

Chapter 3031: The Domineering Bihai Mingfeng

“It seems like both of you don’t have any regards for the Three Clans and Two Sects!” A frosty voice rang in the air, causing the people in the surroundings to feel as though they had been dropped into an ice cave.

Swoosh!

A gust of wind stirred in the air before a figure seemingly appeared out of thin air before Sima Ping Dong, the Grand Elder of the Sima Clan.

“Bihai Ming Feng!” Before Sima Ping Dong had time to react and mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy, Bihai Ming Feng raised a brush in his hand and attacked at lightning speed.

The brush spun before it transformed into a dragon-like energy and shot toward Sima Ping Dong.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The void rippled in its wake. It easily breached Sima Ping Dong’s Celestial Origin that shrouded him protectively. Then, the dragon-like energy whipped its tail at him before he exploded into a mist of blood, leaving only a Spatial Ring and armor behind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The remaining force from the attack dissipated into a gust of wind, causing the robes of the onlookers, including Duan Ling Tian, to flutter in the air.

Those who were standing near Sima Ping Dong earlier widened their eyes in horror and instinctively retreated.

‘He’s dead?’ Duan Ling Tian narrowed his eyes. He did not expect Sima Ping Dong would die just like that.

The crowd inhaled sharply when they saw how swift Bihai Ming Feng’s attack was.

“The Grand Elder of the Sima Clan is dead?”

“The Grand Elder of the Sima Clan is one of the clan’s strongest powerhouses. And yet, the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Sect killed him with just a strike. Although Sima Ping Dong was caught off guard, he should still be able to retaliate, right?”

“I’m not surprised. It’s known that the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect is even stronger than the First Sect Leader of the Coupling Sect. Moreover, he’s also one of the ten Inspectors of the Profound Nether Mansion!”

“How unfortunate for the Grand Elder of the Sima Clan. If the Coupling Celestial Sect had sent another person as a representative, he would probably only be rebuked for his actions. However, since the Third

Sect Leader represents the Profound Nether Mansion as an inspector as well, he, naturally, has to be stricter since Sima Ping Dong blatantly disregarded the rules of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.”

While most people were in shock over Sima Ping Dong’s death at Bihai Ming Feng’s hand, the people from the grade-eight forces that Li Yuan and Yun Zhan were from gulped. They felt incredibly lucky they did not recklessly speak up earlier. Otherwise, they would definitely be killed by Bihai Ming Feng as well. Even Sima Ping Dong who was much stronger than them had died, how could they hope to survive?

“Grand elder...” The other elder from the Sima Clan could only smile bitterly after he witnessed Sima Ping Dong’s death.

After the commotion from Bihai Ming Feng killing Sima Ping Dong died down, the onlookers quickly shifted their eyes to the person from the Dongfang Clan who had made a declaration earlier about looking for Dongfang Jin Lun’s murderer earlier. After all, similar to Sima Ping Dong, he had also blatantly disregarded one of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm’s rules.

As expected, Bihai Ming Feng’s body flickered out of sight and appeared in front of the elder from the Dongfang Clan.

The elder from the Dongfang Clan who had witnessed Sima Ping Dong’s death paled immediately when he saw Bihai Ming Feng in front of him. For someone who had easily killed Sima Ping Dong, it would be like killing an ant if Bihai Ming Feng wanted to kill him. He quickly fell to his knees and kowtowed as he said, “Third sect leader, please have mercy. Please forgive me!”

Bihai Ming Feng was indifferent to the pleading of the elder from the Dongfang Clan. He raised the brush in his hand again.

Whoosh!

This time, a sword cry rang in the air as a bright light shot out of the tip of the brush like a shooting star.

In the next moment, a bloody hole could be seen on the glabella of the elder from the Dongfang Clan. His hand was still raised in a defensive posture as he fell to the ground.

Earlier, Bihai Ming Feng had collected Sima Ping Dong’s Spatial Ring and armor, but he did not collect the possessions of the elder from the Dongfang Clan as though he did not find them worthy of him. After all, with Bihai Ming Feng’s status, even Sima Ping Dong could not match his wealth and resources, let alone an ordinary elder from the Dongfang Clan.

Under everyone’s watchful eyes, Bihai Mingfeng calmly returned to his original position after killing the elder from the Dongfan Clan.

Zhang Guang Zheng, the Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, smiled wryly as he said, “Sect Leader Bihai, I’m afraid the majority of the participants who survive the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm will flock to the Coupling Celestial Sect now after witnessing your strength...”

Heng Chan, the Hall Master of the Arhat Hall in the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect, said with a hint of displeasure, “That’s right. Sect Leader Bihai, that’s unfair.”

Zhangsun Xiong Qi and Gongyang Yu, the representative leaders from the Zhangsun Clan and the Gongyang Clan, only smiled wryly. What could they do? The Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial

Sect was undoubtedly powerful. It was only natural if the participants wanted to join the Coupling Celestial Sect.

“All of you were clearly displeased when Sima Ping Dong made his declaration earlier, but none of you dared to take action,” Bihai Ming Feng looked at Zhang Guang Zheng and Heng Chan from the corners of his eyes as he said nonchalantly, “Since it was clear none of you would do anything about it, I, naturally, had to take action.”

Zhang Guang Zheng and Heng Chan could not refute Bihai Ming Feng’s words. They were, indeed, displeased, but they did not dare to act in fear of embarrassing themselves. After all, their strength was only on par with Sima Ping Dong’s strength. If Sima Ping Dong decided to flee, it was unlikely that they would be able to stop him. To avoid embarrassment, they thought it was best not to interfere.

After Bihai Ming Feng had taken matters into his hands, those who wanted to seek revenge no longer dared to misbehave.

At this moment, someone exclaimed, “There are more people coming out!”

At this moment, a figure had appeared at the gateway. Soon enough, more and more figures began to appear.

“Jia Long.” It did not take long before Duan Ling Tian found Huang Jia Long among the sea of people. He knew Huang Jia Long was alive since Huang Jia Long’s name was still on the scoreboard. Although Huang Jia Long’s points were only a few points ahead of Huang Jia Chao, Huang Jia Long had accumulated those points without any help.

‘Out of the nine participants from the Supporting Fall Nation, only four survived. Apart from me, Jia Long, and Jia Chao, Meng Qiu Yu is the only one who survived,’ Duan Ling Tian thought to himself after he scanned the names on the scoreboard.

Meng Qiu Yu was one of the two women among the participants from the Supporting Fall Nation. An old lady who was a Celestial King had accompanied her here.

“Brother Duan!” Huang Jia Long called out as he made a beeline toward Duan Ling Tian and the people from the Supporting Fall Nation.

After Huang Jia Long greeted Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, he turned to Duan Ling Tian and curiously asked, “Brother Duan, how many points did you accumulate?” He waved his Accumulative Points Jade as he continued to say, “I accumulated 22 points!”

Duan Ling Tian glanced at the scoreboard and said with a faint smile on his face, “Why don’t you have a look at the scoreboard...”

Huang Jia Chao kindly reminded his brother and said meaningfully, “You should start at the top of the scoreboard.”

Huang Jia Long immediately shifted his gaze to the top of the scoreboard. He exclaimed, “First place, Ling Jue Yun with 298 points?! Sh*t! That genius sectless cultivator from the East Ming Nation is insane! How did he make it to the top?”

“Forget about him. Why don’t you look at the next name?” Huang Jia Chao prompted.

Huang Jia Long was shocked speechless when he saw the second name on the scoreboard.

Duan Ling Tian, 286 points.

These words’ impact was like a bomb to Huang Jia Long.

“B-brother Duan... Y-you’re ranked second?” Huang Jia Long looked at Duan Ling Tian incredulously. “How on earth did you do it?”

