

**Chapter 2871: He Won't Lose!**

At the crucial moment, Li An finally agreed to Duan Ling Tian's absurd request. However, Duan Ling Tian's request was not completely unreasonable. After all, the Blissful Sect was the one that initiated the bet and seemed eager to compete. Therefore, Duan Ling Tian had the upper-hand during the negotiation.

Duan Ling Tian had clearly stated his request, and it was clear that he did not care if the Blissful Sect rejected it. He was very firm with his stance. However, if the Blissful Sect rejected his request, the sect would be indirectly admitting that their Chief Celestial Alchemist was inferior to Duan Ling Tian.

"Fine, we will do as you say!" Li An said in a deep voice.

Duan Ling Tian who had just taken a step forward stopped in his tracks. However, he did not turn around. With his back facing Li An, he asked, "Senior Li An, so you agree to use your sect's triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method as a stake in the bet to see if Master Xiao or I have a higher success rate in refining Overarching Heaven Pills, right?"

"Yes," Li An replied without any hesitation. When Duan Ling Tian did not turn back to look at him, he assumed Duan Ling Tian was feeling nervous and guilty. He said indifferently, "Master Duan, since the Blissful Sect has already shown its sincerity, I believe you have no more reason to refuse the bet, right? Otherwise, it just shows that you're afraid to compete with our sect's Master Xiao, not the other way around!"

"You..." Duan Ling Tian flicked his sleeves and finally turned around. He looked at Li An and calmly asked, "Are you sure you want me to compete with your Blissful Sect's Master Xiao? It's still not too late to regret it now... Do you want to reconsider your decision, Senior Li An?"

"There's no need for that; I don't need to reconsider my decision." Although none of Duan Ling Tian's actions revealed his inner thoughts, Li An was certain Duan Ling Tian was only feigning calmness and was panicking inwardly. He was sure that Duan Ling Tian only asked him to reconsider as a last-ditch attempt to make him back down! What a joke! Was he someone who was easily scared off? Duan Ling Tian was not even 100 years old while he had eaten more salt than Duan Ling Tian had eaten rice!

At this moment, the onlookers parted to make way for a group of people.

"It's the people from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!"

"There are a few people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect as well!"

Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, led Murong Bing and the others from the sect over. A few people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, including Zhou Shu Qiu, tagged along as well. They had come over to watch the show after they heard about what was happening.

At this moment, a woman sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. “Duan Ling Tian, sometimes we must know when to back down... I heard from the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect that the Blissful Sect’s Chief Celestial Alchemist managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills in a go for a few times now!”

Duan Ling Tian could tell the voice belonged to Zhou Shu Qiu. He knew she was concerned and was trying to dissuade him from betting with Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect. He briefly glanced at her as he replied, “Don’t worry, I know what I’m doing.” Then, he shifted his attention back to Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, without waiting for her reply. He said to Li An, “Since Senior Li An insists that we compete, it’ll seem like I’m afraid if I refuse. Alright, I accept the bet!”

Everyone from the Blissful Sect, including Li An, was shocked that Duan Ling Tian had readily agreed to the bet. Li An, in particular, did not expect Duan Ling Tian to agree to the bet.

The people from the Blissful Sect were still flustered by Duan Ling Tian’s decision when he said, “There’s still time for you to change your mind before the masters from the Alliance of Celestial Masters arrive.” When he spoke, his eyes were trained on the two figures cutting a path across the crowd and making their way over. The two figures had identical appearances. They were Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi, the supreme Celestial Alchemists from the Alliance of Celestial Masters. Zhong Qi was also the only Ten Directions Celestial Duke present at the Alchemist Conference.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s words, the onlookers followed Duan Ling Tian’s line of sight and saw the twin brothers, Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi, as well.

Li An remained silent until Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi arrived at where they were standing.

“Master Zhong! Lord Zhong Qi!”

Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi had clearly learned about what happened.

Zhong Shang studied Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Gang Yu briefly before he asked with a faint smile on his face, “Since you’re going to bet, why don’t I be the witness? What do you think?”

Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile, “It would be the best if Master Zhong is willing to be our witness.”

On the contrary, Xiao Gang Yu did not respond immediately. Instead, he turned to look at Li An and asked through Voice Transmission, “What do you think, Old Ancestor?”

“Master Xiao, how confident are you?” Li An responded with a question instead.

“Old Ancestor, over the past decades, I managed to form six Overarching Heaven Pills in a go for a few times now... Generally, I can refine no less than 5 pills at once. I’m 80% certain that I’ll be able to refine 6 pills today.” Xiao Gang Yu sounded extremely confident when he spoke. “Unless he’s able to refine more than 6 Overarching Heaven Pills, he’ll definitely lose!”

“That means he has to refine 7 pills, at least. Master Xiao, do you really think someone who only managed to refine 3 pills a month ago can refine 7 pills today?” Li An’s words were brimming with disdain toward Duan Ling Tian.

When Duan Ling Tian saw Zhong Shang staring at Xiao Gang Yu who had yet to respond, he said, “Master Zhong, I’m afraid Master Xiao is not the one calling the shots today.”

With Duan Ling Tian’s reminder, Zhong Shang shifted his gaze to Li An. “Elder Li An, is the Blissful Sect really competing with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect on the success rate of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill? If it’s true, I will stay and watch as a witness.” A hint of impatience could be heard in his voice. It was only natural since he had been waiting for a response from the Blissful Sect for a while now.

When Li An regained his senses, he sensed Zhong Shang’s impatience and hastily replied, “Master Zhong, the Blissful Sect is, indeed, competing with the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.”

“Since that’s the case, let’s confirm the stakes again,” Zhong Shang nodded as he said, “I heard Master Duan will be using the double-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability he won from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect as stakes while the Blissful Sect will use their sect’s triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method as a stake, is that right?” His eyes darted between Duan Ling Tian and Li An as he asked for confirmation from both of them.

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian and Li An nodded.

Li An looked at Duan Ling Tian a few times and discovered Duan Ling Tian wearing an indifferent expression on his face. He sneered inwardly. ‘Go on and act all mysterious. I can’t wait to see how long you’ll be able to maintain your composure.’ He was rather convinced Duan Ling Tian was only putting on a tough front to mislead them.

Zhong Shang nodded after receiving the confirmation. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Gang Yu before he said, “In that case, the two masters can begin to heat their cauldrons.”

Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Gang Yu took two steps forward immediately. They brought out their prominent Pill Cauldron and began to heat them up.

‘He’s really going to compete with Master Xiao... Isn’t he afraid that he might lose the Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability that he just won?’ Zhou Shu Qiu could not help but frown as she watched Duan Ling Tian heating up his cauldron. After a moment, she discovered her best friend, Murong Bing, who was standing nearby seemed indifferent as she watched the proceedings. She could not help but ask Murong Bing through Voice Transmission, “Bing’er, aren’t you worried he might lose his Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability? Isn’t he being a little reckless?”

“He won’t lose.”

“He won’t lose?” Zhou Shu Qiu was stunned by Murong Bing’s reply, but she quickly regained her senses. She asked again, “When he refined the Overarching Heaven Pills a month ago, he merely managed to refine three pills. On the other hand, Xiao Gang Yu managed to refine at least five Overarching Heaven Pills in the past! In fact, if Xiao Gang Yu is lucky, he might even be able to refine six pills today!”

## **Chapter 2872: Refined Six Pills**

“Under such circumstances, how do you know he won’t lose?” Zhou Shu Qiu looked at Murong Bing incredulously.

“It’s a gut feeling.” Murong Bing’s answer was direct and simple.

Zhou Shu Qiu was stunned speechless by Murong Bing’s answer again. She did not expect this answer from Murong Bing. In the past, Murong Bing would never have given such an answer since she was a very rational person. Murong Bing was not the kind of person to rely on something as abstract as intuition. It was only natural that she found Murong Bing’s answer surprising. She mused inwardly, ‘Perhaps, love does make people do extraordinary things...’ She felt that Murong Bing was acting so unlike herself due to Murong Bing having fallen in love with Duan Ling Tian.

Murong Bing’s eyes did not leave Duan Ling Tian after she answered Zhou Shu Qiu. She could vaguely sense his unwavering self-confidence. Strangely, the confidence he radiated put her at ease and caused her worries to vanish. It was as she had told Zhou Shu Qiu, she had a strong feeling that he would not lose.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian and Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, were fully focused on heating their cauldrons. They could only begin to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills once they had heated their cauldrons.

More and more people gathered to watch as both of them heated their cauldrons.

As time passed, Xiao Gang Yu finally finished heating his cauldron and prepared to move on to the next step. As the Blissful Sect’s Chief Celestial Alchemist, although it was not the fastest, his heating speed was still considered rather fast among the prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions.

Naturally, Xiao Gang Yu’s heating speed was incomparable to Duan Ling Tian’s true heating speed. The reason Duan Ling Tian was taking his time to heat his cauldron was so he could preserve his strength. He planned to use ten hours or more to heat his cauldron.

The onlookers were impressed that Xiao Gang Yu took less than seven hours to heat his cauldron.

“This is why he’s the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect. He finished heating his cauldron so quickly!”

“Put everything aside, I’m sure only a handful of prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions can compete with his heating speed.”

“It’s really fast”

“He managed to heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron in less than seven hours... That’s astonishing!”

Xiao Gang Yu, naturally, heard the praises from the onlookers. He quickly glanced at Duan Ling Tian who was still diligently heating his cauldron with a hint of contempt in his eyes before he moved on to the next step of pill refinement. He grew even more confident of his victory as he thought to himself, ‘With his speed, I’m afraid I’ll have to wait for some time after I finish refining my Overarching Heaven Pills. Generally, the faster one can refine the pills, the higher the success rate would be. About a month ago,

he only managed to refine three Overarching Heaven Pill. It's mostly due to his incredibly slow heating speed!'

