

Chapter 2851: Gone Out For Wool And Come Home Shorn

“That’s right.” The expression of Lian Cheng Yi, the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, darkened when he saw the cold gaze of He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Now that he was exposed, he could only soldier on. He said to Duan Ling Tian, “That’s right. If you’re willing to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and become our sect’s Celestial Alchemist, our sect will satisfy each of your requests as long as they’re within our means.” Since Duan Ling Tian had revealed his intention, there was no longer any need for him to hide his intention as well. Since he had already offended He Shan, the matter could not possibly get any worse. Moreover, a Celestial Alchemist like Duan Ling Tian was a talent, a valuable asset. He was most likely just an interim Revered Elder of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He Shan could not restrict Duan Ling Tian’s freedom and stop Duan Ling Tian from leaving. No one could say anything even if Lian Cheng Yi openly invited Duan Ling Tian to join his sect. At most, people would say he valued talented people.

“Lian Cheng Yi!” He Shan bellowed as he glared at Lian Cheng Yi, “It’s disrespectful and unbecoming of you to poach my Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s talent right under my nose!”

Upon hearing that, Lian Cheng Yi turned to He Shan and said, “Senior He Shan, there’s an old saying, ‘Birds pick the best tree to perch on’. If Master Duan truly intends to stay in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, no matter what I say or what benefits I offer, he still won’t join my Supporting Sun Celestial Sect. If he decides to join my sect, it simply means the Tai Yi Celestial Sect isn’t giving him enough to make him stay!” Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian and said with a faint smile, “Master Duan, I’ve stated my offer, is there anything else you’d like to add to it?”

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Lian Cheng Yi before he shifted his eyes away, “Your Supporting Sun Celestial Sect’s Master Guan’s displeases me...”

Upon hearing this, Guan Qi Fei, the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, who was standing next to Lian Cheng Yi glared at Duan Ling Tian murderously as though he wanted to tear Duan Ling Tian into a million pieces. Before Duan Ling Tian revealed his ability to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill, he had only regarded Duan Ling Tian with contempt. Now that he had seen Duan Ling Tian’s high innate talent in alchemy, he knew Duan Ling Tian had a bright future ahead of him. Naturally, he wished that Duan Ling Tian would die. Otherwise, when Duan Ling Tian rose in ranks later, Duan Ling Tian might look for trouble with him. As a vindictive person, he, naturally, assumed Duan Ling Tian was like him. He did not know that Duan Ling Tian did not care about him at all. In Duan Ling Tian’s eyes, he was but a clown.

Duan Ling Tian had seen the murderous glint in Guan Qi Fei’s eyes so he said, “Why don’t you... kill him for me?”

Whoosh!

Guan Qi Fei’s expression changed drastically when he heard Duan Ling Tian’s words. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian would request this as part of his condition to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect. He had been in the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect for many years. Based on his understanding of Lian Cheng

Yi, Lian Cheng Yi would definitely not hesitate to kill him if it meant Duan Ling Tian would join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect. He stared at Lian Cheng Yi warily, his guards up. He was prepared to detonate his prominent Celestial Fire if it was necessary.

“Impossible!” Lian Cheng Yi sternly said, “Master Guan is one of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect’s Revered Elders. The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect will protect him and will never harm him. I’m sorry, but I can’t agree to this. Please make another request, Master Duan.”

“Forget it. I have no wish to force you.” Duan Ling Tian smiled faintly.

On the other hand, Guan Qi Fei stared at Lian Cheng Yi in surprise. He did not expect Lian Cheng Yi would take his side. This changed his view of Lian Cheng Yi. In fact, he was somewhat moved by this. He even felt guilty when he thought about how he had planned to leave the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect after the Alchemy Conference. With this, he let his guard down and no longer maintained his connection with his prominent Grade Celestial Fire to detonate it at a moment’s notice.

“Sect leader, Duan Ling Tian is a cunning one. In the beginning, he had acted as though he couldn’t refine the Overarching Heaven Pill to deceive us,” Guan Qi Fei looked at Lian Cheng Yi and said, “You must not believe his words!”

Not only Duan Ling Tian and those from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were speechless, but the crowd was speechless as well when they heard Guan Qi Fei’s words. In the first place, Duan Ling Tian did not deliberately do anything. It was their own ignorance that led them to assume someone who was not even 100 years old was not capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill.

“I know.” Lian Cheng Yi nodded and smiled at Guan Qi Fei. “Master Guan, don’t worry. The Supporting Sun Celestial Sect won’t just throw you away for another prominent Celestial who’s capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill.”

“Thank you, sect leader.” Guan Qi Fei hurriedly bowed as he thanked Lian Cheng Yi. As he bowed, he failed to notice a cold glint that flashed in Lian Cheng Yi’s eyes.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

In just a split second, two beams of grey light shot out of Lian Cheng Yi’s eyes before they merged into the form of an eagle-like shadow.

Bang!

Before Guan Qi Fei straightened his back, the shadow landed on him. Outwardly, it did not seem to cause him any harm. However, the Celestial Dukes present on the scene could clearly see the eagle-like shadow had vanished into Guan Qi Fei’s body.

‘It’s a soul attack!’ He Shan’s eyes widened in shock. ‘Lian Cheng Yi actually killed Guan Qi Fei for Master Duan!’

Bang!

In just a second, Guan Qi Fei toppled to the ground with a crash. His body was as stiff as a statue. The sound of his body crashing to the ground was exceptionally loud due to how silent the surroundings were.

Everyone was stunned by this sudden turn of events.

“The Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect is really vicious!”

Initially, most of the onlookers were confused. However, with the explanation from some of the Celestial Dukes, they learned about what happened. At this moment, most of them regarded Lian Cheng Yi with fear and wariness.

“Guan Qi Fei provoked the Tai Yi Celestial Sect for no reason and caused the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect to lose one of its precious Duke Grade Celestial Method... Since he’s just an interim Revered Elder of the sect, his punishment has been halved. I’ve given him an easy death!” Lian Cheng Yi explained as everyone’s attention was focused on him. As the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, he was certainly not foolish. If he had openly said he had killed Guan Qi Fei due to Duan Ling Tian’s request, he would definitely gain a terrible reputation. Everyone would think he was vile and had no morals in pursuit of benefits. Who would dare to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect as an interim Revered Elder at that time? In order to avoid gaining a bad reputation, he had killed Guan Qi Fei under the pretext that Guan Qi Fei had wronged the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect.

Lian Cheng Yi said to Duan Ling Tian, “Master Duan, since I’ve already killed Master Guan, I hope you’ll keep your word and join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect.” At the same time, he sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as well. His Voice Transmission was vastly different from what he had openly said.

Upon hearing Lian Cheng Yi’s Voice Transmission, Duan Ling Tian openly replied, “Sect Leader Lian, why did you send me a Voice Transmission saying you killed Guan Qi Fei for me when you just told everyone you killed him because he caused the loss of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect’s Duke Grade Cultivation Method?”

Lian Cheng Yi looked at Duan Ling Tian with killing intent as he said through Voice Transmission, “Master Duan, don’t try to act dumb. If it weren’t for you, do you think I’ll kill Master Guan who was a prominent Celestial Alchemist?”

“I don’t know what you’re getting at,” Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently through Voice Transmission, “Sect Leader Lian, you can still convince me to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect if you openly admit that you killed Master Guan for me.”

“Master Duan, are you trying to get something from nothing?” Lian Cheng Yi’s voice was cold. He seemed like he was about to attack at any given moment.

“Trying to get something from nothing?” Duan Ling Tian continued to say through Voice Transmission, “Where did that come from? Sect Leader Lian, if you’re too embarrassed to say it, I can do you a favor...”

“Duan Ling Tian, if you dare spit out another word, the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect will hunt you down until you die!” At this moment, Lian Cheng Yi finally realized Duan Ling Tian was messing with him. He took a deep breath to calm down before he said, “Senior He Shan, congratulations for having such a

remarkable prominent Celestial Alchemist like Master Duan in your sect! Goodbye!” Then, he turned to leave, acting as though he had nothing to hide. He no longer openly said another word to Duan Ling Tian.

After Liang Chen Yi turned around, no one saw his eyes flashing murderously. He sent a last Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian before he left, “Duan Ling Tian, I won’t let this matter go!”

Chapter 2852: A Wise Xiao Teng

Duan Ling Tian did not take the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, Lian Cheng Yi’s threat seriously. This was not his first time being threatened anyway. If he were to get frightened every time he was threatened, he would have died a long time ago. In any case, Lian Cheng Yi’s actions had taught him a lesson. Unless one had a high worth, one’s life would be constantly at stake and at the mercy of others.

Duan Ling Tian had noticed the killing intent in the eyes of Guan Qi Fei, the former prominent Celestial Alchemist of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, earlier. He knew letting Guan Qi Fei live would only bring trouble in the future. Saying that, he did not expect Lian Cheng Yi, the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, to mercilessly kill Guan Qi Fei at his request. After all, killing Guan Qi Fei would affect Lian Cheng Yi’s reputation. Since the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect could easily disregard the life of an interim Revered Elder, they, naturally, could do the same again in the future. With this, who would dare to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect?

