong by severing Zhou Fei’s limbs, but he completely disregarded the rules set by the County Governor. With just this, he has offended two of the strongest people in the Nine Specters County!”

“Although he had disregarded the rules in Latent Dragon Abyss, Lord County Governor might let things slide considering how talented he is. However, since this involves Revered Elder Zhou Tong, I’m afraid things won’t be resolved so easily.”

Upon hearing the discussions in his surroundings, a grim and worried expression appeared on Qin Yu’s face.

### **Chapter 2637 The Mystery Surrounding Qin Yu**

Although they did not interact much in Bloody Specter City, Duan Ling Tian had saved Qin Yu’s life during their journey to the County City of the Nine Specters County. For this reason, he felt he owed Duan Ling Tian his life. He had also begun to regard Duan Ling Tian as a friend. How could he not worry after hearing the discussion in his surroundings? After mulling it over for a moment, he thought to himself, ‘With Duan Ling Tian’s intelligence, he should be aware of all these things.’ He was certain Duan Ling Tian was aware of the consequences of severing Zhou Fei’s limbs.

Qin Yu smiled bitterly and shook his head. ‘Why would he do something like that if he knows it’ll only bring him trouble? Not only will he offend Zhou Tong, but he also blatantly disregarded the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss set by Lord County Governor!’ He really could not understand Duan Ling Tian’s thoughts.

Meanwhile, the discussions in the surroundings showed no signs of dying down.

“The Latent Dragon Abyss is going to be lively in the coming days.”

“Duan Ling Tian caused a buzz in the Latent Dragon Abyss that was like a pool of still water as soon as he arrived. I wonder when Revered Elder Zhou Tong will come to avenge his godson?”

“With Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s position and status in the County Governor’s estate, is there a need for him to personally make a move? As long as he informs Lord County Governor about this, Duan Ling Tian wouldn’t be able to get away with this.”

“I agree.”

Eventually, the crowd that was gathered near Duan Ling Tian’s newly-acquired stone chamber in the depth of the Latent Dragon Abyss began to disperse.

As for Qin Yu, he had chosen the stone chamber at the highest point in the Latent Dragon Abyss. Naturally, he also wanted a stone chamber with a better cultivation environment, but he was not in a hurry. He wanted to gain a better understanding of the others before he issued a challenge to obtain a stone chamber with a better cultivation environment. After all, he was not like Duan Ling Tian who was capable of defeating most Golden Celestials in the Nine Specter County even though he was not even 100 years old!

Whoosh!

Qin Yu raised his arm to retrieve the jade token that would allow him access to the stone chamber before establishing ownership over it. He quickly entered the stone chamber and began to cultivate. Although his stone chamber had the worst cultivation environment in the Latent Dragon Abyss, it was not worse than the Black Dragon Army's camp. It was still acceptable to him.

Before Qin Yu cultivated, he still could not help but worry about Duan Ling Tian. 'I hope Duan Ling Tian has a way to deal with what's coming.' However, regardless of how much he worried about it, with his current strength, there was nothing he could do to help. It was useless for him to dwell on this matter.

As though he had recalled something, Qin Yu's expression darkened. 'If I weren't... If it were back then, it would've been easy for me to solve Duan Ling Tian's problem. All I needed to do was say the word...' His eyes gleamed coldly as a majestic aura not inferior to an emperor exuded from his body. 'I hope Zhou Tong and the County Governor of Nine Specters City don't go overboard. Otherwise, I'll make sure they die a painful death!'

After that, Qin Yu inhaled deeply to calm down and began to focus on cultivating.

...

In the depths of the Latent Dragon Abyss where the stone chamber with the best cultivation environment was located.

"What a rich and dense Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy!" Duan Ling Tian was surprised at the richness and density of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy as soon as he entered the stone chamber. He was instantly shrouded by the energy. It took him a while to regain his senses.

"The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy here feels several times richer than the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in Elder Zheng Qiu's residence! It's truly worthy of being compared to the cultivation place of the County Governor. This is truly a great place to cultivate!"

Before he sat down cross-legged on a stone bed in the stone chamber, he inhaled deeply. His eyes gleamed as though he had thought of something as he muttered under his breath, "This stone chamber is mine as long as I'm in the Nine Specters County. No one can take it away from me!"

