

### **2651 I Don't Think It's A Pity**

"Why is it them?" Qin Yu exclaimed in shock when he saw the people who were currently descending. He had only seen Zhou Fei before, but it was not difficult for him to figure out the old man's identity. The old man had to be Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder in the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County! Moreover, the old man did not have the aura of a Golden Celestial. The aura he emitted screamed he was stronger than a Golden Celestial. Despite already knowing the answer, he asked, "Duan Ling Tian, that old man with Zhou Fei is Revered Elder Zhou Tong, right?"

Based on what Zheng Qiu said, Qin Yu knew that before Duan Ling Tian went into closed-door cultivation one and a half year ago, Zhou Tong had happily given Duan Ling Tian two bottles of primitive Celestial Pills, the Hidden Spirit Pills, when the County Governor of Nine Specters County promised to give Zhou Tong a Great Overarching Pill if Duan Ling Tian managed to rank in the top three of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. How could a person's attitude undergo a heaven and earth change in just a year and a half? It was obvious that the old man who accompanied Zhou Fei here did not come with good intentions.

"You're right, that's Zhou Tong," Duan Ling Tian replied.

Despite already knowing the answer, Qin Yu inhaled sharply when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. He asked through Voice Transmission, "Didn't he give you two bottles of Spirit Nourishing Pills a year and a half ago? I heard that he was eager to help you grow stronger so you can rank in the top three of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. It's obvious he came harboring ill intentions. Why is his change so extreme when just a short time has passed?"

"Indeed, he came harboring ill intentions." Since Qin Yu could tell Zhou Tong was up to no good, Duan Ling Tian could, naturally, see that as well. Moreover, he even figured out the two individuals earlier must have been planted by Zhou Tong as well.

Duan Ling Tian thought to himself with a sigh, 'I was too careless.' However, the two individuals' words had sounded true to him. Otherwise, he would not have chased after them without preparing in advance. Naturally, it was also because he longed for a profound-grade cultivation technique that he had recklessly chased after the two individuals. If he obtained a profound-grade cultivation technique to replace his yellow-grade cultivation technique, the Crystal Clearance Technique, his cultivation speed would increase by several folds!

Qin Yu verbalized the thoughts in Duan Ling Tian's mind through Voice Transmission, "It seems like the two individuals were sent by Zhou Tong... However, it did not seem like they were lying about the profound-grade cultivation technique."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei finally descended and stood near Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu. Both of them were staring at Duan Ling Tian intently, they did not even spare Qin Yu a glance.

Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly before he said, "Revered Elder Zhou Tong, what coincidence meeting you here."

Zhou Tong said indifferently, "It's not a coincidence. I've been waiting for you for some time now."

Duan Ling Tian feigned a shocked expression on his face.

"Duan Ling Tian!" Zhou Fei looked at Duan Ling Tian and sneered. "Who would've expected you to conceal yourself so well? If I didn't go to Bloody Specter City to investigate your background, I would've never guessed you'd just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two and a half years ago! Moreover, you'd ascended to the Heavenly Celestials' Celestial Ascension Pool." His sneer grew more pronounced as he spoke.

Upon hearing Zhou Fei's words, Qin Yu's expression changed immediately. Naturally, he knew about this, but he did not expect Zhou Fei would discover this. Moreover, Zhou Fei had intentionally gone to Bloody Specter City to investigate the matter. Realization dawned on him at this moment. No wonder Zhou Tong's attitude underwent such a huge change. Zhou Fei must have informed him about all Duan Ling Tian. It was not difficult to figure out that Zhou Tong coveted Duan Ling Tian's extraordinary Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. After all, a mediocre Celestial Pill like the Great Overarching Pill was incredibly insignificant compared to a heaven-grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability. Now that he found out the reason behind Zhou Tong's arrival, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. However, he discovered Duan Ling Tian remained calm when faced with Zhou Fei's mocking words. It seemed as though even if Mount Tai were to collapse before him, Duan Ling Tian would still be able to maintain his composure.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Zhou Fei and chuckled. "You're quite determined. Even those things have been investigated by you." His eyes were brimming with disdain as he continued to say, "Zhou Fei, if you had a fraction of this determination in regard to cultivating, you would not have been so weak that I could even defeat you with just a strike."

Duan Ling Tian's words were akin to pouring salt on Zhou Fei's wound. As soon as he heard this, his expression changed greatly. He glowered at Duan Ling Tian before he shouted, "Why are you acting so arrogant? If it were not for your Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, how could you be a match for me? You're just a newly ascended lowly trash!"

"Lowly trash?" Duan Ling Tian smiled. "If I'm trash, what does it make you, someone who had his limbs severed by lowly trash? Does it make you a piece of sh\*t?" His smile deepened as he spoke.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Zhou Fei was rendered speechless, and his expression turned even more unsightly. Duan Ling Tian was speaking the truth. The gap between them was so wide that Duan Ling Tian could easily defeat him with just a strike! In the end, he said in a low voice, "Duan Ling Tian, you can continue being a smartass. However, it won't change the fact that you're merely a dog in my godfather's cage. If you were told to go east, you couldn't even look west. If you were told to go south, you couldn't even look north!" He sneered as he continued to say confidently, "If you obediently reveal your Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, you might be able to live for a few more years. Otherwise, you'll have a taste of what it's like to have a life worse than death!" It was clear he did not doubt Zhou Tong's ability at all.

“Is that so?” Duan Ling Tian flashed a grin. From the beginning until now, he did not reveal even the slightest hint of panic. It was as though he did not fear Zhou Tong at all.

“Smile while you still can. Once my godfather acts, you won’t be able to smile even if you want to!” Zhuo Fei sneered.

At this moment, Zhou Tong who had remained silent until now finally spoke up, “Duan Ling Tian!” His cloudy eyes seemed exceptionally bright at this moment as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. “It’s truly shocking that you’d only ascended two and a half years ago. If I’m not mistaken, you’re still a Heavenly Celestial, right?”

Duan Ling Tian responded to the question with another question, “Would you believe me if I say no, Revered Elder Zhou Tong?”

Before Zhou Tong could reply, Zhou Fei scoffed loudly. He said contemptuously, “Duan Ling Tian, who do you think you are? Do you expect us to believe you became a Golden Celestial in just two and a half years? What a joke! If I master your heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, I’ll be able to kill you with a finger!”

Duan Ling Tian did not even deign to spare Zhou Fei a glance. He only looked at Zhou Tong calmly. Zhou Fei was not worthy of his attention at all.

“Duan Ling Tian!” When Zhou Fei saw Duan Ling Tian’s blatant disregard, he was resentful and embarrassed. He glared at Duan Ling Tian until it looked as though they were going to pop out of their sockets.

At this moment, Zhou Tong’s eyes flashed coldly as he said, “Regardless if I believe you or not, there’s no doubt that you’ll be captured by me today!”

Even after Zhou Tong dropped his pretenses, Duan Ling Tian still looked calm. He asked nonchalantly, Revered Elder Zhou Tong, if I’m not mistaken, those two individuals were sent by you to lure me here, right?”

“Correct,” Zhou Tong replied apathetically. He did not put much thought into why Duan Ling Tian was able to maintain his composure. Both him and Zhou Fei thought Duan Ling Tian was only putting on a front to try and confuse them.

Duan Ling Tian said, “I’m really curious... Why did it seem like they were telling the truth when they spoke about the profound-grade cultivation techniques? There were no flaws in their words.”

“That’s because they’re speaking from my experience a year and a half ago. At that time, I had obtained information on the whereabouts of a profound-grade cultivation technique and had even left the Nine Specters County to look for it.” An almost unnoticeable hint of regret flashed in his eyes briefly when he spoke.

However, it did not escape Duan Ling Tian’s eyes. He instantly exposed Zhou Tong. “What a pity! It seems like the profound-grade cultivation technique was obtained by someone else.”

“Well, I don’t think it’s a pity.” Zhuo Tong’s eyes shone as he stared at Duan Ling Tian. “Compared to an insignificant profound-grade cultivation technique, I’m more interested in heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities!”

### **Chapter 2652 Going All Out**

About two years ago, Zhou Tong had received news about a profound-grade cultivation technique. For this reason, he had secretly left the County Governor’s estate. Naturally, he had acted in secrecy due to his selfishness. He did not want to have to share the profound-grade cultivation technique with the County Governor of Nine Specters County. This was the same time Duan Ling Tian had arrived in the County Governor’s estate and severed Zhou Fei’s limbs in the Latent Dragon Abyss.

“Well, you can refuse to reveal your Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, but don’t regret it later.” Zhou Tong sneered. “I have hundreds and thousands of ways to torture it out of you. At that time, you’d fervently wish for death. I wonder if your will is stronger than the pain I’ll inflict on you?”

Whoosh!