Xiao Gang Yu continued thinking to himself, 'Moreover, after arriving in the Barren Land's Alchemy City, my knowledge of alchemy has increased after a few discussions with some prominent Celestial Alchemists. I'm 80% certain I'll be able to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills this time!'

Over the past decades, the few times Xiao Gang Yu managed to refine six pills were mostly due to good luck. Most of the time, he could only refine five pills. However, this time, he was confident he would be able to refine six pills.

Time flew by quickly, and three hours passed in just a blink of an eye.

Whoosh!

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian lifted his arms and prepared to move on to the next step of refining the pills.

Upon seeing this, the crowd began to whisper among themselves again. Although Duan Ling Tian's speed had improved compared to last month, nobody thought he would be able to win.

"He has also finished heating his cauldron?"

"His heating speed is much faster compared to last month..."

"Indeed. I was there at that time. He took eleven hours to heat his cauldron previously, but now, it only took him ten hours."

"Since his heating speed has improved, his success rate of refining pills should be higher as well, right?"

"Not necessarily. Moreover, even if his success rate improves, he only managed to refine three Overarching Heaven Pills previously. At most, he would be able to refine four pills this time."

"I agree."

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, heard the whispers in his surroundings. He thought to himself, 'This is the only way... To refine more than seven Overarching Heaven Pills, I have to hasten my heating speed. Although it's still possible for me to refine seven pills if I limit my speed to eleven hours, I'll only be taking unnecessary risks...' He was not completely confident he could refine seven pills if he limited his heating time to eleven hours. However, if he hastened his speed slightly, he was 100% confident he would be able to refine more than seven pills.

At this moment, Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, spoke up. He said mockingly, "Master Duan, I've long heard that you take a long time to heat your cauldron, but I didn't expect you to be so slow. Can you even refine three Overarching Heaven Pills this time?"

As soon as Ji Fan finished speaking, Situ Ming, one of the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, shot Ji Fan a dirty look and said, "Master Duan is refining pills, it's not right for you to disturb him, right?"

Ji Fan was about to retort when he stopped by the piercing gaze of Zhong Shang, a Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters. Although Zhong Shang had superior alchemy skills, he was not a huge threat. After all, Zhong Shang was just a Celestial Alchemist with a mediocre cultivation base. With Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect around, he was not worried about Zhong Shang. However, there was Zhong Qi who was next to Zhong Shang. Not only was Zhong Qi Zhong Shang's twin brother, but Zhong Qi was also a powerful Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Zhong Qi was much stronger than Li An. For these reasons, he fell silent as soon as he saw Zhong Shang's eyes on him.

The onlookers waited eagerly as time continued to pass.

At this moment, Xiao Gang Yu, who finished heating his cauldron three hours faster than Duan Ling Tian, was finally ready to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills! After he refined the pills, all there was left to do was to collect the pills.

"Master Xiao from the Blissful Sect is almost ready to collect his pills. How many pills do you think he'll be able to refine this time?"

"I've heard that he managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills before... Although that could be attributed to luck, he's usually able to refine five pills."

"If that's the case, it's certain that the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's Master Duan is going to lose, right?"

"From the beginning, he has never stood a chance. Although his heating speed has improved, it still doesn't change the fact that he only managed to refine three Overarching Heaven Pills a month ago!"

"There's no doubt Master Xiao is going to win!"

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Xiao Gang Yu finished with the last step and quickly moved to collect the pills.

"I'm collecting the pills now!" Xiao Gang Yu raised his hand and smacked his cauldron.

There were many who were startled by Xiao Gang Yu's sudden cry.

Following that, several streaks of light shot out from the cauldron one after another.

"One."

"Two."

"Three."

While Xiao Gang Yu was collecting the pills, the onlookers counted every pill that shot out of the cauldron.

"Six!"

As the final Overarching Heaven Pill flew into Xiao Gang Yu's palm, Xiao Gang Yu's face split into a wide smile. Then, he passed the six Overarching Heaven Pills in his hand to Zhong Shang, the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, for verification.

“Master Xiao managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills,” Zhong Shang voiced out his confirmation.

Xiao Gang Yu instantly turned to Li An and said with a faint smile, “Old Ancestor, fortunately, I didn’t let you down today!”

“Well done, Master Xiao.” A smile appeared on Li An’s usually expressionless face. Even if Xiao Gang Yu only managed to refine five Overarching Heaven Pills today, he was still certain of Xiao Gang Yu’s victory. Now that Xiao Gang Yu managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills, he had no doubt that Xiao Gang Yu would win.

‘I’d like to see how many Overarching Heaven Pills you’ll be able to refine!’ Xiao Gang Yu was in high spirits after refining six Overarching Heaven Pills. A smug expression could be seen on his face as he looked at Duan Ling Tian.

Similarly, the onlookers had no doubt that Xiao Gang Yu would win. The result of this competition was too obvious.

“Master Xiao managed to refine six pills... It’s quite clear what the outcome of this competition would be.”

### **Chapter 2873: Eight Overarching Heaven Pills!**

‘Six Overarching Heaven Pills?’ Zhou Shu Qiu’s expression changed drastically when she saw how many Overarching Heaven Pills Xiao Gang Yu, the Blissful Sect’s Chief Celestial Alchemist, managed to refine. ‘Xiao Gang Yu is really lucky. He managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills today.’

Since Xiao Gang Yu only managed to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills at a go for a few times in the past, Zhou Shu Qiu attributed it to him being lucky. She had expected him to refine five Overarching Heaven Pills today.

‘Since Xiao Gang Yu manages to refine six Overarching Heaven Pills, is it still possible for him to win?’ Zhou Shu Qiu’s eyes shifted to Duan Ling Tian. She felt anxious as though she was the one who was competing with the Blissful Sect instead.

Zhou Shu Qiu had met many remarkable young talents in the Six Southeastern Regions. In fact, her senior sisters had introduced quite a number of them to her, but none of them caught her attention like Duan Ling Tian did. As time passed, she learned more about Duan Ling Tian. His brilliance captured her attention, and she began to fall for him. If Duan Ling Tian was not her best friend’s man, she would not have held back and would have pursued him. Nevertheless, she still could not help worrying about him even though she was trying to restrain her feelings.

Currently, apart from Huan’er and the three Prominent Grade Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Murong Bing from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect was the only one who had full confidence in Duan Ling Tian. All the others were certain Duan Ling Tian was going to lose!

Time continued to pass by quietly...

Everyone was silent. They watched with bated breath as Duan Ling Tian approached the end of the pill refinement process. Although none of them thought he would win, they were still curious about the number of pills he was able to refine.

When Duan Ling Tian finally began to refine the pills, many people began to discuss among themselves again.

“He’s refining the pills!”

“Although I’m certain Master Duan is going to lose, I’m still curious about the number of pills he’d be able to refine this time,” a middle-aged man exclaimed excitedly.

“That’s right. He managed to refine three Overarching Heaven Pills about a month ago... Since his heating speed has improved, I wonder if he’ll be able to refine four Overarching Heaven Pills this time.”

“Many people said he’s only lucky that he was able to refine three Overarching Heaven Pills previously. I’m afraid he’ll probably refine less than three Overarching Heaven Pill this time around.”

“Well, that’s possible as well.”

The onlookers continued to gossip among themselves. They only fell silent when Duan Ling Tian was done refining the pills. They watched as Duan Ling Tian raised his hand to collect the pills.

Pa!

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian smacked the side of the prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron. A mysterious energy shrouded the cauldron, causing it to buzz slightly.

Whoosh!

A streak of light suddenly shot out of the cauldron like a shooting star shooting across the night sky.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Soon enough, several streaks of light shot out of the cauldron again. The cauldron only stopped buzzing and vibrating when the eighth streak of light shot out of the cauldron.

At this moment, the onlookers wore a dumbfounded expression on their faces. Duan Ling Tian had eight pills in his hand! When they finally regained their senses, an expression of incredulity and shock could still be seen on their faces. After all, apart from a few people, none of them thought he would be able to refine so many Overarching Heaven Pills at once!

“A-am I seeing things? E-eight Overarching Heaven Pills?” one old man said in a trembling voice.

“I must be dreaming...”

“Impossible! The Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Master Duan managed to refine eight Overarching Heaven Pills?”

“This is unbelievable! Unbelievable!”



Naturally, a lot of people extended their Divine Consciousness to confirm the truth. Indeed, Duan Ling Tian was holding eight Overarching Heaven Pills in his hand.

Meanwhile, Zhong Shang, the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, also confirmed that Duan Ling Tian truly refined eight Overarching Heaven Pills. An expression of awe could be seen on his face as he looked at the eight Overarching Heaven Pills. Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian in disbelief. 'Incredible! He took such a long time to heat his cauldron, it would've been a miracle even if he manages to only refine one pill.... However, he managed to refine eight pills! It seems like the incident a month ago isn't exaggerated.'

"Master Zhong?" Duan Ling Tian called.

Zhong Shang snapped back to his senses immediately. He briefly glanced at Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, before he loudly said, "Master Duan managed to refine eight Overarching Heaven Pills so he's the winner!"

Li An finally snapped out of his thoughts when he heard Zhong Shang's announcement. As the expression of disbelief on his face disappeared, it was replaced by a grim one. This was beyond his expectation! How did a Celestial Alchemist who was not even 100 years old manage to refine eight Overarching Heaven Pills? What was wrong with the world?

