

2641 Great Overarching Pills

In the residence of Zheng Qiu, the inner-estate elder of the County Governor's estate.

"Duan Ling Tian, you shouldn't be so reckless. You're lucky this time. Otherwise, you'd be severely punished even if you're not killed for injuring Zhou Fei six months ago!" Zheng Qiu said with a darkened expression as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. In his opinion, if it were not for the timely appearance of the delegate from the King Qing's Mansion to convey a message from King Qing, Duan Ling Tian would have been doomed. After all, the person Duan Ling Tian had severely injured was Zhou Fei, Zhou Tong's godson. Zhou Tong was usually very protective of his godson. It might be fine if Duan Ling Tian agreed to be Zhou Tong's disciple, but he knew Duan Ling Tian would never agree to it.

"You managed to escape unharmed this time, but you might not be so lucky next time! You're highly talented but there are many who are as talented as you in Devata Realms such as the Spirit Overarching Heaven. If you want to be the last one standing, you need more than just talent and brute strength!" Zheng Qiu advised.

"Hmm." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Naturally, he understood that. Otherwise, he would not have come up with more than one way to deal with the consequences of injuring Zhou Fei. If he did not have ways to deal with the matter, he would not have recklessly severed Zhou Fei's limbs. However, he did not plan to explain himself to Zheng Qiu. Moreover, it was not convenient for him to explain the matter. He looked at Zheng Qiu curiously and bluntly asked, "Elder Zheng Qiu, why did you take the blame for me half a year ago? I suppose it has something to do with why you said I'm lucky?" Naturally, he knew there was something strange about the entire incident.

Zheng Qiu replied, "I took the blame for you half a year ago under the order of Lord County Governor..."

However, before Zheng Qiu could finish speaking, Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes and interjected, "You're saying the County Governor of the Nine Specters County asked you to take the blame for me?"

"Yes." Zheng Qiu nodded.

"Why?" Duan Ling Tian asked. He did not expect the County Governor would ask Zheng Qiu to take the blame on his behalf. He could not figure out the County Governor's motive. After all, he had never met the County Governor's before

Zheng Qiu replied, "It's because of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties that'll be held in two and a half years," Zheng Qiu answered.

"Martial Competition of the 16 Counties? What's that?" Duan Ling Tian was confused.

"Well, I'm sure you're aware that there are 16 counties under King Qing's Mansion. Our Nine Specters County is one of the counties," Zheng Qiu said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He knew about this. Similar to how Bloody Specter City had to pay tribute in the form of Celestial Stones to the Nine Specters County, the Nine Specters County had to pay tribute to King Qing's Mansion since it was under the rule of King Qing's Mansion.

“As you know, we’ve gathered 30 Golden Celestials under the age of 100 like you six months ago. All of you are currently staying in the Latent Dragon Abyss,” Zheng Qiu said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded again.

“Prior to this, I know the 30 of you were gathered due to King Qing’s Mansion’s request. However, as I told you previously, I was not aware of the reason. Three days after you severed Zhou Fei’s limbs, a delegate from King Qing’s Mansion came to the estate to convey a message to Lord County Governor. He came to tell Lord County Governor that the Martial Competition for 16 Counties would be held in three years in King Qing’s Mansion. The Golden Celestials under the age of 100 from the counties under King Qing’s Mansion’s rule will be the participants,” Zheng Qiu explained.

“So all of us who are living in the Latent Dragon Abyss would have to participate in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties in two and a half years? Our opponents are the Golden Celestials under the age of 100 that the other 15 counties had gathered?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Yes.” Zheng Qiu nodded. Then, he continued to explain, “It seems like King Qing’s Mansion places great importance on the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. According to Lord City Governor, King Qing’s Mansion will not only generously reward the top 10 participants, but also the respective counties they’re from. The top three participants will win three mediocre Great Overarching Pills, two mediocre Great Overarching Pills, and one mediocre Great Overarching Pill respectively.”

“Great Overarching Pills?” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback by the generosity of King Qing’s Mansion. He knew the Great Overarching Pills could help a Violet Sun Golden Celestial become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. Moreover, ordinary mediocre Celestial Alchemists were unable to refine the pills. Only mediocre Celestial Alchemists who possessed a specific Celestial Fire were able to refine the pills. For this reason, to a certain extent, a mediocre Great Overarching Pill was more precious than most prominent Celestial Pills.

Even Great Overarching Golden Celestials could improve their cultivation bases greatly by consuming the Great Overarching Pills. They could consume the pill to break through a bottleneck they encountered during cultivation. This was also one of the reasons why Great Overarching Pills were precious.

“I’m sure you’re aware of how precious mediocre Great Overarching Pills are, right?” Zheng Qiu asked.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian nodded before he asked in confusion, “Elder Zheng Qiu, do you know why King Qing’s Mansion is organizing the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties?” He felt there was more to it than just looking for rising talents from the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. After all, King Qing’s mansion would be giving out six precious mediocre Great Overarching Pills for the competition!

Initially, Zheng Qiu was going to say it was to search for rising talents. However, similar to Duan Ling Tian, when he thought about the generous rewards, he thought things were not as simple as they seemed. Therefore, he replied with uncertainty before asking, “Erm, well... I’m not sure. In any case, you understand now why Lord City Governor asked me to take the blame for you, right?”

Duan Ling Tian nodded as his eyes gleamed. He was not stupid. After Zheng Qiu told him about the mediocre Great Overarching Pills that would be given to the top three participants and the respective counties they were from, he knew why the County Governor would protect someone whom he had never met. "I truly have the timely arrival of the delegate from King Qing's Mansion to thank for this..." He discovered that he, a nameless rookie, who had just arrived from Bloody Specter City had inadvertently become as valuable, or possibly more valuable, than Zhou Tong, the Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate, in the County Governor's eyes.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, 'If I'm not around, the County Governor would have placed his hope on Zhou Fei, Zhou Tong's godson. However, since I easily defeated Zhou Fei and severed his limbs as soon as I arrived, the County Governor has placed his hopes on me. After all, based on my strength from six months ago, it's obvious my chances of winning are higher than Zhou Fei!'

When Duan Ling Tian was about to leave Zheng Qiu's residence, a thunderous voice laden with anger suddenly rang in the air. "Zheng Qiu!" The person spoke as though Zheng Qiu was his sworn enemy.

"Hmm?" Duan Ling Tian was startled by the anger contained in the voice. He instinctively turned to look at Zheng Qiu.

Zheng Qiu narrowed his eyes as he said, "It's Revered Elder Zhou Tong! It seems like he has finally come out of his closed-door cultivation." He had already prepared himself for Zhou Tong to come looking for trouble with him after Zhou Tong came out from his closed-door cultivation. For this reason, he remained calm.

Swoosh!

Zheng Qiu lifted his hand and took a jade token out. He sent his Celestial Origin Energy into it before it turned into a streak of light that flew off at lightning speed.

With just a glance, Duan Ling Tian could tell it was a Communication Celestial Talisman. It was not difficult for him to guess who Zheng Qiu had summoned. After all, there was only one man in the Nine Specters County who was capable of suppressing Zhou Tong. The person was none other than Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of the Nine Specters County!

Chapter 2642 The Appearance of the County Governor

"Zheng Qiu!" An elderly figure with a young man in tow appeared, accompanied by the thunderous roar. In just a blink of an eye, the two figures appeared in Zheng Qiu's courtyard.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

An old man and a young man appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian and Zheng Qiu in just a blink of an eye.

Duan Ling Tian instantly recognized the young man whom the old man had brought with him. The young man was none other than Zhou Fei whom he had severely injured half a year ago. The old man did not look like a wicked person, but rage could be seen in his eyes and on his face. It was not difficult for him to guess the old man was Zhou Tong since Zheng Qiu had revealed the old man's identity.

As soon as Zhou Fei arrived, he saw Duan Ling Tian immediately. He glared at Duan Ling Tian with killing intent like a venomous snake that was watching its prey. He cried out resentfully, "Duan Ling Tian!"

Zhou Tong, who had his eyes trained on Zheng Qiu as soon as he arrived, shifted his eyes to Duan Ling Tian as soon as Zhou Fei bellowed in anger. His expression darkened even more as he asked, "Duan Ling Tian? So you're Duan Ling Tian?"

Faced with Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei's hostile gazes, Duan Ling Tian merely ignored them. Instead, he turned to Zheng Qiu and asked, even though he had already known the answer, "Elder Zheng Qiu, may I know who this is?"

Zheng Qiu replied cooperatively, "He's Revered Elder Zhou Tong, Zhou Fei's godfather."

"Oh, so you're Revered Elder Zhou Tong." Duan Ling Tian feigned a surprised expression on his face before he studied Zhou Tong. He was, naturally, very curious about the man whom Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City, wanted to kill.

All of a sudden, the dark expression on Zhou Tong's disappeared. It was replaced by a faint smile as he said, "Duan Ling Tian, if you become my direct disciple, I won't pursue the matter where you injured Fei'er. At that time, you'll be brothers with Fei'er instead of enemies." He did not hide his intention to make Duan Ling Tian his disciple and directly promised to not make things difficult for Duan Ling Tian as long as Duan Ling Tian agreed to it.

Zheng Qiu did not seem surprised at all. It was clear he had already expected this to happen.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's expression remained calm, but inwardly, he disdained Zhou Tong even more. Based on Zhou Tong's words, it seemed like the things he heard about Zhou Tong were true.

On the contrary, Zhou Fei's expression changed drastically when he heard Zhou Tong's words. A panicked expression could be seen on his face. It seemed like what he was most afraid of had happened. He cried out in protest, "Godfather!"