As soon as Zhou Tong finished speaking, a vast and terrifying Celestial Origin Energy surged out of his body. They looked like flames licking the air, making him look like the god of fire at this moment. His Celestial Origin Energy that was at the level of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial seemed to make the air heavy.

Qin Yu and Zhou Fei whose cultivation bases were the weakest among the four of them became slightly breathless as their faces flushed red due to being overwhelmed by Zhou Tong’s Celestial Origin Energy.

On the contrary, Duan Ling Tian remained unaffected from the beginning until now.

Zhou Tong cocked an eyebrow as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said patronizingly, “A mere Heavenly Celestial who’s unaffected by my Celestial Origin Energy! Duan Ling Tian, you should feel proud of yourself.” He spoke as though he was a high and mighty god looking down at Duan Ling Tian who was like a bug he could crush at any time.

Nevertheless, Duan Ling Tian ignored Zhou Tong. He turned to Qin Yu and said, “Qin Yu, Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei came for me. You should leave first.”

Qin Yu knew Duan Ling Tian had said those words for his own good. However, he could not abandon Duan Ling Tian to such powerful enemies. It was not in his character to do something like that. “Duan Ling Tian, we left the city together, and we’ll return to the city together!”

When Qin Yu finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian furrowed his brows while Zhou Tong scoffed loudly before he said, “None of you will be leaving here today!”

Zhou Tong was not stupid. If he had come to kill Duan Ling Tian, he would not care about Qin Yu’s life or death. After all, even if Qin Yu tattled to the County Governor, the County Governor would not settle scores with him over a dead person. He was the only Great Overarching Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County, apart from the County Governor. Duan Ling Tian might be as valuable as him alive, but a dead Duan Ling Tian was worthless! Nevertheless, he did not plan to kill Duan Ling Tian before he

obtained the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities. For this reason, he could not let Qin Yu leave and seek help from the County Governor. If the County Governor learned about Duan Ling Tian's extraordinary Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, the County Governor would surely intervene. At that time, none of the outcomes would be favorable to him.

"Fine, you can stay, but watch out for yourself," Duan Ling Tian said before he glanced at Zhou Fei who was standing behind Zhou Tong.

At this moment, Zhou Fei was staring intently at Qin Yu.

Zhou Tong's eyes did not leave Duan Ling Tian at all as he ordered, "Fei'er, kill Qin Yu while I deal with Duan Ling Tian!" At this moment, it seemed like all he could see was Duan Ling Tian.

"Yes, godfather!" Zhou Fei replied and instantly moved toward Qin Yu.

"Be careful!" Duan Ling Tian's expression darkened. His Celestial Origin Energy stirred, clearly intending to help Qin Yu. Since Qin Yu had not taken over Zhou Fei's stone chamber in the Latent Dragon Abyss, Qin Yu was probably still weaker than Zhou Fei. For this reason, he could not help but worry about Qin Yu's safety.

"You should look out for yourself!" At this moment, Zhou Tong blocked Duan Ling Tian with his Celestial Origin Energy that was raging like a fire.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

At the same time, a series of explosions rang in the air. Qin Yu and Zhou Fei had begun to fight.

When Duan Ling Tian looked over, he discovered that, indeed, Zhou Fei was stronger than Qin Yu, but the difference in their strength was rather insignificant. 'Based on the situation, it's unlikely that Zhou Fei would be able to defeat Qin Yu in less than 100 moves...' He felt his worries easing, and he shifted his attention back to Zhou Tong who had appeared before him.

Before Duan Ling Tian came to the County City of Nine Specters County, when he was still in Bloody Specter City that was located far away, Liu Feng Gu had told him about Zhou Tong and the feud between them. In exchange for a better cultivation environment and resources, he promised to capture Zhou Tong and bring him back to Liu Feng Gu in Bloody Specter City after he had grown strong enough to do so. On top of that, Liu Feng Gu had also promised to disclose the location of a Celestial Fire after he killed Zhou Tong to avenge his direct disciple.

When Duan Ling Tian recalled his deal with Liu Feng Gu, his eyes shone as brightly as the stars in the night sky when he looked at Zhou Tong.

Zhou Tong stared at Duan Ling Tian icily and said in a deep voice, "Duan Ling Tian, if you surrender, you won't have to suffer much. If you resist, I'll make sure to torture you until being dead is preferable to staying alive!" He was certain he could kill Duan Ling Tian with just a strike. However, since he did not plan to kill Duan Ling Tian, it would require a little more finesse on his part to capture Duan Ling Tian alive. However, he did not think it would be tough. After all, he was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, how difficult would it be for him to capture a Heavenly Celestial alive?

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. "A Great Overarching Golden Celestial who likes spewing bullsh\*t... You're an embarrassment to Great Overarching Golden Celestials everywhere!" At the same time, he cast his assist-type Divine Ability to raise his Celestial Origin Energy by four stages. "Elementary Devouring Tactic!"

When Duan Ling Tian was still a Heavenly Celestial, the Elementary Devouring Tactic would only raise his Celestial Origin Energy by three stages. Now that he became a Golden Celestial, it would raise his Celestial Origin Energy by four stages. The assist-type Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, was a heaven-grade Divine Ability after all. Contrary to what everyone thought, it was also the only heaven-grade Divine Ability he had mastered.

'What a powerful assist-type Divine Ability... I can feel his Celestial Origin Energy rising several stages in just a blink of an eye.' As a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, Zhou Tong could acutely sense the changes in Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy. With this, he was certain it was a heaven-grade assist-type Divine Ability! Divine Abilities at or below the earth-grade were not capable of something like that.

"It seems like you intend on resisting. I'll teach you an unforgettable lesson today and give you a taste of the torture you'll be facing!" Zhou Tong was, naturally, furious when he saw Duan Ling Tian intending on putting up a resistance. His Celestial Origin Energy surged like flames in the air!

Boom!

An earth-shattering explosion rang in the air as Zhou Tong moved. He looked like a ball of flames as he shot toward Duan Ling Tian. He seemed to leave the air boiling in his wake!

"Sword formation! Thirteen Green Lotus Swords!" Duan Ling Tian did not dare to let down his guard in front of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. With a wave of his hand, he retrieved the primitive Celestial Sword he had obtained previously and unleashed his skills. He was going all out!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The sword formation that was formed by sword rays shone dazzlingly. It emitted a terrifying energy as it collided with Zhou Tong.

"Impossible!" When Duan Ling Tian unleashed all his skills and took out his primitive Celestial Weapon, Zhou Tong could tell Duan Ling Tian was more powerful than all the peak Golden Celestials he had met. Even the peak Golden Celestials in the County Governor's estate who was widely acknowledged as the strongest person below Great Overarching Golden Celestials was not as strong as Duan Ling Tian.

Although Duan Ling Tian's attack posed no threat to Zhou Tong, it was not easy for him to repel the attack with his lack of preparation. "It seems like I've underestimated you!"

### **Chapter 2653 Seven-colored Sword Ray**

"It seems like I've underestimated you!" In a hurry to repel Duan Ling Tian's attack, Zhou Tong unleashed all his strength without using a Celestial Weapon. He stumbled back slightly before he looked at Duan Ling Tian with a solemn expression on his face. His eyes were brimming with shock. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian to be so strong!

Zhou Tong felt doubt beginning to rise in him as he thought to himself, 'He... Did he truly

ascend to the Spirit Overarching Heaven just two and a half years ago? Is he really a Heavenly Celestial?' It should be impossible for a Violet Moon Heavenly Celestial to launch such a powerful attack no matter how many heaven-grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities they mastered. Apart from that, was it even possible for someone, a Crimson Moon Heavenly Celestial, who had just ascended two and a half years ago become a Violet Moon Heavenly Celestial in such a short time? Even if Duan Ling Tian was a peerless talent who managed to ascend after cultivating in a mundane realm for less than 100 years, it should still be impossible for him to achieve so much in such a short period. In the end, he concluded inwardly, 'He has to be hiding even more secrets...'

Zhou Tong had verified that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two and a half years ago. If that was the case, he was certain Duan Ling Tian had to be harboring other secrets. Moreover, that secret probably had something to do with his immense strength. He, naturally, grew excited when he thought about this.

"Duan Ling Tian, I didn't expect you to be so strong..." Zhou Tong said in a deep voice as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. "However, if this is the extent of your strength, you won't be able to avoid your impending fate. I'll still capture you and torture you!" His tone turned colder and colder as he spoke. Although Duan Ling Tian's attack was stronger than all the peak Golden Celestials he had met, Duan Ling Tian was still weaker than him. He could defeat Duan Ling Tian without even using his Celestial Weapon. He only had to unleash all his strength earlier to repel Duan Ling Tian's attack because he was caught unprepared. Needless to say, if he was prepared, he would be able to easily deflect Duan Ling Tian's attack without using his full strength.