“It just happened...” Duan Ling Tian said with a shrug.

Whoosh!

At this moment, Meng Qiu Yu brought with her a gust of wind that carried her fragrance as she moved toward her grandmother.

Finally, the four surviving participants from the Supporting Fall Nation had gathered.

Chapter 3032: Everyone’s Out

‘Meng Qiu Yu accumulated 31 points. Her points are higher than Jia Long’s...’ Duan Ling Tian glanced at Meng Qiu Yu, clearly surprised by her result. ‘It seems like she hid her strength during the Southern Heaven Combat.’

31 points were considered a lot for participants who did not enter the Celestial Lord Temple. With these points, Meng Qiu Yu managed to make it into the top 100.

‘Duan Ling Tian ranked second?’ Meanwhile, Meng Qiu Yu’s eyes widened in surprise when she looked at the scoreboard. She instinctively turned to look at Duan Ling Tian. She knew he was outstanding and was the strongest among the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials in the Supporting Fall Nation, but there were many outstanding geniuses from the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control. Put aside the many grade-eight and grade-seven forces, there were 1,000 grade-eight nations like the Supporting Fall Nation as well. In such a highly competitive environment, how could she not feel shocked that Duan Ling Tian managed to rank second?

“It just happened?” Huang Jia Long was rendered speechless; the corners of his lips were twitching. He had only accumulated 22 points after fighting with his life on the line and several close calls with death. However, according to Duan Ling Tian, he had ‘just so happened’ to accumulate 286 points?

In the end, Huang Jia Long sighed, slightly upset, before he changed the topic. “Brother Duan, have you decided which of the Three Sects and Two Clans to join? In my opinion, the Zhangsun Clan and Gongyang Clan aren’t worth your time since they’ll definitely favor and prioritize their lineal disciples over you. They might put in a little effort to help you enter the Profound Nether Mansion, and that’s about it. On the other hand, the Simplicity Celestial Sect, the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect, and the Coupling Celestial Sect are different. Nepotism is rarely an issue. They definitely won’t hesitate to use all their resources to help you enter the Profound Nether Mansion.”

"I agree." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. This had occurred to him as well so he did not consider joining the Zhangsun Clan and the Gongyang Clan at all.

Huang Jia Long's eyes were as bright as the stars in the night sky as he said, "Why don't we join the Coupling Celestial Sect together? Not only is Bihai Ming Feng the third sect leader, but the sect has many female disciples who are supreme grade cauldrons."

Duan Ling Tian, naturally, knew Huang Jia Long did not literally mean the women were cauldrons. Cauldron was a term used to refer to beautiful females with no cultivation base to serve and help male disciples raise their cultivation bases. These women who were raised by the Coupling Sect were not forced to become cauldrons. They had all consented to it. For this reason, despite having a bad reputation in several regions the Profound Nether Mansion, the Coupling Celestial Sect was not considered an evil sect.

Duan Ling Tian said, "The female disciples and the cauldrons are probably the only reason you want to join the Coupling Celestial Sect."

Huang Jia Long laughed sheepishly. Duan Ling Tian was right about his reasons for wanting to join the Coupling Celestial Sect. Then, he looked at Huang Jia Chao and asked, "Jia Chao, you're really lucky! Not only did you survive, but you even accumulated 17 points!"

Before entering the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, Huang Jia Long knew it was dangerous in there. However, only when he was in there did he realize how dangerous it was. At one point, he even wondered if his brother, Huang Jia Chao, would be able to survive.

"Indeed, I'm really lucky! Brother Duan saved my life in the nick of time. Otherwise, I would've died," Huang Jia Chao said with a sigh. He was filled with gratitude toward Duan Ling Tian. After all, without Duan Ling Tian, he would not be standing here with them now.

"What happened?" Huang Jia Long asked.

After Huang Jia Chao recounted his close call with death, Huang Jia Long thanked Duan Ling Tian profusely.

However, Duan Ling Tian was lost in his thoughts, at this moment. If the Chaos Divine Earth did not tell him he had saved Huang Jia Chao, he would not have known about it at all. After all, all the memories from the moment he learned about the Celestial Lord Temple to the time he was sent out had been erased.

Huang Jia Chao had memories about Duan Ling Tian saving him because he had only learned about the Celestial Lord Temple after Duan Ling Tian had saved him.

"Both of you lost your memories?" Huang Jia Long was shocked when he learned Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao had lost some of their memories during their time in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. On the contrary, he remembered all his time in the lower realm.

Huang Jia Chao nodded before he said, "I don't know what happened... But I was sent out first along with a group of people, including Duan Ling Tian, who was clearly the strongest among all the

participants. It's unfortunate that I lost my memories..." A wry smile could be seen on his face as he spoke.

An old man who had accompanied Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, here said, "Didn't you hear Elder Zhangsun Xiong Qi's words? Those who lost their memories had a specific fortuitous encounter. Moreover, among these people, there are some who have comprehended the law of time!"

Hu Lin Yi said, "The possibility is minute. At least, in the past 10,000, no one in the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion's control had successfully mastered the law of time in the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. At most, in recent years, some people from grade-six forces only managed to comprehend the law of time's Fundamental Profundity, the Time Elemental Profundity. Therefore, don't feel bad if you didn't successfully comprehend the law of time." He had clearly said these words in an attempt to console Duan Ling Tian and Huang Jia Chao.

The duo nodded.

"Your Majesty is right. The law of time is the most profound among the Four Supreme Laws. It'd be difficult for ordinary people to comprehend it!" Huang Jia Long nodded in agreement.

'If I'm not mistaken, I think I've successfully comprehended the law of time,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself. He could not wait to test the powers of the law of time.

After all, the law of time was the most profound and mysterious among the Four Supreme Laws. It surpassed the law of space, the law of life, and the law of death! Nobody, including Duan Ling Tian, could resist the chance to comprehend such a powerful law.

As time passed by, more and more people were gradually sent out of the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm.

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After ten days...

The participants who survived the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm had all been sent out.

Soon enough, the gateway disappeared without a trace.

Zhangsun Xiong Qi, the representative leader from the Zhangsun Clan, did not waste any time and said, "The surviving Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials please come forward and hand over your Accumulative Point Jades."

The participants, including Duan Ling Tian, began to move to hand over their Accumulative Point Jades that shone with four distinctive colors. With just a glance, it was easy to see which color dominated the other three colors.

“It seems like the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect won the bet, after all!” Heng Chang, the Hall Master of the Arhat Hall in the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect, said with a chuckle before he looked at Bihai Ming Feng, Zhang Guang Zheng, Zhangsun Xiong Qi, and Gongyang Yu.

The golden Accumulative Point Jades that were distributed by the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect made up most of the jades in the participants’ hands.

Every time the gateway to the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm opened, the Three Sects and Two Clans would have a bet among themselves. The force with the most corresponding Accumulative Point Jades held by surviving participants in the end would be the winner. With this, all the wagers that were put out by the remaining four forces would go to the winner.

Zhang Guang Zheng grunted as he tossed a Spatial Ring to Heng Chan.

Bihai Ming Feng did not seem to care that he had lost. After all, the wager he had put up was from the Coupling Celestial Sect. What he cared about the most now was to recruit the top three participants to join the Coupling Celestial Sect. He had been surreptitiously looking at Ling Jue Yun, Duan Ling Tian, and Murong Xiao Xiao. Although Murong Xiao Xiao was a woman, he did not pay her any special attention. In fact, he seemed more interested in Ling Jue Yun and Duan Ling Tian.

At this moment, a Voice Transmission rang in Duan Ling Tian’s ears. “Which force do you plan to join?”

Duan Ling Tian instinctively looked up and saw Ling Jue Yun standing in the distance and looking at him. He replied through Voice Transmission, “Why? Are you planning to join the same force as me?”