A good cultivation environment played a big part in one's cultivation progress. In the Nine Spectre County, there was no doubt the County Governor had the best cultivation place and environment. Now that Duan Ling Tian obtained a cultivation place that was as good as the County Governor, how could he be willing to give it up? As long as he was in Nine Specters City, he would cultivate here.

"I don't think it'd take long for me to become a Golden Celestial as long as I keep cultivating in here!" Duan Ling Tian was confident about discovering how good the cultivation environment was in the stone chamber. He was optimistic about becoming a Golden Celestial. It was a huge feat to become a Golden Celestial from a Heavenly Celestial.

Duan Ling Tian took out his prominent Celestial Stone and closed his eyes before he began to cultivate.

Crystal Clearance Tactic!

If someone could see him now, they would see the Heaven and Earth Spirit and the refined energy from the prominent Celestial Grade swirling like a mist around him before entering his body. After they entered his body, they circulated in his body according to the yellow-grade cultivation method, the Crystal Clearance Tactic, through his 99 Heavenly Veins. The energy contained the efficacy of the remaining Spirit Nourishing Pill as well as they circulated in his body. With this, his cultivation was improving at a visible rate at every second and minute.

...

Although it was peaceful in the Latent Dragon Abyss, everyone knew it was just the calm before the storm.

The County Governor's estate might be vast, but news spread like a wildfire here. Every little thing that happened in there would be quickly made known in the estate.

"Hey! Did you hear about what happened in the Latent Dragon Abyss earlier today?"

"I did! I heard one of the Golden Celestials who's younger than 100 years old whom Elder Zheng Qiu brought back from Bloody Spectre City severed all four limbs of Revered Elder Zhou Tong's godson, Zhou Fei, the moment he arrived at the Latent Dragon Abyss. Although Zhou Fei can reattach his limbs, I think there'll still be some side effects."

"That's right! I really didn't expect a rural place like Bloody Spectre City to have such a Golden Celestial. You know Zhou Fei is a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. Prior to this, I've never heard of any Golden Celestial below the age of 100 who's more outstanding than him."

"Well, life's like that. There's always someone stronger and better out there."

"You're right. The Golden Celestial from Bloody Specter City is going to be famous."

"By now, this news should've spread out of the County Governor's estate, right? It won't take long before the entire county knows about this."

"At that time, Duan Ling Tian's going to be really famous!"

...

When the news finally spread to Zheng Qiu, the inner-estate elder in the County Governor's estate, he was stunned. In the end, he only smiled bitterly. "That boy really is a troublemaker!"

Zheng Qiu heaved a long sigh as he thought to himself, 'You just arrived at the County Governor's estate and the Latent Dragon Abyss, and you've already caused such big trouble. I understand you want the stone chamber with the best cultivation environment, but why would you sever Zhou Fei's limbs? This will only offend Revered Elder Zhou Tong. Moreover, your actions are a blatant disregard of Lord County Governor's rules! Boy, you're on your own. I don't think I can help you this time.'

Zheng Qiu had a favorable impression of Duan Ling Tian and was willing to help Duan Ling Tian if he could. However, this was way beyond his capability. There was nothing he could do to help Duan Ling Tian.

...

In the County Governor's estate, outside the residence of the number one elder, Revered Elder Zhou Tong.

After quickly dealing with his injuries, Zhou Fei had rushed to see Zhou Tong. "What did you say? Godfather left half a month ago?" His expression darkened when he heard Zhou Tong had been away for half a month now. He asked in a low voice, "How come I wasn't informed about this?"

The servant in Zhou Tong's residence said with a forced smile on his face, "Young Master Fei, this is a secret trip. Even Lord County Governor is unaware of it. I wouldn't have disclosed this matter to you if you didn't insist on going on. Lord Revered Elder had said that no one is allowed to know about this."

"Fine, I'll just go to Lord County Governor since godfather isn't around! Since Duan Ling Tian blatantly disregarded the rule in the Latent Dragon Abyss, I'm sure Lord County Governor will punish him!"

Zhou Fei did not think much about the reason his godfather had left in such a secretive manner. At this moment, he was only filled with anger.