Duan Ling Tian sneered. "Well, we'll have to see if you're capable of capturing me!" At this moment, he was very well aware of the difference between his and Zhou Tong's strength. Even without using a Celestial Weapon, Zhou Tong had easily blocked his attack even after he used his primitive Celestial Weapon and unleashed all his strength. Nevertheless, that was not all the tricks he had in his arsenal!

"You'll see for yourself soon enough!" Zhou Tong sneered as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Zhou Tong moved toward Duan Ling Tian again. His fiery Celestial Origin Energy intensified and surged into the air. He was like a vengeful god of fire that was about to mete out punishment.

The disturbance was so great that Zhou Fei and Qin Yu stopped fighting for a moment as they stared in horror at the moving fiery energy.

'Duan Ling Tian is able to force godfather to unleash so much power?' With Zhou Fei's cultivation base, he still could not see through his godfather's move. However, he could sense that the strength his godfather was using was much more than the full strength of a peak Golden Celestial.

Similarly, Qin Yu was shocked as well. After exchanging twenty to thirty moves with Zhou Fei, he was beginning to feel the burn of it. Since Zhou Fei had stopped attacking for the moment, he took the opportunity to catch his breath. Nevertheless, although he was at a disadvantage, he would not be defeated anytime soon.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's expression was grim as he faced Zhou Tong's ferocious attack again. This time, Zhou Tong's attack was much stronger. He would not be able to block this attack if he had used the same attack he had used earlier. He sighed inwardly. 'I'm still weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.' Soon enough, his eyes began to shine brightly as he continued thinking to himself, 'That said, I'm not much weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.'

Whoosh!

A gust of wind blew in the air as Duan Ling Tian put away his primitive Celestial Sword.

Upon seeing this, Zhou Tong was puzzled.

At the same time, a seven-colored sword ray shot out of Duan Ling Tian's right palm that was facing downward. The aura it emitted was incredibly powerful. "Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword!"

A few moments later, the seven-colored sword ray hovered in front of Duan Ling Tian. As soon as it appeared, it seemed to suppress and stifle those who were present on the scene. This was especially true for Zhou Fei and Qin Yu. Even Zhou Tong's aura as a Great Overarching Golden Celestial was not as great as the seven-colored sword ray!

As soon as it appeared, everything in its surroundings seemed to pale in comparison!

"This... Is this a Celestial Weapon?"

"W-what grade is this Celestial Weapon?"

The three people present on the scene were in shock and disbelief.

"Sword Formation! Thirteen Green Lotus Swords!" Faced with the ball of flame that was moving toward him, the seven-colored sword ray hovering in front of Duan Ling Tian shot out and split into tens of thousands of sword rays before converging again to form a sword Formation. The seven colors it radiated was incredibly dazzling, looking like a rainbow as it continued to shoot out.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A wave of energy from the sword Formation rolled out in all directions, setting off a series of explosions. At this moment, it seemed as though the end of the world had arrived.

Greed flashed in Zhou Tong's voice. His voice was ice-cold that it seemed like the surroundings' temperature had dropped. "Duan Ling Tian, who knew you possess such a high-grade Celestial Weapon? However, do you think you're the only one who has a Celestial Weapon?"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

A cane appeared in Zhou Tong's hand as he charged at Duan Ling Tian. The flames around him seemed to intensify as it surged even higher. His aura was not any weaker than Duan Ling Tian's sword Formation that was radiating a seven-colored light.

"A mediocre Celestial Weapon?" Duan Ling Tian could tell Zhou Tong's Celestial Weapon was of a higher grade than a primitive Celestial Weapon. If it were just a primitive Celestial Weapon, it would not be



able to boost Zhou Tong's strength to the point where it was as strong as the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. He was certain it was a mediocre Celestial Weapon because he thought it was unlikely for Zhou Tong to own a prominent Celestial Weapon.

'I wonder if the Ten Thousand Soldiers Surrender will be able to submit it like the other primitive Celestial Weapons...' Duan Ling Tian felt slightly unsettled.

Suddenly, the sword Formation's aura turned strange as it rapidly shrouded a large area of the land. Not only did it envelop Zhou Tong, but it enveloped Qin Yu and Zhou Fei as well.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In just an instant, Zhou Tong and Qin Yu's Celestial Weapons shot out of their hands and flew into the seven-colored sword Formation as though they were being pulled by an invisible force.

"No!"

"Impossible!"

Two cries sounded in unison.

Zhou Tong's cane, a mediocre Celestial Weapon, had been snatched away by the mysterious energy of Duan Ling Tian's seven-colored sword Formation! The backlash from when his weapon was snatched away injured his hand. Without his cane, the raging flames around him weakened slightly.

At this moment, the seven-colored sword Formation was very close to Zhou Tong who was shrouded in flames.

Xiu! Xiu! Xiu! Xiu! Xiu!

A series of sword cries rang in the air as the seven-colored light from the sword Formation turned blindingly bright. The land was bathed in seven colors at this moment.

Meanwhile, fire on the ball of flames raged as it shot in the air, seemingly capable of burning everything down!

The two attacks collided.

Bang!

A deafening explosion sounded as a mushroom cloud rose into the air. Powerful shockwaves rolled out in all directions, sending Qin Yu and Zhou Fei flying. They were even injured by the shockwave.

Fortunately, both of them were quite a distance away from the epicenter. Otherwise, they would have been killed! Both of them fearfully stopped all movements.

At the same time, a painful cry rang in the air. "No!"

"Godfather!" Zhou Fei's expression changed drastically upon hearing that scream.

**Chapter 2654 One Dead, Another Injured**

Whoosh!

When the seven-colored sword Formation collided with Zhou Tong, the energy flames on his body were instantly put out. The Formation left bloody holes all over his body, making it look like a hornet's nest. Blood kept spurting out of the holes. The blood only stopped gushing out of the wounds when his weakened Celestial Origin Energy completely dissipated.

Zhou Tong panted heavily. The agonizing pain caused him to break out in cold sweat. Based on his cultivation, no matter how hot it was, he would not have sweat.

"Why... Why didn't you kill me?" Shock, disbelief, confusion, and fear could be seen on Zhou Tong's face at this moment. Although the seven-colored sword Formation left holes all over his body, it had avoided all the vital parts, and thus, avoided killing him.

"Your life is spared because you still have use," Duan Ling Tian replied lightly, "However, there's no need for you to worry. You'll die soon enough, just not by my hand." He did not kill Zhou Tong because he was going to bring Zhou Tong back to Bloody Specter City so that Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter, could kill Zhou Tong with his own hands. At that time, he would be able to obtain the whereabouts of the Celestial Fire from Liu Feng Gu.

"You! Who's going to kill me?" Zhou Tong's eyes widened.

Duan Ling Tian asked in reply, "Who do you think could it be?"

Realization dawned on Liu Feng Gu before he instinctively blurted out, "Liu Feng Gu?" He could not think of anyone else except for Liu Feng Gu. After all, Duan Ling Tian had come from Bloody Specter City where Liu Feng Gu was the city governor.

"Revered Elder Zhou Tong is truly smart." Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly.

At this moment, Zhou Fei cried out to remind Zhou Tong, "Godfather, use soul attack! Unless he has a soul defense Celestial Weapon that's of the prominent grade, he won't be able to withstand a soul attack from a Great Overarching Golden Celestial!" He stood in the distance with a horrified expression on his face when he saw how Zhou Tong was defeated and severely injured by Duan Ling Tian.

When Zhou Fei was in Bloody Specter City previously, Miao Lai Long, the Commander of the Silverwurm Army, had told him that Duan Ling Tian possessed a soul defense Celestial Weapon. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian was not afraid of soul attacks. However, a mediocre soul defense Celestial Weapon would only be able to resist soul attacks from Golden Celestials, it would not be able to resist soul attacks from Great Overarching Golden Celestials. Only prominent soul defense Celestial Weapons would be able to resist soul attacks from Great Overarching Golden Celestials. He thought it was highly unlikely that Duan Ling Tian would possess a prominent soul defense Celestial Weapon.

Zhou Tong thought death was imminent, and all his hopes were dashed. However, upon hearing Zhou Fei's words, his eyes were lit up by hope, looking like two dazzling stars in the night sky. He did not hesitate as he quickly cast a soul attack.

A seemingly solid flame surged out from Zhou Tong's glabella. It flew out at the speed of light toward Duan Ling Tian, catching Duan Ling Tian off-guard. The Great Overarching Golden Celestial's soul attack entered Duan Ling Tian's body and raged in there, determined to destroy his soul. Alas, when it came close to his soul, the situation changed abruptly.

An inconspicuous defective metal piece suddenly appeared between the soul attack and Duan Ling Tian's soul. It was as though a barrier had been erected. The defective metal piece shone brightly as it absorbed the soul attack with a force that seemed capable of devouring heaven and earth. In just a blink of an eye, the seemingly solid flame vanished. The light from the defective metal piece seemed to weaken in general, but the light at the top of it seemed more profound as it twinkled.