“Yes,” Ling Jue Yun replied honestly,

“Why?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“I’m worried Sister Huang’er will be in trouble if you die,” Ling Jue Yun bluntly replied.

Huang’er was the artifact soul of a prominent artifact that used to belong to his sister. Since she forcibly separated herself from the original prominent artifact, she had not fully recovered from her injuries.

Huang’er had chosen Duan Ling Tian as her master and became the artifact soul of his Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword. However, before she completely integrated with the sword, she would not survive if Duan Ling Tian died.

Duan Ling Tian was rendered speechless by Ling Jue Yun’s blunt words and did not bother to reply to him. He said to Huang’er, “It seems like he’s still worried about you...”

Chapter 3033: Staying Composed

Huang’er said to Duan Ling Tian, “Tell him that I hope both of you don’t join the same force. Both of you need separate training. Joining the same force will only hinder both of your progress since both of you will instinctively rely on each other”

“Even if both of us join different forces now, in the end, we’ll still end up in the Profound Nether Mansion. However, you’re right. At least, we’ll learn to face difficulties independently before joining the

Profound Nether Mansion,” Duan Ling Tian replied. He agreed with her words so he conveyed her message to Ling Jue Yun.

Huang’er could only rely on Duan Ling Tian now to communicate with Ling Jue Yun since she resided in Duan Ling Tian’s sea of consciousness.

“Please tell Sister Huang’er that I understand, and I’ll act as she has advised.” Ling Jue Yun nodded. Although he was disappointed, he had no intention of going against Huang’er’s words at all.

At this moment, Zhangsun Xiong Qi flew into the air. After he looked at Duan Ling Tian, Ling Jue Yun, and Murong Xiao Xiao, he announced, “Can the top three participants and the forces they represent please step forward to claim their rewards...”

Apart from the three participants, an elder from the Murong Clan and the Emperors of the Supporting Fall Nation and the East Ming Nation respectively flew up into the air.

Ling Jue Yun and the Emperor of East Ming Nation were the first to receive the Spatial Rings that contained their respective rewards.

The Emperor of the East Ming Nation was clearly delighted after he looked into the Spatial Ring.

The people in the surroundings from grade-eight and grade-nine forces looked at the Emperor of the East Ming Nation enviously. Based on his expression, there was no doubt his rewards were great.

On the other hand, those from grade-seven forces remained unmoved as though they did not think much of the rewards.

“The Emperor of the East Ming Nation is the emperor of a grade-eight nation, and yet, he’s not even as composed as that lad who’s not even 100 years old!” one of the emperors from a grade-eight nation mockingly said.

This was because after receiving the rewards, Ling Jue Yun remained calm and indifferent. It was as though the rewards did not impress him at all.

Generally, the rewards for participants and the forces they represented were of almost equal value. Therefore, Ling Jue Yun who possessed even more valuable items was more composed compared to the Emperor of the East Ming Nation.

“Emperor Liu, you’re just jealous!” The Emperor of the East Ming Nation laughed heartily despite the other party’s unpleasant words. After all, he knew the other party was just jealous.

Nevertheless, many people were impressed by how composed Ling Jue Yun was under such circumstances.

Heng Chan from the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect looked at Ling Jue Yun with a profound gaze as he said, “Not only is Ling Jue Yun’s innate talent and comprehension skill high, but her maturity far surpassed his age as well. There’s no doubt he’ll be the pride of the Southern Heaven Territory in the future!” After all, he knew it would be impossible for him to remain as calm as Ling Jue Yun if he was handsomely rewarded when he was still a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial.

Bihai Ming Feng looked at Heng Chan and asked, "Heng Chan, are you interested in this lad as well?"

"Of course. If he's willing to join our Cloud Platform Celestial Sect, we won't spare any resources to help him even if he eventually leaves our sect for the Profound Nether Mansion. It's fate if he joins our sect, after all..." After Heng Chan finished speaking, he closed his eyes and joined his palms together with a tranquil expression on his face.

Upon seeing this, Zhang Guang Zheng from the Simplicity Sect scoffed before he said, "Heng Chan, you bald donkey... This lad is destined to become one of the elite powerhouses in the Southern Heaven Territory. You're only interested in him because of the benefits he'd bring the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect. So, quit acting enlightened in front of us. Do you think we're stupid?"

Gongyang Yu could not help but chuckle when he heard Zhang Guang Zheng's blunt remarks.

Bihai Ming Feng's expression remained the same. He only looked at Heng Chan disdainfully.

Nevertheless, Bihai Ming Feng and Zhang Guang Zheng were also impressed with Ling Jue Yun's composure as well. Little did they know, Ling Jue Yun was so calm because he had already possessed an Emperor Grade Celestial Weapon and a Devata Artifact. Despite still having their uses, it was only natural that the rewards from the Three Clans and Two Sects did not impress him.

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian and Hu Lin Yi, the Emperor of the Supporting Fall Nation, each received a Spatial Ring as well.

Hu Lin Yi's eyes flashed with excitement after he claimed ownership of the ring and looked at the contents. It seemed as though he had forgotten his son's death, at this moment.

When Duan Ling Tian checked his Spatial Ring, he discovered he had been rewarded with a few Celestial Talismans and a few bottles of medicinal pills. There was no King Grade Celestial Weapon at all. After that, he extended his Divine Consciousness to investigate the uses of the Celestial Talismans through the Memory Celestial Talismans that came with them.

"The Thunder Talisman contains two profundities from the law of thunder. It's inscribed by a Celestial King and is capable of killing almost all Celestial Dukes... On the other hand, the Spring Rain Talisman contains two profundities from the law of wood. It's also inscribed by a Celestial King and tremendously speeds up one's recovery rate..."

After looking through the other Celestial Talismans, Duan Ling Tian found the only common Celestial Talismans he was rewarded with was the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman.

'The Three Sects and Two Clans didn't reward me with any Celestial Weapons. They must know that I'm not lacking in Celestial Weapons after coming out of the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. Based on my ranking, it won't be difficult for them to guess that I've obtained King Grade Celestial Weapons that had been nurtured by Celestial Lords. It'd be pointless if they gave me Celestial Weapons of the same grade. Little did they know, I've also obtained many medicinal pills and Celestial Talismans in there,' Duan Ling Tian mused inwardly. For this reason, he was also rather calm after being rewarded by the Three Sects and Two Clans.

However, the people who were not privy to his thoughts were impressed by his composure as well.

“This Duan Ling Tian is indeed extraordinary as well. For a sectless cultivator to remain calm at this moment is really something...”

“Duan Ling Tian and Ling Jue Yun are definitely the black horses of this year’s event. I wonder where these two sectless cultivators come from?”

“Somehow, I feel it’s unlikely that they’re sectless cultivators.”

Based on Duan Ling Tian and Ling Jue Yun’s remarkable strength at such a young age, many people did not think they were mere sectless cultivators.

Meanwhile, after Murong Xiao Xiao and the elder from the Murong Clan were rewarded, Murong Xiao Xiao asked, “I thought we would be rewarded by the force that we choose to join?”

“That was a thing of the past. From this year onward, the Three Sects and Two Clans will reward the participants before the participants choose the factions they want to join. In fact, this is an order from the Profound Nether Mansion.” Zhangsun Xiong Qi said with a sigh. A hint of helplessness could be heard in his voice when he neared the end of his words.

Although the rewards were issued by the Three Sects and Two Clans, the Zhangsun Clan and Gongyang Clan’s contributions to the rewards were significantly less compared to the other forces. For this reason, most outstanding Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials would not join their clans. Although there was nothing they could do about it, they did not feel resentful, only helpless.

“I see what you mean.” Murong Xiao Xiao nodded.