"How's this possible? How's this possible?!" Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, who was standing next to Li An muttered repeatedly. His face was pale, and his eyes were brimming with disbelief. It was already an incredible feat for a Celestial Alchemist who was not even 100 years old to refine one Overarching Heaven Pill, but he managed to refine eight? If he did not witness this, he would not have believed it. An ominous feeling had already begun to rise in his heart when he saw the eight pills. After all, he was the one who suggested betting with Duan Ling Tian. It was his fault.

"E-eight?" Xiao Gang Yu's expression was unsightly. Then, he said with a jeer, "Duan Ling Tian, you're really cunning. You hid your strength outside of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's shop a month ago!" As a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill, he should kill himself if he still could not figure out what was going on.

Upon hearing Xiao Gang Yu's words, the onlookers began to discuss among themselves again.

"He hid his true strength?"

"Based on Master Xiao's words, it seems like Master Duan deliberately hid his true strength a month ago when he refined the Overarching Heaven Pills?"

"Is that possible? Did he predict this would happen today?"

"Well, I don't think he's able to predict today's event, but it's possible that he has already planned to bet with others during the Alchemy Conference. It'd explain why he hid his strength."

"That seems very likely!"

Most of the onlookers agreed with Xiao Gang Yu. They thought it was highly likely that Duan Ling Tian had deliberately downplayed his strength so he could compete with others during the Alchemy Conference.

Indeed, that was Duan Ling Tian's plan.

After Zhong Shang passed the eight Overarching Heaven Pill to Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian could not help but think to himself when he heard the conversations in his surroundings, 'I was wondering earlier how to look for someone to bet with. Who knew the Blissful Sect would offer themselves up? Moreover, they even agreed to use a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method as a stake!' He knew if he were the one to initiate the bet, the stakes would definitely not be as high.

Duan Ling Tian only briefly glanced at Xiao Gang Yu who was sneering before he turned to look at Li An and said indifferently, "Thank you, Senior Li An. I think the Blissful Sect should fulfill their part of the deal now, right?"

Under Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi's watchful eyes, Li An could only bring out the Blissful Sect's triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and give it to Duan Ling Tian, regardless of how unwilling he felt.

After confirming that the Memory Celestial Talisman he had received, indeed, contained the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method, Duan Ling Tian looked at Li An and thanked him with a smile. "Thank you very much, Senior Li An!" Then, he looked at Ji Fan and Xiao Gang Yu with a faint smile on his face as he said, "I wonder which of you suggested betting with me? Regardless of who it is, I'd like to thank you as well. After all, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be able to get my hands on this triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method!" As he neared the end of his sentence, he deliberately weighed the Memory Celestial Talisman in his hands, drawing attention to it.

#### **Chapter 2874: An Invitation From The Alliance of Celestial Masters**

"You..."

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's words, Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, remained calm as he turned to look at Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect.

On the contrary, Ji Fan's face flushed red from anger. Alas, he had nowhere to vent his anger.

Based on the duo's reactions, it was clear to everyone which member of the Blissful Sect was the one who suggested betting with Duan Ling Tian.

In the end, Li An, the Old Ancestor of the Blissful Sect, broke the silence. "Let's go!" His words effectively dissolved the tension brewing in the air.

Before leaving with the rest of the party from the Blissful Sect, Li An looked at Duan Ling Tian intently.

Duan Ling Tian seemed unintimidated by Li An's strength and status as he returned Li An's gaze with a calm and indifferent gaze. He knew it was important for him to maintain a fearless front at this time. If Li An saw the slightest hint of fear in him, Li An would be able to see through his lie about how he was from a powerful clan in the central area. At that time, Li An no longer had to feel wary about attacking him.

Even after the people from the Blissful Sect left, the onlookers were still discussing among themselves.

“What a surprise! I really didn’t expect Master Duan could refine eight Overarching Heaven Pills in one go! That’s two more Overarching Heaven Pills compared to Master Xiao!”

“Well, there’s no doubt Master Duan hid his strength a month ago.”

“That’s obvious. Otherwise, based on today’s result, how could he only refine three pills back then?”

“That’s right! What a stark difference... Just as Master Xiao had said, Master Duan had hidden his strength. Master Duan must have already planned to lure others into betting with him.”

“Well, many people have used this tactic in the Alchemy Conference over the years. If it weren’t because Master Duan is not even 100 years old, the Blissful Sect would’ve been wariar.”

“That’s right. Master Duan is really young. It’s already an amazing feat that he can refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. No one really expected that his success rate would be so high as well.”

“Eight Overarching Heaven Pills... He refined eight Overarching Heaven Pills! Even Sun Chao, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect in the Light Region, who’s publicly recognized as the best prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions, can only refine ten Overarching Heaven Pills at best, right?”

“He has already achieved such a feat at such a young age... His future is limitless!”

“I wonder how the Tai Yi Celestial Sect managed to recruit him? I think even the strongest sect in the Six Southeastern Regions, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, would do anything in their capabilities to recruit such a Celestial Alchemist into their sect, right?”

“The Tai Yi Celestial Sect is really lucky.”

“They’re not just lucky. They’re extremely lucky.”

Meanwhile, Zhou Shu Qiu who was standing with the people from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect was stunned. Her eyes were brimming with disbelief as she thought to herself, ‘He actually won!’ She did not expect to win at all. At this moment, she admired him even more. A hint of adoration could be seen in her eyes when she looked at him. When she shifted her gaze to Murong Bing who was standing nearby, she saw joy shining in Murong Bing’s eyes. She could not help but sigh inwardly. Her best friend was truly lucky for having sex with such an excellent man. For a moment, she wished that she was the one who had sex him.

Similarly, Lyu Luo, who was standing next to Murong Bing, was in shock as well. She said, still dumbfounded, “Senior Sister... He... he won!”

“Yes.” Murong Bing nodded.

Nangong Xiu, the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, studied Duan Ling Tian intently. Various thoughts were running through her mind at this moment. ‘Only the major clans in the

central area would be able to produce such an outstanding talent like him, right? If Bing'er with him, it'd benefit both her and the sect..." Her eyes were shining brightly now as she looked at Duan Ling Tian. At this moment, she found him incredibly pleasing to the eyes.

At this moment, Zhong Shang, the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, called out, "Master Duan!" He walked toward Duan Ling Tian with a smile on his face, and his tone was enthusiastic and polite.

"Master Zhong," Duan Ling Tian quickly responded with a smile. Not only was Zhong Shang a supreme Celestial Alchemist, but his twin brother, Zhong Qi, was also a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi were so strong in their own aspects that even the three Ten Directions Celestial Dukes and the Sect Master of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect would not recklessly offend them. Moreover, as the saying went, 'No one would hate a friendly person'. Since Zhong Shang was being friendly, Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, friendly as well.

"Master Duan, are you interested in joining the Alliance of Celestial Masters?" Zhong Shang bluntly asked, extending an olive branch to Duan Ling Tian. He, naturally, hoped Duan Ling Tian would join the alliance.

The Alliance of Celestial Masters was different from a sect or clan. Most people who held a high position in the alliance were sectless cultivators. The alliance usually would not put much importance on members from a clan or sect regardless of how skilled they were since the alliance did not want these people to prioritize their sects or clans over the alliance. If there were a conflict of interest, those people would likely choose their clans or sects over the alliance.

For these reasons, if Duan Ling Tian were to join the Alliance of Celestial Masters, Zhong Shang expected Duan Ling Tian to draw a clear line between him and the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. Duan Ling Tian could no longer hold onto his post as the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect.

"Thank you for your invitation, Master Zhong. If I were only the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, I'd definitely join the Alliance of Celestial Masters. However, I must consider my clan as well." Duan Ling Tian deliberately mentioned his supposed clan. "After the Alchemy Conference ends, I plan to leave the Southeastern Six Regions and return to my clan in the central area."

"Master Duan, your clan is from the central area?" Zhong Shang seemed surprised by Duan Ling Tian's words. He was clearly disappointed as he said with a sigh, "I guess you really don't have fate with the Alliance of Celestial Masters. I didn't expect you to come from the central area. However, in hindsight, I guess I shouldn't be surprised. After all, it wouldn't be possible for you to be so outstanding if you didn't have an impressive background." After learning about Duan Ling Tian's supposed background, he no longer had any thoughts about recruiting Duan Ling Tian into the Alliance of Celestial Masters. After all, they prioritized sectless cultivators in the alliance. Even so, he was still polite to Duan Ling Tian. After all, there was no doubt Duan Ling Tian was a peerless genius. With Duan Ling Tian's current achievements, taking his age into consideration, he was definitely the most talented Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions and the borderlands! In fact, even in the central area, there were likely not many who had such achievements at such a young age. There was no doubt someone like that would be a force to reckon with in the future, providing he did not die young. It was for all these reasons that Zhong

Shang decided to maintain a good relationship with Duan Ling Tian. Naturally, he had his pride as well so he would not overtly curry favor with Duan Ling Tian.

After exchanging a few more polite words with Duan Ling Tian, Zhong Shang finally left with Zhong Qi.

The onlookers began to leave one after another as well after the twin brothers' departure.

At this moment, the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, finally stepped forward and congratulated Duan Ling Tian. "Master Duan, congratulations!"

Nangong Xiu followed suit and congratulated Duan Ling Tian as well. "Master Duan, congratulations!"

Upon seeing Nangong Xiu's action, Jian Qiu Luo, the Sect Leader of the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, also congratulated Duan Ling Tian. "Master Duan, congratulations!"

"You're lucky you managed to obtain an offensive-defensive-movement Celestial Method just as the Alchemy Conference begins. You can use it as a stake to win other Duke Grade Celestial Methods or Divine Abilities with the same value later."