Duan Ling Tian was preoccupied at this moment so he did not notice this. Otherwise, he would have discovered the top of the defective metal piece would react in such a subtle way after it absorbed soul attacks. He inhaled sharply as he thought to himself, 'This defective metal piece is comparable to a prominent Celestial Weapon. It devoured the soul attack of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial so easily. Moreover, it seems like this is not its limit.'

'This defective metal piece is a product of the jade token and the strange stone. I don't know the origin of the strange stone, but the jade token was given to me by Ke'er's third uncle, a powerhouse from the Divine Offering Land who's even stronger than Heavenly Emperors. Even someone like that thinks it's precious. I wonder what secrets it holds...' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the defective metal piece curiously.

The sound of people gasping brought Duan Ling Tian back to his senses. He turned his attention back to Zhou Tong who tried to attack his soul. If it were not for that defective metal piece, he would have died.

There were no words to describe the shock Zhou Tong felt at this moment. "You... You have a prominent soul defense Celestial Weapon!"

Meanwhile, Zhou Fei was petrified. His voice trembled as he muttered to himself, "Pr-prominent Celestial Weapon!" Prominent soul defense Celestial Weapons were a rarity. Not even Zhou Thong, the first Revered Elder of Nine Specters County, and the County Governor of Nine Specters County possessed one!

Duan Ling Tian scoffed loudly. He lifted his hand and pointed it at Zhou Fei.

Whoosh!

A seven-colored sword ray shot out, seemingly capable of destroying everything on heaven and earth. Zhou Fei did not even have time to react when his body was split into two. Even the expression on his face remained the same at the time of his death. It was obvious he had no time to react to Duan Ling Tian's attack at all.

Boom!

Duan Ling Tian casually pushed out his palm. His seemingly peerless Celestial Origin Energy shot out and destroyed Zhou Fei's corpse. Nothing was left except for a ring that hovered in the air. He raised his

hand and brought the ring to him. Zhou Fei who was brimming with life just a second ago had completely vanished.

Meanwhile, Zhou Tong was too afraid to even move a muscle when he saw this. He no longer dared to recklessly attack Duan Ling Tian. After all, it might anger Duan Ling Tian into killing him. Moreover, based on the strength Duan Ling Tian displayed, he was not certain he could stop Duan Ling Tian even if Duan Ling Tian was seriously injured!

Whoosh!

An ear-piercing noise caught Duan Ling Tian's attention as he put Zhou Fei's Spatial Ring away. He looked up and saw a streak of light shooting out from Zhou Tong toward the direction of the County Governor's estate at the speed of light.

'Communication Celestial Talisman? He must have exposed me and is asking for help from the County Governor.' Duan Ling Tian scoffed. His eyes were cold as Celestial Origin Energy surged out from his body and turned into thousands of sword rays. They formed a seven-colored sword Formation again before chasing after the Communication Celestial Talisman.

Swoosh!

The Communication Celestial Talisman was fast, but it was no match for the seven-colored sword Formation. In just a blink of an eye, the talisman was destroyed.

### **2655 Return to Bloody Specter City**

Zhou Tong had personally inscribed the Communication Celestial Talisman that he had just used. Its speed was comparable to that of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, and it was only slightly slower than his top speed. Those who were weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial would not be able to catch up to his Communication Celestial Talisman, let alone block it. However, there would always be an exception.

Although Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base was far behind a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, his attack was no weaker than an ordinary Great Overarching Golden Celestial when he used the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, and unleashed all his strength. For this reason, he caught up to the Communication Celestial Talisman and blocked it. In fact, due to the loss of its artifact soul, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword was not as powerful as it used to be. Otherwise, Zhou Tong's Communication Celestial Talisman would not have gone as far as it did.

Zhou Tong's expression changed drastically when he saw the Communication Celestial Talisman he had used was so easily blocked. A mixture of fear, shock, and disbelief could be seen in his eyes when he looked at Duan Ling Tian again. He wondered inwardly, 'How's it possible that someone who had just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two years ago is stronger than I am?' As impossible as it might seem, he had to accept this fact!

"Duan Ling Tian..." Qin Yu murmured, thoroughly shocked, as he looked at Duan Ling Tian who was standing next to him. Although he knew Duan Ling Tian was rather strong and had mastered a number of heaven-grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, he did not expect Duan Ling Tian's strength to be comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. He had witnessed Duan Ling Tian defeat Zhou

Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County and one of the two Great Overarching Golden Celestial in Nine Specters County. How could he not feel shocked? Most importantly, he knew if Duan Ling Tian did not hold back, Duan Ling Tian could have killed Zhou Tong. At this moment, he felt as though he was looking at a stranger when he looked at Duan Ling Tian who seemed to have been imbued by divine power.

After Duan Ling Tian used his seven-colored sword Formation that was boosted by the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword to bind Zhou Tong, he looked at Qin Yu and asked with a smile, "Qin Yu, do you want to return to Bloody Specter City or should I send you back to the County City?" He did not want to waste time and planned to bring Zhou Tong back to Bloody Specter to hand him over to Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City. He truly did not expect he would be able to defeat Zhou Tong in merely two years after he had arrived in the County City of the Nine Specters County!

Duan Ling Tian's voice snapped Qin Yu back to reality. It took him a while to process the question before he replied, "Huh? Oh, I'll return to Bloody Specter City with you..."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Then, he maintained his hold on Zhou Tong with the seven-colored sword Formation while he carried Qin Yu with him as he sped toward Bloody Specter City at a speed comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

As they got closer to Bloody Specter City, Zhou Tong seemed to smell the stench of his death. He quickly humbled himself and pleaded, "Duan Ling Tian, if you let me go, I'll acknowledge you as my master! I'll even help you take over Nine Specters County and become the County Governor!"

"Help me become the County Governor of Nine Specters County?" Duan Ling Tian smiled. His eyes narrowed as he looked at Zhou Tong apathetically. "Zhou Tong, if you have the ability to help me become the County Governor of Nine Specters County, would you have remained the first Revered Elder for so long? Do you think I'm a three-year-old child?" A hint of ridicule could be heard in his voice when he spoke. If Zhou Tong were capable of taking over the position of County Governor, Zhou Tong would have seized the position for his own.

"Duan Ling Tian, although you're strong, your strength is on even ground with the County Governor at most. If we join forces, we'll be able to kill him," Zhou Tong said.

Duan Ling Tian laughed before he said, "Who's to say you won't join forces with the County Governor and attack me at that time?"

Zhou Tong's expression darkened when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. Indeed, this thought had crossed his mind. After all, he could kill two birds with one stone if his plan were successful. After being seen through by Duan Ling Tian, he said without much conviction, "Y-you have to trust me!" He steeled himself and continued to persuade Duan Ling Tian, "Once you become the County Governor of Nine Specters County, you don't have to worry about cultivation resources. Although Nine Specters County is under King Qing's Mansion's rule, King Qing's Mansion, generally, would not intervene in the county's affairs. You can do whatever you want once you become a County Governor."

Seeing as they were about to arrive in Bloody Specter City, he no longer wanted to waste words with Zhou Tong. He bluntly said, "I'm sorry, I'm not interested! I've only been talking to you because I was

bored. Do you really think I'm unaware of what you're thinking?" While he was in Bloody Specter City, he had learned that one would need the approval of King Qing's Mansion in order to become the County Governor of Nine Specters County. If he were to kill the County Governor of Nine Specters County, instead of becoming the new County Governor, he would be hunted down by King Qing's Mansion. This was similar to how one would need approval from the County Governor in order to become a City Governor. Knowing all these things, he was, naturally, aware that Zhou Tong harbored ill intentions. Even if Zhou Tong did not join forces with the County Governor to kill him, Zhou Tong could use the death of the County Governor to frame him and cause King Qing's Mansion to hunt him down. At that time, he would not be able to stay in Nine Specters County, and Zhou Tong would benefit from it instead.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, he was enraged, and his expression turned unsightly. "You..." He studied the seven-colored sword Formation that restrained him, looking for a weak spot. His injuries had healed. He thought if he could just find a weak spot, he would be able to escape.

When Bloody Specter City appeared in the distance, Duan Ling Tian suddenly bellowed, "Trying to escape?"

Zhou Tong was frightened. He looked guilty as he lowered his gaze.

Duan Ling Tian scoffed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In just an instant, a series of short-lived sword cries rang in the air as the seven-colored sword Formation beneath Duan Ling Tian's feet shot toward Zhou Tong who was also restrained by the seven-colored sword Formation.

Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian's attack, his expression changed drastically as he cried out, "No!" His Celestial Origin Energy surged out of his body in just an instant. Alas, although he had recovered a lot, he was still a lot weaker compared to when he was at the peak of his strength. It took just a short moment before his flame-like Celestial Origin Energy was snuffed out by Duan Ling Tian's seven-colored sword Formation.