Similarly, Murong Xiao Xiao and the elder from the Murong Clan remained indifferent to the rewards. However, no one was surprised by their lack of reaction. After all, the Murong Clan was a grade-seven clan. They were on the same level as the Zhangsun Clan and the Gongyang Clan in terms of wealth and resources, after all. They were only less famous because the other two clans were closely affiliated with the Profound Nether Mansion.

Chapter 3034: Choices

“No wonder the Three Sects and Two Clans give out the rewards to the participants first!”

When those who also noticed the difference compared to the previous years heard the reply, they finally discovered why they had felt as though something was different this year.

In the past, the Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials and the forces they represented would only be rewarded by whichever one of the Three Sects and Two Clans they chose to join.

Since the outstanding participants and the forces they represented were rewarded according to their rankings, Zhangsun Xiong Qi said, “The participants who rank fourth to the tenth and the forces they represent, please step forward.”

After that, the participants who were ranked 11th to the 20th and the forces they represented were also rewarded.

As time continued to pass, all the outstanding participants and the forces they represented were rewarded.

Naturally, the lower the ranking, the lesser rewards would be.

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After all the rewards were given out...

Zhangsun Xiong Qi looked at all the participants before his eyes finally rested on Ling Jue Yun. Then, he said, "The top 30 participants starting from the top to bottom, please step forward one by one and choose the force you've decided to join. Please be informed that once the decision is made, it'll be irrevocable. Think carefully before making your choice."

Whoosh!

Ling Jue Yun who ranked first stepped forward first. He looked at the five representative leaders from the Three Sects Two Clans. At this moment, different voices were ringing in his mind. The five representative leaders had sent him Voice Transmissions persuading him to join their respective forces. They promised they would spare no resources in helping him enter the Profound Nether Mansion as quickly as possible if he chose to join them.

The crowd and the people from the Three Sects and Two Clans held their breaths as they waited for Ling Jue Yun to choose.

"I choose to join... the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect!"

Ling Jue Yun eventually chose to join the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect. Although the majority of the members of the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect were monks, the sect had secular disciples as well. Unlike the monk disciples, secular disciples were not required to shave their heads, wear a kasaya, or obey the Buddhist commandments. However, only geniuses were accepted as secular disciples in the sect. This was a compromise made by the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect. In the past, there was no secular disciple at all. Whoever joined the sect back then had to become monks and obey the Buddhist commandments!

"The Cloud Platform Celestial Sect welcomes you!" Heng Chan grinned from ear to ear when he heard Ling Jue Yun's words. He had promised everything he could that was within his authority to entice Ling Jue Yun to enter the sect.

Ling Jue Yun turned to look at the Emperor of the East Ming Nation and bowed slightly before he flew toward Heng Chan and stood next to him.

"Heng Chan, you old donkey. Since you looked confident earlier, you must have made a huge promise to him, right?" Zhang Guang Zheng from the Simplicity Celestial Sect asked as he looked at Heng Chan enviously.

“Old Zhang, as the saying goes, ‘Those who’re unwilling to take risks won’t be able to achieve great things’. How can you expect people to join the Simplicity Celestial Sect if you’re unwilling to promise them much?” Heng Chan smugly said.

Zhang Guang Zheng ignored Heng Chan. His eyes were now trained on the purple figure who had just stepped forward.

‘Which sect should I choose? The Simplicity Celestial Sect or the Coupling Celestial Sect?’ Duan Ling Tian wondered inwardly after Ling Jue Yun made his choice. He could not make up his mind at all.

Although Bihai Ming Feng, the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, was powerful and was one of the ten inspectors of the Profound Nether Mansion, it was not enough to make Duan Ling Tian blindly join the Coupling Celestial Sect.

As Duan Ling Tian struggled to make a choice, Zhangsun Xiong Qi’s voice rang in his mind. “Duan Ling Tian, as long you join the Zhangsun Clan, we’re willing to give you a purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapon that had been nurtured by a Celestial Lord and three escape-type Celestial Talismans.”

‘Although the offer is good, it’s still rather lacking...’ Ordinary cultivators might be tempted by Zhangsun Xiongqi’s offer, but Duan Ling Tian was not moved at all.

“Duan Ling Tian, if you join the Gongyang Clan...” Soon after, Gongyang Yu from the Gongyang Clan sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as well. However, his offer was only slightly better than the Zhangsun Clan’s offer.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian was rather moved by Bihai Ming Feng’s offer. “Duan Ling Tian, if you join the Coupling Celestial Sect, not only you will become our core disciple, but after you successfully join the Profound Nether Mansion, I’ll be able to help you as well.”

Next, the determined voice of Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Zhang Guang Zheng, rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. “Duan Ling Tian, you’ll be treated like our sect leader’s personal disciple if you join the Simplicity Celestial Sect. The Old Ancestor of our sect is one of the ten inspectors of the Profound Nether Mansion. He’ll definitely look after you when you join the Profound Nether Mansion. Apart from that, you’ll be allowed to select an item from our sect’s treasure vault that has existed since the establishment of our sect...”

Duan Ling Tian was very tempted by this offer. Based on his knowledge, he knew the Simplicity Celestial Sect was the oldest seven-grade sect in the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control. Not even the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect and the Coupling Celestial Sect could compare to it.

“Duan Ling Tian!” Heng Chan of the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect sent a Voice Transmission to Duan Ling Tian as well. However, his offer was almost on par with Bihai Ming Feng’s offer.

Both the Coupling Celestial Sect and the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect’s offers were slightly inferior to the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s offer.

“What did the old monk offer you before you joined the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect?” Duan Ling Tian asked Ling Jue Yun through Voice Transmission.

After receiving a reply from Ling Jue Yun, Duan Ling Tian could not help but curse inwardly, 'Old donkey!' He discovered Heng Chan's offer to him was far inferior to what he had promised Ling Jue Yun.

In the end, Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Zhang Guang Zheng. "I want to select three items from the Simplicity Celestial Sect's treasure vault. If you agree to this, I'll join the Simplicity Celestial Sect."

Zhang Guang Zheng did not reply immediately.

Duan Ling Tian knew Zhang Guang Zheng must be communicating with the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect through a Communication Celestial Talisman.

After a few moments, Zhang Guang Zheng replied, "The most we can offer you is two items. If you insist on three items, I'm sorry, but we'll have to pass on you."

Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly before he announced his decision, "I choose... the Simplicity Celestial Sect!" Then, he flew to stand next to Zhang Guang Zheng.

Zhang Guang Zheng smiled stiffly and said, "The Simplicity Celestial Sect welcomes you."

Bihai Ming Feng's expression turned unsightly when he failed to get Ling Jue Yun and Duan Ling Tian to join the Coupling Celestial Sect. He asked meaningfully, "Old Zhang, old donkey, I wonder what you promised them?" He felt his offer to the top two participants was not lacking. Why did they not accept his offer?

Zhang Guang Zheng and Heng Chan only responded with only a smile to Bihai Ming Feng's question.

Bihai Ming Feng shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian and sent him another message Voice Transmission. "Tell me, what did Old Zhang promise you? I'll give you three Shadow Void Escaping Talismans in return."

"I want ten talismans," Duan Ling Tian replied. The Shadow Void Escaping Talismans were nothing to the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect. Therefore, he was unafraid to bargain for more.

"Lad, that's daylight robbery! Alright, alright! Ten talismans it is!" Bihai Ming Feng quickly replied.