Nevertheless, Lian Cheng Yi’s cunning and ruthlessness had surprised Duan Ling Tian. Lian Cheng Yi had even come up with a plan and an excuse so quickly to justify his killing of Guan Qi Fei. Duan Ling Tian knew Lian Cheng Yi was afraid Guan Qi Fei would detonate his prominent Celestial Fire so Lian Cheng Yi had intentionally soothed and assured Guan Qi Fei to make Guan Qi Fei let his guard down. Then, Lian Cheng Yi had quickly killed Guan Qi Fei when Guan Qi Fei’s guard was down. It was only natural for Lian Cheng Yi to be so cautious. If Guan Qi Fei had detonated his prominent Grade Celestial Fire, at such close proximity, even powerhouses like Lian Cheng Yi would be in grave danger.

‘Based on how vicious Lian Cheng Yi is, who knows when he would sacrifice me for the greater good of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect if I really join the sect.’ Duan Ling Tian was well aware of this fact so he had never considered joining the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect at all. Moreover, he was not a fair-weather person. Since he had joined the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, he would not abandon the Tai Yi Celestial Sect as long as the Tai Yi Celestial Sect did not wrong or mistreat him.

“He left?”

“The Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial is really decisive. He didn’t even hesitate to kill Guan Qi Fei, a prominent Celestial Alchemist, just for causing trouble to the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect!”

“I think there’s more to it than that. It’s possible that he killed Master Guan for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Master Duan, right? However, it seems unlikely as well. Otherwise, Master Duan would have joined the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, and Sect Leader Lian wouldn’t be leaving alone.”

“He’s probably just very decisive in upholding the sect’s rules!”

Since the crowd was not privy to the Voice Transmission between Duan Ling Tian and Lian Cheng Yi, most of them thought Lian Cheng Yi was just really strict and had killed Guan Qi Fei for violating the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect's rule. For this reason, Lian Cheng Yi's action did not negatively impact him and the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect. In fact, it made people think Lian Cheng Yi and the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect were fair. They did not even hesitate to punish an interim Revered Elder who was a prominent Celestial Alchemist. Not every sect would be able to do that. After all, prominent Celestial Alchemists were highly respectable. In the history of the Six Southeastern Regions, the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect was the only sect that was so decisive with its punishment!

There was a small number of people who thought Guan Qi Fei did not deserve to die, but their voices and opinions were drowned out by the majority.

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had lived for a very long time. He could, naturally, see through Lian Cheng Yi's actions. He asked through Voice Transmission, "Master Duan, Lian Cheng Yi killed Guan Qi Fei in order to lure you over to his sect, right?" He was, in fact, slightly worried earlier that Duan Ling Tian might agree to join the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect after Lian Cheng Yi killed Guan Qi Fei. However, although Lian Cheng Yi seemed outwardly calm when he had left, he could tell Lian Cheng Yi was furious. For this reason, he knew Lian Cheng Yi had failed to recruit Duan Ling Tian.

"You're right, Old Ancestor," Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission with a faint smile on his face, "He invited me to join the Supporting Sect and told me he killed Guan Qi Fei just as I'd requested through Voice Transmission. However, I told him I would only join his sect if he openly admits that he killed Guan Qi Fei for me. He's unwilling to do that so that's the end of it."

A wide smile could be seen on He Shan's face as he replied through Voice Transmission, "Of course, he won't admit it. Although you're a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill and has a bright future, to Lian Cheng Yi, his reputation and the reputation of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect are more important." After that, his tone turned solemn as he said, "Nonetheless, Master Duan, Lian Cheng Yi will definitely put all the blame on you for today's accident. You've just created enmity between him and you."

Duan Ling Tian replied indifferently through Voice Transmission, "Well, he did say that he won't let this matter go through Voice Transmission before he left."

"He won't let this matter go?" He Shan sneered. "It's just the death of a prominent Celestial Alchemist, and yet, he acts as though his parents had been killed. Although he's the Sect Leader of the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect, he'll still have to go through me and the Tai Yi Celestial Sect if he wants to get to you!" His words were, naturally, meant to reassure Duan Ling Tian. "Master Duan, from now on, it's best if you don't stay too far from me."

"Alright." Duan Ling Tian nodded.

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Meanwhile, the people from the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect did not disperse after arriving in their temporary residence in Alchemy City. All of them were gathered at the courtyard of the residence with Xiao Teng, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect.

Without any prompt, Tan Zheng Ye, the Vice Sect Leader of the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, instantly apologized as soon as they entered the courtyard. "Sect leader, I'm to blame for today's incident... Please punish me!"

"Vice Sect Leader Tan, you're not solely at fault today." Xiao Teng shook his head in response to Tan Zheng Ye's apology. "If I weren't so careless, we wouldn't have lost the Duke Grade Divine Ability." His eyes narrowed as he said, "No one expected Duan Ling Tian, a brat who's not even 100 years old, to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining a top tier Celestial Pill like the Overarching Heaven Pill!"

Tan Zheng Ye sighed in relief upon hearing Xiao Teng's words. It seemed like Xiao Teng had no intention of blaming him. He hurriedly said, echoing Xiao Teng's words, "Yes, yes. Who would have thought someone who's not even 100 years old to be capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill."

"What happened today showed us that we must never underestimate anyone... There's always someone who's better out there!" Xiao Teng said.

"Sect leader." Tan Zheng Ye's eyes flashed briefly when a thought appeared in his mind. "Should we... Should we extend an invitation to Duan Ling Tian to join the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect? After all, we're much stronger than the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. I'm sure he knows it's more beneficial for him to join us than staying in Tai Yi Celestial Sect." His eyes were bright when he spoke.

As soon as Tang Zheng Ye finished speaking, the expression of his male disciple, Cheng Da Gang, changed drastically. He had offended Duan Ling Tian earlier, after all. It would be fine if Duan Ling Tian stayed in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, but if Duan Ling Tian joined the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian would certainly seek revenge from him. If Duan Ling Tian truly intended to seek revenge from him, he was rather certain that his master, Tang Zheng Ye, would not stop Duan Ling Tian at all. In fact, his master might even take the initiative to send him to Duan Ling Tian. He was well aware of his master's character after all. His master would do anything for the sect. Let alone a mere disciple, his master would even sacrifice himself for the sect.

Contrary to Tan Zheng Ye who was excited, Xiao Teng remained indifferent to Tan Zheng Ye's suggestion. "Vice Sect Leader Tan, do you think Master Duan joined the Tai Yi Celestial Sect for the benefits Tai Yi Celestial Sect could give him? Would he choose to join the Tai Yi Celestial Sect if he's after benefits? As a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill when he's not even 100 years old, if he wants to, he'll be welcomed even in the strongest sect of the Six Southeastern Regions, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. It's impossible for him to join our Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect." Xiao Teng was clearly more rational and wiser than Tan Zheng Ye and Lian Cheng Yi.

Tan Zheng Ye fell silent for a moment. It seemed like Xiao Teng was right.

Upon hearing Xiao Teng's words, Cheng Da Gang, who was standing behind Tan Zheng Ye, could not help but inwardly sigh in relief.

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In the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect's temporary residence in Alchemy City.

The incident outside Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop had spread like a wildfire in Alchemy City. It was only natural that it had spread to the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect as well.

"He... He actually managed to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill! Sister Shu Qiu... You're right!" After hearing several people recount the incident, Lyu Luo, the disciple from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, looked at Zhou Shu Qiu in shock.

"That's right." Although Zhou Shu Qiu had expected this outcome, she was still somewhat shocked. That purple-clad young man who was not even 100 years old was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!

Chapter 2853: The Alchemy Conference

Murong Bing who was standing at the side remained silent, but a myriad of emotions was flashing in her eyes. After a moment, she sighed inwardly as though she had recalled something. Her bright eyes dimmed as well.

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Meanwhile, many similar discussions could be heard in the Alchemy City of the Barren Land.

"Hey, did you hear that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is sending a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill to attend the Alchemy Conference?"

"The Tai Yi Celestial Sect? The Tai Yi Celestial Sect from the Wasteland? A prominent Celestial Alchemist with such skills would be highly respected in the entire Six Southeastern Regions and the Southern Heaven Territory. What is someone like that doing in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"How would I know? Anyway, that's not the shocking part. The shocking part is that the prominent Celestial Alchemist isn't even 100 years old!"

"Isn't even 100 years old? Are you joking? It's already shocking that someone who isn't even 100 years old became a prominent Celestial Alchemist, let alone capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!"

"It's the truth. Many people personally witnessed him refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!"

It did not take long for Duan Ling Tian's name to be known in Alchemy City. Almost 90% of the people in the city knew about him. Only those who were in closed-door cultivation did not hear about him yet.