The soft sounds of flesh being pierced could be heard as the seven-colored sword Formation left hideous bloody wounds on Zhou Tong's body, causing his body to look like a honeycomb. Similar to earlier, Duan Ling Tian's attack avoided all of Zhou Tong's vital points to keep him alive.

In the end, Zhou Tong could only use his remaining Celestial Origin Energy to heal himself. His aura had greatly weakened again. When he finally healed himself, cold sweat trickled down his forehead. He snarled, "Duan Ling Tian..." He lunged at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a beast that wanted to rip a chunk of Duan Ling Tian's flesh off. He was furious that Duan Ling Tian had weakened him so much, effectively taking away all his chances to escape!

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian ignored the resentful and furious Zhou Tong. After all, Zhou Tong was a dead man walking.

'Is he... Is he really a Great Overarching Golden Celestial?' Qin Yu thought to himself, amused. Zhou Tong, a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, was no different from a lamb being readied for slaughter at this moment!

### **Chapter 2656 Zhou Tong's Death**

When the seven-colored sword Formation flew out, it left a rainbow-colored light in its wake. This caused a commotion in Bloody Specter City.

"What's that?"

"What's that seven-colored light?"

"It looks like it's heading toward the City Governor's estate!"

"How impressive! Is some powerhouse visiting Bloody Specter City or is the powerhouse a friend of Lord City Governor?"

...

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

Similar to the people of Bloody Specter City, the people from the City Governor's estate were alarmed when they saw the seven-colored light landing in the courtyard of the main hall in the City Governor's estate.

A loud voice tinged with anxiety rang in the air before the person who had spoken was seen. "I'm Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City. I apologize for failing to welcome you at the entrance of Bloody Specter City. May I ask the reason for your visit to the city?" After a moment, a tall figure flew over at lightning speed to the courtyard of the main hall in the City Governor's estate. He was stunned when he had a good look at the two men in his courtyard.

In the beginning, Liu Feng Gu had been worried when he saw the seven-colored light that came from outside the city. He knew the light belonged to a powerhouse that was not any weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. Since he did know the objectives of the powerhouse's visit, he had felt anxious. However, when he saw the two men in his courtyard, he was speechless. He knew these two young men. When he finally regained his senses, he looked at the two smiling young men and said dazedly, "Duan Ling Tian, Qin Yu, you..." He could not complete his sentence. He did not think the powerhouse whom he had thought was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial would turn out to be Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu who had left Bloody Specter City two years ago.

Duan Ling Tian lifted his hand and looked at Liu Feng Gu as he said, "City Governor, I came back to fulfill our deal." The seven-colored light next to him dissipated, revealing a sword Formation and the bound Liu Feng Gu.

At this moment, Elder Hong, the Leader of the Golden Serpent Guards and the second strongest person in Bloody Specter City, finally arrived.

Liu Feng Gu and Elder Hong's expressions changed drastically when the figure was revealed. Their eyes widened in shock and disbelief. They were rendered speechless from the shock. It had been too long since they had last seen the old man who was being restrained by the seven-colored sword Formation. Since the old man's appearance did not change, they instantly recognized him as Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County. However, even if Zhou Tong had been burned into ashes, Liu Feng Gu was certain he would still be able to recognize Zhou Tong. After all, he had longed to kill Zhou Tong for a long, long time now.

On the other hand, Zhou Tong who had been bound by the seven-colored sword Formation glared at Liu Feng Gu as he roared in anger, "How dare you, Liu Feng Gu! How dare you find someone to seek revenge from me! If I knew this, I wouldn't have spared your life on account of Lord County Governor back then!" He felt regretful. If he did not let Liu Feng Gu go back then, he would not be in this predicament now. He was unaware that even if he had killed Liu Feng Gu back then, he still would not be able to escape death. After all, since he had provoked Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian would have killed him anyway.

Zhou Tong's voice was so loud that it caused Liu Feng Gu's eardrums to hurt. Liu Feng Gu who was in a daze, wondering if he was dreaming, regained his senses when he heard Zhou Tong's angry words. He looked at Zhou Tong who was glaring at him and laughed heartily. "I'm not dreaming! It's not a dream!"

Swoosh!

At this moment, Elder Hong who was standing next to Liu Feng Gu had regained his senses as well. He disappeared in a flash when he saw people approaching them with their weapons in hand to stop them from approaching. After all, it would be better the fewer people knew about this matter regarding Zhou Tong. If words spread, who knew if it would anger the County Governor of Nine Specters City and bring calamity to Liu Feng Gu?

Liu Feng Gu looked at Zhou Tong. He continued laughing for a moment before he finally said, "Zhou Tong, who knew you'd have such a day as well? I bet you didn't think you'd ever end up in this state..."

Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu remained silent as they watched the scene unfold.

Duan Ling Tian had filled Qin Yu in about the history between Liu Feng Gu and Zhou Tong during their journey to Bloody Specter City. Many of Qin Yu's questions were answered when he learned about Liu Feng Gu's past and the deal between Duan Ling Tian and Liu Feng Gu. He finally knew why Liu Feng Gu had given Duan Ling Tian preferential treatment and allowed Duan Ling Tian to cultivate in Tranquil Alcove in the past when not even the Commanders of Black Dragon Army and Silverwyrms Army were given such a treatment!

When Zhou Tong saw the cold killing intent in Liu Feng Gu's eyes, his expression changed drastically. He knew he was in a precarious situation at this moment, he was treading the fine line between life and death. He said threateningly, "Liu Feng Gu, if you dare to kill me, Lord County Governor will surely kill you in return!"



Upon hearing Zhou Tong's words, Liu Feng Gu stopped laughing abruptly. He looked at Zhou Tong indifferently and said, "As long as I get to kill you, it doesn't matter if I die. I'd die with no regrets as long as I get to kill you." At this moment, he no longer cared about life and death.

Zhou Tong's expression changed drastically. He could tell Liu Feng Gu was not lying. When he spoke again, his threatening tone was replaced with a voice that contained a hint of pleading. "C-city Governor Liu, I... I'm sorry for what happened to you and your direct disciple back then. If you're willing to spare my life, I'm willing to travel around the world to find an outstanding disciple for you as compensation. In fact, I'll agree to all your requests!" Faced with death, his arrogance had disappeared. He did not hesitate to lower his head and begged Liu Feng Gu, someone he had disdained in the past, for mercy.

"Find an outstanding disciple to compensate me?" Liu Feng Gu laughed again. However, this time his laughter was laden with bitterness. His eyes brimmed with killing intent as he sneered before he said, "Do you think you'll be able to find someone, no matter how outstanding, to replace my disciple whom I had treated like my son?"

"I..." Zhou Tong began to speak.

Without giving Zhou Tong a chance to finish his sentence, Liu Feng Gu turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and called out, "Duan Ling Tian!"

Duan Ling Tian knew what Liu Feng Gu wanted. His eyes turned cold, and with just a thought, his seven-colored sword Formation that bound Zhou Tong shone even more brightly than before.

Zhou Tong's expression changed as though he knew death was at his door. He cried out miserably, "No!!!"

Boom!

In just an instant, Zhou Tong's Celestial Origin Energy surged as he tried to make his final struggle. However, due to his injuries from before, it was futile for him to struggle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The seven-colored sword Formation suddenly turned into millions of sword rays before they flew out and pierced Zhou Tong's body, leaving bloody holes on his body. Although the rays did not hurt Zhou Tong's vital organs, he was already dying from multiple serious injuries.

Liu Feng Gu scoffed before he attacked the dying Zhou Tong!

Buzz!

The sound of Liu Feng Gu's saber buzzing rang in the air before it took Zhou Tong's life away. With this, a Great Overarching Golden Celestial was dead.

### **2657 Information About The Celestial Fire**

Zhou Tong, a Great Overarching Golden Celestial and the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate of Nine Specters County, was killed by Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City, one of the cities under the jurisdiction of Nine Specters County!

If the news was to spread out, it would definitely cause a commotion in Nine Specters County! However, due to Elder Hong's quick response, this matter was only known to Liu Feng Gu, Duan Ling Tian, and Qin Yu.

After Liu Feng Gu killed Zhou Tong, a hint of glee could be seen on his face. He looked in the direction of the County City of Nine Specters County with a hint of mania in his eyes as he muttered, "Qian'er... did you see it? Your master has finally avenged you!"

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian recalled something. Although he did not want to disturb Liu Feng Gu now, since it was important, he asked, "City Governor, why didn't I sense the Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman when Zhou Tong died?" His expression turned grim when he thought about the moments of Zhou Tong's death being transmitted to Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County. Tian Ji Yu might let him go on account of his value and the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, but he might not let Liu Feng Gu off the hook. Perhaps, he might be able to save Liu Feng Gu if he pleaded for leniency, but who knew what would happen in the future after he left? After all, he could not stay in Nine Specters County just to protect Liu Feng Gu.