When Zhou Tong heard Zhou Fei, his expression darkened again. He turned to glare at Zhou Fei and said pointedly, "Shut up!"

Zhou Fei was so frightened by this that he did not even dare to breathe loudly, let alone speak up again.

As Zhou Tong looked at Duan Ling Tian expectantly, Duan Ling Tian replied in a calm manner, "Revered Elder Zhou Tong, thank you for your kind offer. However, I already have a master so I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you." He rejected Zhou Tong without any hesitation at all.

Zhou Tong narrowed his eyes that were gleaming coldly. He said in a domineering manner, "You can still accept me as your master."

"Impossible. I'll never betray my master." Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

A displeased expression appeared on Zhou Tong's face immediately while a flash of joy could be seen in Zhou Fei's voice. Nonetheless, Zhou Fei feigned anger and shouted, "Duan Ling Tian, it's an honor and your good fortune that my godfather intends to accept you as his disciple. How dare you refuse a toast only to be forced to drink a forfeit!" He sounded as though he was enraged on his grandfather's behalf.

Zhou Tong stared at Duan Ling Tian coldly and said, "Duan Ling Tian, do you think that matter is over just because Zheng Qiu took the blame for you? Let me tell you, even Zheng Qiu won't be able to save himself today, let alone someone like you!" His tone grew grimmer and grimmer as he spoke.

Duan Ling Tian instinctively turned to look at Zheng Qiu upon hearing Zhou Tong's words. He saw Zhou Tong remaining steady and calm.

Zhou Tong followed the direction of Duan Ling Tian's gaze and became further enraged when he saw Zheng Qiu's calmness. He said angrily, "Zheng Qiu, you should give me an explanation of why you took the blame for Duan Ling Tian. If you don't give me a satisfactory explanation, I think you should know what I'd do." His eyes gleamed with killing intent as he spoke.

Zheng Qiu replied indifferently, "Elder Zhou Tong, I'm not the one you should ask for an explanation regarding this matter since I was only following orders."

"Whose orders?" Zhou Tong asked pointedly. It seemed like he had forgotten himself and the fact that the County Governor had the right to give orders to Zheng Qiu.

Zhou Tong emitted an intense killing intent as though he was about to kill Zheng Qiu when an indifferent voice rang in the air. "My orders!" The voice sounded as though it came from all directions, making it difficult for one to pinpoint the location of the speaker.

Swoosh!

Another figure appeared like a gust of wind in Zheng Qiu's courtyard. The figure was that of a tall middle-aged man. He had a square face, thick eyebrows, and big eyes. He was dressed in a long silver robe that was embroidered with a silver dragon. He seemed to exude a dignified aura.

Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly. 'This must be Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County.'

As soon as the middle-aged man appeared, Zheng Qiu immediately greeted in a respectful manner, "Lord County Governor!"

Even Zhou Fei, who was standing behind Zhou Tong, respectfully greeted the middle-aged man with a slightly frightened expression on his face.

Duan Ling Tian and Zhou Tong were the only ones who remained silent.

All of a sudden, Zhou Tong suddenly bellowed, "Duan Ling Tian! How dare you! You didn't even greet Lord County Governor! Do you know disrespecting Lord City Governor is a crime?"

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Zhou Tong and retorted, "Revered Elder Zhou Tong, it seems like you didn't greet Lord County Governor as well, right?"

Zhou Tong scoffed as he said arrogantly, "Lord County Governor has granted me permission to forgo the formalities of greeting him a few years ago. How can a brat like you compare to me? When I, Zhou Tong, contributed greatly to the Nine Specters County, you weren't even born yet! Duan Ling Tian, since you're so disrespectful toward Lord County Governor, as the first Revered Elder, it's my responsibility to

punish you!” As soon as he finished speaking, his vast Celestial Origin Energy surged out. He moved his right hand and slapped it toward Duan Ling Tian. His hand seemed to carry the weight of thousands of pounds of impact. This move of his that contained a mix of Celestial Method and Divine Ability was very powerful. It was clear that he did not intend to punish Duan Ling Tian but to directly kill him!

At the same time, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes shone with killing intent when Zhou Tong made his move. He did not expect Zhou Tong to try and kill him as soon as Zhou Tong made a move. His expression was so cold that the surroundings seemed to have dropped a few degrees.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy to defend himself from Zhou Tong’s anger-fueled attack, a loud scoff rang in the air. Following that, a dragon-like energy shot out from the side and collided with Zhou Tong’s killing slap with a deafening explosion that caused a mushroom cloud to rise in the air. A gust of violent wind rolled out into a flurry of hurricanes.

Upon seeing this, Zhou Tong no longer dared to attack. After all, the person who blocked his attack was none other than Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor, who had been keeping quiet since he arrived. A hint of fear and wariness could be seen in his eyes at this moment. “Lord County Governor?” He did not expect Tian Ji Yu would block his strike for the sake of a young powerhouse whom they had gathered recently. He thought he would be able to kill Duan Ling Tian for refusing to be his disciple and avenge his godson, Zhou Fei, to vent his anger. Who knew Tian Ji Yu would stop him?

Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor, looked at Zhou Tong and said apathetically, “Revered Elder Zhou Tong, I’m the one who ordered Elder Zheng Qiu to take the blame for Duan Ling Tian six months ago. Do you have any problem with that?” Although he valued Zhou Tong very much, it did not mean he would give up the opportunity to obtain the mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill, from King Qing’s Mansion just for Zhou Tong’s sake!

Chapter 2643 The Primitive Celestial Pill, The Hidden Spirit Pill

In the past six months, Tian Ji Yu had expended much effort in finding out detailed information about other Golden Celestials below the age of 100 from the other 15 counties under King Qing’s Mansion’s rule. Based on what he had learned, he knew that Zhou Fei, Zhou Tong’s godson, was unlikely to rank in the top ten of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, let alone rank in the top three. Therefore, he felt fortunate to have Duan Ling Tian in the Nine Specters County. Otherwise, none of the Golden Celestials below the age of 100, including Zhou Fei who was the strongest, whom he had gathered would stand a chance ranking in the top three of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties! Among the 400-500 Golden Celestials below the age of 100 from the 15 counties, there were about five men who could defeat Zhou Fei with just a strike. Even if he put in all his effort to nurture Zhou Fei in the remaining two and half a years, Zhou Fei could only rank in the top ten at most in the Martial Competition for the 16 Counties. If Zhou Fei were not ranked in the top three, the Nine Specters County would be unable to obtain the Great Overarching Pill. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian was extremely valuable to him now. If Duan Ling Tian was not around, the Nine Specters County would not stand a chance in obtaining the Great Overarching Pills at all.

Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei were startled when they heard Tian Ji Yu said that Zheng Qiu had acted under his order and asked Zhou Tong if he had a problem with it.

It was at this moment that Zhou Tong recalled Zheng Qiu had said he had only been acting under orders earlier. How could he have forgotten that, apart from him, only the City Governor could order Zheng Qiu around?

“Lord County Governor, what’s the reason for that?” Zhou Tong asked in a low voice as he looked at Tian Ji Yu. As a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, he could speak much freely in front of Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, compared to the others. After all, even if he left the Nine Specters County, the other counties would welcome him!

“A delegate from King Qing’s Mansion came to me half a year ago...” Tian Ji Yu spoke honestly. He told them about the reason the delegate from King Qing’s Mansion had come and about his information on the other Golden Celestials below the age of 100 from the other 15 counties. He did not hold back his words even though the two parties involved, Duan Ling Tian and Zhou Fei, were present.

After listening to Tian Ji Yu’s explanation, Zhou Fei’s eyes were filled with reluctance. However, he knew there was nothing he could do at this moment.

On the other hand, Zhou Tong’s eyes shone brightly, and his breathing quickened. His chest heaved rapidly as he asked excitedly, “The rewards are the mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills?”

“Yes.” Tian Ji Yu nodded. Upon seeing the eager and excited expression on Zhou Tong’s face, he said, “Elder Zhou Tong, if you’re willing to work with me and the County Governor’s estate to help Duan Ling Tian grow so that he can obtain brilliant results in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties that will be held two and a half years later, I’m willing to give you a Great Overarching Pill if Duan Ling Tian ranks in the top two.”

Zhou Tong became even more excited upon hearing Tian Ji Yu’s promise to give him a Great Overarching Pill if Duan Ling Tian ranked in the top two.

Unlike Heavenly Celestials and Golden Celestials who were divided into seven levels respectively, Great Overarching Golden Celestials were divided into five stages; the Yellow Stage, the Profound Stage, the Earthly Stage, the Heavenly Stage, and the Peak Stage. The Yellow Stage’s Great Overarching Golden Celestials were the weakest while the Peak Stage’s Great Overarching Golden Celestials were the strongest.

Zhou Tong was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial at the yellow stage, and he was only a step away from becoming a Profound Stage’s Great Overarching Golden Celestial. He had been stuck at this bottleneck for many years now. If he could obtain a mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill, he would be able to become a Profound Stage’s Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

“Lord County Governor, I’m willing to help you and the County Governor’s estate to cultivate Duan Ling Tian so that he’ll be able to rank in the top two of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties!” Zhou Tong said without any hesitation after he regained his senses. After all, in truth, he did not really hate Duan Ling Tian. Now that he discovered Duan Ling Tian might be able to help him obtain a mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill, naturally, he regarded Duan Ling Tian with even more importance compared to his godson, Zhou Fei.

“Godfather!” Zhou Fei cried out in protest, worried. Initially, he had planned to ask his godfather for help to become stronger than Duan Ling Tian. However, currently, his godfather was going to help his enemy to become stronger instead.

Smack!