Duan Ling Tian, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was a prominent Celestial Alchemist who was not even 100 years old but was capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill. His innate talent in alchemy was truly shocking!

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In the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect's temporary residence in Alchemy City.

Upon receiving the news that Duan Ling Tian had successfully refined the Overarching Heaven Pill, Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, was in disbelief. He went on a tirade immediately. "What?! That brat from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect who isn't even 100 years old actually refined the Overarching Heaven Pill?! Impossible! He's not even 100 years old. Even if he's lucky enough to obtain a prominent Celestial Fire, he shouldn't have the skills to refine a top tier pill like the Overarching Heaven Pill. Fake news! The news is definitely fake!" He had been waiting for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and Duan Ling Tian to humiliate themselves. Who knew they actually managed to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill?

Bai Yu Xuan had met Duan Ling Tian, and he had ascertained that Duan Ling Tian was truly not even 100 years old. It was unimaginable that someone who was not even 100 years old to possess the capability to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. He was unwilling to believe this so he had sent some men to investigate the veracity of the news. Alas, after confirming the news was true, he had no choice but to believe it.

His expression was unsightly when he confirmed the news was true. "How did the Tai Yi Celestial Sect get so lucky to recruit a talented prominent Celestial Alchemist like that young man! No wonder he's so arrogant. As it turns out, he's a highly skilled prominent Celestial Alchemist, a genius Celestial Alchemist. He's not even 100 years old, but he's capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!"

Bai Yu Xuan was well aware that such a genius talent would be highly respected by his father. If Duan Ling Tian was willing, his father would even welcome Duan Ling Tian to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect with open arms. At that time, he could not even afford to offend Duan Ling Tian. His eyes glinted resolutely as he thought to himself, 'It doesn't matter if you're a genius in alchemy and can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. I, Bai Yu Xuan, will get that woman!'

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In the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's temporary residence in Alchemy City.

"Duan Ling Tian? The name sounds familiar." The Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect had also heard of the news today. She wondered inwardly, 'Where have I heard this name before? I'm rather certain I've heard of the name of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Chief Celestial Alchemist before...'

At this point, it still had not dawned on her the reason why Duan Ling Tian's name sounded familiar to her was due to her sending her subordinate to hunt down and kill him in the past. She had heard the name Duan Ling Tian after her subordinate had returned to report that she had failed the mission. Duan Ling Tian was none other than the man who had taken her niece's virginity. Naturally, she was one of the very few people in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect who knew Murong Bing was her biological niece.

Although everyone in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect knew their sect leader favored Murong Bing, they assumed it was due to Murong Bing's high and extraordinary innate talent. No one would expect that even if Murong Bing's talent was only average, the sect leader would still favor her due to their blood relations.

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Similarly, the temporary residences of the other top sects of the Six Southeastern Region were in an uproar as well.

No one expected a genius prominent Celestial Alchemist younger than 100 years old capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill would appear before the Alchemy Conference began. This young man's future was extremely bright. There was no doubt his name would resound in the entire borderlands in the future! Even the forces in the central region of the Southern Heaven Territory would want to recruit a remarkable alchemist like Duan Ling Tian if they knew about him.

A prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill might be nothing to those forces, but a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill who was not even 100 years old was a completely different story. It was not a stretch to say the major forces in the central region would compete to recruit him! Since he was able to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill at such a young age, his future would be as boundless!

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As Duan Ling Tian grew more famous in Alchemy City, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop in Alchemy City was booming in business as well. The shop was so busy, and there were so many customers that it seemed that the shop could collapse. For this reason, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing became incredibly busy.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian stopped frequenting the shop as well. Although there were still many customers, there were a lot fewer customers when Duan Ling Tian was not around.

"Did those customers only come for Master Duan?" It did not take long for Situ Ming to figure this out.

"Master Duan is a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill even though he's not even 100 years old. It's only natural that people are curious about him," Yang Chong said.

"Should we ask Master Duan to frequent the shop more often? That way, our sales will increase even more," Situ Ming suggested.

However, Situ Ming's suggestion was quickly vetoed by Yang Chong and Yu Zhong Jing.

"Master Situ, are you that desperate to get rich? We're already busy as it is. If things get as busy as when Master Duan is here, I think we'll work ourselves to death," Yang Chong quickly said.

"No." Yu Zhong Jing was as taciturn as usual. His answer was curt to the-point. He did not explain himself like Yang Chong.

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A few days later. In the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's temporary residence in Alchemy City.

In the main hall. Duan Ling Tian had just consecutively sent a few groups of visiting Celestial Alchemists away. He could not help but grumble to He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. "I thought

I'd be able to get some peace and quiet after I stopped going to the shop. Who knew it would be even busier?"

After Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath, he said to He Shan, "Old Ancestor, I can't deal with this anymore. I won't be leaving my room until it's time to attend the Alchemy Conference. Please receive the visitors on my behalf regardless of who they are. Just tell them I'm in closed-door cultivation. I don't care even if they say I'm arrogant!" After he finished speaking, he did not even wait for He Shan's reply before he left the main hall with Huan'er in tow.

During the past few days, a couple of dozens of Celestial Alchemists had come to visit Duan Ling Tian. All of them had a remarkable background or came from top sects of the Six Southeastern Regions. They, naturally, came to befriend Duan Ling Tian. Someone was as talented as Duan Ling Tian was definitely worthy of respect. Many of them thought it was better to befriend him now. Once he grew famous, it would be harder to befriend him.

Duan Ling Tian had no intention of meeting any of these people, but He Shan had requested that he represent Tai Yi Celestial Sect to receive the visitors. After a few days, Duan Ling Tian who hated socializing was finally done with it. After he made his intention known to He Shan, he left immediately.

He Shan, who was currently left alone in the main hall, could only smile bitterly. If Duan Ling Tian was a normal Tai Yi Celestial Sect's elder, he would have rebuked Duan Ling Tian. However, Duan Ling Tian was only an interim Revered Elder of the sect. It could be considered that Duan Ling Tian had lowered himself to stay in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect when there were so many stronger sects that wanted to recruit him. Therefore, He Shan thought it was only natural to accommodate Duan Ling Tian's whims and please him.

He Shan did not waste time and issued a statement immediately. "From today onward until the start of the Alchemy Conference, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect will no longer be receiving visitors. Please forgive us!"

The people from various forces who wanted to meet Duan Ling Tian out of curiosity were stopped at the entrance to Tai Yi Celestial Sect's temporary residence.

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Time passed, and days flew by. In just a blink of an eye, the Alchemy Conference was about to commence.

Chapter 2854: A Quaint Box

The Alchemy Conference was jointly hosted by the top factions in the Six Southeastern Regions. It was organized once every thirty years, and the venue would rotate between the Six Southeastern Regions. Each of the Six Southeastern Regions had its own Alchemy City to host the Alchemy Conference. Currently, it was the Barren Land's turn to host the Alchemy Conference.

Although the marketplace was considered the heart of Alchemy City, this was only due to its location in the center of the city. The true heart of Alchemy City was closed to the public. It was also the venue of the Alchemy Conference. Only when the Alchemy Conference began would the place be open to the public.

“Alchemy Square?” Duan Ling Tian only learned about the name of the venue of the Alchemy Conference from He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, before they left for the Alchemy Conference. Alchemy Square was located within the marketplace and was shrouded by a thick fog. Previously, he had seen that place when he was strolling around the marketplace with Huan’er.

At that time, He Shan had only told Duan Ling Tian it was the venue of the Alchemy Conference but did not disclose its name since Duan Ling Tian did not ask. He also told Duan Ling Tian that the venue was shrouded by an illusory Formation that was set up by the Three Major Celestial Sects of the Barren Land.

The Alchemy Square had a wide square stone platform in the center. On the platform, a few seats were arranged facing forward, overlooking the square.

When Duan Ling Tian saw the few seats on the stone platform in the center of Alchemy Square, he curiously asked, “Old Ancestor, how come there are so few seats on the stone platform? I don’t think they’re enough for all the high-ranking officials of the top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions.”

There were only eight seats on the stone platform. Two seats were placed facing each of the four directions of north, south, east, and west. There were 22 top sects in the Six Southeastern Regions. There were clearly insufficient seats even if only one representative from each sect was given a seat.

“Master Duan, those seats are not for us,” He Shan said with a smile, “The seats are reserved for the members of the Alliance of Celestial Masters.”

“The Alliance of Celestial Masters?” Duan Ling Tian suddenly recalled the Alliance of Celestial Masters. It was an alliance for Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen in the Overarching Spirit Heaven. After a Celestial Alchemist or Celestial Weapons Craftsman reached a certain stage, they would be able to obtain a uniform from the alliance that corresponded with their level. The Alliance of Celestial Masters were voluntarily run by Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen without any compensation. Most of the decision-makers of the alliance were sectless cultivators. Even so, not many people dared to offend the members of the Alliance of the Celestial Masters even if they were sectless cultivators since there were many skilled Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen in the alliance. These skilled Celestial Alchemists and Celestial Weapons Craftsmen had a wide connection, therefore, offending a member of the alliance would definitely be detrimental.