Liu Feng Gu came to his senses when he heard the urgency in Duan Ling Tian's tone. He shook his head and replied, "He didn't carry a Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman. Don't worry about it."

"Didn't carry a Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman?" Duan Ling Tian was confused.

Before Liu Feng Gu could reply, Qin Yu who had seen the confusion on Duan Ling Tian's face replied, "Duan Ling Tian, Great Overarching Golden Celestials can easily block a Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman. Generally, those who're able to kill Zhou Tong are stronger than Great Overarching Golden Celestials. For this reason, it's pointless for him to carry a Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman. Although you've not become a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, your strength is on par, if not stronger, with a Great Overarching Golden Celestial based on how you defeated and restrained Zhou Tong. Earlier, didn't you easily block his Communication Celestial Talisman? If you're able to do that, it means you can easily block a Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman as well."

"I see. I thought I failed to sense his Minor Floating Image Celestial Talisman." Duan Ling Tian sighed in relief.

Bang!

A loud explosion rang in the air as Liu Feng Gu suddenly lifted his hand and destroyed Zhou Tong's corpse. The only thing that remained on the ground was Zhou Tong's Spatial Ring. He lifted his hand again and used an invisible energy to bring the Spatial Ring to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian knew it was pointless to refuse so he accepted it. Moreover, based on Liu Feng Gu's character, he knew Liu Feng Gu would not keep the Spatial Ring since it would not have been possible for Liu Feng Gu to kill Zhou Tong if it were not for him!

After that, Liu Feng Gu said, "Let's have a seat inside."

When they entered the hall, Liu Feng Gu offered the main seat to Duan Ling Tian. However, Duan Ling Tian chose to remain seated below. Meanwhile, Qin Yu took the seat next to Duan Ling Tian.

In the end, Liu Feng Gu forwent sitting in the main seat and sat across Duan Ling Tian. He, naturally, did not dare to put on any air. After all, in his eyes, Duan Ling Tian was no different from a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. Most importantly, Duan Ling Tian had just helped him take revenge.

As soon as Liu Feng Gu sat down, a gust of wind blew into the main hall. Elder Hong, the Leader of the Golden Serpent Guards, appeared behind Liu Feng Gu. He stood silently at the back, guarding Liu Feng Gu.

Liu Feng Gu looked at Duan Ling Tian for a long while before he finally said, "Duan Ling Tian, you really surprised me!"

"I'm sorry for making you wait for two years." Duan Ling Tian smiled.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Liu Feng Gu, Qin Yu, and Elder Hong felt the corners of their mouths twitched. Duan Ling Tian's achievements would cause an uproar in the Spirit Overarching if they were made known, but to Duan Ling Tian, it seemed like they were nothing special.

"Duan Ling Tian, half a year ago, Lord City Governor had been extremely worried about you. He was worried Zhou Tong would kill you before you could grow strong enough. Who knew you'd come back with a heavily-injured Zhou Tong in tow? Most importantly, you helped Lord City Governor to take revenge for Young Master Qian!" Elder Hong sighed as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

"Killed by Zhou Tong?" Duan Ling Tian was confused.

With Liu Feng Gu's explanation, Duan Ling Tian finally learned about the incidents that happened half a year ago.

Duan Ling Tian said, "That's why Zhou Fei knew I had just ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven two and a half years ago. He actually went to the Silverwyrms Army. However, Zhou Tong was really ruthless. He actually annihilated the Silverwyrms Army just to prevent news about me from spreading out!" He was slightly taken aback when he learned about what had happened.

"Zhou Tong had always been a cruel man. Fortunately, you're stronger than him. Otherwise, I'm afraid he would have killed you," Liu Feng Gu said.

Duan Ling Tian nodded, agreeing with Liu Feng Gu's words.

"Elder Hong, please give us a moment alone. I have something to speak to Duan Ling Tian about in private," Liu Feng Gu said. Although his words were directed at Elder Hong, he was looking at Qin Yu who was seated next to Duan Ling Tian.

"Yes, Lord City Governor," Elder Hong responded before he withdrew.

"Lord City Governor, Duan Ling Tian, I'll take my leave as well," Qin Yu said tactfully before he left the main hall as well.

At this moment, only Duan Ling Tian and Liu Feng Gu were left in the main hall.

Swoosh!

Liu Feng Gu rose to his feet and disappeared like a gust of wind before he appeared in front of Duan Ling Tian. He bent at a 90-degree angle, bowing at Duan Ling Tian.

“City Governor, what are you doing?” Duan Ling Tian rose to his feet, startled by Liu Feng Gu’s action.

Liu Feng Gu straightened his back to look at Duan Ling Tian and solemnly said, “Duan Ling Tian, thank you.”

“City Governor, there’s no need for you to thank me. After all, we made a deal two years ago. You provided me with the best cultivation environment and resources in Bloody Specter City as well. We don’t owe each other anything.” Duan Ling Tian shook his head.

“I know. However, the deal doesn’t seem to be fair to you to a certain extent.” Liu Feng Gu shook his head as well.

“It’s nothing. Since I agreed to the deal, it means I was satisfied with the conditions,” Duan Ling Tian said.

Liu Feng Gu stubbornly said, “Regardless, I should still thank you.”

Duan Ling Tian could only respond with a helpless smile.

“Fortunately, I know the location of the Celestial Fire. Otherwise, I really don’t know how to repay you for helping me avenge my direct disciples.” Liu Feng Gu brought up the topic of the Celestial Fire.

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes brightened, and his heart began to race. Liu Feng Gu had told him about the Celestial Fire two years ago. There was a possibility that the Celestial Fire was not a mere primitive Celestial Fire.

“I’ll disclose the location of the Celestial Fire to you. I can’t say that it hasn’t been found, but due to the hidden location, it’s unlikely that someone has already discovered it. In any case, you should keep this in mind so you don’t get disappointed if the Celestial Fire has already been found,” Liu Feng Gu said.

“Okay.” Duan Ling Tian nodded.

Without wasting time, Liu Feng Gu told Duan Ling Tian that the Celestial Fire was located in the opposite direction of the County City of Nine Specters County. In order to go to that place, Duan Ling Tian would have to pass the County City.

Duan Ling Tian said, “City Governor, I will take my leave now if there’s nothing else.” He wanted to find the Celestial Fire as soon as he could, afraid that someone might find it before him.

“Sure.” Liu Feng Gu nodded. He understood Duan Ling Tian’s intention. However, before Duan Ling Tian left, he said solemnly, “Duan Ling Tian, although you’re not weaker than an ordinary Great Overarching Golden Celestial, don’t act recklessly. If you can’t obtain the Celestial Fire now, wait until you’re stronger before you return to retrieve the Celestial Fire.”

## **Chapter 2658 The Location of the Celestial Fire**

Duan Ling Tian could clearly sense the difference in treatment from Liu Feng Gu, the City Governor of Bloody Specter City. Liu Feng Gu had even changed the way he addressed him. He knew it was due to his strength that was not any weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

When they left Bloody Specter City, Qin Yu who could sense Duan Ling Tian's urgency curiously asked, "Duan Ling Tian, why are you in such a hurry to return? Don't you plan to stay for a few days since it's rare for you to come back?"

"The Martial Competition of the 16 Counties that's organized by King Qing's Mansion will take place in a year so I plan to spend more time cultivating," Duan Ling Tian replied. He made an excuse on the spot since he did not plan to tell Qin Yu about the Celestial Fire.

"Martial Competition of the 16 Counties?" Qin Yu was slightly taken aback. He smiled wryly as he said, "I would've forgotten about it if you didn't mention it. However, with your current strength, I don't think anyone will be a match for you. After all, the participants are all younger than 100 years old. Let alone the Nine Specters County, I'm afraid no one below 100 years of age in the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom is a match for you." He had witnessed Duan Ling Tian's strength after all. Although Duan Ling Tian was not a Great Overarching Golden Celestial yet, Duan Ling Tian's strength was not any weaker than a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. This could be seen by the way he had easily defeated Zhou Tong, a first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County, who was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. Moreover, with Duan Ling Tian's soul defense Celestial Weapon, there was no need for Duan Ling Tian to fear soul attacks from Great Overarching Golden Celestials. He did not think there was anyone below the age of 100 in the history of Spirit Overarching Heaven who possessed the strength of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

However, Duan Ling Tian said, "Nothing is certain. There would always be someone stronger no matter how strong you are. Who can confidently say all the participants are weaker than me?"

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Qin Yu fell silent. Although he did not think there would be anyone stronger than Duan Ling Tian in the competition, he could not say for sure as well.

They remained quiet during the journey back. They arrived in the County City of Nine Specters County after Duan Ling Tian effortlessly killed two groups of people who looked for trouble with them.