After he left Zhou Tong's residence, he instantly went to the County Governor's residence.

...

In the main hall of the County Governor's residence.

After the inner-estate elders finished reporting to the County Governor and left, Zhou Fei who had been standing at the side stepped forward immediately. He fell to his knees as he said, "Lord County Governor, you have to seek justice for me!"

The County Governor of Nine Specters County was a tall and well-built middle-aged man. His face was angular, and his features were defined. His eyebrows were thick, and he had big round eyes. He had a majestic air about him as well. At this moment, he was dressed in a long silver robe that was embroidered with a silver dragon.

### **Chapter 2638 The Representative of King Qing's Mansion**

Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of the Nine Specters County, glanced at Zhou Fei and said indifferently, "Stand up and speak." As the County Governor, he had, naturally, heard about the incident in Latent Dragon Abyss. In fact, he knew that someone would be coming to see him today in regard to the incident. However, he thought Zhou Tong, the strongest Revered Elder in the County Governor's estate, would come looking for him. He did not expect to see Zhou Fei instead. Based on his knowledge of Zhou Tong's character, he would definitely go looking for Duan Ling Tian in the Latent Dragon Abyss as soon as he learned about what happened. If Duan Ling Tian was willing to become Zhou Tong's direct disciple, there was a chance he might let the matter slide. After all, Duan Ling Tian would be more valuable in Zhou Tong's eyes compared to his godson, Zhou Fei. Ultimately, Duan Ling Tian was a powerhouse who was not even 100 years of age, like Zhou Fei, but Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat his godson with just a move. Based on that, there was no doubt Duan Ling Tian would achieve greater heights compared to Zhou Fei. However, he learned from Zheng Qiu, an inner-estate elder, that Duan Ling Tian who came from Bloody Specter City would never agree to become Zhou Tong's direct disciple. Therefore, he

expected Zhou Tong to come see him and request for Duan Ling Tian to be severely punished for violating the rules!

Zhou Fei rose to his feet, but his head was lowered. He said angrily, "Lord County Governor, Duan Ling Tian from Bloody Specter City has crossed the line! He's aware of the rules in Latent Dragon Abyss where the challengers are prohibited from severely injuring or killing the person he challenges, and yet, he severed all my limbs. His blatant disregard for the rules you've set is obvious, my lord." He tried to fan the flames by deliberately saying Duan Ling Tian had no regard for the County Governor.

However, as the County Governor of Nine Specters City, how could Ji Tian Yu not see through Zhou Fei's intention? He asked, "Where's Revered Elder Zhou Tong? Why isn't he here with you?"

"Godfather, he..." Zhou Fei said before abruptly stopping. He was about to say his godfather was not present in the estate when he remembered his godfather's trip was supposed to be a secret that even the County Governor was not privy to. He quickly made up an excuse. "Godfather has gone into closed-door cultivation so I didn't want to bother him."

As a Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate and one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County, by right, Zhou Tong had to inform the County Governor if he was leaving the estate. Since Zhou Tong did not inform the County Governor of his trip, it was clear he meant to keep this a secret from the County Governor. For this reason, Zhou Fei did not dare to speak about it.

"I see." Tian Ji Yu did not doubt Zhou Fei's words. He nodded before he said, "Give me a few days to deal with the matter. At that time, I'll give you and the Latent Dragon Abyss an answer!"

"Okay." Upon hearing that, Zhou Fei felt assured. In his opinion, the County Governor would not be biased even if Duan Ling Tian was much more talented than him and had a higher cultivation base. After all, his godfather was the strongest Revered Elder in the County Governor's estate. Not only that, but his godfather was one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County. His godfather was definitely more important and valuable compared to Duan Ling Tian.

Zhou Fei who felt much better bowed before he left. "Lord County Governor, I'll take my leave then."

Indeed, Tian Ji Yu's thoughts were just as Zhou Fei had speculated. However, before he punished Duan Ling Tian, he had to discover every detail of that incident. Therefore, he sent his men to investigate the matter.

...

Two days later.

The County Governor's estate of Nine Specters County welcomed a distinguished guest today. The guest was none other than a delegate of King Qing's Mansion. The delegate had come to convey a message from King Qing to Tian Ji Yu, the County Chief's Mansion of the Nine Spectre County.