“Yes.” He Shan nodded. “Every Alchemy Conference in the Six Southeastern Regions is chaired by members of the Alliance of Celestial Masters... Usually, the representatives from the alliance are supreme Celestial Alchemists and sectless powerhouses.”

“Sectless powerhouses?” Duan Ling Tian was slightly taken aback.

“Most of the supreme Celestial Alchemists from the alliance are sectless cultivators... They, naturally, have many friends who are sectless cultivators as well. When they attend the Alchemy Conference, those sectless cultivators would protect them,” He Shan explained, “The powerhouses that protect the supreme Celestial Alchemist during the Alchemy Conference are quite mysterious. They range from Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes to Ten Directions Celestial Dukes.” His expression was solemn as he spoke.

“Ten Directions Celestial Dukes? Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes?” Duan Ling Tian was shocked that there were such strong powerhouses in the borderland of the Southern Heaven Territory. He had thought only the top forces in the Six Southeastern Regions had Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes and Ten Directions Celestial Dukes. Who knew there were crouching tigers and hidden dragons among the sectless cultivators as well?

Duan Ling Tian was about to ask about the number of supreme Celestial Alchemists who would be attending the Alchemy Conference when a voice dripping with disdain rang in the air.

“You want to exchange a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Duke Grade Divine Ability with this lousy empty box? You must be out of your mind!”

Duan Ling Tian turned around and saw the source of the voice; it was a sturdy middle-aged man. The sturdy middle-aged man was speaking to a short old man who was holding on tightly to a quaint box.

Faced with the sturdy middle-aged man’s provocative words, the old man calmly replied, “My grandmaster found this box in a Little World left behind by a Celestial Lord. This is no ordinary box.”

The middle-aged man scoffed disdainfully before he said with a sneer, “I extended my Divine Consciousness into your box, and I found nothing in there. Do you think I’m a fool? If I open the box and there’s nothing in there, are you willing to pay me 10,000 primitive Celestial Stones?”

“If you’re able to open this box, I’ll give it to you without asking for anything in return,” the old man continued to speak calmly, “My grandmaster was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke before he left the Six Southeastern Regions for the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory... Even he could not open the box.”

“Such a lousy old box, I wouldn’t want it even if you give it to me for nothing. However, since you’ve asked me to open it, I’ll open it for you!” After taking the box from the old man, he attempted to open the old box. However, after struggling for a while, he failed to open the box. The opening did not budge at all.

The middle-aged man’s face flushed red. There was nothing he could do even if he was dissatisfied that he could not open the box. “How’s this possible?!”

Apart from Duan Ling Tian, the middle-aged man and the old man’s conversation had also attracted the attention of the people in the surroundings.

“It’s an empty box...”

“My Divine Consciousness easily penetrated the box. It’s true that there’s nothing in there.”

“Since it’s so easy for our Divine Consciousness to penetrate the box, why is it so hard to open? Based on his Celestial Origin Energy, the middle-aged man is a Celestial Duke, at least!”

“This box is quite strange. Even a Celestial Duke can’t open it.”

Meanwhile, He Shan also extended his Divine Consciousness into the box in the middle-aged man’s hand. He confirmed that it was, indeed, empty. “It’s an empty box, there’s no doubt about it.” He had transmitted these words to Duan Ling Tian after investigating the box out of curiosity.

Upon hearing He Shan's words, Duan Ling Tian extended his Divine Consciousness into the box as well. He had expected to meet with some resistance, but his Divine Consciousness easily entered the box. Indeed, the quaint box was empty. 'It's really empty.'

At this moment, He Shan stepped forward and said to the middle-aged man, "Allow me to give it a try." He was curious.

Many of the onlookers recognized He Shan immediately. Soon after, the crowd identified Duan Ling Tian as well.

"It's He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!"

"He's the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"I saw him outside of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop about twenty days ago. He's the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect!"

"Since the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is here, Master Duan should be here as well, right?"

"He's over there!"

"That's the prominent Celestial Alchemist, Master Duan!"

"He's Master Duan? It's true he's not even 100 years old! He's a monster!"

After a while, everyone's attention shifted from Duan Ling Tian back to He Shan who had just taken the quaint old box into his hands. To be precise, their attention was riveted on the quaint old box in He Shan's hand.

"Can I give it a try?" He Shan turned to look at the box's owner. "You mentioned earlier that even an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke failed to open it?"

"Yes, Senior He Shan," the old man replied respectfully when he found out about He Shan's identity, "I know Senior He Shan is an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke... It's my honor if you're willing to try and open the box. You'll help me verify my words."

"En." He Shan did not waste time and began to gather his strength to open the quaint old box after obtaining the old man's permission.

The crowd was staring intently at the box in He Shan's hands at this moment. It was no secret that the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke. They were all curious if He Shan would be able to open the box that the old man claimed was unopenable?

Meanwhile, an ancient voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind at this moment. "There's something valuable in that box, boy... You must obtain it. I will join forces with the Profound Divine Metal to help you open the box after he wakes up. Only someone who is, at least, a Celestial Lord would be able to open it."

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard the voice in his mind. 'It's the Chaos Divine Flame!'

Chapter 2855: I Really Want This Box

Duan Ling Tian was shocked when he heard the Chaos Divine Flame's voice. He instinctively replied, "Senior, I've checked with my Divine Consciousness. There's nothing in the box.."

The Chaos Divine Flame scoffed. "There are several Formations on the box. Only a Celestial Lord or someone stronger would be able to neutralize the three small Formations. What your Divine Consciousness detected is just a false image constructed by the small Formations. There are three items in the box that can save your life. You must obtain it!"

Then, the Chaos Divine Flame's voice turned softer and softer as it spoke, "I'll have to sleep for now. In a month, when I wake up, I'll wake the Profound Divine Metal up as well. At that time, the Profound Divine Metal should have enough energy to wake up. Then, we'll join forces and help you open this box. Of course, that's only if you're able to obtain the box..."

After the Chaos Divine Flame's voice trailed off, it no longer responded no matter how many times Duan Ling Tian called out to it.

'The Chaos Divine Flame said only a Celestial Lord or someone stronger can see through the Formations on the box and open it... This must be why everyone, including the Old Ancestor, can't sense anything from the box! It must be due to the three Formations!' Although the Chaos Divine Flame's words sounded crazy, Duan Ling Tian did not doubt its words. After all, the Chaos Divine Flame existed in his body now, it was part of his strength. It was all thanks to the Chaos Divine Flame that had entered the third form and was equivalent to a prominent Celestial Fire that he could skillfully refine pills. Naturally, it was more extraordinary than prominent Celestial Fire. It was only natural that he believed the Chaos Divine Flame's words over the people in the surroundings.

"I can't open it!" He Shan said.

Upon hearing this, the crowd began to whisper among themselves.

"It seems like the box has some really complex Formations... Even the Old Ancestor who's an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke can't open it."

Duan Ling Tian heard an onlooker's words just as he regained his senses. He turned to look at He Shan and saw He Shan sending his Celestial Origin Energy into the box to open it but to no avail.

He Shan's face flushed red from the exertion. No matter how much Celestial Origin Energy he sent into the box, it refused to open. Based on this, it was clear an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke was not strong enough to open the box. In fact, based on how He Shan had struggled to open the box, perhaps, even a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke or a Ten Directions Celestial Duke might not be able to open it.

"I can't open it." He Shan freely admitted he could not open the box. Then, he turned to look at the owner of the box and said, "This box is really complex... It's quite useful to store precious things. Thus, it can also be considered as a treasure. However, there's nothing in the box. And since the box can't be opened, the box itself is of no value."

"Senior He Shan, believe it or not... My grandmaster really did obtain this box in Little World left behind by a strong Celestial Lord. My grandmaster wouldn't lie to me!" the old man said solemnly.

“I didn’t say you lied.” He Shan shook his head and handed the box over to the old man. “I merely said the box is of little value. If I’m not mistaken, those weaker than Celestial Kings won’t be able to open it at all. If it can’t be opened, there’s no way you can exchange it for a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability.”

Upon hearing He Shan’s words, the sturdy middle-aged man scoffed. “Did you hear that? Senior He Shan said no one would exchange their Duke Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities for your stupid box!”

The old man remained silent. He was inwardly shaken. His master would not lie to him. Then, was it possible that his grandmaster lied to his master? After all, he was not familiar with his grandmaster. In fact, he had never even met his grandmaster before. He had only heard about his grandmaster from his master. Moreover, his master was only a nominal disciple of his grandmaster; his master had only learned from his grandmaster for half a month. For this reason, his master did not know much about his grandmaster as well. This old box was the only thing his grandmaster left to his master. Naturally, his master also determined there was nothing in the box. His master had always treated the box as a keepsake from his grandmaster even if there was no value to it. Since his master was killed, he decided to exchange this box for a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability to improve his strength so he could avenge his master.