As soon as they arrived in the County City, Duan Ling Tian said, "Qin Yu, there's something I must attend to so you can go ahead and return to the County Governor's estate first." He did not wait for Qin Yu's response before he disappeared in a flash.

Qin Yu knew Duan Ling Tian did not want him to come along. Therefore, he tactfully returned to the County Governor's estate and made his way to the Latent Dragon Abyss. He thought to himself, 'With Zhou Fei's death, I can claim his stone chamber as mine.' After all, the cultivation environment in Zhou Fei's stone chamber was more superior than his. It was only second to Duan Ling Tian's stone chamber.

During Qin Yu's journey back to the Latent Dragon Abyss, he was surprised when he overheard the whispered conversation between three guards.

“I heard that Revered Elder Zhou Tong died soon after Zhou Fei died... Is it true? But Revered Elder Zhou Tong was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial...”

“W-what? Revered Elder Zhou Tong is dead? Where did you hear this?”

“Yes, I heard it from two inner-estate elders...”

Qin Yu thought to himself, ‘It’s only natural that the County Governor’s estate has learned about Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei’s deaths. I’m not sure about Zhou Fei, but Zhou Tong’s Soul Pearl is definitely kept by the County Governor.’

The three guards continued to talk as they walked further and further away.

“If Revered Elder Zhou Tong has died, doesn’t this mean the murderer is a Great Overarching Golden Celestial at least? Apart from Lord County Governor, there’s no one stronger than Revered Elder Zhou Tong in Nine Specters County.”

“I suppose the murderer is not from our county. I’m really curious why he killed Revered Elder Zhou Tong.”

Upon hearing this, Qin Yu smiled wryly. ‘Not from our Nine Specters County?’ If these people knew Duan Ling Tian was the one who killed Zhou Tong, they would be shocked beyond words.

...

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

Zheng Qiu, the inner estate elder of the County Governor’s estate, looked at Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, who was sitting in the main seat. He asked in a low voice, “Lord County Governor, have you found Revered Elder Zhou Tong’s murderer?”

Upon hearing this, a few inner-estate elders who were present looked at Tian Ji Yu curiously.

Tian Ji Yu shook his head with a grim expression on his face. “No. The murderer is undoubtedly stronger than Revered Elder Zhou Tong. Otherwise, I would’ve received a Communication Celestial Talisman from Revered Elder Zhou Tong.” He continued to say, “The only thing I’m sure of is that Revered Zhou Tong was killed shortly after Zhou Fei was killed. It’s highly likely that they were killed by the same person.”

The other inner-estate elders, including Zheng Qiu, nodded their heads in agreement. They believed it could not be a coincidence that Zhou Tong had died shortly after his godson’s death. Their deaths had to be closely connected.

An inner-estate elder looked at Tian Ji Yu and said, “Lord County Governor, I couldn’t find out when Revered Elder Zhou Tong had left the estate. However, apart from Zhou Fei, I found out two young men had also left the Latent Dragon Abyss and the estate.”

Tian Ji Yu asked in a low voice, “Who are they?”

“Duan Ling Tian and Qin Yu,” the inner-estate elder replied.

Upon hearing this, Tian Ji Yu started laughing. He asked, "What? Are you trying to say Zhou Fei and Revered Elder Zhou Tong's deaths have something to do with them?"

"I... I'm not sure, and I do feel like it's just a coincidence. However, we can't disregard the fact that there was enmity between Duan Ling Tian and Zhou Fei," the inner-estate elder replied honestly.

"Zhou Fei might have hated Duan Ling Tian, but Revered Elder Zhou Tong had decided to help Duan Ling Tian get stronger for the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. Therefore, even if Zhou Fei hated Duan Ling Tian, there was nothing he could do to Duan Ling Tian since he was too weak. As for Qin Yu, although he's from Bloody Specter City as well, he has no enmity with Zhou Fei. Most importantly, he's not strong enough to kill Zhou Fei," Tian Ji Yu said indifferently.

"Apart from that, I have no other leads." The inner-estate elder smiled bitterly. An idea suddenly appeared in his mind, and he asked tentatively, "Lord County Governor, should we investigate both of them?"

"It's just a waste of time to investigate them. I don't think it's necessary!" Tian Ji Yu shook his head. Naturally, he made the decision because Duan Ling Tian was his only hope to obtain the mediocre Celestial Pill, the Great Overarching Pill. He did not want Duan Ling Tian's cultivation to be disturbed because of this matter. Otherwise, he would definitely investigate Duan Ling Tian even if it was highly unlikely for Duan Ling Tian to have anything to do with Zhou Tong and Zhou Fei's deaths.

Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware that he had almost become a suspect. Nevertheless, he would not care even if he knew. After all, he knew the investigation would not bear any fruits. Since Zhou Tong had annihilated the Silverwurm Army, only Liu Feng Gu, Qin Yu, and Elder Hong were privy to his origins. He trusted them not to betray him. Even if they betrayed him, they had no concrete proof to support their words. Even if Tian Ji Yu could confirm he was the culprit, he was certain Tian Ji Yu would not act against him, at least not until the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties was over.

...

About 100,000 miles away, in the opposite direction of the County City of Nine Specters County. A vast mountain range could be seen in this place.

Duan Ling Tian hovered in the sky above the vast mountain range as he muttered to himself, "If City Governor Liu didn't tell me the exact location of the Celestial Fire, even if I know the Celestial Fire is in this area, with my current Divine Consciousness, I still wouldn't be able to find it after a few hundred years."

### **2659 Retrieving The Celestial Fire**

'With the directions from the city governor, it won't be difficult to find the Celestial Fire,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself, his eyes were fixed at a specific location. A hint of excitement could be seen in his eyes as well.

Following the directions that Liu Feng Gu had given him, Duan Ling Tian arrived near the foot of an inconspicuous mountain. He circled in the air for a few moments before finally landing at the foot of the mountain on the eastern side. 'It's here!'

“The Hidden Formation that City Governor Liu laid down is still here. This means no one has come here since he discovered this place,” Duan Ling Tian muttered to himself. As he looked at the dense forest near the mountain, he extended his Divine Consciousness.

Swoosh!

Like a gust of wind, Duan Ling Tian moved into the dense forest, unobstructed. It was as though he knew a technique that allowed him to pass through the forest without leaving any traces behind. Just like that, his figure was swallowed by the forest, hidden from sight. In fact, the forest was just an illusion conjured up by the Formation. Since he had deactivated the Formation that Liu Feng Gu set up, he did not meet any resistance when he entered the forest.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian entered a cave. It was pitch black, and the terrain was rough and uneven. Water that smelled putrid was collected in numerous potholes on the ground.

Whoosh!

Duan Ling Tian mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy before it surged out of his body. At this moment, it seemed like he had transformed into the sun as his body began to emit a dazzling light that lit up the cave.

Bang!

Duan Ling Tian lifted a hand, and his Celestial Origin Energy shot out from his palm, hitting a part of the cave wall. A loud rumbling rang in the air as the wall collapsed, revealing a tunnel that led to an unknown destination. The entrance of the tunnel looked like the gaping maw of a gigantic beast as though it was waiting for its prey to walk into its mouth.

‘According to City Governor Liu, this tunnel leads deep into the earth. That’s where the Celestial Fire is located...’ Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time and made his way into the tunnel. The light from his body illuminated the dark cave in just an instant. As he traversed the tunnel, he did not meet with any obstacles. Since the Celestial Fire was a natural occurrence and was not placed there by men, there were, naturally, no tests or trials along the way. After roughly 30 minutes, he finally reached the end of the tunnel.

When Duan Ling Tian saw a grey light, his eyes brightened immediately. Upon seeing this, he knew he had reached his destination. Liu Feng Gu had told him that the Celestial Fire was grey. He stomped on the ground and left the tunnel in a hurry. He discovered the tunnel had brought him into a gigantic cave. Stones and pebbles hovered in the air, supported by some mysterious force. The stones and pebbles were of varying sizes; some were as small as a grain of rice and some were as big as a bed. However, the majority were the pebbles that were as small as a grain of rice.

‘Flying stones and pebbles,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself when he saw the stones and pebbles in the air. It did not take long before his eyes landed on a grey flame that was floating in the midst of the stones and pebbles. He was unable to tear his gaze away from the flame. It was his first time seeing a flame of this color. The grey flame seemed like the cave’s core as the stones and pebbles revolved around it.



At this moment, Duan Ling Tian felt as though his consciousness was stuck as though he had fallen into quicksand. The grey flame seemed to have a mysterious gravitational force that pulled his consciousness in, making it difficult for him to extricate himself.

“Hmm?” It was not until the mysterious force from the defective metal piece enveloped his soul that he regained his senses and managed to look away.

Duan Ling Tian inhaled sharply. “This Celestial Fire is truly strange.” If it were not for the mysterious energy from the defective metal piece that protected his soul, he might not be able to extricate himself from the pull of the grey flame.