Duan Ling Tian was undoubtedly pleased he managed to obtain the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method. With this, he was a step closer to obtaining the offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability he wanted. Moreover, now that He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, had died, he might not be able to use the Tai Yi Celestial Sect's King Grade Celestial Weapon as a stake. After all, only the strongest powerhouse and the Sect Leader of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were qualified to decide if the King Grade Celestial Weapon could be used as a stake. With the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method he just obtained, he did not have to worry about not having anything valuable to use as stakes.

### **Chapter 2875: The Capricious Duan Ling Tian**

Translator: &nbsp;EndlessFantasy Translation &nbsp;&nbsp;Editor: &nbsp;EndlessFantasy Translation

The Alchemy Conference continued on.

The news of Duan Ling Tian hiding his true strength and obtaining an offense-defense-movement Duke Grade Celestial Method from the Blissful Sect spread to the people in Alchemy Square, shocking them.

"The Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect who's not even 100 years old managed to refine eight Overarching Heaven Pill?"

"Let alone refining eight Overarching Heaven Pills, it's already an amazing feat that he's able to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill before the age of 100... If I'm not mistaken, in all of the Six Southeastern Regions, only Master Sun from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect in the Light Region has a higher pill refinement success rate than him, right?"

"Yes! The highest number of pills Master Sun managed to refine at a go is ten Overarching Heaven Pill... Usually, he would only be able to refine eight or nine pills."

"Incredible! A young man who hasn't even reached the age of 100 is almost on par with Master Sun in alchemy."

Many similar remarks could be heard in Alchemy Square.

The Master Sun that many people mentioned was Sun Chao, the Chief Alchemist of the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect in the Light Region. He was also widely regarded as the most outstanding prominent Celestial Alchemist in the previous Alchemy Conference. Ever since the last Alchemy Conference, he was also known as the best prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions.

Almost a month ago, Duan Ling Tian became famous in Alchemy City because he managed to refine the prominent Celestial Pill, the Overarching Heaven Pill, and won the Celestial Method and Divine Ability from the Supporting Sun Celestial Sect and the Thousand Leaves Celestial Sect respectively. It was also at that time that people found out he was the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect and a prominent Celestial Alchemist younger than the age of 100. Now that he won himself a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method from his bet with the Blissful Sect, there was no doubt he would only become more famous.

“As far as I know, the Blissful Sect only has one triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Celestial Method, right?”

“Yes! It’s the most precious compared to all the Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities the Blissful Sect owns, and they lost it to the Tai Yi Celestial Sect’s Master Duan.”

Duan Ling Tian was also aware that the triple-trait Celestial Method he won from the Blissful Sect was one of its kind in the Blissful Sect. They only had an offensive-defensive and offensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability apart from that.

Upon hearing the people in his surroundings talking about the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method from the Blissful Sect, Duan Ling Tian took a look at the content in the Memory Celestial Talisman he had just obtained. ‘So this Duke Grade Celestial Method from the Blissful Sect is called the Immobilization King. It’s most powerful in defense and is comparable to high-grade defensive Duke Grade Celestial Method. Its offensive and movement techniques are only comparable to entry-level offensive and movement Duke Grade Celestial Method.’

After Duan Ling Tian put the Memory Celestial Talisman away, he began to plan his next step. ‘Now that I have an offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Method, next, I’ll have to find a way to obtain an offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability. In the entire Six Southeastern Regions, there are only two sects with such a Divine Ability: the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect in the Cross Region and the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect in the Light Region. Sun Chao, widely regarded as the top prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions, is from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect... After everything that happened, it’s likely that only highly skilled Celestial Alchemists from the top sects dare to compete with me in alchemy.’

Previously, during the journey to Alchemy City in the Barren Land, Duan Ling Tian felt that he would be satisfied as long as he obtained a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method or Divine Ability. However, now that he had easily obtained a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method, which contained offensive, defensive, and movement techniques, he was no longer satisfied with just obtaining a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method. He also wanted an offensive-defensive-movement Divine Ability.

Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes as he thought to himself, 'Although there's a prominent Celestial Alchemist capable of refining the Overarching Heaven Pill in the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, his skills are only on Xiao Gang Yu's level. Now that I defeated Xiao Gang Yu, it's unlikely that he would agree to compete with me. This means I can only compete with Sun Chao who's widely acknowledged as the best prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions.' Then, he looked at Situ Ming, one of the prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, and revealed his plan to Situ Ming.

"Master Duan, although the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect has an offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability, I don't think they'll use it to gamble with you... That Duke Grade Divine Ability is of great significance to the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect. Their former sect leader obtained the Divine Ability at the cost of his life. The former sect leader was also the biological father of the current Sect Leader of the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect. Based on this, you can imagine how important it is to the sect and to the sect leader. He won't allow anyone to use it as a stake for a bet," Situ Ming said, clearly not optimistic about Duan Ling Tian's chances to obtain the triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect.

"Is that so?" Duan Ling Tian was, naturally, unaware of this until he heard Situ Ming's words. Regardless, he still planned to give it a try.

The Blazing Sun Celestial Sect was a powerful sect in the Light Region. Many people from the sect had also come to participate in the Alchemy Conference this time. Led by the Sect Leader of the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect, one of the sect's elders and four prominent Celestial Alchemists had come to Alchemy City. Sun Chao was, naturally, among the four prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect who had come to attend the Alchemy Conference.

Sun Chao was a well-dressed middle-aged man with a firm and honest appearance.

At this moment, Situ Ming had led Duan Ling Tian to where the party from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect was. He also introduced Duan Ling Tian to the people from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect.

After Situ Ming made the introductions, Sun Chao greeted Duan Ling Tian politely with a smile on his face, "Master Duan, I heard about your feat a month ago. However, I didn't expect you to have hidden your true strength."

Sun Chao's appearance and his current attitude left a good impression on Duan Ling Tian. It was to the extent that Duan Ling Tian felt slightly reluctant to plot against Sun Chao. Duan Ling Tian was not arrogant. However, based on his current skills in alchemy and the third form of the Chaos Divine Flame, he really did not think there was any prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions who was a match for him. For this reason, he was eager to compete. He knew he would not lose, after all.

Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile, "Master Sun, I've heard of you as well."

Then, Duan Ling Tian and Sun Chan made small talk. Gradually, their conversation moved away from small talks to more serious conversations. In just a while, they became very familiar with each other as though they were friends who knew each other for many years.

Upon seeing Duan Ling Tian engrossed in his conversation with Sun Chao, seemingly to have forgotten about the plan, Situ Ming who was feeling slightly anxious sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian. "Master Duan, didn't we come here to..."

Duan Ling Tian did not need to listen to all of Situ Ming's words to know what Situ Ming wanted to say. He sent a Voice Transmission to Situ Ming in response. "Master Situ, I've changed my mind. I don't wish to compete with the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect anymore... Let's try to make a bet with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect instead. We can avenge the Old Ancestor while we're at it as well!" After that, he turned his head slightly and looked at the party from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect with a cold look in his eyes.

"The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?" Situ Ming was slightly taken aback by Duan Ling Tian's words. Then, he said with a wry smile, "Master Duan, everyone knows about your skills in alchemy now... Among the prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions, I'm afraid only Master Sun from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect will dare to compete with you. I don't think any of the other prominent Celestial Alchemists will dare to gamble with you. Although there are skilled prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, the strongest among them is only comparable to Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Blissful Sect. Now that you've defeated Xiao Gang Yu, I'm afraid he won't dare to compete with you. Even if they agree to a bet, I'm afraid the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect won't agree to use their sect's offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Divine Ability to bet with you." He had carefully laid out his analysis for Duan Ling Tian; he was certain Duan Ling Tian would give up on betting with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect after listening to his words.

Contrary to Situ Ming's expectations, Duan Ling Tian said indifferently, "I'm aware of this. Therefore, I plan to compete with the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect!"

Supreme Celestial Alchemist!

Indeed, apart from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, there was a supreme Celestial Alchemist in the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He was also the only supreme Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions. Coincidentally, the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect had also come to Alchemy City this time.

"Supreme Celestial Alchemist?" Situ Ming was taken aback. When he regained his senses, he quickly said to dissuade Duan Ling Tian, "Master Duan, instead of competing with the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, why don't you ask if the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect is willing to bet with you..."

"There's no need for that." Duan Ling Tian shook his head. "Moreover, you said the Sect Leader of the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect places great importance on the Divine Ability. He's unlikely to use it as a stake. Even if he's willing, I no longer plan to compete with the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect. I don't want to take advantage of Master Sun. He's a very nice person."

Situ Ming was rendered temporarily speechless by Duan Ling Tian. He could not help but feel that Duan Ling Tian was too capricious.



At this moment, Duan Ling Tian turned to look at Sun Chao and asked with a smile, “Master Sun, do you want to come with me and join in the fun?”

Although he and Sun Chao had only met today and had only spoken briefly, Sun Chao’s sincerity and personality left a good impression on Duan Ling Tian. He felt like Sun Chao was an old friend, causing him to recall all his good friends from the mundane realm.

“Join in the fun?” Sun Chao asked in confusion.

### **Chapter 2876: He Pei Yuan**

Duan Ling Tian was not the only one who felt a sense of kinship with Sun Chao; Sun Chao felt the same way as well. Before meeting Duan Ling Tian, Sun Chao had assumed Duan Ling Tian must be arrogant due to how highly-talented he was at such a young age. With Duan Ling Tian’s talent, no one would think much of it even if Duan Ling Tian were arrogant. However, contrary to his expectations, after conversing with Duan Ling Tian, he found he had been wrong in his assumptions about Duan Ling Tian. The outstanding prominent Celestial Alchemist who was not even 100 years old was not only humble, but he was also kind and easy to get along with. It seemed like this young and talented prominent Celestial Alchemist possessed a maturity beyond his age as well. All these things contributed to him getting along with Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s invitation, Sun Chao’s curiosity was piqued. He asked, “What are you talking about?”