The old man began to doubt himself. ‘Did grandmaster really obtain this box in a Little World left behind by a strong Celestial Lord?’ After all, it was possible that his grandmaster had lied to his master to make the box seem important.

Meanwhile, after listening to He Shan’s words, the crowd began to discuss among themselves with voices that were dripping with contempt.

“This old man actually wants to use such a useless thing to exchange for a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability... Is he trying to scam people?”

“There are so many dishonest people in this world... Does he really think he can deceive us? Does he think we’re three-year-olds?”

“Only a fool will exchange a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability for his box.”

“That’s right!”

When the old man heard the discussions in the surroundings, his face flushed red in embarrassment.

“Let’s leave... There’s no need for us to waste our time on a liar.”

“Yes, let’s go.”

The crowd was about to leave when Duan Ling Tian stepped forward and asked the old man who was about to leave as well, “What kind of Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability do you want in exchange for the box?”

The crowd who was about to leave came to halt immediately. All of them looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously. They, naturally, decided to stay and watch the excitement.

“The Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect... Is he going to exchange a Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability for the old man’s useless old box?”

“He can’t be that stupid, right?”

“I don’t think he’s that stupid. He’s probably trying to test the old man to see how greedy he is.”

“That’s right! Who knows if the old man is audacious enough to ask for a double trait offensive-defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability?”

At this moment, the crowd finally noticed something they had previously overlooked. The crowd finally saw Huan’er who was holding onto Duan Ling Tian’s hand and looking at him affectionately.

“Huh? Isn’t that woman next to Master Duan the famous peerless beauty?”

“Yes! That’s her! The Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect had a conflict with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect because of her.”

Someone said with a sigh, “She’s beauty that brings disaster.”

“In any case, her beauty is truly unrivaled.”

“Master Duan.” Due to the conversation in the surroundings, the old man knew Duan Ling Tian was the young Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect! Moreover, he was a prominent Celestial Alchemist who could refine the Overarching Heaven Pill! He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “I only want to exchange for a single-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability... Anything is fine except for assistive Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability.” Similar to the crowd, he did not think Duan Ling Tian was interested in exchanging anything with him. However, due to Duan Ling Tian’s status, he did not dare to be rude and honestly answered Duan Ling Tian’s question.

Under everyone’s baffled and horrified gaze, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at He Shan and said, “Old Ancestor, I really want this box... Can I exchange our Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Duke Grade Celestial Method or one of the two Divine Abilities for the box?”

Everyone’s minds were bogled when they heard Duan Ling Tian said he wanted the box.

Even He Shan was baffled. When he regained his senses, he looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Master Duan, I just said that this box...”

Duan Ling Tian interjected, “Old Ancestor, I really want this box.” He looked at He Shan seriously as he waited for He Shan’s answer.

This was He Shan’s first time seeing Duan Ling Tian so serious. His expression changed slightly as he took a few deep breaths. Then, he finally said, “Master Duan, since you insist, the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and I will naturally support your decision...”

Chapter 2856: Box Acquired

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, was of the opinion that the old man’s quaint box was not even worth a single-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability. However, since Duan

Ling Tian seemed eager and determined to obtain the box, he did not have the heart to refuse Duan Ling Tian. Since Duan Ling Tian had won a double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability previously, there was no doubt Duan Ling Tian would continue to win precious Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities during the Alchemy Conference as well, contributing to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. With Duan Ling Tian's massive contribution to the sect, He Shan would not object to trading a single-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability for the old box.

"Thank you, Old Ancestor," Duan Ling Tian smiled widely as he waited for He Shan's approval. He knew He Shan would not refuse him. Although he had the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability that he had won from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect, he could not trade them for the box since he had not memorized the content from the Memory Celestial Talismans or mastered them yet. Since the Tai Yi Celestial Sect had copies of their one Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities, it would not affect the sect at all to trade them for the box.

The onlookers were baffled when they saw how eager Duan Ling Tian was to obtain the box. He even insisted on trading for the box even after the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect explained that the box was worthless. They wondered what was going through Duan Ling Tian's mind? Did he go crazy? All of them looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a fool.

"Does Master Duan know what he's doing?"

"A Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability in exchange for the box? How's it worth it?"

"Even the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect has said the box is worthless, and yet, he still insists on obtaining the box! Imbecile!"

"Does he really believe the old man and thinks that the box came from a Little World left behind by a Celestial Lord?"

"Master Duan..." Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing opened their mouths to try and dissuade Duan Ling Tian. However, they fell silent immediately when Duan Ling Tian turned around to look at them. It was the first time they had seen Duan Ling Tian with such a solemn expression. With this, they knew they had no chance of dissuading him at all.

On the other hand, Huan'er only stood silently next to Duan Ling Tian. In her opinion, it did not matter if everyone questioned Duan Ling Tian's judgment. She had full confidence in Duan Ling Tian. Even if Duan Ling Tian asked her to trade her Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability for the box, she would not hesitate at all. She would do anything as long as it made him happy.

"Master Duan... You're not joking, right?" the old man asked tentatively as he looked at Duan Ling Tian. He was afraid Duan Ling Tian was just trying to pull his leg.

"I'm not joking," Duan Ling Tian replied without beating around the bush, "The Tai Yi Celestial Sect has one Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities. The Celestial Method is a movement type, and the Divine Abilities are assistive type and offensive type respectively. Pick one."

“Master Duan... Y-you’re really serious” The old man felt as though he was dreaming. Who could blame him? The Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect said he wanted the box that even the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect had deemed worthless. It sounded too good to be true.

Duan Ling Tian became slightly impatient after being repeatedly questioned by the old man. He said with a frown on his face, “I’m serious. I don’t have time to joke with you. Are you going to trade or not? It’s fine if you don’t. I’m just curious why the box can’t even be opened by a Ten Direction Celestial Duke, that’s all.”

When the old man realized Duan Ling Tian was serious and was getting impatient, he hastily said, “Yes, yes, of course! Let’s trade! Master Duan, I want the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability!” He looked at Duan Ling Tian nervously as though Duan Ling Tian might renege on the deal.

After the old man stated his request, Duan Ling Tian looked at He Shan and said, “Old Ancestor, I don’t have the Memory Celestial Talisman for the assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability with me... Do you have it with you?”

Before coming to Alchemy City, Duan Ling Tian had only asked for the Memory Celestial Talismans for the Duke Grade Celestial Method and the offensive Duke Grade Divine Ability from Bai Ping, the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. He did not ask for the assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability since he had no use for it. After all, he already possessed the heaven-grade Elementary Devouring Tactic that was equally as powerful as any assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability. If he had comprehended the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability, who knew if by the time he had mastered it, he would have already obtained an assistive King Grade Divine Ability?

“Yes, I have it.” He Shan nodded and passed a Memory Celestial Talisman to Duan Ling Tian.

After Duan Ling Tian took the Memory Celestial Talisman, he did not even look at it before he handed it over to the old man. “Go ahead and check it... If everything is fine, you can hand the box over to me.”

“I trust you and Senior He Shan!” the old man said before handing the box over to Duan Ling Tian. He cradled the Memory Celestial Talisman as though it was a precious gem before he began to look at the content of the Memory Celestial Talisman. “This... this assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability... Thank you, Master Duan! Thank you, Senior He Shan!” the old man repeatedly thanked them before he finally left.

However, as soon as the old man left, a few people were quick to follow after him. Needless to say, they were after the assistive Duke Grade Divine Ability.

Duan Ling Tian was aware of this. He cocked an eyebrow as he thought to himself, ‘The old man must have his own ways to protect himself since he dared to publicly trade with me. Even if he’s incapable of protecting it, it’s his luck!’ After experiencing two lifetimes, Duan Ling Tian was already numb to all the killing and robbing in the world. Even if he helped the old man, it would not change the nature of the world at all.

At this moment, He Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, “Master Duan, the Sect Leader of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect wants to meet us. He just greeted me through Voice Transmission. Let’s go over there.” He was not bothered about the box that Duan Ling Tian just obtained. After all, after

investigating it, he was certain it was worthless. In his opinion, Duan Ling Tian only wanted the box out of curiosity. Although it was a willful act, even if he had to exchange a Duke Grade Celestial Method and two Duke Grade Divine Abilities for the box, he would still do it to appease Duan Ling Tian. After all, Duan Ling Tian was far more valuable than the single trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Abilities.

“Alright,” Duan Ling Tian replied.

With Huan'er, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, the five of them kept up with He Shan.

The onlookers began to disperse as well, but they did not stop discussing among themselves.

“I don't understand. Why did the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect not stop him and let him have his way?”

“Exactly! He'd already said the box is worthless, and yet, he indulged that prominent Celestial Alchemist!”