In the main hall of the County Governor's estate.

Tian Ji Yu respectfully invited the delegate from King Qing's mansion to take the main seat. Although they were both Great Overarching Golden Celestials, his status was, naturally, different from someone

who came from King Qing's Mansion. After all, the delegate from King Qing's Mansion represented King Qing himself. This person was not someone he wanted to offend.

The delegate from King Qing's Mansion was an old man with white hair who was dressed in white robes. However, his face was relatively youthful. He exuded an otherworldly aura.

"County Governor Tian," The white-clad old man looked at Tian Ji Yu and said with a faint smile, "We've not seen each other for decades... Tell me, how have you been all these years?"

"Thank you for your concern. I have been well," Tian Ji Yu responded with a smile.

"I came on King Qing's order to bring you a message, County Governor Tian." The white-clad old man did not beat around the bush and said, "After three years, sixteen counties, including the Nine Specters County, will each send 30 Golden Celestials below the age of 100 to King Qing's Mansion for the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties. The top ten participants of the competition would be heavily rewarded. Moreover, the county the participants come from would also be rewarded. The participant who ranks first would be given three mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills. The participant who ranks second would receive two Great Overarching Pills, and the participant who ranks third would receive one Great Overarching Pill." He seemed a bit excited as he said, "I don't need to explain the effects of a Great Overarching Pill to you, right, County Governor Tian?"

Upon hearing this, Tian Ji Yu inhaled sharply. A hint of enthusiasm could be seen in his eyes at this moment. Although the Great Overarching Pill was only a mediocre Celestial Pill, it was one of the top mediocre Celestial Pills. Moreover, due to the uniqueness and rarity of some of its ingredients, the pills were considered more valuable than some prominent Celestial Pills. The pills could improve the cultivation base of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, and if a peak Golden Celestial took the pill, it was almost guaranteed that the peak Golden Celestial would become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial! One could see it in this way; one Great Overarching Pill could produce one Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

Tian Ji Yu thought to himself, 'With my current cultivation base, if I take two of the pills, I'll definitely be able to break through the bottleneck I've been stuck in for the past few hundred years.' He continued thinking to himself, 'If any two of the 30 Golden Celestials below the age of 100 I send to the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties manages to rank in the top three, this means the Nine Specters County would receive at least two Great Overarching Pills. It would definitely help me to break through. Moreover, the Nine Specters County will probably have another Great Overarching Golden Celestial as well!' His breathing quickened the more he thought about it. His chest rose and fell rapidly, he was clearly excited.

At this moment, the white-clad old man looked at Tian Ji Yu and said, "I heard the Nine Spectre County has a young powerhouse called Zhou Fei who's a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. You have three years to train him. It's not impossible for him to rank in the top three of the competition. If Zhou Fei is able to rank third, he'll be able to obtain a Great Overarching Pill." A flash of enthusiasm could be seen in his eyes as he spoke about the mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill again.



“Zhou Fei?” Tian Ji Yu was momentarily stunned when he heard the white-clad old man’s words. Then, Duan Ling Tian who had just arrived from Bloody Specter City appeared in his mind.

Although Zhou Fei was rather strong and talented, Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat Zhou Fei and severed his limbs with just a strike. Based on this, it was clear that Duan Ling Tian’s strength and talent were significantly better than Zhou Fei!

“Since I’ve already conveyed the message from King Qing, I’ll take my leave now. See you in three years, County Governor Tian. I hope your Nine Specters County’s Zhou Fei would shine during the competition and rank in the top three of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties!” After he finished speaking, he did not waste any time and left immediately.

After sending the white-clad old man off, Tian Ji Yu stood outside the great hall and looked in the direction of the Latent Dragon Abyss. His eyes shone brightly as he thought to himself, ‘I, Ji Tian Yu, must obtain the mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill!’

...

Another day passed in just a blink of an eye.

It was destined that today would not be a peaceful day in the City Governor’s estate. This was due to the announcement the City Governor had made. It was related to the incident three days ago where Duan Ling Tian had severed Zhou Fei’s limbs.