‘City Governor Liu didn’t say anything about the Celestial Fire being able to trap one’s consciousness...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. His consciousness was almost trapped due to his lack of preparation. ‘He must be unaware of this. It’s also possible that my soul is too weak. After all, my soul is that of a Yellow Sun Golden Celestial. It’s far weaker than when City Governor Liu had come across it.’ He trusted Liu Feng Gu and did not think Liu Feng Gu had intentionally hidden this from him. Indeed, he was right. His consciousness had almost been trapped earlier because his soul was too weak.

He continued thinking to himself, ‘Based on what he said, the stones and pebbles would attack as soon as I go near the Celestial Fire. It happened to him previously. He could not deflect the attack so he could only leave empty-handed.’ He studied the stones and pebbles that seemed to systematically revolve around the Celestial Fire, guarding it.

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian’s eyes turned cold.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sound of sword whistling rang in the air as Duan Ling Tian cast all the techniques he had mastered. He even used the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, to form the seven-colored sword Formation. He had unleashed all his strength, without holding back, to obtain the Celestial Fire.

As soon as the seven-colored sword Formation appeared, it shrouded Duan Ling Tian and brought him flying toward the grey Celestial Flame.

Before Duan Ling Tian left Bloody Specter City, he had asked Liu Feng Gu about the method to retrieve a Celestial Fire. Liu Feng Gu had given him a Memory Celestial Talisman that contained the method to retrieve a Celestial Fire. ‘To retrieve a Celestial Fire, one needs to suppress it with power and communicate with it through one’s Divine Consciousness. That’s the way to tame it. After all, it’s not sentient.’

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As Duan Ling Tian was fast approaching the Celestial Flame with his seven-colored sword Formation, the revolving stones and pebbles were suddenly agitated. Like a sandstorm, they swept over to him. The stones and pebbles obstructed his sight, and he could feel an energy sweeping toward him as well. The energy was not inferior to Zhou Tong’s strongest attack.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, he heard the sound of something whistling through the air. Soon after, he saw more stones and pebbles flying toward him at a greater speed like meteorites falling from space.

Duan Ling Tian widened his eyes in shock. His expression was dark as he muttered, 'This is even stronger than Zhou Tong's strongest attack!'

### **Chapter 2660 A Strange Conversation**

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

In just a blink of an eye, the seven-colored sword Formation that carried Duan Ling Tian collided with the meteor-like stones and pebbles. The impact was earth-shattering.

Bang!

Waves and waves of shockwaves rolled out in all directions. It crashed against the cave walls, causing the cave to quake.

Duan Ling Tian seemed to be affected by the backlash as well. He felt his internal organs twist, and he could taste blood at the back of his throat. He shuddered once before he threw up a mouthful of blood. The blood that splattered everywhere made for a horrifying sight.

Duan Ling Tian felt his insides continue to twist, and he was about to throw up another mouthful of blood when he sensed the full force of the flying stones and pebbles shooting toward him.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of deafening explosions rang in the air.

Due to the impact, the light from the seven-colored sword Formation dimmed as it protected Duan Ling Tian from the constant onslaught of attacks from the stones and pebbles.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the seven-colored sword Formation weakened, Duan Ling Tian had to bear the brunt of the constant attacks. He was like a punching bag at this moment.

He kept throwing up blood as the impacts landed on him. Meanwhile, his Celestial Origin Energy surged out of his body continuously to maintain the seven-colored sword Formation. However, his Celestial Origin Energy was draining quickly. The force from the stones and pebbles kept chipping away at his defenses, wearing them down. Based on its current speed, it would not take long before it completely destroyed the seven-colored sword Formation. At that time, he would surely die!

Duan Ling Tian was already injured from the first wave of attack. With the relentless attacks, his injuries were only worsening by the minute. He could feel himself losing consciousness, and he was only holding on to the last shred of his consciousness by sheer will. He continued to mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy, using the Elementary Devouring Tactic to convert Heaven and Earth Energy into Celestial Origin Energy. However, his speed of conversion was not as fast as the speed of his Celestial Origin Energy draining away.

'Am... Am I going to die here today?' Duan Ling Tian sank into despair at this moment. Even after he had unleashed all his strength to cast all the techniques he had mastered and used the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, he still failed to deflect the attacks. The force of the attacks seemed more than he could handle.

'I should've listened to City Governor Liu instead of being so reckless. When he was here, he had tentatively approached the Celestial Fire until he could no longer withstand the pressure and had to give up.' A bitter expression could be seen on Duan Ling Tian's face when he recalled Liu Feng Gu's reminder. He regretted not taking Liu Feng Gu's advice to heart. He was confident he would be able to deflect the attacks as long as he used all the techniques he had mastered and unleashed all his strength. At this moment, he finally realized how arrogant he had been. It seemed like he was going to pay the price for his arrogance as each passing minute drew him closer and closer to death.

At this point, Duan Ling Tian knew the grey flame was no ordinary Celestial Fire. 'What kind of Celestial Fire is this? If it's just a primitive Celestial Fire, it should've been easy for me to retrieve it no matter how unique or rare it is!'

'Am I... Am I really going to die because of my arrogance?' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he depleted the last of his Celestial Origin Energy. He could feel the peerless energy that was about to crash down on him. The energy seemed capable of destroying heaven and earth. Desperation and regret welled up in his heart as he rued his arrogance. If he were given another, he would have proceeded with caution just as Liu Feng Gu did back then.

'Duan Ling Tian, although you're as strong as a Great Overarching Golden Celestial, I hope you won't act recklessly. Proceed with caution. If you can't retrieve the Celestial Fire, you should wait until your strength improves before going back to retrieve it.' Duan Ling Tian remembered Liu Feng Gu's words to him. It was unfortunate he did not take it to heart. He had thought it would be easy for him to retrieve the Celestial Fire since he possessed the strength of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. After all, he managed to defeat Zhou Tong, the first Revered Elder of the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County. Who knew he would fail so miserably?

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The stones and pebbles fell on Duan Ling Tian with a loud bang, burying him. His clothes were also destroyed by the attack. It did not take long before he finally lost consciousness!

Whoosh!

At this moment, a mysterious light was emitted out of Duan Ling Tian's body. The light seemed to repel the terrifying energy, and it did not take long before the energy gradually dissipated.

Duan Ling Tian who was naked and had lost consciousness should have fallen to the ground. However, the mysterious light seemed to hold him up. He hovered in the air peculiarly with his eyes closed. His body was slightly tilted to face the grey Celestial Fire in the middle of the cave.

Whoosh!

A gust of wind gently blew in the cave as the defective metal piece suddenly appeared above Duan Ling Tian's head. Similar to Duan Ling Tian, the defective metal piece was also shrouded by the mysterious light. It was clear that Duan Ling Tian's current state had something to do with the defective metal piece. If he was awake, he would have been shocked to see this.

This defective metal piece had protected Duan Ling Tian's soul ever since he arrived in the Spirit Overarching Heaven. He had brought it over from the mundane realms. Its origins were unknown. All he knew was that it was formed by two items. One of them was the jade token given to him by Xia Jie, Ke'er's third uncle, who came from the Divine Offering Land. The other item was a weird-looking stone that the jade token had led him to. He had found the weird-looking stone near his hometown, the Fresh Breeze Town, on Cloud Continent.

Suddenly, a loud and energetic voice rang in the cave from all directions. "The Chaos Divine Flame... Who knew I'd meet an old friend here..." As soon as the voice rang in the air, the mysterious light from the defective metal piece began to shine brighter until the voice died down.

"The Profound Divine Metal." Soon after, an ancient voice rang out as the grey flame in the middle of the cave surged up. A grey light lit up the cave, making Duan Ling Tian look ethereal.

If Duan Ling Tian was awake, he would have been shocked speechless by this scene. It seemed like the defective metal piece and the Celestial Fire were... conversing!

"The second form of the Profound Divine Metal? Is this young man your host?" The grey flame, or the Chaos Divine Flame as the defective metal piece called it, spoke again. When he spoke, the flame soared again.

"Yes..." The defective metal piece, otherwise, known as the Profound Divine Metal, answered in a low and energetic voice. Similar to earlier, when it spoke, the light surrounding it intensified. The Profound Divine Metal continued to say persuasively, "If we've not entered the second form, we wouldn't have been able to awaken our consciousness and communicate like this... So, are you interested in serving my master? If I'm not mistaken, you should've found a host before entering your second form. However, your host was probably incapable of containing your second form and was burned to ashes!"

"That's right." The Chaos Divine Flame sighed. "No ordinary celestial can contain me in my second form, not even your host."

"I can't stay awake for too long... You'll have to make a decision soon. If you're willing to serve my master, I'll let you stay in me to contain your energy so that you won't completely burn his body," the Profound Divine Metal said with a hint of urgency, clearly afraid it was going to lose consciousness soon.