“What's so surprising about that? Don't forget, Master Duan is a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill even though he's not even 100 years old! It's nothing to sacrifice a single-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability to please someone like Master Duan.”

“That's right. Half a month ago, Master Duan had won a double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and a double-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect... If the Tai Yi Celestial Sect slights him, do you think they'll be able to obtain the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability?”

Chapter 2857: The Arhat of the Blissful Sect

As they followed He Shan, the Old Ancestor of Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian could hear the discussions in his surroundings, but he paid them no heed. He believed the Chaos Divine Flame would not deceive him!

‘The contents of the box are equivalent to three life-saving Talismans... You must acquire the box.’ These were the words of the Chaos Divine Flame.

Duan Ling Tian speculated that the Chaos Divine Flame was aware that they were in a place where Celestial Dukes and other strong powerhouses were abundant. The contents of the box would probably help him if he were to run into trouble with any Celestial Dukes.

‘According to the Chaos Divine Flame, the box's content can only be seen by Celestial Lords or those who are stronger. If that's the case, the contents must pose a threat to Celestial Kings as well!’ Duan Ling Tian's eyes gleamed as he looked at the old quaint box again. He was eager to see the mysterious contents in the box.

“Senior He Shan.” A familiar voice rang out and pulled Duan Ling Tian back to his senses. When he looked up, he discovered, under the lead of He Shan, they had already arrived in front of a group of people.

The leader of the other group was a tall and muscular middle-aged man with a sloppy appearance. He had a face full of beard. Contrary to his appearance, his robe was spotlessly clean. His bearing and aura indicated that he had a high status. This man was none other than Chai Kong Yu, the Sect Leader of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect!

Duan Ling Tian recognized Chai Kong Yu immediately. After all, including this time, this was their third meeting. The first time they had met was outside the entrance of the Little World, the second time was when he had exited the Little World, and today was their third meeting.

“Sect Leader Chai, it’s been a long time since we last met,” He Shan said with a smile, “I didn’t expect you to personally lead the people of your sect here. I had assumed Teng Yun Shan would lead the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect’s party to attend the Alchemy Conference since he had come out of his closed-door cultivation.”

Teng Yun Shan was an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect. He was also known as the Golden Buddha. He was also the father of Teng Qing, an elder of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect who had a conflict with Duan Ling Tian in the past. Teng Qing was eventually killed by Tie Tai He, the Supreme Elder of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Due to Teng Qing’s death, Teng Yun Shan came out of his closed-door cultivation. He had visited the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s estate previously, and Duan Ling Tian had detected Teng Yun Shan’s hostility, but he had no idea why Teng Yun Shan was hostile toward him.

“The Old Ancestor has entered closed-door cultivation again, that’s why I led the group here. I didn’t expect Senior He Shan to personally lead the group from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect as well. I had expected Sect Leader Bai Ping to come instead,” Chai Kong Yu replied with a smile. Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. He smiled and greeted Duan Ling Tian as though they were old friends. “Master Duan, we meet again.”

“Sect Leader Chai,” Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly out of courtesy in response.

“Previously, I had wondered why Master Situ and the others had willingly acknowledged you as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect... It’s no wonder since you’re not even 100 years old, but you’re a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill,” Chai Kong Yu said with a sigh, “I’m so envious of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect that they have you as an interim Revered Elder!”

“Sect Leader Chai, you’re flattering me,” Duan Ling Tian replied modestly.

“Master Duan, you’re being too modest... Even the two Revered Elders from our sect want to meet you.” Chai Kong Yu began to introduce the two men standing behind him to Duan Ling Tian.

They were both Revered Elders and prominent Celestial Alchemists of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect. However, they did not dare to put on airs in front of Duan Ling Tian. After all, Duan Ling Tian had not even reached the age of 100, but he was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill!

The two prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect were in the midst of getting acquainted with Duan Ling Tian when a woman's voice rang in the air. "Greetings, Senior He Shan, Sect Leader Chai."

The woman's voice sounded rather familiar to Duan Ling Tian so he instinctively turned around to look. He saw a green-clad lady leading a group of people over. The green-clad lady was none other than Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. It did not take long for him to discover that Zhou Shu Qiu was among the party of people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

As soon as Zhou Shu Qiu arrived, she sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Duan Ling Tian, Lyu Luo told me she had met you and told you that Bing'er is also in Alchemy City. Why didn't you look for Bing'er?"

Before Duan Ling Tian proved his capability of refining the Overarching Heaven Pills, Zhou Shu Qiu knew it would not be wise for him to look for Murong Bing since the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect would kill him for taking away Murong Bing's virginity. However, with Duan Ling Tian's status and skills now, he was more than capable of negotiating with the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect to see Murong Bing. In fact, if Duan Ling Tian was willing to join the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, the sect might even be willing to allow a marriage between him and Murong Bing.

"This is my business, and I have my own plans. I wouldn't be bothered with it if I were you, third miss of the Zhou clan," Duan Ling Tian responded indifferently through Voice Transmission and no longer paid any attention to her.

Zhou Shu Qiu was left stewing over this matter on her own.

"Master Duan!" Jian Qiu Luo greeted Duan Ling Tian warmly and courteously.

Similar to Chai Kong Yu, their sudden change in attitude was due to their discovery that Duan Ling Tian was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill even though he had not even reached the age of 100. His future would be limitless if he managed to obtain a supreme Celestial Fire in the future. Who would not seize the opportunity to befriend such a person?

"Sect Leader Jian," Duan Ling Tian greeted Jian Qiu Luo with a smile.

Then, Jian Qiu Luo began to introduce the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect to Duan Ling Tian. Just like the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect, the three of them were modest in front of Duan Ling Tian and were humbled by his skills.

Duan Ling Tian was surprised to see an old lady who seemed to be in her seventies among the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

While Duan Ling Tian was busy chatting with the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, a condescending voice rang from behind him. "So, you're Duan Ling Tian? The Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect in the Wasteland?"

Duan Ling Tian was not familiar with the voice, therefore, he deduced the speaker was a stranger. Based on the stranger's tone, he was clearly arrogant and thought he was above everyone else. After a beat, he decided to ignore the stranger and continued his conversation with the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect. Alas, their conversation was disrupted. The three prominent Celestial Alchemists were clearly distracted, their eyes contained a hint of fear as they stared at the stranger standing behind Duan Ling Tian.

One of the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect kindly reminded Duan Ling Tian through Voice Transmission. "Master Duan, this is the Arhat of Blissful Sect."

"Arhat? What's an Arhat?" Duan Ling Tian asked through Voice Transmission.

Duan Ling Tian was no stranger to the Blissful Sect, The first Little World he had entered was left behind by a Celestial King from the Blissful Sect. However, this was his first time hearing about an Arhat.

"Arhat is a title given by the Blissful Sect to a person they had chosen to be their next sect leader," the prominent Celestial Alchemist from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect explained via Voice Transmission.

Seeing the atmosphere had turned heavy when Duan Ling Tian ignored the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, He Shan quickly said to dispel the tension, "You're the Arhat of the Blissful Sect... I wonder why you're looking for Master Duan?"

Chapter 2858: The Strongest Nine Palaces Celestial Duke in the Six Southeastern Regions!

He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, took the initiative to greet the Arhat of the Blissful Sect out of courtesy. However, his greeting was rather casual. His attitude was similar to how he treated Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, previously. He was the strongest person and a key figure of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. It would be absurd for him to bow down to a junior even if the Arhat was from a stronger sect.

The Arhat of the Blissful Sect was a young monk wearing a silver kasaya with nine ordination scars on his head and a mole on his glabella. The young monk had pleasant facial features and could be considered handsome if he had grown his hair out. However, the young monk carried an arrogant and domineering air that made him look unfriendly and unapproachable. The young monk asked, "So you're He Shan, the Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"Yes, I'm He Shan," He Shan replied coldly. He was, naturally, displeased that the young monk had addressed him without using a title. It was a disrespectful gesture, after all. He had long heard about the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, but this was his first time meeting the Arhat of the Blissful Sect.

"Since you're here, that's great. The Blissful Sect wants the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to hand Duan Ling Tian over," the Arhat of the Blissful Sect bluntly said, "Naturally, you're allowed to refuse. However, you'll have to bear the consequence. Please bear that in mind before you decide." He blatantly threatened He Shan and looked at He Shan condescendingly, clearly unafraid of He Shan.

Upon hearing the threats from the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, He Shan burst out laughing.

“Why are you laughing?!” The Arhat of the Blissful Sect grimly said as killing intent flashed in the depths of his eyes.

When his laughter finally subsided, He Shan looked at the Arhat of the Blissful Sect and said, “If others no one mentioned you’re the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, I would have a hard time believing it. I can’t believe the people from the Blissful Sect are so blind to have chosen a brat like you to be the Arhat. Although the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is not as powerful as the Blissful Sect, we’re still one of the top sects in the Six Southern Regions. In terms of seniority, you’re a few generations younger than me... Upon meeting me, you disrespected me even though I’m your senior. That’s fine and all. But you even threatened me? Do you honestly think I’ll be scared by your threats?” A sneer and a disdainful expression could be seen on his face when he spoke.