After discovering what Zhang Guang Zheng had promised Duan Ling Tian, the corners of Bihai Ming Feng's mouth twitched. Not only would Duan Ling Tian be treated like the personal disciple of the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect and gain the help of the sect's Old Ancestor after joining the Profound Nether Mansion, but the sect even promised to let him choose two items from their treasure vault! Let alone Duan Ling Tian, even Bihai Ming Feng was tempted by this offer. One must know the treasure vault in the Simplicity Celestial Sect had existed for a long time now. In fact, its history was even longer than that of the Profound Nether Mansion! The treasure vault was protected by defensive Formations cast by their Celestial Lords so it was almost impossible to breach. With this knowledge, he gracefully accepted his loss.

Bihai Ming Feng turned to look at Ling Jue Yun and was about to ask him what the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect had promised him when Duan Ling Tian sent another Voice Transmission to him, causing the corners of his mouth to twitch. "If you give me another ten Shadow Void Escaping Talismans, I'll tell you what the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect promised him."

'Is this lad shameless?'

Chapter 3035: Heading to the Simplicity Celestial Sect

Bihai Ming Feng looked at Duan Ling Tian before he shifted his gaze to Ling Jue Yun.

Duan Ling Tian sent a Voice Transmission to Bihai Ming Feng again. "It's useless. With just a word from me, he'll refuse to tell you what the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect promised him." Then, he sent a Voice Transmission to Ling Jue Yun. "If the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, Bihai Ming Feng, asks you what the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect promised you, don't tell him anything. Tell him to ask me instead."

Ling Jue Yun was confused. Suddenly, Bihai Ming Feng's voice rang in his mind. Then, he said to Duan Ling Tian, "He just sent me Voice Transmission asking about it..."

"Tell him to ask me instead," Duan Ling Tian said.

In Ling Jue Yun's opinion, this was just a trivial matter. Since Huang'er had chosen Duan Ling Tian as her master, he would definitely not go against Duan Ling Tian for such a trivial matter.

"Why don't you ask Duan Ling Tian..." Ling Jue Yun replied to Bihai Ming Feng through Voice Transmission.

Although Bihai Ming Feng was powerful, Ling Jue Yun was not impressed. After all, he came from the Divine Offering Land where there were many powerhouses stronger than Ten Directions Celestial Emperors. How could he be intimidated by a mere Celestial King?

After receiving Ling Jue Yun's reply, the corners of Bihai Ming Feng's mouth twitched. He glanced at Duan Ling Tian and sent him a message through Voice Transmission, "Lad, I can't believe he actually cooperated with you."

"Thank you, Third Sect Leader Bihai, I'm flattered. The same rule applies. Ten Shadow Void Escaping Talismans..."

After so many years in the Profund Nether Mansion, this was the first time Bihai Ming Feng felt helpless before a junior. Alas, there was nothing he could do under such circumstances. It would tarnish his reputation if he publicly lashed out a junior! "Fine. Just tell me what you know."

After receiving Duan Ling Tian's Voice Transmission, Bihai Ming Feng glanced at Heng Chan from the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect. 'I didn't expect Heng Chan, this old donkey, would act so swiftly and decisively...'

What Heng Chan had promised Ling Jue Yun was not inferior to what the Simplicity Celestial Sect promised Duan Ling Tian.

Bihai Ming Feng thought to himself regretfully, 'I should've known better and made a bigger offer. It doesn't matter since the resources don't come from my own possessions anyway.' It was his first time leading an entourage to the opening of the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, after all.

It was a spur-of-the-moment decision. He was inexperienced and did not expect it to be so competitive. He thought to himself determinedly, 'I must win Murong Xiao Xiao over!'

Alas, before Bihai Ming Feng could make an offer to Murong Xiao Xiao, she declared as soon as she stepped forward, "I choose the Gongyang Clan!"

Before Bihai Ming Feng, Zhang Zheng Guang, and Zhangsun Xiong Qi could make an offer, Murong Xiao Xiao had already announced her intention to join the Gongyang Clan.

Naturally, Heng Chan did not make an offer since the Cloud Platform Celestial Sect was a religious sect, and female disciples were not accepted. Even if Murong Xiao Xiao ranked first, the sect still would not recruit her. Their limit was accepting outstanding secular disciples.

"Gongyang Yu, you're fast!" Zhangsun Xiong Qi looked at Gongyang Yu and sighed. He was puzzled. Why did Murong Xiao Xiao join the Gongyang Clan? The Gongyang Clan's offer could not be that good. Moreover, with the limitations of a clan, she should have chosen to join one of the sects. Apart from that, she was from a grade-seven clan that was wealthier than the Gongyang Clan.

"I didn't offer Miss Murong anything," Gongyang Yu said with a smile.

"You didn't? Who'd believe you?! Why would she choose to join the Gongyang Clan if you didn't promise her anything?" Zhangsun Xiong Qi looked at Gongyang Yu incredulously.

"Elder Zhangsun, it seems like you're unaware that there's an upcoming marriage alliance between the Gongyang Clan and the Murong Clan. The third young master of our clan will be marrying the fourth miss of the Murong Clan," Gongyang Yu said with a smile.

Zhangsun Xiong Qi, Zhang Guang Zheng, and Heng Chan were taken aback when they learned about this.

Bihai Ming Feng narrowed his eyes and lightly said, "Based on what I know, the Fourth Miss of the Murong Clan and Murong Xiao Xiao are biological sisters. The Third Master of the Gongyang Clan is set to be the future Clan Leader of the Gongyang Clan as well."

With this, it made sense why Murong Xiao Xiao chose to join the Gongyang Clan. She would be doing a favor for the Gongyang Clan and paving the way for her younger sister at the same time.

'This girl is not a simple person,' Bihai Ming Feng thought to himself as he studied Murong Xiao Xiao.

After Murong Xiao Xiao had made her choice, the other participants made their choices one after another.

After learning from his past mistake, Bihai Ming Feng put in great effort and recruited almost half of the remaining participants to join the Coupling Celestial Sect. Perhaps, he was trying to make up his loss for failing to recruit the top three participants, he put greater effort and managed to recruit the remaining top ten participants.

"Sect Leader Bihai, the Coupling Celestial Sect has recruited a large number of talents this time," Zhang Guang Zheng said with a smile.

“Old Zhang, a straightforward person doesn’t resort to insinuations. Why don’t you trade Duan Ling Tian for the top fifteen participants I’ve recruited?” Bihai Ming Feng replied via Voice Transmission to avoid offending the fifteen participants who were standing around him. In any case, he was only speaking casually. He knew Zhang Guang Zheng would not agree to it.

As expected, Zhang Guang Zheng only responded with a smile.

As time passed by, all the participants had chosen a force to join. The majority had chosen to join the three sects. In fact, the number of participants who had chosen to join the two clans was less than half the number of participants who joined the Coupling Celestial Sect.

At this moment, Zhangsun Xiong Qi announced to the participants who had just joined the Three Sects and Two Clans, “After an hour, we will leave the Scaling Cloud Lake!”

The peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials took this time to bid farewell to the forces they represented.

“Brother Duan, why didn’t you join the Coupling Celestial Sect? They have beautiful scenery and beautiful women in the sect. In fact, the female disciples make up half of the disciples. They even have many cauldrons...” Huang Jia Long said with a sigh through Voice Transmission. He was reluctant to part with Duan Ling Tian.

“Work hard, and we’ll meet in the Profound Nether Mansion,” Duan Ling Tian replied with a smile.

The outstanding talents in the Three Sects and Two Clans would be given an opportunity to join the Profound Nether Mansion. The Profound Nether Mansion would serve as a greater platform for them to compete against other mansions in the Southern Heaven Territory. From there, they could even advance to the top ten clans and top sects in the Southern Heaven Territory!