Zhou Tong slapped Zhou Fei as soon as Zhou Fei finished speaking. He glared at him and bellowed, “How dare you speak so impolitely before Lord County Governor? If you dare to do it again, don’t blame me for being impartial in meting out punishment!”

Zhou Fei who was slapped for no good reason felt extremely aggrieved. However, he could only silently glare at Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian did not even deign to look at Zhou Fei. Instead, he was looking at Zhou Tong. He felt rather uncomfortable when he noticed Zhou Tong’s gaze was no longer filled with killing intent and had been replaced with goodwill. He thought to himself with certainty, ‘It seems like Zhou Tong only does things that benefit him. When the County Governor of Nine Specters County promised to give him a mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill, he didn’t even hesitate to promise to help me grow stronger so I can rank in the top two of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties.’

With this, things came to an end.

Zhou Tong bade farewell to Tian Ji Yu. Before he left with Zhou Fei, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and smiled amicably. “Duan Ling Tian, you may come to me if you need any help. Also, you can have these two bottles of Spirit Nourishing Pill.” After he finished speaking, he passed the two bottles of pills to Duan Ling Tian.

Upon seeing this, Zhou Fei was brimming with jealousy. His godfather had never been so generous with him before.

“Thank you, Revered Elder Zhou Tong,” Duan Ling Tian said. His eyes shone as he accepted the two bottles from Zhou Tong. Naturally, he knew Zhou Tong would not have been so generous if he had no value. Moreover, Zhou Tong would not even hesitate to kill him!

After Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei left, Tian Ji Yu looked at Duan Ling Tian with a smile. He handed a bottle of pills to Duan Ling Tian as he said, “Duan Ling Tian, since Elder Zhou Tong has given you two bottles of Spirit Nourishing Pills, I’ll give you a bottle of the primitive Celestial Pill, the Hidden Spirit Pill. Its efficacy is stronger and can be used together with the Spirit Nourishing Pill.”

“The Hidden Spirit Pill?” Duan Ling Tian was taken aback when he heard Tian Ji Yu’s words. The Hidden Spirit Pill was a primitive Celestial Pill that could assist one’s cultivation and raise one’s cultivation speed. Due to its stronger efficacy, it was more precious than the Spirit Nourishing Pills. More importantly, the Hidden Spirit Pill could be taken together with the Spirit Nourishing Pills, and the efficacy of the medicines would be higher in comparison to taking either of the pills alone.

“Thank you, County Governor,” Duan Ling Tian said gratefully. He had been slightly excited when he received the Spirit Nourishing Pills from Zhou Tong. However, he was clearly more excited to receive the Hidden Spirit Pills from the County Governor of Nine Specters County!

Tian Ji Yu looked at Duan Ling Tian and bluntly said, "Now you're aware why I helped you with resolving that matter from six months ago. It's because I think you have the potential to rank in the top three of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. If you're ranked in the top three, not only will you help Nine Specters County to win the mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills, but you'll also be greatly rewarded by King Qing's Mansion. Needless to say, I won't treat you badly as well."

"I'll definitely do my best." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Although he knew Tian Ji Yu only treated him kindly because Tian Ji Yu needed him, he liked Tian Ji Yu's honesty.

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When Zhou Fei returned to his stone chamber that was located second from the last one, his expression was unsightly. He muttered to himself, "Duan Ling Tian... Duan Ling Tian... I wonder where did you come from? If it weren't for you, Lord City Governor and my master would have helped me to grow stronger instead!" He felt incredibly dissatisfied since he thought Duan Ling Tian had snatched away something that should have belonged to him.

Chapter 2644 The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sec

After Duan Ling Tian received the bottle of Hidden Spirit Pills from Tian Ji Yu and two bottles of Spirit Nourishing Pills from Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder, he did not waste any time and began to focus on his cultivation. Similar to him, the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specters County, naturally, wished he could improve his cultivation base as soon as possible. Three of them had their respective objectives, but they shared the same path to getting there.

After Duan Ling Tian returned to the stone chamber in the depths of the Latent Dragon Abyss, he thought to himself curiously, 'King Qing's Mansion will reward the counties where the top three participants are from with the mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills. I wonder what rewards he would give the top three participants?' He was greatly looking forward to the reward as well.

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After Duan Ling Tian consumed the primitive Celestial Pill, the Hidden Spirit Pill, and began to cultivate, a young man emerged like a gust of wind from the second to last stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss. He could be seen making his way to a residence in the County Governor's estate after he left the Latent Dragon Abyss. This young man was none other than Zhou Fei.

Zhou Fei went to look for Zhou Tong, his godfather and the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate. When he saw his Zhou Tong, he respectfully greeted, "Godfather!"

Zhou Tong glanced at Zhou Fei lazily with a cocked eyebrow. "Is something the matter?" Compared to before, his attitude toward Zhou Fei had changed. He had taken Zhou Fei as his godson due to Zhou Fei's innate talent. However, Zhou Fei's talent that had initially made him proud had been overshadowed by Duan Ling Tian who came from Bloody Specter City. Therefore, his disappointment in his godson had caused his attitude to change.

Zhou Fei who could clearly sense Zhou Tong's change hated Duan Ling Tian even more. He cursed Duan Ling Tian inwardly. Naturally, he did not dare to express his resentment to Zhou Tong since he knew

Zhou Tong held Duan Ling Tian in higher regard compared to him. He suppressed his anger and calmly said, "Godfather, I wish to go out. I hope you'll send an elder out with me."

"Where do you plan to go?" Zhou Tong asked with a gleam in his eyes.

"I am not sure yet. I just want to go out to train," Zhou Fei said.

Although Zhou Tong no longer valued Zhou Fei as much as he valued Duan Ling Tian, Zhou Fei was still his godson. Therefore, he did not refuse Zhou Fei and quickly ordered an elder from the inner estate to accompany and protect Zhou Fei.

When Zhou Fei left the County City of Nine Specters County with the elder from the inner estate, he made his way, seemingly unintentionally, to Bloody Specter City, the place where Duan Ling Tian had ascended to in the Spirit Overarching Heaven.

Zhou Fei thought to himself, 'I'm going to investigate Duan Ling Tian's background. After all, I've never heard about someone like him in the Nine Specters County. There's a possibility he's someone trained by City Governor Liu to deal with godfather. If I can prove this, godfather will definitely kill Duan Ling Tian!' With Duan Ling Tian's talent and strength, he was certain there was no way Duan Ling Tian would be a commoner in Bloody Specter City whose name was unknown prior to entering the County Governor's estate in the County City of Nine Specters County.

Zhou Fei's eyes lit up as he continued thinking to himself, 'If I can verify that Duan Ling Tian is someone Liu Feng Gu trained to deal with godfather, no matter how tempted godfather is by the mediocre Celestial Pills, the Great Overarching Pills, he'll definitely kill Duan Ling Tian before the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. After all, based on the rewards, it's obvious King Qing's Mansion places great importance on the competition. If Duan Ling Tian stands out and ranks in the top three, King Qing's Mansion will definitely protect him. At that time, it'll be extremely difficult for godfather to kill Duan Ling Tian!' He was well aware of Zhou Tong and Liu Feng Gu's past, therefore, he was certain his godfather would definitely kill Duan Ling Tian if he could prove Duan Ling Tian was sent by Liu Feng Gu. His godfather would not let a threat like Duan Ling Tian grow stronger, he would definitely nip this threat in the bud!

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In a place far away from the Nine Specters County, there was a vast fairyland-like place that was surrounded by clouds and mist. It was spring all year round and was filled with lush greeneries.

At this moment, a graceful figure that looked like a fairy could be seen standing on the peak of a mountain. She was looking in the direction of Nine Specters County dazedly.

The woman, who was wearing a plain light purple dress, had a pair of perfectly arched eyebrows, fair skin, and a wasp waist. Although she was wearing a translucent veil to cover the lower half of her face, her bright eyes and elegant air were enough to make the surroundings pale in comparison. The perfect outline of her face could be vaguely seen through her translucent veil, filling people with the urge to remove the veil so they could have a better look at her. Even with the veil, she looked peerlessly charming and beautiful. One could only imagine how much more beautiful she was without the veil.

She muttered to herself, "If I had known I would be unable to forget him, I would've killed him that day!" Nonetheless, her words lacked conviction. If she were able to turn back time, she was not sure if she could bear to kill that man.

"Third Senior Sister! Third Senior Sister!" A melodious voice like silver bells tinkling rang in the air at this moment before a green-clad young girl flew up from the bottom of the mountain. A streak of light shot toward the purple-clad woman, and the green-clad young girl appeared in just a blink of an eye.

"Lü Luo, why are you here?" The purple-dressed woman asked as she looked at the green-clad young girl affectionately.

"Third Senior Sister, why do I feel that you've been moody ever since your return a year ago? Didn't you find the World Cleansing Horsetail Whisk, our sect's Guarding Celestial Weapon? It's something to feel happy about, right? Even master, senior uncle, and junior uncle praised you!" the green-clad young girl asked as she looked at the purple-clad woman knowingly.

Based on the green-clad young girl's words, it was obvious that the purple-clad woman was none other than Murong Bing, the woman whom Duan Ling Tian had met in the Little World left behind by the Celestial King from Blissful Sect. At that time, through a series of events, they ended up having premarital sex.

"Moreover, I heard senior aunt is going to make you her heir in a month! This means you'll be the sect master after she retires," the green-clad girl continued to say.

"Did senior aunt... really say that?" Murong Bing asked as her eyes shone.

"Yes! I heard it with my own ears!" The green-clad young girl nodded her head like a chick pecking grains from the ground.