Although the Blissful Sect was a force to be reckoned with, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect was not someone He Shan was afraid of.

“You!” The Arhar of the Blissful Sect was infuriated, temporarily rendered speechless. He was about to leap into a fit of rage when a mellow voice rang in the air. “Fan’er, why are you here alone?”

Soon thereafter, a middle-aged monk wearing a golden kasaya leading five people appeared. An old monk among the group of five seemed to hold the highest rank. The remaining four people must be the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Blissful Sect.

“Grandmaster.” The Arhat of the Blissful Sect stepped forward and greeted with a bright smile on his face. His arrogance from earlier had vanished without a trace.

After that, the newly-arrived people from the Blissful Sect walked toward the groups of people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect, and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect.

“Greetings, Senior Li An.” Chai Kong Yu and Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leaders of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect respectively, were the firsts to greet the middle-aged monk. Their tones were respectful. Based on this, it was clear the middle-aged monk’s status was high.

The middle-aged nodded faintly in response to Jian Qiu Luo and Chai Kong Yu before he turned to look at He Shan. “He Shan, do you feel a sense of accomplishment putting on airs in front of a junior?”

He Shan’s expression turned grave when the middle-aged monk appeared. Upon hearing the middle-aged monk’s words, he feigned a joking tone and said, “So this Arhat is your grand disciple?”

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at He Shan curiously. He Shan did not back down nor was he subservient when faced with Bai Yu Xuan, the Young Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and the Arhat of the Blissful Sect. This was the first time he saw He Shan being tolerant of someone. Who on earth was this middle-aged monk? The good-looking middle-aged monk’s eyes were cold, causing an ominous feeling to rise in Duan Ling Tian’s heart.

After a moment, realization dawned on Duan Ling Tian when he recalled Situ Ming’s words to him during their journey to the Alchemy City in the Barren Land. ‘Li An? That’s right! Master Situ had mentioned that Li An is the strongest Nine Palaces Celestial Duke in the Six Southern Regions!’

Li An was one of the two Old Ancestors of the Blissful Sect and was widely regarded as the most powerful Nine Palaces Celestial Duke in the Six Southern Regions. The other Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke, the only known existing Ten Directions Celestial Duke in the Six Southeastern Regions!

“He Shan, are you displeased with the Blissful Sect’s current choice of Arhat? In fact, I’m the one who personally selected Fan’er as the Arhat of the Blissful Sect... What was it you said about the Blissful Sect blind for choosing Fan’er as the Arhat of Blissful Sect? Do you think you have a better insight?” Li An said in a displeased tone as slowly approached the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

“Brother Li An, I...” He Shan was about to explain himself when...

Whoosh!

Li An scoffed as a powerful gust of wind surged out of his body and swept toward the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, catching them off guard. However, when the wind was about to land on the people of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, it suddenly turned into a gentle breeze.

It was clear that Li An deliberately displayed his fine control of his strength to show how he could manipulate it as he wished.

When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, the breeze had already dissipated. Suddenly, he heard a painful grunt and turned to look instantly. He saw He Shan holding one hand to his eyes as blood trickled down his arm.

“Thank you for being merciful, Brother Li An,” He Shan said. He removed his hand from his eye, revealing a bloody and disfigured eye. His left eye had been blinded.

Although He Shan had thanked Li An for showing mercy, Duan Ling Tian could clearly see the rage brewing in the depth of He Shan’s right eye.

What a joke! How could it be possible for one to sincerely thank the person who blinded one’s eye? He Shan had only said such words as to not escalate the matter further.

“Indeed, I’m being merciful for not blinding both your eyes,” Li An said flippantly.

‘So this is the strength of a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke?’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Even He Shan, an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, could not retaliate after being blinded. This made Duan Ling Tian acutely aware of how formidable Nine Palaces Celestial Dukes were.

In the Six Southern Regions, rumors had been going around for years that the next person to become a Ten Directions Celestial Duke would most likely be Li An!

‘This is a world where the strong are revered... Although there might be some strong powerhouses secretly guarding the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, as long as the enemies don’t cross the boundaries, the powerhouses wouldn’t interfere. Moreover, who knows if the Blissful Sect has powerhouses secretly guarding their sect as well...’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Chapter 2859: The Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky

It was at this moment that Duan Ling Tian deeply felt the insignificance of his existence in the Devata Realm, the Overarching Spirit Heaven. A Nine Palaces Celestial Duke like Li An, one of the Old Ancestors of the Blissful Sect, could easily crush him like an ant. Moreover, there were other mighty powerhouses such as Celestial Emperors and Celestial Lords whom he had yet to encounter.

"I'm still too weak... I need to find a way to break through and become a Celestial Duke as soon as possible!" Duan Ling Tian muttered under his breath. After witnessing how He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had to submit like a tamed cat in front of Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, he was overwhelmed by a sense of crisis. After all, He Shan was currently his strongest supporter.

Meanwhile, the people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect, including their sect leaders, remained silent from the beginning until now. Even if the two sect leaders were blinded by Li An, they still would have accepted it without retaliating. In the Devata Realms, the strong ones were revered, and the weak could only be subservient to survive.

Li An, whose displeased expression had vanished, looked at Duan Ling Tian as a smile bloomed on his face. "So you're Master Duan from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect?"

"Yes, I am." Duan Ling Tian nodded. Inwardly, he sighed at the attention his new reputation had brought him. Currently, everyone knew he was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, even though he had not even reached the age of 100. Even the vicious Li An who had just blinded He Shan was smiling at him and treating him politely.

Li An maintained the smile on his face as he bluntly asked, "Master Duan, are you interested to join our Blissful Sect?"

If Duan Ling Tian did not witness how ruthless Li An had treated He Shan earlier, he would have assumed Li An was an amiable and modest monk. He replied, "Senior Li An, I'm afraid I won't be staying for long in the Six Southeastern Regions... After the end of the Alchemy Conference, I plan to leave the Six Southeastern Regions for the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory. It's been quite some time now, it's time for me to return," Duan Ling Tian said.

Upon hearing the last part of Duan Ling Tian's words, He Shan, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing were shocked. Only Huan'er remained calm and unsurprised.

Li An asked in shock as well, "You're... You're returning to the central area? Master Duan, d-do you mean you're f-from the central area? Your clan is based in the central area?"

"Yes," Duan Ling Tian nodded and said with a straight face, "There's a rule in our clan; before the direct descendants reach the age of 100, we must leave the central area to train and prove ourselves in the borderlands before we're allowed to return to the clan. I plan to make a name for myself during the Alchemy Conference before returning to the clan."

Naturally, Duan Ling Tian was only making this up. He had to come up with a fake identity that would make Li An wary. Even if Li An did not completely believe his story, Li An would still think twice before attacking him. Since it carried with it a certain risk, Li An certainly would not feel it was worth it to take such a risk.

Before Li An could speak again, Duan Ling Tian turned to the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and looked at them apologetically as he said, "Old Ancestor, Master Situ, Master Yang, Master Yu... I'm sorry I concealed all of this from you and didn't tell you about my plans of leaving the Six Southeastern Regions after the Alchemy Conference."

Chai Kong Yu, the Sect Leader of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect, did not give a chance for the people of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect to speak as he exclaimed, "As it turns out, Master Duan is from a big clan in the central area! It's just as I've said, how's it possible for there to be a prominent Celestial Alchemist under the age of 100 who's capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill in the borderlands!" In fact, when he learned about Duan Ling Tian's capabilities, he had been worried about a shift of power in the Wasteland. Now that he learned Duan Ling Tian would be leaving the borderlands after the Alchemy Conference, he was, naturally, relieved.

Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, felt the same way as Chai Kong Yu as well.

'He's from the central area? That makes a lot of sense. It's no surprise he's so talented if he's from the central area. After all, he hasn't even reached the age of 100, but he's already become a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill.' Zhou Shu Qiu was also shocked to learn that Duan Ling Tian was from the central area of Southern Heaven Territory. Although she knew about the affairs between him and her best friend, Murong Bing, she was clueless about his background. 'Furthermore, his strength and cultivation base are extraordinary... He's also a Great Overarching Golden Celestial before he reaches the age of 100 and managed to survive after entering the Little World. I bet such a genius is also rare in the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory.' The more she thought about it, the more frightened she was. What kind of clan could produce such a talent? Duan Ling Tian had to be the clan's most cherished treasure. There must be many incredibly strong powerhouses secretly protecting him, right? Zhou Shu Qiu instinctively scanned her surroundings, feeling as though they were under surveillance.