Although Huang Jia Long felt depressed having to part ways with Duan Ling Tian, he had no choice but to accept it. He was determined to enter the Profound Nether Mansion! It would be fairly easy for Duan Ling Tian to join the Profound Nether Mansion with his innate talent and high level of comprehension, but it would be challenging for him. After all, the Three Sects and Two Clans had many highly talented individuals, and yet, only a handful could join the Profound Nether Mansion!

Ling Jue Yun said threateningly, “You better take good care of Sister Huang’er. I won’t let you go if you mistreat her!”

“It’ll depend on how obedient she is,” Duan Ling Tian replied teasingly.

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian’s reply, Ling Jue Yun’s eyes blazed with fury. He really wanted to fight Duan Ling Tian now.

Duan Ling Tian said, “It’s impossible for us to fight now. Why don’t we have a round of battle after we join the Profound Nether Mansion?”

The Chaos Divine Earth had informed Duan Ling Tian that Ling Jue Yun did not compete with him for the highest place to comprehend the law of time in Time Valley even though Ling Jue Yun was capable of holding his own against him because Ling Jue Yun was worried he would mistreat Huang’er. After

learning about Ling Jue Yun's strength, he was quite keen to fight with Ling Jue Yun. He really wanted to see which was stronger: Ling Jue Yun's two profundities from the law of death or his one profundity from the law of earth that was boosted by the Chaos Divine Earth?

"I'd be more than glad to do so!" Ling Jue Yun replied valiantly.

...

One hour passed in just a blink of an eye.

The representative leaders of the Three Sects and Two Clans, Bihai Ming Feng, Zhang Guang Zheng, Heng Chan, Zhangsun Xiong Qi, and Gongyang Yu, left the center of the Scaling Cloud Lake with their people. Before they parted, they bade each other farewell.

The Simplicity Celestial Sect was located in a different direction from the rest of the sects and clans. Therefore, under Zhang Guang Zheng's lead, Duan Ling Tian and the others flew in a different direction.

From the beginning until the end, Duan Ling Tian traveled closely to Zhang Guang Zheng, inciting the others' jealousy and envy.

Chapter 3036: The Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven

Those who were jealous of Duan Ling Tian were those peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials who had just joined the sect as well. They were confident of their strength and were of the opinion that Duan Ling Tian only ranked second due to sheer luck.

An old man glared at Duan Ling Tian's back with eyes that were burning with jealousy. 'This Duan Ling Tian is definitely weaker than me, but he's traveling so close to Vice Sect Leader Zhang. Moreover, it seems like Vice Sect Leader Zhang values him a lot.'

This old man was a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who had comprehended two profundities from the law of fire. With this, he was undoubtedly one of the stronger participants to enter the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm. He was ranked ninth and was the only participant in the top ten, apart from Duan Ling Tian, who chose to join the Simplicity Celestial Sect. He had chosen to join the Simplicity Celestial Sect because the sect possessed the most fire-element King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities out of the Three Sects and Two Clans. With this, he would have a higher chance of comprehending other profundities from the law of fire. In fact, he had no wish to join the Profound Nether Mansion at all. After all, the mansion would only accept people with remarkable innate talents and high comprehension skills under the age of 300. His only goal was to join the Simplicity Celestial Sect and obtain King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities that contained profundities from the law of fire.

The old man seethed in anger and jealousy as he watched a young man who was not even 100 years old given the privilege to travel next to Zhang Guang Zheng, the Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Sect. It was unfortunate that he had lost all memories of the Celestial Lord Temple and Time Valley. Otherwise, he would not even dare to have such thoughts.

During his stint in Time Valley, the old man had witnessed Duan Ling Tian kill Li Yuan with just a strike. Similar to him, Li Yuan had also comprehended two profundities from the law of fire. Although he coveted the highest seat in Time Valley, he did not dare to do anything after he had witnessed Duan Ling

Tian's strength. Unfortunately, his memories of that time were gone so he thought Duan Ling Tian had only ranked second due to sheer luck.

The old man was not the only one who felt jealous. A few strong peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials were having a hushed discussion as they glared at Duan Ling Tian.

"This Duan Ling Tian isn't even 100 years old. He's only able to rank second due to luck!"

"That's right. It's already extremely difficult for someone under 100 years to break through and become a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, let alone comprehending two profundities of a law."

"Hmph! Not only is he handsomely rewarded because of his rank, but he's also receiving better treatment because of it."

All of them thought Duan Ling Tian ranked second due to luck, except for Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, who had also joined the Simplicity Celestial Sect. His strength was on par with the few peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials because he had comprehended the Fundamental Profundity of the law of thunder, the Thunder Elemental Profundity. Unlike the rest, he did not underestimate Duan Ling Tian. After all, before he entered the lower realm of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, he had a duel with Duan Ling Tian. For this reason, he knew how formidable Duan Ling Tian was.

'These idiots must not know that Duan Ling Tian has comprehended two profundities from the law of earth despite being younger than 100 years old,' Xue Jing Yu thought to himself when he heard the hushed discussions in his surroundings.

Meanwhile, Zhang Guang Zheng asked Duan Ling Tian, "Duan Ling Tian, are you really a sectless cultivator?"

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly. It was true he did not have a force he belonged to in this Devata Realm. He was truly a sectless cultivator. Even those who belonged to small forces in the borderlands were considered sectless when they came to the central area.

"It's extremely rare for a sectless cultivator to achieve such remarkable feats at such a young age. However, from this day onward, you're no longer a sectless cultivator. You're a true disciple of the Simplicity Celestial Sect." Zhang Guang Zheng was skeptical when he heard Duan Ling Tian's reply. Nevertheless, he did not dwell on the matter.

"A true disciple? What's a true disciple?" Duan Ling Tian asked curiously.

"A true disciple is how we address the most outstanding disciples in the Simplicity Celestial Sect. There can only be ten true disciples in the Simplicity Celestial Sect, no matter what. Ten years ago, one of our true disciples had fallen. Since then, we've been short of one true disciple. Now that you joined our sect, our sect leader has decided to make you a true disciple," Zhang Guang Zheng explained.

"Is there a difference between true disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect and the core disciples of the Coupling Celestial Sect?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Of course, there’s a difference. There are only ten true disciples in the Simplicity Celestial Sect while there are at least 100 core disciples in the Coupling Celestial Sect,” Zhang Guang Zheng replied.

Upon hearing Zhang Guang Zheng’s words, Duan Ling Tian felt that Bihai Ming Feng, the Third Sect Leader of the Coupling Celestial Sect, was very stingy. Bihai Ming Feng had promised that he would become a core disciple of the Coupling Celestial Sect if he joined the sect. However, there were at least 100 core disciples in the Coupling Celestial Sect. How was that special?

“Since there are only ten true disciples in the Simplicity Celestial Sect, they must have special privileges, right?” Duan Ling Tian asked.

“Of course.” Zhang Guang Zheng nodded. “The true disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect will be given access to all King Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities in the sect! There are other privileges as well. You’ll learn about them when we arrive at the sect.”

Duan Ling Tian continued to ask, “Then, what do you mean by being treated like the personal disciple of the sect leader earlier?”

“Being a true disciple is almost the same as being the personal disciple of the sect leader. I didn’t expect you to become a true disciple of our sect earlier. The sect leader had only informed me of his decision after you’ve chosen to join us,” Zhang Guang Zheng explained.

...

Each of the 81 Devata Realms had a sacred place called the Heavenly Emperor Palace. It was where the Devata Realms’ Heavenly Emperors cultivated. Apart from that, Heavenly Emperor Palaces also represented the powers and authority of Heavenly Emperors.

In the past, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Feng Qing Yang, was forced to flee into one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realm, the Asura Hell. After that, a fight between a few titled Celestial Emperors broke out as they fought for the throne. In the end, an Inverse Center Celestial Emperor successfully became the new Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

Whoosh!