Upon hearing the green-clad young girl's words, Murong Bin could not help but sigh. According to the rules of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, to become the sect master, apart from being talented and strong, one had to be a virgin! She had lost her virginity in the Little World, she was destined not to be the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

"Lü Luo, where's senior aunt now?" Murong Bin asked. After she learned of the location of the Sect Leader of Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, she disappeared with a flutter of dress, looking like a purple butterfly when she left the mountain.

In a large garden located at the hillside, Murong Bin met the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect who was also her senior aunt. She greeted her senior aunt respectfully, "Senior aunt."

"Bing'er, is there anything you need?" The Sect Leader of Compassionate Celestial Traveler was a graceful and beautiful woman wearing a white robe that was embroidered with many lotuses. When she saw Murong Bin, a gentle and kind expression could be seen on her face, looking like an elder who was proud of an outstanding junior. Although Murong Bing was not her disciple, Murong Bing was the disciple of her junior sister. Murong Bing was also one of the most outstanding disciples in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. She was very satisfied with Murong Bing. Otherwise, she would

not have planned to make Murong Bing the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

Murong Bing said bluntly, "Senior aunt, I heard that you plan on making me your heir during the sect's meeting that'll be held in a month's time. I came here to change your mind!"

Upon hearing this, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was startled and confused. "Bing'er, what do you mean? Don't you want to be the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and lead the sect to an era of glory? I remember your master saying that it's your dream since you're young to become the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect."

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Murong Bing fell silent when she heard the question from the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect.

The Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect looked into Murong Bing's bright eyes and solemnly said, "Bing'er, I can tell something is bothering you."

Murong Bing inhaled deeply, a shaken expression could be seen on her face under the veil. Then, she replied softly, "Senior aunt, although I'm not your disciple, I've treated you like my master as well since I was young. Moreover, I've always confided in you and told you things I'm afraid to speak to my master about. In my eyes, you're no different from a mother." Her tone grew more and more emotional as she spoke.

"Bing'er, are... are you alright?" the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect asked worriedly. Her expression changed as well. She could tell something was amiss based on Murong Bing's tone. In fact, there was something not many people are privy to. Murong Bing was actually her elder twin sister's biological daughter. This meant that Murong Bing was her niece. In the past, her twin sister had met a wicked man, and as a result, her twin sister eventually chose to end her life, leaving a daughter behind. Since she was already the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect at that time, she did not bring Murong Bing back to the sect to personally raise her to prevent the sect's disciples from gossiping about Murong Bing. Therefore, she had sent her niece to her junior sister. That was how her junior sister became her niece's master. Nobody knew about this, including Murong Bing and her junior sister.

"Senior aunt, I..." Murong Bing said before she trailed off. She did know how to explain herself. After all, she had lost her purity. In fact, she was not afraid of gossip or people talking if news of this was to spread. However, just because she did not care, it did not mean her master would not care. She could imagine how disappointed her master would be if her master found out about this. After all, since she was young, her master had trained her to become the next Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. Since she had lost her virginity, she had lost her chance of becoming the next sect leader.

"Bing'er, is there a need for you to be so reserved with me? Don't worry, no matter what, I'll help you. If you don't want your master to know about it, I'll keep it from her," the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect said reassuringly when she saw Murong Bing hesitating.

When Murong Bing saw the sect leader becoming increasingly worried, she did not hesitate and bluntly said, "Senior aunt, I'm no longer a virgin."

Upon hearing Murong Bing's words, the expression of the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect changed drastically. She asked pointedly, "Who? Who did it?" Her eyes were brimming with killing intent at this moment. It was directed at the man who took away her niece's virginity. In the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, a woman who had lost her virginity could never become the sect leader of the sect. Although she was the sect leader of the sect, she would not be able to bend the rules for her niece. Moreover, the future sect leader would be subjected to a series of tests by the high-ranking elders of the sect before becoming the sect leader.

The Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was an all-women sect. Although the sect did not intervene in its members' private life, the members were not allowed to let their private lives affect the sect. Naturally, the requirements for the sect leader of the sect were even harsher. Sect leaders were expected to remain a virgin for their entire lives and not to be married. The founders of the sect had set this rule since they thought once a woman had gotten married, they would not be able to wholeheartedly focus on managing the sect. There was also the fear that the spouse of the sect leader would eventually take control of the sect.

"It's an accident." Murong Bin sighed. A purple figure appeared in her mind again, and she could not stop herself from thinking about him. She found it so difficult to forget him that her qi almost deviated when she was cultivating after she returned from Bloody Specter City.

"Even if it's an accident, you should still tell me about it," the sect leader said with a grave expression on her face.

Murong Bing nodded before she recounted everything that had happened a year ago to the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. Naturally, she did not reveal the man's name. Otherwise, he would surely die!

"As it turns out, it's due to our Sect's Guarding Celestial Weapon, the World Cleansing Horsetail Whisk... Bing'er, I'm so sorry that the sect's matter had troubled you," the sect leader said.

"No, I was too careless. If I didn't destroy the body of the Celestial King from the Blissful Sect, nothing would've happened..." Murong Bing shook her head.

"Bing'er, who's that man? What's his name?" The sect leader's eyes shone with killing intent when she thought about the man who took away her niece's purity.

"I don't know." Murong Bin shook her head. Her eyes flashed briefly as she added, "I... I don't know his name either."

"Bing'er, don't you know that your eyes would gleam when you're lying? It's been that way since you were young. It seems like you know that man's name," the sect leader said.

"Senior aunt, it's all my fault. It has nothing to do with him. In fact, he's a victim as well," Murong Bing said.

"Little girl, you're too kind. Killing that man is the only way to prevent him from spreading the news and ruining your reputation. You must learn to nip potential threats in the buds!" the sect leader said with a

sigh. The killing intent in her eyes intensified as she demanded, "Tell me that man's name. There's no need for you to act. I'll deal with him to prevent future troubles!"

"Senior aunt, please... please stop forcing me," Murong Bing said helplessly.

At this moment, realization seemed to dawn on the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Sect, and her expression changed. "Bing'er, don't... don't tell me you've fallen in love with that man?" Due to what happened to her sister, she had no affection for men. Moreover, she did not want her niece to make the same mistake her twin sister had made. Since the mother had suffered, the daughter should not have to suffer because of the same matter!

"Fallen in love?" Murong Bing was confused when she heard the sect leader's words. At the same, the purple figure appeared in her mind again. She asked herself continuously if she had truly fallen in love with him. However, she still could not come up with an answer in the end. Nevertheless, she was certain if the man were here and her senior aunt wanted to kill him, she would not hesitate to defend him even if it would cost her her life. She did not know if it was because she felt that what happened was her fault or if she had truly fallen for that man because he had taken her first time away.

When the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect saw the confused expression on Murong Bing's face, she sighed. A resigned expression could be seen on her face as she said, "Well, forget about it if you're not willing to tell me. I'm rather tired, you may take your leave now."

"Yes," Murong Bin said before she left.

After Murong Bing left, the resigned expression on the face of the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect vanished immediately and was replaced with a determined expression.

"Regardless of who you are, I will never let you hurt Bing'er! Even if I have to expend all of my efforts, I'll find you and kill you to prevent you from causing trouble!" Her killing intent was so intense that it seemed as though slaughtering thousands of cities would not be able to quell her anger. She muttered to herself, "Bloody Specter City in the Nine Specters County that's under the rule of King Qing's Mansion of Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom..."

...

Time continued to pass uneventfully.

...

In the tent of Miao Lai Long, the Commander of the Silverwurm Army, in Blood Specter City.

One man was sitting while two men and a woman were standing.

The young man who was sitting looked at the people who were standing and asked in a low voice. "Are you certain Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago? Moreover, he's only a Heavenly Celestial?"

If the men from the Silverwurm Army were here, they would recognize one of the standing men who was being questioned as Miao Lai Long, their commander.

At this moment, Miao Lai Long's attitude was extremely humble. His attitude was as though he was facing Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City.

"Young Master Fei, there's no doubt about it. If you don't believe me, I can bring those people who ascended at the same time as Duan Ling Tian here for you to question them. Since they had just ascended two years ago, they definitely wouldn't dare to lie to you," Miao Lai Long said earnestly.

If Duan Ling Tian was around, he would recognize the young man who was sitting in the tent was Zhou Fei whose limbs he had severed. He was also the godson of Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate.

The other two people standing were Miao Lai Long's sister, Miao Lai Feng, and his brother-in-law, Yang Kong Ping, a Centurion of the Silverwyrms Army.

Chapter 2646 Zhou Tong Acts

After staying in the Silverwyrms Army's camp for a few days, Zhou Fei had ascertained that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago. Moreover, he had ascended to the Heavenly Celestials' Celestial Ascension Pool! This meant Duan Ling Tian was a Heavenly Celestial and not a Bodiless Celestial.

'A Heavenly Celestial who's capable of easily defeating me two years after he ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven... His Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities are certainly of the heaven-grade!' Zhou Fei's breathing quickened when he thought about this. He looked at Miao Lai Long, Miao Lai Feng, and Yang Kong Ping pointedly as he said, "If any of you dare to leak this matter, I'll make sure that all of you will die without a grave!"

After threatening the three people, Zhou Fei added, "I'll inform my godfather about this once I return to the County Governor's estate. I'll make sure he rewards all of you greatly!" He used the carrot and the stick method with these three people, afraid they would divulge this matter to outsiders. If the news about Duan Ling Tian possessing heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities spread, he and his godfather would have a hard time getting their hands on the extraordinary Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities.

Zhou Fei knew once the news spread, let alone the Nine Specters County and King Qing's Mansion, the entire Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom would be plunged into chaos. After all, there were no heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities in the kingdom.