Duan Ling Tian did not keep Sun Chao guessing. He directly said, “I’m going to find the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect and compete with him in alchemy... I’ll use my offensive-defensive-movement Duke Grade Celestial Method Technique to gamble for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability.”

“What?!” Sun Chao was so shocked by Duan Ling Tian’s words that colors drained from his face. He said with a wry smile on his face, “Master Duan, a supreme supreme Celestial Alchemist is one who has obtained a Duke Grade Celestial Fire and can refine Duke Grade Celestial Pills... Prominent Celestial Alchemists like us aren’t their opponents. Perhaps, some prominent Celestial Alchemists might be more knowledgeable than supreme Celestial Alchemists, but in terms of practice, a prominent Celestial Alchemist can’t defeat a supreme Celestial Alchemist!” Out of misguided kindness, he tried to dissuade Duan Ling Tian from betting with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s supreme Celestial Alchemist. It was only natural that he assumed Duan Ling Tian who was a prominent Celestial Alchemist and younger than 100 years old was no match for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s supreme Celestial Alchemist!

“Thank you for your reminder... However, I still plan to compete with the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.” Duan Ling Tian thanked Sun Chao for his kind intentions, but he was determined to stick to his plan. Then, he said, “Master Sun, if you’re interested, come and watch the competition.”

“Master Duan,” Sun Chao remained motionless as he looked at Duan Ling Tian and sincerely said, “Master Duan, you can obtain a triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability in another way. After you fully comprehend the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method that you won from the Blissful Sect, you can

inscribe it on a Memory Celestial Talisman and bring it to our Blazing Sun Celestial Sect. At that time, I'll persuade my sect leader to exchange our sect's triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability for your triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method." He had come up with this idea to stop Duan Ling Tian from competing with the supreme Celestial Alchemist of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

"Master Sun, I appreciate your kindness... However, I can't wait that long." Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled. He was grateful for Sun Chao's kindness, but he knew he did not have the time for that. He no longer spoke and made his way to the party from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

Huan'er held Duan Ling Tian's hand and followed him closely.

"Master Duan..." Sun Chao felt helpless when he saw how determined Duan Ling Tian was. There was nothing he could do but to follow him.

Similarly, the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, followed Duan Ling Tian as well.

"Master Yang, Master Yu..." Situ Ming sent a Voice Transmission to Yang Chong and Yu Zhong Jing and disclosed Duan Ling Tian's plan to them.

"What?!"

"Master Duan plans to compete with the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?"

Yang Chong and Yu Zhong Jing's expressions changed drastically after they heard Situ Ming's explanation. In their opinion, Duan Ling Tian was biting off more than he could chew! How could a prominent Celestial Alchemist possibly best a supreme Celestial Alchemist?

After Zhong Jing and Yang Chong recovered from the shock, they wanted to dissuade Duan Ling Tian from carrying out his plan. Alas, they had arrived in front of the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and loudly said, "Sect Leader Bai, who's the Duke Grade Celestial Alchemy from your sect?"

Everyone from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect shifted their eyes to Duan Ling Tian immediately.

"Master Duan?" Bai Wu Ji raised an eyebrow when heard Duan Ling Tian's words and calmly asked, "Why are you asking?"

"I want to compete with your Profound Heaven Celestial Sect's supreme Celestial Alchemist... I will use the Duke Grade Celestial Method I just won from the Blissful Sect as the stakes in exchange for the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect's triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability," Duan Ling Tian said without beating around the bush.

"Oh?"

Bai Wu Ji and the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect exchanged confused looks. They thought they had heard Duan Ling Tian wrongly.

“Am I hallucinating? Did the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, a prominent Celestial Alchemist, say that he wants to compete with Master He and that he’ll use the triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method he just won from the Blissful Sect as stakes?”

“That’s what I heard as well.”

“Are you sure?”

The people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was an idiot.

At this moment, an old man stepped forward from the group of people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. The old man was dressed in a gray robe, and he looked quite youthful for his age. “You want to compete with me?”

The old man looked amiable. However, when he spoke to Duan Ling Tian, his turbid eyes were extremely fierce and cold!

“Master Duan, he’s He Pei Yuan, the supreme Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect.” Situ Ming sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as soon as the old man stepped forward. Then, he tried to persuade Duan Ling Tian again. “Master Duan, He Pei Yuan is a supreme Celestial Alchemist. You have almost no chance of defeating him. Why don’t we forget this?”

Similarly, Yang Chong and Yu Zhong Jing tried to persuade Duan Ling Tian to abandon his plan as well.

However, after listening to the words of the three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian only looked at them with the same confident look he had before he competed with Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect. It was as though he was trying to convey his confidence to them and put them at ease just like before. However, this time, the trio still could not help but worry despite how confident Duan Ling Tian looked. It was only natural since the opponent Duan Ling Tian had picked this time was a supreme Celestial Alchemist who was superior to prominent Celestial Alchemists!

Duan Ling Tian looked at He Pei Yuan fearlessly and bluntly said, “Let’s compete in heating speed.”

“Heating speed?” He Pei Yuan was clearly taken aback by Duan Ling Tian’s words.

At this moment, someone scoffed loudly. It was none other than Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. He looked at Duan Ling Tian with a complicated expression as he said, “Master Duan, if I’m not mistaken, you must’ve also hidden your heating speed previously, right? Otherwise, you wouldn’t have the courage to challenge our sect’s Master He. Although Master He is a supreme Celestial Alchemist, he takes eight or nine hours to heat a Duke Grade Celestial Pill Cauldron. Most Prominent Celestial Alchemists in the Six Southeastern Regions can heat pill cauldrons faster than him! Do you think the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect will agree to this disadvantageous bet?” A hint of disdain flashed in the depths of his eyes.

The people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, including He Pei Yuan, looked at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously as they discussed among themselves. They felt that he was too naive.

“That’s right!”

“Isn’t the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect too naive?”

“How ridiculous! Does he take us for fools?”

“This is simply too laughable!”

Due to the commotion, many people began to gather around them. When the newcomers learned about what happened, they, similarly, thought Duan Ling Tian was too naive. Did he really think the people from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect were fools?

Sun Chao who had followed Duan Ling Tian here shook his head and said, “Master Duan, you’re too naive... The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect won’t agree to this bet.” Even his heating speed was faster than He Pei Yuan’s speed.

Duan Ling Tian ignored the looks and whispers in the surroundings and looked at Bai Wu Ji as he said, “Sect Leader Bai, instead of a Duke Grade Celestial Pill Cauldron, what if both Master He and I compete in heating prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron? Don’t tell me the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect doesn’t even dare to accept such a bet?”

### **Chapter 2877: We Meet Again**

As Duan Ling Tian’s voice trailed off, everyone on the scene fell deathly quiet. Initially, when they heard that Duan Ling Tian wanted to compete with He Pei Yuan, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, in heating speed, they had assumed Duan Ling Tian would heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron while He Pei Yuan would heat his Duke Grade Celestial Pill Cauldron. Under such circumstances, Duan Ling Tian, whom they correctly assumed had hidden his true heating speed as well, would easily defeat He Pei Yuan in a heating speed competition. Knowing this, how could Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, use the sect’s triple-trait Divine Ability as a stake, even if Duan Ling Tian was using his triple-trait Celestial Method as a stake, when he knew it would only be a losing bet? However, to everyone’s shock, Duan Ling Tian had said he would compete with He Pei Yuan in heating speed by using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons.

“He... Is he crazy? He wants to compete with Master He in heating speed using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons?”

The prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect were filled with shock and disbelief when they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They could not understand where Duan Ling Tian obtained the courage to propose such a challenge. If Duan Ling Tian heated a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron while He Pei Yuan heated the Duke Grade Celestial Pill Cauldron, they were rather certain of Duan Ling Tian’s victory even if Duan Ling Tian was competing with He Pei Yuan who was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Duke. Moreover, since Duan Ling Tian dared to propose the bet, it was clear that Duan Ling Tian was confident about his heating speed. It was not surprising if Duan Ling Tian had hidden his true heating speed since he had concealed his true skills earlier as well. However, he did not think Duan Ling

Tian stood a chance in winning, regardless if he had hidden his true heating speed, if Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan were to compete using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons.

When the onlookers regained their senses, they began to discuss among themselves in excitement. They felt Duan Ling Tian must have gone crazy to propose such a bet.

“Did I hear him right? He... he wants to compete with Master He in speed using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons?”

“You heard that right... That’s what he really said! I really wonder who or what gave him the courage to propose such a bet!”

“Is he crazy?”

“If he wins, I’ll let him decapitate me, and he can kick my head around like a ball!”

It was only natural that most people thought that way. Duan Ling Tian was just a prominent Celestial Alchemist who was not even 100 years old, and he only possessed what they thought was a prominent Celestial Fire. How could he compete with a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist who possessed a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire to heat prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons? With the help of a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire, a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist only needed a very short time to heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron. After all, with the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire being superior to a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron, needless to say, a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist only needed very little time to heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron.

When Bai Wu Ji regained his senses, he looked at Duan Ling Tian with his deep eyes that seemed like the endless starry sky. “Are you sure you want to compete with our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect’s Master He in heating speed using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons?”

“Yes.” Duan Ling Tian returned Bai Wu Ji’s gaze in a neither humble nor overbearing manner.