A gust of wind stirred up as a figure suddenly appeared out of thin air in the night sky above the Heavenly Emperor Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

“Chen Qiu Bo!”

A voice resounded in the entire Heavenly Emperor Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven as soon as the figure appeared.

The people in the Heavenly Emperor Palace were shocked when they heard the name ‘Chen Qiu Bo’ echoing through the palace. Who was so daring to use the name of the Inverse Center Celestial Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven? It was the name of the Heavenly Emperor, after all.

“W-who is that?!”

“How dare he call the name of our Heavenly Emperor!”

“Is he a rebel?”

At this moment, a tall and muscular man flew into the air and confronted the intruder. “Who’s it? How dare you call the name of our Heavenly Emperor!”

“It’s me.” A handsome young man with a medium build who was dressed in white robes looked at the tall and muscular man.

“You...” The tall and muscular bearded man widened his eyes when he saw the white-clad young man. “Y-your Majesty?!” His eyes reddened instantly before tears streamed down his face. It was as though he had turned into a crying little girl in a blink of an eye.

“This big fella...” The white-clad young man shook his head helplessly. Then, he said teasingly, “Don’t you serve Chen Qiu Bo now? You were going to defend Chen Qiu Bo earlier, weren’t you?”

“Your Majesty, stop teasing me... I didn’t leave because your Soul Pearl indicates that you’re still alive. I stayed to wait for your return.” The bearded man smiled bitterly. Then, he furrowed his brows as he asked, “Your Majesty, w-why does your voice sound a little muffled?”

The white-clad young man replied nonchalantly, “I’m speaking to you through my doppelganger using the law of earth.”

The bearded man exclaimed in shock, “Your Majesty, did you have a breakthrough?!”

Chapter 3037: The Death of a Titled Celestial Emperor

“It’s Master Meng Luo!”

“Hmph! Even Master Meng Luo is shocked by that person’s audacity to call the Heavenly Emperor by name! Even if he doesn’t die, he’d be crippled, at least!”

“Not necessary. Since that person is so bold as to use the Heavenly Emperor’s name, he might be really strong.”

When the people from the Heavenly Emperor Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven heard the bearded man’s voice, they recognized his voice immediately.

The bearded man was Meng Luo, a Nine Palaces Celestial Emperor. He was a titled Celestial Emperor, and his title was Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor.

The Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor, Meng Luo, entered the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven a long time ago. His strength was only second to the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven! He was the former right-hand man of Feng Qing Yang, the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

After Feng Qing Yang was forced to flee to the Asura Hell by his attacker, someone else became the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven. However, Meng Luo chose to stay.

Many people flew up into the sky to watch the excitement...

At this moment, Meng Luo's thunderous voice resounded in the Heavenly Emperor Palace again. "Chen Qiu Bo, His Majesty has returned. Hurry up and relinquish the throne!"

Upon hearing Meng Luo's words, the eyes of many elders in the Heavenly Emperor Palace lit up.

"The Heavenly Emperor has returned?"

Someone laughed heartily. "I knew His Majesty would survive the Asura Hell!"

"However, Chen Qiu Bo is not a pushover. I heard that he had a breakthrough recently. He's not any weaker than His Majesty..."

"Hmph! Do you really think His Majesty's strength will remain the same after returning from Asura Hell?"

"Let's go! Let's go and greet His Majesty!"

A group of elders from the Heavenly Emperor Palace rose into the air and made their way toward the two figures standing in the distance.

Upon seeing the white figure, the group of elders bowed and greeted him in unison. "Your Majesty!"

The white-clad young man standing in front of the group of elders was none other than the former master of the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven, Feng Qing Yang!

"En." Feng Qing Yang nodded slightly in response before he shifted his gaze eastward.

A tall figure could be seen in the distance. He was a middle-aged man dressed in a silver robe. His complexion was jade-like, and he had a majestic air about him.

The silver-clad middle-aged man advanced toward Feng Qing Yang from the distance. Every time he took a step, the void would ripple violently in his wake. "How surprising! Feng Qing Yang, I didn't expect you to survive the Asura Hell..."

"Chen Qiu Bo." Feng Qing Yang looked at the silver-clad middle-aged man indifferently.

Based on Feng Qing Yang's words, it was obvious the silver-clad middle-aged man was none other than Chen Qiu Bo, the new Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

"Over the past few years, you've taken good care of the Solitary Destructive Heaven on my behalf. You've worked hard. Now that I've returned, you can relinquish your title as the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven..." Despite Feng Qing Yang's indifferent tone, everyone could sense the threat in it.

"Feng Qing Yang, you intend to resume the position of Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven? We'll have to see if you're strong enough to do so!" Chen Qiu Bo did not expect Feng Qing Yang to be so blunt about his intention. He narrowed his eyes, and a cold expression appeared on his face immediately.

Feng Qing Yang replied calmly, "If I'm not mistaken, I've bested you before..."

"That's in the past!" Chen Qiu Bo said with a scoff, "I'm not what I used to be... I wonder if your strength has improved..." As soon as he finished speaking, a crescent three-foot-long blade emitting a fierce aura appeared in his hand.

"You're currently the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, and yet, you don't even have a Devata Artifact?" Feng Qing Yang looked at the three-foot-long blade in Chen Qiu Bo's hand nonchalantly with a faint smile on his face. It was obvious he was mocking Chen Qiu Bo's shabby weapon.

Chen Qiu Bo sneered as he said, "Feng Qing Yang, don't try to intimidate me! Don't think I'm unaware that the soul of your Devata Artifact, Solitary Destructive Flaming Heavenly Sword, was destroyed during that attack. Currently, the strength of your Solitary Destructive Flaming Heavenly Sword is, at most, equal to the Celestial Weapon in my hand!"

'Kuang Ling...' Upon hearing Chen Qiu Bo's words, Feng Qing Yang recalled the scenes when the soul artifact of his Solitary Destructive Flaming Heavenly Sword had sacrificed himself to save him. His hands were tightly fisted as he recalled his promise to Kuang Ling, the soul artifact of his sword. 'Kuang Ling... I promise I'll kill that person to avenge you when the Divine Offering Land reopens!'

When Feng Qing Yang regained his senses, he said to Chen Qiu Bo, "Should we have a deathmatch?"

"Of course. It's meaningless if we don't put our lives on the line!" Chen Qiu Bo replied without any hesitation.

"Alright!" Feng Qing Yang nodded. As soon as he finished speaking, he suddenly transformed into a beige energy. Then, the beige energy divided into countless energy swords before they swept out.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, the energy swords formed a cage that seemed like it could contain heaven and earth above the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of thunderous explosions rang in the air as heaven and earth shook. All of a sudden, the cage shrank rapidly, imprisoning Chen Qiu Bo.

"This is..." Chen Qiu Bo's expression had changed as soon as he saw Feng Qing Yang transforming into the beige energy. As the cage shrank, he could keenly feel a domineering force pressing down on him to the point where he could not even mobilize his Celestial Origin Energy! His voice was laden with despair and fear as he said, "Feng Qing Yang, you...you've actually broken through and become a god?!"

Most Ten Directions Heavenly Emperors struggled to become a god. It was an insanely difficult process.

"A god?"

"His Majesty has become a god? T-this..."

“It seems like the calamity that befell His Majesty not only did not kill him but presented him with a fortuitous opportunity instead!”

The group of elders from the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven was clearly delighted and in awe of this discovery.

“I was wondering how His Majesty suddenly transformed into an energy similar to that from the law of earth... As it turned out, it’s just his doppelganger.”

“I’ve long heard that after one becomes a god, if one has completely mastered all the profundities from a law, one would be able to create a doppelganger.”

“As it turns out, His Majesty only sent his doppelganger back...”