"Many thanks, Young Master Fei." Miao Lai Long and the other two quickly expressed their gratitude upon hearing Zhou Fei's words.

Miao Lai Long seemed to have recalled something at this moment. His eyes were bright when he looked at Zhou Fei as he said, "If Revered Elder Zhou Tong obtains Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, Young Master Fei, can you put in a few good words for me and ask if Revered Elder Zhou Tong can impart one of Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities to me? Just one will do..." He had also heard about the incident one and a half years ago when Duan Ling Tian severely injured Zhou Fei in the Latent Dragon Abyss in the County Governor's estate. Therefore, he was more than 90% certain that Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities were of the heaven-grade. If he

could obtain even one of them, he would be able to challenge Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City.

Upon hearing Miao Lai Long's words, the pair of husband and wife, Miao Lai Feng and Yang Kong Ping, turned to look at Zhou Fei with burning gazes. They had no doubt that if Miao Lai Long managed to obtain one of the Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities, he would impart it to them as well. After, Miao Lai Long was Miao Lai Feng's biological brother.

Zhou Fei agreed without any signs of hesitation. "Of course, that's not a problem."

"Many thanks, Young Master Fei," Miao Lai Long quickly thanked Zhou Fei, feeling extremely grateful.

When Miao Lai Feng and Yang Kong Ping exchanged a look, they could see the excitement in each other's eyes.

In their excitement, the three individuals failed to notice the cold and ruthless light that flashed in the depths of Zhou Fei's eyes at this moment.

A few moments later, Zhou Fei indifferently bade farewell to them and left the Silverwyrms Army's camp. He met the inner-estate elder his godfather had sent to accompany him in Bloody Specter City.

Zhou Tong said, "Elder Qian, bring me back to Nine Specters County."

The inner-estate elder who had followed Zhou Fei here all the way from Nine Specters County was Zhou Tong's loyal subordinate. Since Zhou Fei was Zhou Tong's godson, he treated the former like Zhou Tong's successor. "Yes, Young Master Fei."

In order to hurry back to the County City of Nine Specters County, Zhou Fei had the inner-estate elder bring him back to save time. As soon as he arrived at the County Governor's estate, he instantly looked for Zhou Tong.

"Godfather!" Zhou Fei hurriedly recounted everything he had discovered in the Silverwyrms Army's camp without leaving any details out.

Zhou Fei felt as though he had just listened to an elaborate fantasy tale. He simply found it difficult to believe. "Duan Ling Tian only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago? He was only a Crimson Moon Heavenly Celestial at that time? Moreover, at that time, he was already strong enough to suppress an ordinary Golden Celestial?"

Was this a joke? Someone who had only ascended to Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago and was a Heavenly Celestial managed to heavily injure his godson without expending much efforts?!

"Godfather, my words are true. If you don't believe me, you can personally visit the Silverwyrms Army in Bloody Specter City to investigate this matter," Zhou Fei said solemnly when he saw the disbelieving expression on Zhou Tong's face.

"Bloody Specter City..." Zhou Tong's eyes glinted coldly at the mention of Bloody Specter City. "If my memory serves me right, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City is Liu Feng Gu, right?"

“You’re right, it’s him!” Zhou Fei hurriedly replied. As though he had thought of something, he added, “I heard from Miao Lai Long, the Commander of the Silverwyrms Army, that before Duan Ling Tian came to the County Governor’s estate, he had received special care from Liu Feng Gu. Liu Feng Gu even granted Duan Ling Tian access to his cultivation place. As a city governor, his cultivation place is rich with Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy and is a good cultivation environment. Even the Commanders of the Silverwyrms Army and Black Dragon Army aren’t allowed into that place.”

Zhou Fei paused for a moment before continuing, “Moreover, Miao Lai Long also said he had informed Liu Feng Gu regarding Duan Ling Tian’s extraordinary strength and how he had only recently ascended. However, after verifying the matter, contrary to Miao Lai Long’s expectations, not only did Liu Feng Gu not force Duan Ling Tian to reveal his Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, but Liu Feng Gu began to help Duan Ling Tian to get stronger...” When he saw his godfather’s expression had darkened even more, he quickly added to fan the fire, “Godfather, I’m afraid Liu Feng Gu did all that so he can use Duan Ling Tian to deal with you.”

“Liu Feng Gu!” Zhou Tong scoffed as his eyes flashed coldly. He said, “You, follow me to Bloody Specter City again!” Without waiting for Zhou Fei’s reply, he raised his hand. His vast and terrifying Celestial Origin Energy swept out and carried Zhou Fei, swiftly leaving the County City of Nine Specters County.

Zhou Tong was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial after all. His speed was not something the inner-estate elder who had previously accompanied Zhou Fei could compare to. For this reason, it only took a short time before Zhou Fei returned to Bloody Specter City again.

Under Zhou Fei’s lead, Zhou Tong made his way to the Silverwyrms Army’s camp.

In Miao Lai Long’s tent.

Zhou Fei who stood behind Zhou Tong said, “This is my godfather, Revered Elder Zhou Tong of the Nine Specters County.”

“Miao Lai Long pays his respect to Revered Elder Zhou Tong!” Miao Lai Long said respectfully, bowing deeply at Zhou Tong. Although he had vaguely guessed Zhou Tong’s identity when he first saw the old man, he was still shocked when he heard Zhou Fei’s introduction.

“My godfather wants to meet the people who had ascended at the same as Duan Ling Tian,” Zhou Fei said to Miao Lai Long.

It did not take long before Zhou Tong was also convinced that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven and become a Heavenly Celestial two years ago. His eyes burned with greed as he muttered to himself, “Heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities...” He could not wait to capture Duan Ling Tian and force Duan Ling Tian to reveal his heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities.

Bang!

A loud explosion rang in the air. Miao Lai Long had thought Zhou Tong would reward him when Celestial Origin Energy surged out of Zhou Tong’s body like a terrifying beast and devoured him in one fell swoop.

After killing Miao Lai Long, Zhou Tong scoffed loudly. He blocked the Floating Image Celestial Talisman from transmitting the moments before Miao Lai Long's death to the corresponding talisman.

...

In the City Governor's estate of Bloody Specter City.

After Miao Lai Long died, Liu Feng Gu discovered that Miao Lai Long's Soul Pearl had shattered. When he tried to see the moments before Miao Lai Long's death from the Floating Image Celestial Talisman, he discovered that it was unresponsive. His expression changed drastically. "A Great Overarching Golden Celestial killed Miao Lai Long?"

It did not take long before he received news about Miao Lai Feng, Yang Kong Ping, and the Silverwurm Army. Rivers of blood flowed in the Silverwurm Army's camp. It was likely that no one had survived the slaughter in the camp.

...

Meanwhile, two figures could be seen leaving Bloody Specter City to the County City of Nine Specters County in a hurry.

Zhou Fei asked in confusion, "Godfather, why didn't you look for Liu Feng Gu?"

"I'm not in a hurry. It's not too late for me to kill him after I obtain Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities." His eyes flashed viciously as he continued to say, "At that time, I'll let Liu Feng Gu taste true despair."

Chapter 2647 Zhou Tong's Choice

"Godfather, based on Duan Ling Tian's strength, he has a good chance of ranking in the top three of the Martial Competition of the Sixteen Counties that'll be held in one and a half years' time," Zhou Fei deliberately said, "Do you intend on letting him participate in the competition or are you going act immediately?" He looked at Zhou Tong intently, trying to gauge Zhou Tong's response.

Zhou Tong scoffed. His eyes flashed with a vicious light, and a dark expression could be seen on his face. "Naturally, I'll act immediately." He did not understand why King Qing's Mansion placed such great importance on the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties that they were even planning to give away Great Overarching Pills. If Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top three of the competition, he would be able to obtain those pills, and there was no doubt King Qing's Mansion would regard Duan Ling Tian highly. At that time, obtaining Duan Ling Tian's heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities would be extremely difficult.

Zhou Tong had already weighed the upside and downside of his decision. Although the chances were high, there was no guarantee that Duan Ling Tian would rank in the top three of the competition and obtain the Great Overarching Pills. However, he was certain he would be able to force Duan Ling Tian to give up his Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities.

Upon hearing Zhou Tong's determined tone, Zhou Fei's eyes brightened. He said ingratiatingly, "Godfather, you're truly wise. If Duan Ling Tian is allowed to participate in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, it'll be harder for us to make a move at that time." This was the exact outcome that he

wanted. He thought to himself, 'Duan Ling Tian, the Great Overarching Pills aren't as attractive as your Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. After all, it's not certain you'll be able to obtain the pills. Once godfather obtains your Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, he'll definitely kill you.'

After a moment, Zhou Fei said, "Godfather, Lord County Governor values Duan Ling Tian a lot now. If we were to act against him in the estate, I'm afraid it'll be difficult. Moreover, if we act in the estate, there's a chance of Lord County Governor finding out about the heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. It's fine if he's willing to share the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities with you. However, if he insists on Duan Ling Tian participating in the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, I'm afraid you'll lose your chance to obtain the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities."

Zhou Fei continued saying, "Moreover, once he participates in the competition, if he performs well, King Qing's Mansion will definitely take notice of him. At that time, not even Lord City Governor would be able to do anything even if he wanted the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities." He continued to fan the fire. "If Liu Feng Gu really nurtured Duan Ling Tian to get back at you, based on Duan Ling Tian's talent and his Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, I'm afraid he'd be a threat to you in the future if he receives the care from King Qing's Mansion."