“Regarding the incident in Latent Dragon Abyss three days ago, it has been determined that it’s Elder Zheng Qiu’s fault for failing to explain the rules of the Latent Dragon Abyss to Duan Ling Tian. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian’s actions are understandable and will be forgiven. As for Elder Zheng Qiu, he’ll be punished for this incident!”

As soon as the announcement was made, silence descended on the entire County Governor’s estate.

### **Chapter 2639 Duan Ling Tian is a Golden Celestial!**

The incident from three days ago was a hot topic in the County Governor’s estate. Previously, everyone thought Duan Ling Tian was definitely going to get into trouble. After all, not only did he sever Zhou Fei’s limbs that would incur the wrath of Revered Elder Zhou Tong, but he had also disregarded the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss that had been set by the County Governor of Nine Specters County.

To everyone’s surprise, instead of heavily punishing Duan Ling Tian, the County Governor had announced that Duan Ling Tian was inculpable. The fault had been pushed to Zheng Qiu, an inner-estate elder, for failing to inform Duan Ling Tian about the rules in the Latent Dragon Estate. For this reason, Duan Ling Tian was forgiven and not subjected to any punishment.

“Elder Zheng Qiu did not tell Duan Ling Tian about the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss so it’s not Duan Ling Tian’s fault for severely injuring Zhou Fei?”

“This excuse... Doesn’t it seem forced?”

“Elder Zheng Qiu’s meticulousness is known throughout the County Governor’s estate. How could he have forgotten to inform Duan Ling Tian about the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss?”

“Why do I feel like Lord County Governor is trying to protect Duan Ling Tian?”

“That’s absurd! Why would Lord County Governor protect Duan Ling Tian? Zhou Fei is Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s godson. I’m sure Lord County Governor is more likely to take Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s side than Duan Ling Tian’s side.”

“That’s right! Regardless of how talented Duan Ling Tian is, at this point, he’s not as valuable as Revered Elder Zhou Tong!”

Similar discussions could be heard everywhere in the County Governor’s estate. Regardless of their opinions, everyone was shocked by the County Governor’s announcement. Most of them found it hard to believe that Zheng Qiu would make such a mistake. He was known for being meticulous after all. If it were some other inner-estate elders, people would have an easier time believing it.

...

In a spacious courtyard in the County Governor’s estate.

When Zheng Qiu heard the rumors that were flying around, he was seated before a stone table, drinking tea. He could not help but shake his head as a bitter smile appeared on his face. “To think I’ve been worried that Duan Ling Tian would get into trouble. Who knew he would be saved by the arrival of the delegate from King Qing’s Mansion?”

Zheng Qiu was not surprised at the news that was spreading like a wildfire. He had expected this since yesterday. After all, Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, had visited him yesterday and told him about what the delegate from King Qing’s Mansion had said.

Upon hearing Tian Ji Yu’s words, Zheng Qiu knew, at this moment, the young powerhouse whom he brought from Bloody Specter City had the same value as Zhou Tong in the City Governor’s eyes. In fact, currently, Duan Ling Tian might be even more valuable than Zhou Tong.

Zheng Qiu muttered, “Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties... The mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill... It seems like King Qing’s Mansion is going all out this time!”

Zheng Qiu knew Duan Ling Tian’s value lay with his eligibility to participate in the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties and the high likelihood of his victory. The County Governor needed Duan Ling Tian to win him the Great Overarching Pills. After all, one Great Overarching Pill could mean an extra Great Overarching Golden Celestial in the Nine Specters County. More importantly, the pill could help the County Governor to improve his cultivation base.

“Before Duan Ling Tian’s appearance, Lord County Governor would certainly place his hopes on Zhou Fei when he heard about the competition. However, since Duan Ling Tian managed to defeat Zhou Fei with just a strike, it seems like Duan Ling Tian has replaced Zhou Fei.” If that were not that case, the County Governor would not have visited him and requested him to take the blame in order to protect Duan Ling Tian.

Currently, the announcement had officially stated that Zheng Qiu was to blame for Duan Ling Tian’s transgression in the Latent Dragon Abyss since he did not properly explain the rules to Duan Ling Tian.

He was willing to take the blame and was not displeased. After all, the County Governor had promised him quite a number of rewards. Most importantly, the City Governor had also promised to protect him from Zhou Tong, the Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate.