Upon seeing this, Bai Wu Ji’s expression changed slightly, confused as to what Duan Ling Tian was plotting. He had no doubt Duan Ling Tian would not be able to best He Pei Yuan if they were to compete using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons. Put everything else aside, just their Celestial Fires were on different levels and were not comparable at all; one was a prominent Celestial Fire while the other was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire. However, if he, a non-Celestial Alchemist could think of this, there was no way Duan Ling Tian was not aware of this. Therefore, he was confused about Duan Ling Tian’s motive.

At this moment, a voice rang in the air. “Sect leader, I’ll accept his challenge!” It was none other than He Pei Yuan.

Bai Wu Ji’s expression changed when he heard He Pei Yuan’s words.

He Pei Yuan continued to say, “Since he’s willingly sending his triple-trait Celestial Method to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, we should just accept it with open hands!” He was furious. He felt as though his dignity had been trampled on. How dare a prominent Celestial Alchemist challenge him to

heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron? Did Duan Ling Tian think his supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire was fake?

Bai Wu Ji did not immediately respond to He Pei Yuan. He looked at Duan Ling Tian thoughtfully. Regardless of how ludicrous Duan Ling Tian's proposed bet was, he was certain Duan Ling Tian did not have the intention of freely handing his triple-trait Celestial Method over to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect. Moreover, he had killed He Shan, the Old Ancestor of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, not too long ago. Even if he did not, would there be anyone who was willing to give up a triple-trait Celestial Method for no reason at all? Of course not. Even the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect only possessed one triple-trait Divine Ability.

'Is he really confident about winning? Impossible. A prominent Celestial Fire is incomparable to a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire.' Warring thoughts appeared in Bai Wu Ji's mind. Despite how unlikely it seemed, he could not shake the feeling that Duan Ling Tian must be certain of his victory to propose this bet. However, there was no way Duan Ling Tian could best He Pei Yuan who would be using his supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire to heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron.

'Is it possible that he also has a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire, or perhaps, an even higher grade Celestial Fire?' Bai Wu Ji thought to himself. However, he quickly dismissed that thought. 'Impossible. He clearly has a prominent Celestial Fire. He couldn't have hidden a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire as well. After all, when a Celestial Alchemist obtains another Celestial Fire that's higher in grade, it would obliterate the lower grade Celestial Fire. As the saying goes, 'Two tigers can't live on the same mountain.' No matter how hard Bai Wu Ji thought about it, he really could not figure Duan Ling Tian out. 'Why is he so confident?'

He Pei Yuan grew anxious when he saw Bai Wu Ji deep in thought. He hastily sent a Voice Transmission to Bai Wu Ji. "Sect leader, I'm 100% confident I'll defeat him. He's just a prominent Celestial Alchemist after all. There's no way he'll be able to best me in heating a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron. If I really lose to him, I'll be too ashamed to continue living in this world!" His voice was brimming with confidence.

"Master He, don't you think this is really strange? If he's not confident he's able to best you, why is he so confident when he proposed this bet to our Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?" Bai Wu Ji said apprehensively.

Upon hearing this, He Pei Yuan finally realized what was going on in Bai Wu Ji's mind. It seemed like Bai Wu Ji was afraid that he would not lose. With his revelation, he could no longer hold himself back as he said out loud, "Sect leader, if I lose to him and lose our sect's triple-trait Divine Ability, I'm willing to hand my King Grade Celestial Weapon to the sect. The value of my King Grade Celestial Weapon shouldn't be any less than that of the sect's triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability, right?" Stimulated by Bai Wu Ji's words, he willingly used his King Grade Celestial Weapon as a guarantee to bet with Duan Ling Tian.

"Master He, I... That's not what I mean..." Bai Wu Ji smiled wryly when he heard He Pei Yuan's words. Although a King Grade Celestial Weapon was more valuable than a triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability, he did not dare to let He Pei Yuan use the King Grade Celestial Weapon as a guarantee. After all, if he

accepted He Pei Yuan's proposal, did it not show that he and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect did not have confidence in He Pei Yuan? At that time, a rift would definitely form between He Pei Yuan and the sect. He Pei Yuan was just an interim Revered Elder of the sect and was not tied to the sect; he could leave the sect at any time. In the end, he could only say, "The Profound Heaven Celestial Sect will support you!"

Then, Bai Wu Ji quickly turned to Duan Ling Tian to agree to the bet, afraid that Duan Ling Tian would suddenly change his mind.

Meanwhile, a pair of middle-aged men who looked identical, twin brothers, walked over to the periphery of the crowd from nearby. He said to his twin, "This Master Duan is an interesting person."

These two middle-aged men were none other than Zhong Shang and Zhong Qi. Zhong Shang was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist while Zhong Qi was a Ten Directions Celestial Duke. They were both from the Alliance of Celestial Masters.

"Brother, why do you say that?" Zhong Qi asked curiously.

Zhong Shang replied, "That's because he asked me a question through Voice Transmission earlier."

"What did he ask you?" Zhong Qi was even more curious now.

"He asked me how long would a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist take to heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron using a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire..." Zhong Shang replied as he narrowed his eyes.

"Master Zhong, you're finally here!" Bai Wu Ji greeted Zhong Shang as soon as he saw Zhongshan. He had planned to tell Zhong Shang about what happened and request him to be a witness for the bet between the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect and Duan Ling Tian.

Zhong Shang did not wait for Bai Wu Ji to explain and directly said, "I was nearby earlier so I've already heard about what happened. I'm willing to be the witness for the bet."

"Thank you, Master Zhong." Bai Wu Ji cupped his fists slightly at Zhong Shang. After that, he looked up at Duan Ling Tian who was standing nearby. He thought to himself calmly, "The deal is sealed. There's no going back now... I really want to see why he so confidently proposed this bet!" He really could not figure out why Duan Ling Tian was so confident.

After Zhong Shang greeted He Pei Yuan who was also a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, he looked at Duan Ling Tian meaningfully and said, "Master Duan, we meet again."

### **Chapter 2878: He's Done With Heating the Cauldron**

"Master Zhong." Duan Ling Tian returned Zhong Shang's greeting with a smile.

Zhong Shang could see a hint of gratitude flashing in the depths of Duan Ling Tian's eyes. He asked through Voice Transmission, "Master Duan, you seem confident. Was I mistaken? Do you, perhaps, possess a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire instead of a prominent Celestial Fire?"

“Master Zhong, you think too highly of me. There’s no doubt my Celestial Fire is a prominent Celestial Fire,” Duan Ling Tian responded.

“Then, why are you so confident about your competition with He Pei Yuan, a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect? A prominent Celestial Fire is definitely inferior to a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire, especially when they’re used to heat prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons. They aren’t even in the same league!” Zhong Shang said, perplexed.

Duan Ling Tian replied to Zhong Shang through Voice Transmission, “Master Zhong, do you think I’m the kind of person who would go looking for trouble? Moreover, I only decided to challenge him after I’ve confirmed the heating speed of a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist with you!”

Upon hearing how confident Duan Ling Tian was, Zhong Shang looked at Duan Ling Tian intently before he said, “In that case, I look forward to seeing your performance!” Then, he looked at Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, and confirmed the terms of the bet. “I’ll witness the competition between Master He of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect and Master Duan, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect. If Master Duan wins, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect must hand their sect’s triple-trait Divine Ability to Master Duan. If Master He wins, Master Duan will have to hand his triple-trait Celestial Method to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect!”

Although Zhong Shang’s voice was not loud when he confirmed the details of the bet, almost everyone’s attention was focused on him.

The people from the Blissful Sect and the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect were among the onlookers. Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, and Murong Bing from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect were watching as well. Ji Fan was accompanied by Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, while Murong Bing was accompanied by her junior sister, Lyu Luo.

“Duan Ling Tian is going to compete with Master He in cauldron-heating speed using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons?” Ji Fan was confused when he heard about the bet. For a fleeting moment, he even thought he had heard wrongly. He muttered to himself, “Is he unaware that Master He from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist? This means Master He possesses a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire. He’s just a prominent Celestial Alchemist with a prominent Celestial Fire, and yet, he wants to compete with Master He? Is he intentionally looking for trouble?”

Xiao Gang Yu who was standing at the side scoffed and said to Ji Fan, “Arhat, it seems like Master Duan has become arrogant after winning the Blissful Sect’s triple-trait Celestial Method. He even has the audacity to compete with a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist in heating prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons!”

Ji Fan snapped back to his senses when he heard Xiao Gang Yu’s words. A sneer appeared on his face when he looked at Duan Ling Tian who was standing in the distance. “Although we can’t take back our Celestial Methods even if he loses, I’d still rather lose it to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect than him. I can’t wait to see him make a fool out of himself!”



Meanwhile, Lyu Luo who was standing next to Murong Bing said, "Senior Sister, I can't believe he's challenging a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist... Is he really that eager to give the triple-trait Celestial Method he won from the Blissful Sect to the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?"

"Lyu Luo, there's no point speculating before the outcome is revealed. Back when he competed with Master Xiao, everyone thought he would lose as well. Look at what happened in the end..." Murong Bing said as she shook her head when she heard Lyu Luo's words. She could clearly sense the confident aura Duan Ling Tian exuded when she looked at him. She thought to herself, 'Although I don't know why you're so confident, I believe in you.'

Coincidentally, Duan Ling Tian saw Murong Bing just as she looked away. 'She's here? Was she looking at me earlier?'

At this moment, Zhou Shu Qiu, a disciple from the Thousand Spiders Celestial Sect, called out, "Bing'er." She and a few people had come to watch the show. As soon as she saw Murong Bing, she quickly made her way over to Murong Bing's side.