Upon hearing Zhou Fei's words, Zhou Tong nodded in satisfaction. "Fei'er, you're quite insightful." His eyes flashed coldly as he said, "I'll think of a way to lure Duan Ling Tian out of the County Governor's estate. Once he leaves the estate, even Lord County Governor wouldn't be able to help him. At that time, I'll force him to reveal the heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities."

...

Bloody Specter City.

Liu Feng Gu was, naturally, unhappy about the recent incident in the Silverwurm Army's camp. Apart from a few soldiers who were out on missions, the soldiers, the miners in the Celestial Stone mine, and the newly ascended celestials were all killed.

Inside the great hall of the City Governor's estate.

Liu Feng Gu was seated on the main seat while Chen Xuan Ba, the Commander of the Black Dragon Army, was seated below.

Liu Feng Gu asked grimly, "Xuan Ba, what do you think about the recent incident?" Although his cultivation base granted him a better physique, it could be seen that he was visibly exhausted from his long investigation of the incident. His eyes were bloodshot.

"Initially, I thought the Silverwurm Army might have offended someone. However, the more I thought about it, the more it doesn't add up. If Miao Lai Long provoked someone who strong enough to kill him, that someone should've looked for you to have a word with you. After all, you're not only Miao Lai Long's superior, but you're also the City Governor of Bloody Specter City," Chen Xuan Ba replied. After a moment, he seemed to recall something so he asked, "Lord City Governor, didn't Miao Lai Long carry a Floating Image Celestial Talisman?"

“When he died, the Major Floating Image Celestial Talisman didn’t receive the recording from his Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman,” Liu Feng Gu said.

Upon hearing Liu Feng Gu’s words, Chen Xuan Ba inhaled sharply. “Then... Does this mean a Great Overarching Golden Celestial killed Miao Lai Long?”

Liu Feng Gu answered confidently, “That’s highly likely...”

“How or when did the Silverwurm Army offend a Great Overarching Golden Celestial? If a Great Overarching Golden Celestial was here, it would be impossible for him not to visit the City Governor, right?” Chen Xuan Ba muttered to himself skeptically.

“Perhaps, there’s more than meets the eyes,” Liu Feng Gu said gravely.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a gust of wind blew into the hall.

“Lord City Governor.” An ancient voice rang in the air at this moment. Following that, an old man appeared in the great hall, cupping his fists at Liu Feng Gu.

Upon seeing the old man, Chen Xuan Ba quickly rose to his feet and respectfully greeted the old man, “Elder Hong.” Although he was the Commander of the Black Dragon Army, he did not dare to be negligent or disrespectful to this old man. Not only did this old man have a good relationship with Liu Feng Gu, but the old man was also the head of the Golden Serpent Guards and the second strongest person in Blood Specter City.

“Elder Hong, any success?” Liu Feng Gu asked with a hint of anticipation.

Elder Hong nodded slightly before he said, “Lord City Governor, there were two unknown visitors who came to Bloody Specter City recently. These two individuals came from the County Governor’s estate in the County City of Nine Specters County!”

“Two individuals from the County Governor’s estate?” Liu Feng Gu widened his eyes in shock. He asked grimly, “Who were they?” At the same time, Zhou Tong appeared in his mind. After all, Zhou Tong was one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestials in Nine Specter County.

Liu Feng Gu and Chen Xuan Ba looked at Elder Hong, riveted, as Elder Hong replied, “Among the two individuals, one of them is an inner-estate elder called Qian Ping An. As for the other person, he’s Zhou Fei, the godson of Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of Nine Specters County. About one and a half years ago, Duan Ling Tian had severed all four of Zhou Fei’s limbs!” After a moment, he said, “Qian Ping An is Zhou Tong’s subordinate, and Zhou Fei is Zhou Tong’s godson... Is it a coincidence that the Silverwurm Army was annihilated?”

Liu Feng Gu mulled over Elder Hong’s words for a moment before his expression changed dramatically.

“Lord City Governor...” Chen Xuan Ba was quite curious. What did Liu Feng Gu think of that his expression turned so unsightly?

Alas, Liu Feng Gu waved his hand dismissively and said, "Xuan Ba, you may take your leave. I've figured out what happened so there's no need for you to continue your investigation. I'll explain the matter to you another time. I have to speak to Elder Hong privately now."

Despite his curiosity, Chen Xuan Ba did not protest and swiftly left the great hall. "Yes, Lord City Governor."

Once Chen Xuan Ba left, Liu Feng Gu said in a grave tone, "Elder Hong, if I'm not mistaken, Zhou Tong must have discovered that Duan Ling Tian is a Heavenly Celestial who had just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago. Moreover, he must have found out about Duan Ling Tian's extraordinary Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. Based on his greedy nature, there's no doubt that he covets Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. Otherwise, there's no need for him to take such a drastic measure to make sure nobody from the Silverwurm Army would be able to leak this news." After putting the puzzles together, it was not difficult for him to guess that the culprit was Zhou Tong.

Elder Hong asked, "Governor, if it was Zhou Tong, why didn't he come to look for trouble with you?"

"Zhou Tong is a petty and conceited person. I'm afraid he's already discovered I sent Duan Ling Tian to deal with him... Based on his character, after he deals with Duan Ling Tian, he'll definitely come and look for me!" Based on Liu Feng Gu's words, it seemed like he knew Zhou Tong quite well.

Chapter 2648 He Can Only Rely On Himself

Upon hearing Liu Feng Gu's words, Elder Hong inhaled sharply. He said in a frightened voice, "Lord Governor, if this is true, then, isn't Duan Ling Tian in danger? Why don't you use a Communication Celestial Talisman to inform Duan Ling Tian about this so he can find a way to defend himself against Zhou Tong?"

"Elder Hong..." Liu Feng Gu said with a sigh, "I've thought about things you said as well. However, do you think my communication talisman will reach Duan Ling Tian's hands in the County City? Let alone reaching Duan Ling Tian's hand, there's no chance of it entering the County Governor's estate unless it's inscribed by a Great Overarching Golden Celestial or those who are stronger."

Communication Celestial Talismans were talismans used to transmit information. However, there were many kinds of Communication Celestial Talismans. Naturally, the talismans that were drawn by those with a high cultivation base were better than those that were inscribed by someone with a low cultivation base. Since Liu Feng Gu was only an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial, all the talismans he owned that were drawn by him would be easily intercepted by those who had a higher cultivation base than him. Moreover, due to the distance between Bloody Specter City and the County City, it was highly likely the communication talisman would be intercepted halfway before it even reached the County Governor's estate. To ensure a smooth delivery of information, it was better for a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, at least, to inscribe the Communication Celestial Talisman.

Previously, when Duan Ling Tian severed Zhou Fei's limbs, the talisman Zhou Fei had used to summon Zhou Tong was a Communication Celestial Talisman that Zhou Tong, a Great Overarching Golden Celestial at the yellow stage, had personally inscribed.

“Moreover, even if I have a Communication Celestial Talisman inscribed by a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, do you honestly think Zhou Tong wouldn’t keep an eye on Duan Ling Tian now that he knows Duan Ling Tian is sent by me? How could he let my Communication Celestial Talisman reach Duan Ling Tian? I can say with almost 100% certainty that even if we visit the County City, we still won’t be able to contact Duan Ling Tian.” He fell silent for a moment before he finally said again, “At this point, Duan Ling Tian can only depend on himself to escape this calamity.”

Elder Hong mulled over Liu Feng Gu’s words and found that, indeed, it seemed like there was nothing they could do for now.

An expression of despair appeared on Liu Feng Gu’s face after Elder Hong left. He sighed as he muttered to himself, “Duan Ling Tian, I hope you’ll be able to escape this danger. Otherwise, I don’t think I’ll get another chance to seek revenge from Zhou Tong in this lifetime.” He knew Zhou Tong would kill him after killing Duan Ling Tian. After all, he knew Zhou Tong would not risk him sending a second Duan Ling Tian to seek revenge from him.

Previously, Liu Feng Gu was able to peacefully stay in Bloody Specter City because he did not threaten Zhou Tong nor was he a threat to Zhou Tong. Moreover, the County Governor of Nine Specters City stood as a deterrent as well. However, Zhou Tong would no longer let matters go now that there was Duan Ling Tian. He had previously granted Duan Ling Tian access to his cultivation place. With just a little investigation, Zhou Tong would definitely discover all this.

At this moment, Elder Hong returned to the great hall again. “Lord Governor! There’s something else. There was news from the County Governor’s estate a year ago. It’s said Great Overarching Pills will be given to the counties where the top three participants of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties are from.” He took a breath before he continued speaking, “For this reason, although Duan Ling Tian broke a rule in the Latent Dragon Abyss, Lord County Governor did not pursue the matter. Moreover, he even asked Elder Zheng Qiu to take the blame for Duan Ling Tian. Based on this, it’s clear that he values Duan Ling Tian very much. It’s probably because he hopes that Duan Ling Tian would be able to win him the Great Overarching Pills. After all, we both know Lord County Governor’s cultivation base has been stuck at a bottleneck for a few years now. With the Great Overarching Pill, he’ll be able to improve his cultivation base. How could he not want the pills? Under these circumstances, he would certainly protect Duan Ling Tian.”

Elder Hong paused for a moment before he finally said, “Why don’t you inform Lord County Governor about this? This will ensure that he watches over Duan Ling Tian...”

“I’ve also thought about this as well,” Liu Feng Gu said with a sigh, “However, it’s a naive idea. Put aside the fact that Zhou Tong would probably intercept any information we send to Lord County Governor, what makes you think Lord County Governor won’t covet Duan Ling Tian’s heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities like Zhou Tong? After all, a high-rank Celestial Method or Divine Ability is much rarer compared to Great Overarching Pills.”