...

In the Latent Dragon Abyss.

"Duan Ling Tian won't be punished?"

"Heavens! So, in the end, it's Elder Zheng Qiu's fault?"

"Elder Zheng Qiu was the one who escorted Duan Ling Tian here from Bloody Specter City. However, by taking the blame, he's inadvertently protecting Duan Ling Tian. This also means he has tied himself to Duan Ling Tian, they're both in the same boat now. Is it worth it?"

"What do you mean? Elder Zheng Qiu took the blame to protect Duan Ling Tian?"

"That's right. Elder Zheng Qiu has always been meticulous, it's impossible that he had forgotten to tell Duan Ling Tian about the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss. I'm certain he's taking the blame just to protect Duan Ling Tian."

All of the young powerhouses in the Latent Dragon Abyss agreed that Zheng Qiu had deliberately taken the blame to shield Duan Ling Tian. Otherwise, Duan Ling Tian would not have been able to escape unscathed!

"Elder Zheng Qiu?" Qin Yu who had come out from his stone chamber had also heard the County Governor's announcement. He was similarly shocked. He did not expect Zheng Qiu would end up taking the blame. He had come to the Latent Dragon Abyss with Duan Ling Tian and Zheng Qiu after all. He still remembered every word that Zheng Qiu had told them. He clearly remembered Zheng Qiu telling them about the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss and how the challenger was prohibited from severely injuring the person he challenged.

Qin Yu thought to himself, 'This involves Revered Elder Zhou Tong. Isn't Elder Zheng Qiu afraid of offending Revered Elder Zhou Tong by protecting Duan Ling Tian? Isn't he afraid that Revered Elder Zhou Tong would retaliate?' He was perplexed. Although Zheng Qiu was an inner-estate elder, and the second strongest Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County, Zheng Qiu was not a Great Overarching Golden Celestial like Zhou Tong after all. Zheng Qiu was definitely not as valuable as Zhou Tong to the County Governor. If Zhou Tong killed Zheng Qiu, he might not even be punished for it. This truly confused him. Naturally, if he knew about the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties and the rewards that came with it, he would be able to figure out the answer to his question.

Meanwhile, Zhou Fei, the person whom Duan Ling Tian challenged, came out from his stone chamber. He expected to receive news about Duan Ling Tian being severely punished for his transgression. He did not expect to hear that the blame had been shifted to Zheng Qiu, and Duan Ling Tian escaped completely unscathed.

Zhou Fei shook his head in disbelief. “No! No! This is impossible!” He had difficulty believing the news. However, with so many people saying the same thing, he had no choice to believe it even if he was unwilling.

Zhou Fei did not waste any time and instantly went to look for Zheng Qiu. Perhaps, due to his shock, he had forgotten about propriety and questioned Zheng Qiu in an interrogative manner, “Elder Zheng Qiu, why are you protecting Duan Ling Tian? You’re known for being meticulous in the County Governor’s estate. It’s impossible for you to have forgotten to inform Duan Ling Tian about the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss. Who is he to you and why are you protecting him?”

“Insolent!” Zheng Qiu rebuked Zhou Fei, “Who do you think you’re talking to, Zhou Fei? Regardless, I’m still an inner-estate elder in the County Governor’s estate. Who are you to question me?”

Zhou Fei remained fearless. He said in a deep voice, “Elder Zheng Qiu, don’t forget that in addition to being a disciple in the Latent Dragon Abyss, I’m also Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s godson... By protecting Duan Ling Tian, not only are you going against me, but you’re going against my godfather as well. Aren’t you afraid that he’ll come after you?” His tone turned threatening at the latter part of his speech.

“Scram!” Zheng Qiu bellowed, angered by Zhou Fei’s threats. He raised an arm and a vast energy shot out. The energy took the shape of a huge stone before it landed on Zhou Fei, sending Zhou Fei flying out of his residence.

When Zhou Fei landed on the ground, Zheng Qiu said icily, “If you are unhappy about this, ask Revered Elder Zhou Tong to speak to me!”

Zhou Fei sat on the ground for a while, completely stunned. He was confused. Why was Zheng Qiu unafraid even after he mentioned his godfather?