Zhou Shu Qiu really did not think Duan Ling Tian would be able to win this time around. How could a prominent Celestial Fire compare to a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire? The former definitely would not be as fast as the former when used to heat prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons. As certain as she was about the outcome, she still could not help asking, "Bing'er... Do you think he'll win?"

"Of course." Her faith in Duan Ling Tian did not waver. Moreover, based on how confident Duan Ling Tian was, it seemed he was certain he could best He Pei Yuan.

"Master Duan..." Although the three Prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing, knew Duan Ling Tian had an astonishing speed in heating cauldrons, they still could not help but feel worried. The gap between Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan was too wide, after all. Supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemists were in a completely different league than prominent Celestial Alchemists. Although they were aware his Celestial Fire had to be extraordinary since he could heat a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron in only half an hour, they assumed He Pei Yuan's speed would be even faster when heating a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron with his supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire. In their opinion, no matter how amazing or extraordinary Duan Ling Tian's prominent Celestial Fire was, it could not compare to a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire!

At this moment, Zhong Shang's voice rang in the air again. "The two masters can begin to refine an Overarching Heaven Pill now. Both of them can only use a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron."

Although it was a competition of speed, Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan still had to refine a pill to determine the result of the competition. Otherwise, it would be easy for either of them to resort to cheating.

As soon as Zhong Shang finished speaking, Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan began to move immediately, taking out a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron respectively.

No one doubted the grade of the duo's cauldrons so they did not check it. After all, there was no way it was a lower grade Celestial Pill Cauldron since one would need a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron, at least, to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. Since the duo was competing in speed, there was no way

they would use a cauldron that was a higher grade than a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron since the higher the grade of a cauldron, the more time one would need to heat it.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Celestial Fires shot out of Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan's hands respectively. Based on the aura of Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Fire, everyone could sense it was a prominent Celestial Fire. The aura of He Pei Yuan's Celestial Fire, on the other hand, was slightly stronger.

"This is a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire?"

"Isn't it obvious? Master He is a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, it's only natural he has the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire!"

"Although we already know the outcome of this competition, it's still worth watching since we get to see a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire."

Many of the onlookers were amazed by He Pei Yuan's Celestial Fire.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

At the same time, the Celestial Fires in Duan Ling Tian and He Pei Yuan's hands shot toward the cauldrons hovering in front of them. The cauldrons shook slightly, looking as though they were coming to life.

Upon seeing this, the onlookers' eyes lit up.

"They've begun to heat the cauldrons!"

Time continued to pass. In just a blink of an eye, half an hour had passed.

Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were still fretting inwardly. After all, He Pei Yuan was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist who possessed a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire that was far superior to the prominent Celestial Fire. Since Duan Ling Tian took only half an hour to heat a cauldron, He Pei Yuan would definitely take less time to heat his cauldron.

However, at this moment, He Pei Yuan was still motionless. It seemed like he was still not done with heating the cauldron.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian finished heating his cauldron at this moment!

### **Chapter 2879: Pretentious? A Deception?**

"Hm?"

"Am... Am I dreaming? Master Duan is done heating his cauldron?"

"This is ridiculous! It's only been half an hour, and he's done?"

"Impossible! It's impossible!"

“That’s right! It’s impossible! Master He from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist with a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire, but he’s not even done heating his prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron! How’s it possible for Duan Ling Tian to be faster than him?!”

“Duan Ling Tian must be cheating. He must not have completed heating his cauldron!”

“How could that be? If the cauldron is not completely heated, it’d be impossible to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“The two prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons are not preheated... Before they began heating the cauldrons, I investigated them with my Divine Consciousness. Therefore, it’s wrong to say that Duan Ling Tian had secretly preheated his cauldron.”

The crowd was in shock and disbelief when they saw Duan Ling Tian was done with heating the cauldron at such a speed. They broke into an uproar as they discussed fervently among themselves. Some of them were not convinced that Duan Ling Tian was done heating his cauldron and thought that perhaps, he was cheating.

Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, sneered. ‘I’d love to see how you’re going to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill after pretending to have completely heated the cauldron!’

The members from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect looked at Duan Ling Tian and jeered as well.

Meanwhile, Lyu Luo asked, “Third Senior Sister... Isn’t... isn’t he acting rather recklessly?” In the beginning, she was rather confident about Duan Ling Tian since Murong Bing, her senior sister, seemed to believe in him. However, when she saw Duan Ling Tian had stopped heating his cauldron after a short time and claimed that he was done, she was rendered speechless and was appalled by his actions. Similar to many others, she thought he was cheating or lying.

Murong Bing did not respond to Lyu Luo’s question, opting to stay silent. Although she believed in Duan Ling Tian, it did seem rather impossible for him to be finished with heating the cauldron in just half an hour. Moreover, he was heating a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron; it was not any ordinary cauldrons.

At the same time, a frown could be seen on Zhou Shu Qiu’s face as she looked at Duan Ling Tian. She was confused and worried about him at the same time. ‘What... What’s going on in his mind? Doesn’t he know it’s useless to pretend?’

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian proceeded to the next step of pill refining without giving much thought to the commotion in his surroundings.

The majority of the people present on the scene were certain there was no way Duan Ling Tian would be able to successfully refine the Overarching Heaven Pill since they assumed he had only pretended to be done with heating his cauldron. Only a few people remained hopeful; they were Huan’er and the three prominent Celestial Alchemists of the Tai Yi Celestial Sect, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing.

Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing were conversing among themselves through Voice Transmission at this time.

“It’s been half an hour now... Master He, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, is still not done with heating his cauldron?”

“It’s been half an hour. He’s a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, but he’s still not done. Isn’t he rather slow?”

“Did he deliberately slow down ?”

The three prominent Celestial Alchemists from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect were baffled. Did He Pei Yuan deliberately slow down? Duan Ling Tian was only a prominent Celestial Alchemist with a prominent Celestial Fire, but he was already done with heating his cauldron. And yet, the dignified and respected supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist who possessed a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire was still heating his cauldron!

Time continued to pass. When He Pei Yuan was finally done heating his cauldron, an hour had passed.

At this moment, it suddenly dawned on Situ Ming, Yang Chong, Yu Zhong Jing that this was their first time witnessing a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist heating a prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron. Therefore, none of them knew how long it would take for He Pei Yuan to finish heating his cauldron. They had just assumed since He Pei Yuan was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, his speed would, naturally, be faster than Duan Ling Tian who was a prominent Celestial Alchemist. After all, He Pei Yuan possessed a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire that was a grade higher than Duan Ling Tian’s prominent Celestial Fire!

Situ Ming finally smiled. He sighed in relief before he said, “Perhaps, we’ve been wrong. Master Duan’s prominent Celestial Fire must be even more extraordinary than we thought.

“I agree... We thought his prominent Celestial Fire is only extraordinary among prominent Celestial Fires. However, it seems like even a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Fire is no match for his prominent Celestial Fire! This is truly unbelievable! If I didn’t see it for myself, I wouldn’t have believed it.”

Yu Zhong Jing who was usually taciturn chimed in as well, “Look at He Pei Yuan... He’s looking at Master Duan condescendingly even though Master Duan has already stated he has finished heating his cauldron half an hour ago. He must assume that Master Duan didn’t heat his cauldron properly and thinks that Master Duan will fail at refining the Overarching Heaven Pill!”

Situ Ming and Yang Chong instinctively looked at He Pei Yuan. Indeed, he was looking at Duan Ling Tian contemptuously. Just like most people, it was clear he did not think it was possible for Duan Ling Tian to be faster than a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist.

Meanwhile, He Pei Yuan contained his laughter and thought to himself smugly, ‘I’d love to see what you’re going to do when you fail to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills... There’s no doubt you’ll have to hand over the triple-trait Celestial Method you won from the Blissful Sect!’

The crowd watched in anticipation as He Pei Yuan began to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. They gasped and erupted in excitement when He Pei Yuan began to collect his pills.

“Master He has begun to refine pills!”

“Now that’s the skills of a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist. Although that pretentious Master Duan claimed he was done heating the cauldron first, look at how Master He surpassed him! It’s almost time for Master He to collect his pills.”

“Refining the Overarching Heaven Pills is just a walk in the park for a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist like Master He. It’d be easy for him to refine ten pills, at least!”

The crowd watched in excitement as He Pei Yuan finally collected his pills.

“Eleven Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“Indeed, he’s worthy of being a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist! He easily refined eleven Overarching Heaven Pills!”

At this moment, Zhong Shang, a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, who agreed to be a witness, loudly said, “Master He took an hour to heat the prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron...”

Upon hearing Zhong Shang’s words, everyone instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian.

Although Duan Ling Tian was giving it his all to refine the pills, he was no match for He Pei Yuan’s speed in refining the pills. Only after a few hours had passed did he begin to approach the last step of the pill refinement process.

“Although Master Duan took longer to refine the pills, as long as he successfully refines the Overarching Heaven Pills, he’ll win the bet. It’ll prove that he really did heat his prominent Celestial Pill Cauldron in just half an hour.”

“If he fails in refining the pills, it’ll prove that he was lying about heating the cauldron in only half an hour!”

“Look! He’s refining the pills now. He’s prepared to collect it!”

“Refining the pills? Do you think he’ll succeed?”

“It’s impossible for him to succeed since he didn’t completely heat his cauldron.”

Many onlookers shook their heads when they looked at Duan Ling Tian. They did not think it was possible for Duan Ling Tian to successfully refine the Overarching Heaven Pill.