Upon hearing this, Elder Hong smiled bitterly. “Indeed, my thinking is naive and too simple. I’m nowhere as wise as you.” He sighed as he added, “It’s like you said, Duan Ling Tian can only rely on himself now.”

...

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of everything that had transpired in Bloody Specter City. He was still in closed-door cultivation.

After obtaining that primitive Celestial Pill, the Hidden Spirit Pill, from the County Governor of Nine Specters County, Duan Ling Tian had wholeheartedly immersed himself in cultivation. The pill's efficacy was absorbed and circulated in his body. Even after his cultivation base had a breakthrough, he continued with cultivating with the goal of breaking through to the next stage. He had completely forgotten about the passage of time as he cultivated.

During cultivation, even when he encountered bottlenecks that slowed down his cultivation speed, he did not stop and continued cultivating using the yellow-grade cultivation technique, the Crystal Clearance Technique. With that, he continued to circulate his Celestial Origin Energy, the Hidden Spirit Pill, and the Spirit Nourishing Pill in his body, completing one cycle after another. Coupled with the superior cultivation environment and the high-grade Celestial Stone, he was progressing rapidly.

In the stone chamber in the depth of the Latent Dragon Abyss, Duan Ling Tian took a Hidden Spirit Pill and swallowed it. Soon after, a rich medicinal energy flowed in his body. "This is my last Hidden Spirit Pill... I hope the pill's efficacy is enough for my cultivation base to push through this bottleneck and break through to the next stage!"

"Spirit Nourishing Pill!" After that, he consumed the primitive Celestial Pill, the Spirit Nourishing Pill.

After taking the pills, Duan Ling Tian calmed down and wholeheartedly immersed himself into cultivating again. Except for cultivating, there were no other superfluous thoughts in his mind. The efficacies of the two pills merged, and he could feel himself almost pushing past the bottleneck.

...

Duan Ling Tian was blissfully unaware that at this moment, there were people waiting for him to come out of his closed-door cultivation in the County Governor's estate.

"Damn it! That Duan Ling Tian still hasn't come out! He's only a Heavenly Celestial, regardless of how good the cultivation environment and resources are, he'll eventually hit a bottleneck, right? Why hasn't he come out? Almost half a year has passed, and he's still not coming out?!" Zhuo Fei had just returned to his stone chamber that was second to last in the Latent Dragon Abyss. His expression was incredibly unsightly.

Several months had passed since his and his godfather's return from Bloody Specter City. They had been waiting all this while for Duan Ling Tian to come out from his closed-door cultivation. After all, they could not act against Duan Ling Tian in the Latent Dragon Abyss since they would definitely alert the County Governor. At that time, who knew if they could obtain Duan Ling Tian's heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities?

On the other hand, Zhou Tong remained patient as he waited for Duan Ling Tian. Perhaps, the saying was true, 'The older the ginger, the spicier it is'.

In comparison, Zhou Fei had begun to lose patience after waiting for only a few months. However, there was nothing he could do even if he was impatient. All he could do was come out of his stone chamber every once in a while to look at the last stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss, checking if there were any signs of movements.

...

Two months later.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of loud explosions suddenly rang from the last room in the depth of the Latent Dragon Abyss. The commotion it caused was extremely huge. Even the stone chamber above it was slightly quaking. This was a feat since the Latent Dragon Abyss that was constructed by the County Governor of Nine Specters County was extremely sturdy.

In the second to last stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss, Zhou Fei who was sitting cross-legged opened his eyes in excitement. "It seems like the disturbance came from Duan Ling Tian's stone chamber!"

After half a year, Duan Ling Tian finally showed signs of movements!

Chapter 2649 Duan Ling Tian Comes Out From Closed-door Cultivation

The Latent Dragon Abyss had thirty stone chambers in total. The closer it was to the bottom, the better the cultivation environment. The stone chamber in the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss had a cultivation environment that was comparable to the cultivation place of the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specter County.

Currently, the stone chamber in the deepest part of the Latent Dragon Abyss was filled with turbulent Celestial Origin Energy. The energy rampaged in the room, smashing into the walls and causing a series of explosive noises.

The source of the Celestial Origin Energy was a purple-clad young man who was seated on a stone bed in the stone chamber. This young man was none other than Duan Ling Tian who was in closed-door cultivation. After he had left the courtyard in the residence of Zheng Qiu, an inner-estate elder in the County Governor's estate, he had returned to his stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss to cultivate. He had not gone out since then.

As though his life depended on it, Duan Ling Tian cultivated diligently to raise his cultivation base. After cultivating for one and a half years, he finally had his second breakthrough. He was now a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. As the saying went, 'Heaven helps those who help themselves'.

"So this is what a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial's Celestial Origin Energy is like?" Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself as he controlled the Celestial Origin Energy and directed it at the walls. That was not exactly true. His Celestial Origin Energy was, in fact, different than most Yellow Sun Golden Celestials. He thought to himself, 'Although I'm a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial, it's more precise to say my Celestial Origin Energy is comparable to a Blue Sun Golden Celestial. Thanks to 99 Heavenly Veins, my Celestial Origin Energy had increased by two levels!'

Whoosh!

With just a thought, Duan Ling Tian withdrew his Celestial Origin Energy. When he opened his eyes, they flashed so brilliantly that it seemed capable of illuminating the heavens and earth.

“Fortunately, the efficacy of the Hidden Spirit Pill was enough for me to break through and become a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. I wonder how long I had been in closed-door cultivation. Regardless, I don’t think it has exceeded two years.” As usual, Duan Ling Tian had forgotten all about the passage of time when he was cultivating.

When Duan Ling Tian first entered closed-door cultivation, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties held by King Qing’s Mansion was only two and a half years away. There was no need to mention anyone else, the County Governor of Nine Specters County definitely would not let him cultivate past the competition date. After all, the County Governor of Nine Specters Sect needed him to participate in the competition to win him the Great Overarching Pills. Therefore, he was certain that not more than two years had passed while he was in closed-door cultivation.

“I’ve finished the last of my Hidden Spirit Pills. If I continue cultivating, my speed won’t be as fast as before. I’ll wait until I can obtain more Hidden Spirit Pills to complement other primitive-grade pills like the Spirit Nourishing Pills.” After experiencing the effects of the Hidden Spirit Pills mixed with the Spirit Nourishing Pills, if he had a choice, Duan Ling Tian no longer wished to cultivate by just consuming the Spirit Nourishing Pills alone. Combining both pills significantly raised his cultivation speed after all.

Finally, Duan Ling Tian got down from the stone bed. As he left the stone chamber, he thought to himself, ‘It’s been a while since I arrived in the County City, but I haven’t explored the place at all. I’ll use this time to have a look around and relax.’

“Hm?” As soon as Duan Ling Tian emerged from his stone chamber, he sensed a piercing gaze on him. “Zhou Fei?” He discovered the owner of the burning gaze when he looked up. It was none other than Zhou Tong’s godson whose limbs he had severed previously. Since Zhou Fei’s stone chamber was directly above his stone chamber, Zhou Fei was probably alerted due to the disturbance in his room earlier. He could clearly see the burning hatred in the depths of Zhou Fei’s eyes, but he was not bothered by it. In fact, he would have found it strange if Zhou Fei did not hate him after he had severed Zhou Fei’s limbs.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian looked away. He stomped on the ground before he flew past Zhou Fei and shot up into the sky. During the entire process, he did not spare Zhou Fei a glance at all.

“Duan! Ling! Tian!” Zhou Fei said through clenched teeth when he saw Duan Ling Tian’s blatant disregard. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do. He thought to himself, ‘You can keep being arrogant... We’ll see how long it lasts!’

As Duan Ling Tian made his way out of the Latent Dragon Abyss, many of those who just emerged from their respective stone chambers and those who had just returned to the Latent Dragon Abyss saw Duan Ling Tian.

“It’s Duan Ling Tian!”

“Duan Ling Tian is out?”

“He disappeared for a long time... How long was it? It should be about one and a half years, right?”

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to leave the Latent Dragon Pool, he heard a familiar voice calling out to him.

“Duan Ling Tian!”

“Qin Yu?” Duan Ling Tian turned around and saw Qin Yu, a former Captain of the Black Dragon Army. Qin Yu had been selected in Bloody Specter City to come to the County City together with him.

Whoosh!

Qin Yu who had just exited the third to last stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss appeared like a gust of wind before Duan Ling Tian.

When Qin Yu was fast approaching him earlier, Duan Ling Tian could already sense the changes in Qin Yu’s aura. He was slightly surprised. He asked, “Qin Yu, you had a breakthrough?”

“Yes.” Qin Yu nodded with a smile. “If I didn’t have a breakthrough, how could I possibly occupy the stone chamber that’s only inferior to Zhou Fei and your stone chambers?”

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had also been surprised by Qin Yu when Qin Yu was selected to come to the County City of Nine Specters County even though he knew Qin Yu was talented. However, upon sensing Qin Yu’s breakthrough, he realized Qin Yu was even more talented than he had thought. The Latent Dragon Abyss housed 30 Golden Celestials below the age of 100. For Qin Yu to occupy the third best stone chamber, based on this, one could see how strong Qin Yu was.

“It’s nothing. I’m still a far cry from you,” Qin Yu said humbly.

Duan Ling Tian changed the subject and said with a smile, “Only two of us were selected to come here from Bloody Specter City. If City Governor Liu finds out both of us rank in the top three among these 30 Golden Celestials, he’ll definitely be delighted.”

Qin Yu replied, “News of you ranking top in the Latent Dragon Abyss has already reached Lord City Governor. As for me, I’ve only occupied the third best stone chamber recently so I’m afraid he hasn’t heard about it yet.” After he finished speaking, he studied Duan Ling Tian for a moment before asking, “I can sense the great changes in your aura. During these one and a half years in closed-door cultivation, you must have gained a lot, right?”

Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback when he heard Qin Yu’s words. “One and a half years? You know when I began my closed-door cultivation?”

“I don’t know when you went into closed-door cultivation. I only heard it from the others,” Qin Yu replied.

'So I was in closed-door cultivation for a year and a half... I managed to break through twice before becoming a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial in one and a half years. This speed seems barely passable in the Spirit Overarching Heaven...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

If Qin Yu was aware of Duan Ling Tian's thoughts, he would have felt exasperated. After all, even outstanding Scarlet Sun Golden Celestials from high-rank Celestial Kingdoms with superior cultivation techniques, environments, and resources would take longer than Duan Ling Tian to become a Yellow Sun Golden Celestials.

Duan Ling Tian's cultivation speed was incredibly fast largely due to his 99 Heavenly Veins. When he had first ascended to the Celestial Ascension Pool, he had taken Xia Jie's advice and soaked in the pool for a longer time to temper his 99 Heavenly Veins. For this reason, his cultivation speed became even faster. Otherwise, how could it be possible for a person who had just ascended two years ago to become a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial in such a short time? In just two years, a Scarlet Sun Golden Celestial became a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial.

Apart from the young powerhouses from elite forces in the Devata Realms who had the aid of prominent or higher grade pills, there was nobody in the history of Spirit Overarching Heaven who had accomplished such a feat by only relying on primitive Celestial Pills. In fact, it was not just in the Spirit Overarching Heaven, the same could be said for the remaining 80 Devata Realms. Those who were able to accomplish such a feat was as rare as phoenix feathers and qilin horns.

After a while, Qin Yu asked, "Duan Ling Tian, where are you planning to go?"

"It's been so long since we arrived in the County City, but I haven't gone out at all. I'm planning to stroll around the city," Duan Ling Tian answered.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Qin Yu said, "Why don't I come with you? After being here for two years, I've gotten quite familiar with the city. I'll bring you wherever you want to go."

Chapter 2650 Trap

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. Although he was not particularly close to Qin Yun, after numerous interactions, he had a favorable impression of Qin Yu.

Swoosh!

As soon as Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu left the Latent Dragon Abyss, a figure flew out of the Latent Dragon Abyss at lightning speed in a different direction from Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu. This person was none other than Zhou Fei. After he saw Duan Ling Tian coming out from his closed-door cultivation, he quickly made his way to Zhou Tong's residence.

"Duan Ling Tian is out?" Although Zhou Tong was patient as he waited for Duan Ling Tian to come out, his eyes visibly brightened and an excited expression could be seen on his wizened face when he heard the news.

"Godfather, what's our plan?" Zhou Fei asked.

After Zhou Tong regained his composure, he narrowed his eyes that were gleaming coldly. "I have my plans. All you have to do is come along and watch the play."

Zhou Fei felt reassured when he heard the confidence in Zhou Tong's words.

...

Meanwhile, after leaving the County Governor's estate, Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu explored every nook and cranny in the city.

Although Duan Ling Tian had arrived two years ago, this was his first time exploring the city. He looked around curiously.

After strolling around, Qin Yu led Duan Ling Tian into a restaurant. The duo picked a table located in the corner of the room and listened to people's conversations as they drank wine. These people chatted about various things, earning the duo's attention.

All of sudden, Duan Ling Tian's attention was caught by a conversation between two drinkers.

"Did you hear? King Qing's Mansion will hold the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties next year!" One of the men said.

"Martial Competition of the 16 Counties?" It was clear this was the first time his friend had heard of it. "What's that?"

"Well, the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties is..." he began to explain the competition to his friend.

It did not take long before the attention of most people in the restaurant were also caught by this man's words. Based on this, it could be seen most people were hearing about this for the first time.

"No wonder. My brother who's a messenger in the County Governor's estate said that a place called Latent Dragon Abyss was built two years ago, and it houses 30 Golden Celestials under the age of 100. As it turns out, the estate is preparing for the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties."

"Latent Dragon Abyss? I heard about that place as well. I even heard a Golden Celestial from Bloody Specter City severed four of Zhou Fei's limbs as soon as he arrived!"

"Zhou Fei? Are you talking about the strongest Golden Celestial under the age of 100 in our Nine Specters County? The godson of Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate?"

"Yes, that's him!"

"Are you joking? Like you said, Zhou Fei is the strongest Golden Celestial under 100 years old in all of Nine Specters County. How could someone from Bloody Specter County severe his limbs?"

"Well, you're probably unaware of this. The fact is this was a hot topic two years ago. However, a few people who were recklessly discussing this incident were killed by Revered Elder Zhou Tong's subordinates. Therefore, very few people dare to speak about it since then."

"Then, why are you talking about it now? You're not afraid of death?"

"Well, I... I just feel I won't be that unlucky. Whatever! I'm going to leave after I pay the bill!"

Following the departure of the individual who revealed this explosive news, the crowd in the restaurant broke out in a commotion immediately. Many people were talking about the Golden Celestial from Bloody Specter City who was less than 100 years old.

At a corner of the restaurant, Qin Yu asked with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, if these people find out the subject of their discussion is sitting right here, what do you think their reactions would be like?"

Duan Ling Tian shrugged before he said, "I was hoping to hear something useful... However, it seems like they won't stop talking about this any time soon. We should leave."

After leaving the restaurant, Duan Ling Tian strolled around the city under Qin Yu's guide. Just when they were about to return to the Latent Dragon Abyss, they heard a voice from a deserted alley across the road.

"Keep it down! Not many people know about that place for now. If he comes over, we might be able to get our fingers in the pie!"

Although the voices had been deliberately lowered, it did not escape Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu's notice. Both of them came to a halt before exchanging a look and simultaneously gestured to each other to keep quiet.

"Does that place really have... profound-grade techniques?" A hushed voice that could barely conceal its excitement rang out.

"Well... I can't be 100% certain. Rumor has it that the place was left behind by an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial. It's a matter of course that Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestials have profound-grade techniques at the very least, right?" the person replied before he continued to tell his friend about the various rumors he heard surrounding the place that was supposedly left behind by an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial. His descriptions were vivid enough that it did not seem like he was lying.

Qin Yu glanced at Duan Ling Tian and said in a hushed tone, "Based on his words, it doesn't seem like he's lying about that place."

"Indeed." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. He had noticed the man's descriptions did not seem fabricated as well.

A few moments later, the two individuals quietly left the empty alley and headed to the outskirts of the city through the city's northern gates. Upon leaving the city, they continued to make their way north.

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu who had been tailing the duo came to a halt at the city's northern gates.

Qin Yu looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked, "Do you want to go and have a look?" Then, he added, "However, if we leave the city, our lives would be at risk. Naturally, you can return to the estate and request for Lord County Governor to send an elder to accompany us. However, I'm afraid we won't be able to catch up to those two people if we do that."

Qin Yu was, naturally, aware that the County Governor of Nine Specters County valued Duan Ling Tian a lot due to the mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pills, that would be given to the counties where the top three participants of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties were from. For this

reason, he was certain that as long as Duan Ling Tian said the word, the County Governor would definitely oblige and send an elder to accompany them. In fact, the County Governor might personally come along upon hearing about this. After all, this matter concerned profound-grade techniques! Moreover, based on the great importance the County Governor placed on Duan Ling Tian, if he obtained some extraordinary techniques, he would surely impart them to Duan Ling Tian to increase Duan Ling Tian's chance of winning the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties.

"If we return to the estate now, we'll definitely lose the trail. Naturally, there's always a chance that they're lying, and we would be risking our lives for nothing if that's the case. However, it seems unlikely that they're lying," Duan Ling Tian's eyes shone as he said, "I'll go and have a look. You can return to the estate first if you want. If I have the fortune of obtaining the profound-grade technique, rest assured that I'll definitely share it with you."

"If I don't go with you, I'd be too embarrassed to accept the profound-grade technique if you really were to find it." Qin Yu shook his head. It seemed like he had made up his mind to follow Duan Ling Tian.

Since they had numerous interactions after arriving in the county Governor's estate, Duan Ling Tian knew Qin Yu quite well. Once Qin Yu made up his mind, it would be difficult to change it. For this reason, he did not waste time to dissuade Qin Yu from coming along. He reminded Qin Yu, "Come with me if you want, but don't stray too far away from me..."

"I understand." Although Qin Yu had no idea how strong Duan Ling Tian was now, he knew Duan Ling Tian was definitely stronger than him.

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu immediately crossed the northern gates and followed those two individuals. Those people were only Scarlet Sun Golden Celestials, it was only natural that Duan Ling Tian and Zhou Fei's speed was much faster than theirs. It did not take long before they caught up to those two people. They continued to move further and further away as they tailed the two people.

As they flew over a thicket, Qin Yu's expression turned grave. His instinct told him something was amiss. "Duan Ling Tian, I have a feeling that something isn't right."

At this point, Duan Ling Tian had also felt the danger. The ominous feeling in his heart intensified when he discovered the two people they had been tailing had disappeared into thin air, leaving both of them like headless chickens, fumbling around. "I'm afraid that we've fallen into a trap."

"Duan Ling Tian!" A voice Duan Ling Tian was familiar with rang from high up in the sky. It seemed like the voice was moving closer and closer to them.

Duan Ling Tian looked up and saw two figures in the sky. An old man flew in the lead while a young man trailed behind. The one who had just spoken was the young man flying in the back. His eyes narrowed slightly. "Zhou Fei! Zhou Tong!"

The two figures belonged to Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County, and his godson, Zhou Fei.