Li An narrowed his eyes and asked skeptically, "Master Duan, you're from the central area? May I know which clan in the central area you're from?" Then, he continued to say, "The previous ancestors of the Blissful Sect regularly ventured between the central area of the Southern Heaven Territory and the Six Southeastern Regions before they became Celestial Kings... Therefore, our sect has many records regarding the central area, including a list of powerful forces in the central area. I like reading so I've read through many of the records. Who knows if I've read about your clan as well?"

Duan Ling Tian knew Li An was suspicious, but he calmly replied, "I come from the Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky."

The Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky!

Duan Ling Tian had heard from Situ Ming that powerful clans in the central area would include their birthplaces as part of their clans' names. He was from the mundane realm, and he was born in a small town in the Crimson Sky Kingdom. That was how he had come up with the Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky.

Duan Ling Tian asked, "Have you heard of my clan, Senior Li An?"

"No," Li An shook his head before he said with a smile, "The central area is vast. Although my predecessors had been to the central area, it's impossible for them to know all the clans there. However, it seems like the Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky isn't one of the top ten famous clans in the central area."

Duan Ling Tian replied, "Of course. The Duan Clan of the Crimson Sky is not comparable to the top ten clans in the central area." He had heard about the top ten clans in the central area from He Shan. The clans had closed relations to the titled Celestial Lord who was in control of the central area.

Li An looked at Duan Ling Tian intently as though he was trying to read Duan Ling Tian's mind as he said, "Perhaps, Master Duan's clan isn't comparable to the top ten clans in the central area. However, I believe your clan can't be an ordinary clan either. After all, your clan has a genius like you. Master Duan, I believe you must have a high cultivation base as well, right?" It was clear he was trying to extract as much information as he could from Duan Ling Tian. After all, no one could say for sure if Duan Ling Tian was lying about his identity and origin. Moreover, based on the reactions of He Shan and three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, they were clearly unaware that Duan Ling Tian was from the central area as well.

Before anyone could reply, Chai Kong Yu chimed in, "Master Li An, Master Duan is not only gifted in alchemy, but his cultivation base is high as well for his age. He's not even 100 years old but he's already a Great Overarching Golden Celestial."

A Great Overarching Golden Celestial who was not even 100 years old? Despite his outward appearance, Li An was inwardly shocked. Although the Blissful Sect had many Great Overarching Golden Celestials younger than 100 years old, none of them were also prominent Celestial Alchemists who could refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. How was it possible for one person to be skilled in alchemy and also cultivation?

Chapter 2860: Not Even Celestial Kings Can Open It?

In Li An's opinion, even if a Celestial Alchemist did not completely forsake cultivating for alchemy, it would still greatly affect his or her advancement in cultivation. An expression of disbelief could be seen on his face as he asked, "Master Duan, y-you're also a Great Overarching Golden Celestial?"

As a Nine Palaces Celestial Duke, Li An had discovered earlier that his Divine Consciousness could not probe Duan Ling Tian's soul. Therefore, he was unable to determine Duan Ling Tian's cultivation base. He did not think much about it since there were many cultivation methods that could prevent others from investigating the cultivators with their Divine Consciousness.

Duan Ling Tian chuckled and feigned a hint of contempt in his tone as he spoke, “Great Overarching Heaven Golden Celestial?” Then, he deliberately extended his Divine Consciousness and revealed his soul aura that was concealed by the Profound Divine Metal.

Upon feeling Duan Ling Tian’s soul aura, the people from the four major sects quickly extended their Divine Consciousness to probe his aura. What they discovered shocked them to their cores.

“This is...”

“A profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?!”

“He’s a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?!”

“Heavens! Is he even human?”

“Master Duan is a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?!”

“Unbelievable...”

The people of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were similarly shocked to discover Duan Ling Tian was a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial! They had always thought of Duan Ling Tian as a highly talented prominent Celestial Alchemist and assumed he was a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. How could they not be shocked to discover he was an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial? He was not even 100 years old!

‘A profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?’ Jian Qiu Luo was astonished.

‘A profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who hasn’t even reached the age of 100? Thank the heavens he’s not staying in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect for long. Otherwise, the position of the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect as one of the top sects in the Wasteland would be threatened.’ Chai Kong Yu was shocked and relieved at the same time.

In any case, both the Sect Leaders of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect respectively were glad and relieved that Duan Ling Tian had no plans to stay in the Tai Yi Celestial Sect for long.

Meanwhile, an incredulous expression could be seen on the face of Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect. ‘How’s this possible? He’s also a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial?! Is he really from the central area? Impossible! If he’s a direct descendant of one of the clans in the central area, would he be lacking Duke Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities? He had to use the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Duke Grade Divine Ability to exchange for a useless box earlier.’ The more he thought about it, the less frightened and threatened he felt. However, a sense of unease rose in his heart when he saw the delighted expression on the face of Li An, his grandmaster. After all, Duan Ling Tian was a rare genius. Duan Ling Tian was not even 100 years, but he was a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill, and he was also a profound Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. For this reason, he decided to cast suspicion on Duan Ling Tian. He said in a light tone, “Your alchemy skills and cultivation base are, indeed, extremely remarkable. However, it doesn’t prove you’re from one of the clans in the central area. After all, if what you said is true, you shouldn’t be lacking Duke Grade

Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities, right? However, earlier, it seemed like you needed to ask the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect for the sect's Duke Grade Divine Ability to exchange for a useless box?" A sneer appeared on his face as soon as he finished speaking. He had convinced himself that he had successfully exposed Duan Ling Tian's lie.

Duan Ling Tian merely glanced at Ji Fan briefly before he looked away. He said, "The direct descendants of the Duan Clan of Crimson Sky are required to obtain and master the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities from the outside world before returning to the clan. This has always been our clan's tradition. It seems like the Arhat of the Blissful Sect doesn't believe that I'm from the central area. In any case, whether you believe it or not, it's none of my business." Then, he turned to Li An and calmly said, "Senior Li An, it seems like the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect is right. It seems like the Arhat you've chosen for the Blissful Sect is... not qualified at all."

He Shan's expression changed slightly upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words. These words had caused him to be blinded by Li An. By repeating his words, was Duan Ling Tian trying to provoke Li An? He prayed inwardly, 'I hope Li An wouldn't act recklessly before he confirms Master Duan's identity and background.'

If Duan Ling Tian was truly from a clan in the central area, and he met with a mishap today, it might be disastrous for the Tai Yi Celestial Sect as well! After all, Duan Ling Tian was under the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's protection while he was in the borderlands!

The people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect, and the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect were looking at Li An in suspense. Was Duan Ling Tian going to lose an eye as well?

While the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were anxious, the people from the other sect were just curious about Duan Ling Tian's fate.

'Is he mad? Why would he provoke Li An when his identity isn't proven?' Zhou Shu Qiu was worried about Duan Ling Tian putting himself in danger.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Li An looked at each other calmly and silently.

However, it seemed like Duan Ling Tian's confidence convinced Li An somewhat of his identity. In the end, Li An said with an unnatural smile, "Master Duan must be joking... To be honest, this grand disciple of mine has his merits and capabilities as well."

Li An's reaction was a huge relief to the people from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. It seemed like Li An dared not attack Duan Ling Tian, at least not until he could determine Duan Ling Tian's identity and background.

Li An looked at Duan Ling Tian and said with a smile, "Master Duan, I heard you used a Duke Grade Divine Ability to exchange for a box. Can I have a look at the box?" He had heard the box was worthless and empty. Even He Shan had confirmed it. The strange thing was even He Shan, an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke, was unable to open the box. Thus, Li An was curious. Even if it was just a worthless and empty box, it was worth taking a look at the box that even He Shan could not open.

“Yes, of course.” Duan Ling Tian nodded and raised his hand to pass the box to Li An. “Although the box is empty, I think it’s not an ordinary box since even an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke is unable to open it. After returning to the central area, I plan to ask the Celestial Kings in my clan to try and open the box. With their cultivation bases, they might be able to open the box,” Duan Ling Tian said. His expression remained unchanged as he uttered that bald-faced lie.

‘As it turns out, Master Duan wanted the box not just out of curiosity...’ Realization dawned on He Shan and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

The people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect and the Martial Dragon Celestial Sect were not around earlier so they did not know about the box.

“What box is it?”

“A box that even an Eight Trigrams Celestial Duke can’t open?”

After Situ Ming explained what had happened, they finally had a grasp of what had happened earlier. At the same time, they extended their Divine Consciousness into the box that was currently in Li An’s hands. Indeed, the box was empty.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Li An mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy and attempted to open the box with all his might. Alas, the box remained tightly shut. Then, he returned the box to Duan Ling Tian and said with a sigh, “Even a Ten Directions Celestial Duke wouldn’t be able to open this box. In fact, even ordinary Celestial Kings might not be able to open it!”

Ji Fan scoffed at this moment. He openly mocked Duan Ling Tian, “Only a fool would exchange a Duke Grade Divine Ability for a box that can’t be opened!”

“Arhat, mind your words. It might bring you trouble,” Duan Ling Tian said lightly as he slowly turned to glance at Ji Fan.