Meanwhile, Situ Ming, Yang Chong, and Yu Zhong Jing discussed among themselves.

“These people... Do they really think Master Duan will lose?”

“I’d love to see their reactions when Master Duan successfully refines the Overarching Heaven Pills!”

“In your opinion, how many Overarching Heaven pills do you think he’ll be able to refine since it doesn’t seem like he’s holding back this time?”

“I don’t know the exact number, but it’ll certainly be more than what He Pei Yuan refined!”

At this moment, the three prominent Celestial Alchemists' eyes lit up when they saw Duan Ling Tian raising his hand. "Master Duan is ready to collect the pills!"

"How pretentious!" Meanwhile, Bai Wu Ji and the members of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect looked at Duan Ling Tian disdainfully. All of them were convinced Duan Ling Tian was only putting on an act. They began to imagine the embarrassment and humiliation Duan Ling Tian would have to suffer when he failed to refine the Overarching Heaven Pill.

Meanwhile, unlike Lyu Luo who seemed to be in low spirits, Murong Bing remained hopeful, praying for a miracle. 'Is he really able to refine the Overarching Heaven Pills after heating the cauldron for only half an hour?'

Soon after...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Thirteen streaks of light shot out of Duan Ling Tian's cauldron into his hands. The lights were the Overarching Heaven Pills!

The onlookers were dumbstruck. They were shocked speechless. Naturally, a huge uproar broke out when they regained their senses.

"Th-thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills?!"

"Good heavens! He... He... H-he successfully refined the Overarching Heaven Pills?!"

"How's this possible?!"

### **Chapter 2880: The Voice of the Chaos Divine Flame Reappears**

"This... "

"How's this possible?!"

The party from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect was shocked beyond belief. Their widened eyes were brimming with incredulity. It took a while before it finally dawned on them that the Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Tai Yi Celestial Sect really did heat his cauldron in just half an hour. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to successfully refine the Overarching Heaven Pill. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had successfully refined thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills, surpassing the numbers of pills He Pei Yuan, a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, had refined. This proved that Duan Ling Tian's skills in alchemy surpassed that of He Pei Yuan to a certain degree!

The expression of Xiao Gang Yu, the Chief Celestial Alchemist of the Blissful Sect, soured immediately. 'It seems like he was still holding back when he competed with me earlier.' He was, naturally, displeased when he saw the thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills in Duan Ling Tian's hand. Nonetheless, he no longer doubted Duan Ling Tian and was amazed by Duan Ling Tian's skills despite himself. Although they were both prominent Celestial Alchemists, there was no doubt Duan Ling Tian was leagues above him.

On the other hand, Ji Fan, the Arhat of the Blissful Sect, remained skeptical. He had trouble believing this. "How's this possible? H-how could he heat the prominent Celestial Cauldron in just half an hour and refine thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills! No! He must have cheated! That's it! He cheated!"

Ji Fan's words were just groundless accusations. At this time, it was completely unreasonable to say that Duan Ling Tian had cheated. After all, even if Duan Ling Tian had a few tricks up his sleeves, there was no denying he had successfully refined thirteen Overarching Heaven Pills, proving that he, indeed, only took half an hour to heat the cauldron!

Meanwhile, Lyu Luo looked at Duan Ling Tian in shock as she exclaimed, "He... He successfully refined the Overarching Heaven Pills!"

Zhou Shu Qiu who was standing next to Lyu Luo also had an expression of disbelief on her face. Various emotions flashed in the depths of her eyes.

Murong Bing inwardly heaved a sigh of relief. It was clear that she had been immensely worried throughout the competition.

At this time, Zhong Shang, the supreme Duke Grade Celestial Master from the Alliance of Celestial Masters, looked at He Pei Yuan and hesitantly said, "Master He, this competition..." He seemed at a loss for words. He would not hesitate to announce the outcome of the competition if He Pei Yuan was just a prominent Celestial Alchemist. However, since He Pei Yuan was a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, he had to allow him some respect.

Upon hearing Zhong Shang's words, He Pei Yuan seemed to recover from his shock. He said dejectedly, "I've lost. It doesn't matter if he used some petty tricks to win; there's no doubt I lost this bet."

'It seems like Master He is a blunt and honest man,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he raised an eyebrow. With this, his regard for He Pei Yun rose slightly.

Then, He Pei Yun did not hesitate as he raised his hand and produced a shining token in his hand. He passed it over to Bai Wu Ji, the Sect Leader of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, as he said, "Sect leader, this is the King Grade Celestial Weapon, the Flame of Ancient Orders, that I always carry with me..."

However, Bai Wu Ji refused to accept He Pei Yuan's King Grade Celestial Weapon. "Master He, the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect will not take your Celestial Weapon... It's only a mere Duke Grade Divine Ability. It's not a big deal." A Memory Celestial Talisman appeared in his hand after he raised it. "Master Duan, this is what you won from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect... We admit defeat."

Duan Ling Tian was delighted when he received the Memory Celestial Talisman from Bai Wu Ji. He studied it for a brief moment before he extended his Divine Consciousness into the Memory Celestial Talisman. 'Indeed, it's a triple-traits Duke Grade Divine Ability... It's called the Eastern Purple Qi. Although it's not remarkable, the abilities are balanced.'

The triple-trait Divine Ability was called the Eastern Purple Qi. The offensive, defensive, and movement techniques were balanced, unlike the Duke Grade Celestial Method he obtained from the Blissful Sect that had an excellent defensive technique and two mediocre offensive and movement techniques.

At this moment, a Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian's ears. "Congratulations, Master Duan." It came from Zhong Shang.

"Master Zhong, I wouldn't have been able to win this prize if you didn't share the information you have with me. I'm indebted to you," Duan Ling Tian replied through Voice Transmission as he looked at Zhong Shang. Prior to the bet with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, he did not know how long it would take for a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist to heat a prominent Celestial Cauldron. It was Zhong Shang who had given him an answer, giving him the confidence to challenge the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect for their triple-trait Duke Grade Divine Ability.

"It's not worth mentioning. I only answered your question, that's all. However, I didn't expect your heating speed to be so fast. Your prominent Celestial Fire is truly extraordinary being able to heat the cauldron in such a short time," Zhong Shang replied. A hint of curiosity could be heard in his voice.

"You can tell?" Duan Ling Tian raised an eyebrow. He knew people had assumed he had relied on some petty tricks to be able to heat the cauldron in such a short time. He Pei Yuan probably had the same thought. Therefore, he was rather surprised by Zhong Shang's words that indicated he knew Duan Ling Tian had won due to his extraordinary Celestial Fire and not due to some petty tricks.

"I've been a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist for many years. I would have lived in vain if I can't discern that much," Zhong Shang replied with a smile.

"I beg to differ... Master He from the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect is also a supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist, and yet, it's clear he hasn't realized that my prominent Celestial Fire is extraordinary," Duan Ling Tian replied as he shook his head.

"Master He still hasn't realized it because he's still in shock after his loss. Moreover, an outsider would have a clearer perspective compared to the parties involved. If Master He were in my shoes, he would have been able to come to this conclusion as well."

Although there were many who gathered to watch the competition between Duan Ling Tian and the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect, there were even more people who were unaware of it. However, shortly after the result was announced, word of it spread like a wildfire in Alchemy City.

"The Chief Celestial Alchemist of Tai Yi Celestial Sect bested Master He of the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect?"

"They competed in heating speed using prominent Celestial Pill Cauldrons?"

"A supreme Duke Grade Celestial Alchemist like Master He lost in a heating speed contest? You must be joking!"

"I find it hard to believe as well even though I witnessed it with my own eyes!"

Once again, Duan Ling Tian was thrust into the limelight due to his competition with He Pei Yuan.

Many sectless cultivators and cultivators from the top sects clamored to get Duan Ling Tian's attention. All of them were trying to get acquainted with him.



“Good heavens! Is Master Duan even human? He’s not even 100 years old, but there’s no doubt he’s the most outstanding person in the Alchemy Conference this time. I don’t think there’s any Celestial Alchemist under the age of 100 who’s as outstanding as him in the Southern Heaven Territory, right?”

“Imagine how formidable he would be in the Southern Heaven Territory when he matures!”

“We should befriend him now. Opportunities like these don’t come twice!”

As the saying went, ‘A man dreads fame as a pig dreads being fat’. At this moment, this proverb accurately described Duan Ling Tian’s feelings. He dealt with the crowd clamoring for his attention half-heartedly as he thought to himself, ‘I finally obtained a triple-trait Duke Grade Celestial Method and Divine Ability... There’s no need for me to compete or bet anymore.’ Although he decided to stop competing since he knew no one would dare to challenge him anymore, he had no plans on leaving Alchemy City or the Barren Land yet.

At this moment, Sun Chao, the Chief Celestial Alchemist from the Blazing Sun Celestial Sect, who had befriended Duan Ling Tian before his competition with the Profound Heaven Celestial Sect cut through the crowd and approached Duan Ling Tian. “Master Duan, I truly didn’t expect you to heat the cauldron in half an hour! The title of the most skilled prominent Celestial Alchemist in the Six Southeastern Regions belongs to you now.” He was truly amazed by Duan Ling Tian’s skills.

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian nodded modestly in response.

...

In a blink of an eye, almost a month had gone by, and the Alchemy Conference was about to come to an end.

Duan Ling Tian was wandering around the Alchemy Square when a voice rang in his mind. He came to a halt immediately, shocked by the sudden voice in his head. “Young lad, look for a quiet and secluded space... The Profound Divine Metal and I will join forces to help you open that box!”

It did not take long for Duan Ling Tian to identify the owner of the voice. ‘It’s the Chaos Divine Flame!’