Meanwhile, Zheng Qiu who returned to his residence smiled wryly. He was certainly wary of Zhou Tong. However, since he had taken the blame for Duan Ling Tian upon the County Governor’s request, it meant the County Governor would be on his side. Therefore, he was not completely afraid of Zhou Tong.

...

Half a year later.

Duan Ling Tian who had been cultivating in the stone chamber in the depth of the Latent Dragon Abyss was, naturally, unaware of what had transpired. He was so focused on his cultivation that he had even forgotten about the passage of time.

“Finally...” Duan Ling Tian opened his eyes that were shining brightly. He had finally become a Golden Celestial!

### **Chapter 2640 Zhou Tong’s Return**

“The Celestial Origin Energy of a Scarlet Sun Golden Celestial is much stronger than a Violet Sun Golden Celestial...”

Duan Ling Tian could acutely sense the difference in his Celestial Origin Energy now that he had become a Scarlet Sun Golden Celestial. In comparison, the difference in the Celestial Origin Energy when he was rising through the ranks of a Heavenly Celestial was not worth mentioning at all.

“I wonder how long I spent cultivating...” Duan Ling Tian was too focused on cultivating that he did not know how much time had passed. “Although I can’t be certain, I’m sure it’s not a short period of time. It’s strange that no one came to punish me for severing Zhou Fei’s limbs. After all, I’ve broken the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss.”

When Duan Ling Tian had severed Zhou Fei’s limbs, he had already prepared himself for the consequences. Not only did he break the rules, but he had even severely injured Zhou Fei who was Zhou Tong’s godson. It was truly unexpected that he was not interrupted at all during his process of cultivating to become a Scarlet Sun Golden Celestial. ‘I wonder what happened...’

When Duan Ling Tian emerged from his stone chamber that was located at the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss, a few youths were also coming out of their respective stone chambers.

These youths noticed Duan Ling Tian immediately since Duan Ling Tian had emerged from his stone chamber first.

“It’s Duan Ling Tian! He has come out from his closed-door cultivation!”

“Finally! It’s been six months since he went into closed-door cultivation. I’m still shocked by the conclusion of that incident six months ago. How unexpected!”

“Conclusion? You think it’s over? From what I heard, the incident is far from being over. Apparently, Revered Elder Zhou Tong is still in closed-door cultivation. Once he comes out from his closed-door cultivation, do you really think he’ll let the matter go even though it happened six months ago?”

“You’re right. It’s obvious Elder Zheng Qiu deliberately took the blame for what happened six months ago to protect Duan Ling Tian. I think Revered Elder Zhou Tong won’t let Elder Zheng Qiu off as well.”

A few of the youths began to whisper among themselves when they saw Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, overheard their conversation. He was stunned when he heard their discussion. ‘The incident six months ago? That must be when I broke the rule and severed Zhou Fei’s limbs. So the reason Zhou Tong didn’t come looking for trouble with me is due to him being in closed-door cultivation... However, what do they mean by Elder Zheng Qiu took the blame to protect me? What happened?’

Duan Ling Tian moved and suddenly appeared before the youths who were whispering among themselves. He looked at them and calmly asked, “What do you mean by Elder Zheng Qiu took the blame to protect me?”

Upon seeing this, the faces of the youths turned pale from fright. They thought Duan Ling Tian was angry about them talking about him. They only calmed down when they discovered Duan Ling Tian did not seem angry and had no intention of hurting them. After that, they quickly recounted what had happened to him.

From this group of people, Duan Ling Tian confirmed he had been in closed-door cultivation for half a year. During this half a year, he found out his cultivation was uninterrupted and he was not punished because Zheng Qiu, an inner-estate elder, had taken the blame for him.

“Elder Zheng Qiu said that I was unaware of rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss due to his negligence, therefore, I severely injured Zhou Fei?” A frown appeared on Duan Ling Tian’s face when he learned about what had happened. “Doesn’t he know that he risks offending Zhou Tong by doing that? Isn’t he afraid of Zhou Tong causing trouble for him?”

Duan Ling Tian calmed down before he left the Latent Dragon Abyss and made his way to Zheng Qiu’s residence based on his memory.

...

“Duan Ling Tian! You’ve come out of your closed-door cultivation!” Zheng Qiu was taken aback when Duan Ling Tian appeared in his residence. After all, Duan Ling Tian had been cultivating and did not leave his stone chamber at all during the past six months. Naturally, he knew why Duan Ling Tian had come looking for him.

‘Yes.’ Duan Ling Tian nodded. “I didn’t expect to cultivate for half a year...”

Zheng Qiu chuckled and said, “Well, that’s how cultivation is like... There’s this once I forgot about time as well and cultivated for ten years. As the saying goes, ‘Time flies when one’s cultivating’,”

Duan Ling Tian’s expression was solemn as he said without beating around the bush, “Elder Zheng Qiu, I heard you took the blame for me for that incident six months ago. I know you mean well, but have you thought about the consequences once Zhou Tong comes out of his closed-door cultivation and finds out about this? He won’t let you off for this!”

Zheng Qiu asked, “Duan Ling Tian, do you think I took the blame to repay you for what you did during our journey to the County City of Nine Specters City?”

“Isn’t that the case?” Duan Ling Tian asked, perplexed.

“No,” Zheng Qiu shook his head and replied honestly, “When we arrived, I’ve already told you I’ll try and ask Lord County Governor to help you if Zhou Tong tries to force you to become his direct disciple. That’s how I will repay my debt to you. In fact, after I left you and Qin Yu in the Latent Dragon Abyss, I’ve already repaid my debt to you after I looked for Lord County Governor.”

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian recalled Zheng Qiu said he was going to see the County Governor of Nine Specters City before he left him and Qin Yu in the Latent Dragon Abyss. However, he still felt confused and uneasy as though there was more to it. “Since you’re no longer indebted to me, why did you take the blame for me?”

Why would Zheng Qiu risk offending Zhou Tong just to protect him when Zhou Tong no longer owed him anything? Moreover, he was not very familiar with Zheng Qiu.

“I’ll tell you all about it in a moment...” Zheng Qiu looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “I have a question of my own. Why did you insist on severing all four of Zhou Fei’s limbs even though it meant breaking the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss? You should know by doing that, not only did you offend Zhou Fei’s godfather, the Revered Elder of the County Governor’s estate, but you also risk offending the County

Governor of Nine Specters City who set the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss. That's akin to playing with fire. Since you knew about the consequences, I'm really curious why you did that..."

"Why did I do it?" Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes that gleamed coldly. "I only gave him a taste of his own medicine. If he did not demand that I sever my limbs, I wouldn't have severed his limbs!"

"It's... It's as simple as that?" Zheng Qiu looked at Duan Ling Tian in shock. "You... You severed his limbs just because he threatened you?"

"Just because he threatened me?" Duan Ling Tian laughed at Zheng Qiu's words. "Elder Zheng Qiu, it's fortunate that I'm stronger than him. Otherwise, there's no doubt that he would have severed my limbs back then!"

"Even so, you're too reckless!" Zheng Qiu shook his head and said, "According to the rules in the Latent Dragon Abyss, a challenger is not allowed to severely injure the person he challenged. However, the person who's challenged is allowed to severely injure the challenger... This means it's within his right to sever your limbs if he were capable of it."

Duan Ling Tian said flippantly, "Under those circumstances, I couldn't care less."

The way Duan Ling Tian spoke made him seem like a reckless person. However, was he putting on an act or was he truly reckless? It was true that he had decisively severed Zhou Fei's limbs even though he knew the consequences. However, he had already thought of a way to get out of trouble if Zhou Tong or the City Governor of the Nine Specters County came for him.

...

While Duan Ling Tian and Zheng Qiu were chatting, an old figure flashed in the sky thousands of miles north of the County City of Nine Specters County. Every time it flashed in the sky, it moved closer and closer to the County City.

The figure belonged to an old man. As he traveled in the sky, he muttered to himself in an icy voice, "That Duan Ling Tian who severely injured Fei'er is from Bloody Specter City? And that Zheng Qiu... He dug his own grave the moment he took the blame for Duan Ling Tian!"

Based on the old man's words, it was obvious he was Zhou Tong, the strongest Revered Elder in the County Governor's estate in the Nine Specters County!