“Just a doppelganger is enough to crush a titled Celestial Emperor like Chen Qiu Bo... The strength of a god is truly terrifying!”

Meanwhile, despair tightened its clutches on Chen Qiu Bo when he felt his Celestial Origin Energy had been completely suppressed. Apart from that, he could not cast the profundities he had mastered as well. As the cage grew smaller and smaller, he knew his death was imminent. He hastily cried out, “Feng Qing Yang! I’ll... I’ll relinquish the position of Heavenly Emperor to you! I don’t want to be a Heavenly Emperor anymore! Since you’ve become a god, there’s no need for you to fight a mere Celestial Emperor like me, right?”

Chen Qiu Bo was drowning in fear at this moment. Although Feng Qing Yang was strong in the past, he could still hold his own against Feng Qing Yang with his current strength. However, now that Feng Qing Yang had broken through and become a god, they were in completely different leagues! Although his strength had improved greatly, how could he be a match for a god? He did not even have the strength to defend himself at this moment!

“Weren’t you very enthusiastic about having a deathmatch?” Feng Qing Yang’s voice seemed to come from all directions when he spoke.

At the same time, the cage shrank at an even faster speed.

Chen Qiu Bo widened his eyes in horror. At this moment, not only was his Celestial Origin Energy suppressed, but even his body had been immobilized! The most terrifying thing was the pillars of the cage that emitted the auras of the profundities from the law of earth. Just the auras alone made him as though he was suffocating.

Chen Qiu Bo hastily said, “Feng Qing Yang, as long as you spare my life, I swear to serve you for a thousand... No, for 10,000 years!” As the cage continued to shrink, he could acutely feel a strange energy coursing through his body. At the same time, he could feel his vitality draining away. He panicked and began to beg for mercy.

“No, thanks!” Feng Qing Yang curtly replied.

“No!” Chen Qiu Bo’s eyes widened in fear as he let out a miserable wail. This was his last word in this world.

Poof!

A soft sound rang in the air as Chen Qiu Bo exploded into a cloud of blood mist when the cage closed on him.

With this, Chen Qiu Bo, a Celestial Emperor, had died!

After Cheng Qiu Bo died, the cage melted back into the beige energy before the energy transformed into Feng Qing Yang.

Feng Qing swept his gaze across everyone present on the scene as he said, "Before I fought with him, I had sealed the sound in the place... I don't want anyone else knowing about my breakthrough. If I find out that someone leaks this information..." He trailed off.

Although Feng Qing Yang did not finish his sentence, the others knew what he meant when they saw the killing intent flashing in his eyes.

Chapter 3038: Zheng Hong Yi

Upon sensing Feng Qing Yang's killing intent, one of the elders in the Heavenly Emperor Palace of the Solitary Destructive Heaven said, "Your Majesty, we'll definitely keep this to ourselves!"

The others followed the elder's lead and bowed before they swore to keep the matter a secret.

All of them felt chills running up their spines when they recalled the earlier scenes. Their Heavenly Emperor's doppelganger alone was more than enough to kill Chen Qiu Bo, the Inverse Center Celestial Emperor, who was a Ten Directions Celestial Emperor. It should be noted that Chen Qiu Bo was one of the strongest Ten Directions Celestial Emperors in the Solitary Destructive Heaven. Apart from that, they were also slightly confused. Was the law of destruction not the law that Feng Qing Yan was most skilled in? Why did Feng Qing Yang use the law of earth to create a doppelganger instead?

...

It did not take long before word of Feng Qing Yang's return and the battle above the Heavenly Emperor Palace in the Solitary Destructive Heaven spread out.

Feng Qing Yang, the former Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, the Flaming Heaven Celestial Emperor, had returned from the Asura Hell, one of the seven deadliest places in Devata Realms. He had killed the Inverse Center Celestial Emperor, Chen Qiu Bo, and reclaimed the position of Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Realm!

This news, naturally, caused a huge uproar among the Celestial Lords and Celestial Emperors in the Solitary Destructive Heaven!

"Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's strength has improved significantly after his mighty return from the Asura Hell. It seems like being forced into the Asura Hell was a blessing in disguise. Otherwise, it wouldn't be easy for him to kill Chen Qiu Bo!"

"That's right. The old Chen Qiu Bo might be weaker than Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang, but over the years, his strength had grown comparable to Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang's strength in the

past. Even with such significant improvement in his strength, he was still killed by Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang. Although he had lost his soul artifact, one could see how strong he is...”

“With Heavenly Emperor Feng Qing Yang’s current strength, he’s probably ranked top ten among the 81 Heavenly Emperors of the Devata Realms!”

Many people were of the opinion that Feng Qing Yang’s strength was now enough for him to rank in the top ten among all the Heavenly Emperors. In the past, Feng Qing Yang was only ranked 18th on the list. Moreover, that was mostly attributed to the Devata Artifact he possessed. Without it, he would have ranked further back.

The Devata Artifact Feng Qing Yang possessed was famously known as being the best divine sword in the Devata Realms. Back then, he had only managed to defeat the former Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven all thanks to the Solitary Destructive Flaming Heavenly Sword.

Feng Qing Yang did not obtain his title from the Title Temple. According to the Title Temple’s rule, there was another way to obtain a title. When one defeated or killed a Heavenly Emperor of a Devata Realm, the Title Temple would bestow one with a title. That was how Feng Qing Yang obtained his title.

Feng Qing Yang’s title, the Flaming Heaven Celestial Emperor, was derived from his Devata Artifact, the Solitary Destructive Flaming Heavenly Sword.

Since the people in the Solitary Destructive Heaven were unaware that Feng Qing Yang had become a god, they merely ranked him in the top ten.

Out of the 81 Heavenly Emperors, apart from Feng Qing Yan, there was only one who had become a god. He was, naturally, ranked first. The Heavenly Emperors in the second and third places were only imminent gods.

Only Feng Qing Yang alone knew why he deliberately kept his breakthrough a secret.

...

On an island in the Heavenly Emperor Palace of the Solitary Destructive Nation.

Meng Luo, the Heavenly Savage Celestial Emperor, stood like a guard outside a little wooden hut. He asked a white-clad young man sitting in front of a wooden desk, “Your Majesty, are you keeping the fact that you’ve become a god a secret because of the Title Temple?”

Feng Qing Yang, the white-clad young man, who had regained his position as the Heavenly Emperor of the Solitary Destructive Heaven, looked up and replied, “Meng Luo, somethings are better kept to yourself... There’s no need to say it out loud.”

“Yes...” Upon hearing this, Meng Luo no longer pressed for an answer. After a while, he changed the topic and asked, “Your Majesty, how did you escape the Asura Hell?”

Not only was the Asura Hell one of the seven deadliest places in the Devata Realms, but it was also one of the more deadly places among the seven deadliest places. Rumor had it that only the top three strongest Heavenly Emperors in the Devata Realms were capable of surviving the Asura Hell!

“I’m not actually out of the Asura Hell,” Feng Qing Yang calmly replied, “My physical body is still trapped there. What you’re seeing is a doppelganger I created from the law of earth. Nevertheless, I’m really lucky. Otherwise, I would’ve long died in the Asura Hell!”

Despite Feng Qing Yang’s indifference, Meng Luo could vaguely sense a hint of fear in Feng Qing Yang’s voice when Feng Qing Yang spoke about the Asura Hell. With this, Meng Luo speculated that the Asura Hell must be so dangerous that even gods could die in there. Otherwise, why would Feng Qing Yang who had already become a god still be stuck in there? He asked fearfully, “T-the Asura Hell is so terrifying?”

“It’s more terrifying than you can imagine.” Feng Qing Yang’s tone still remained indifferent, but his hands were tightly fisted, and his palms were drenched in sweat.

After a while, Meng Luo asked, “Your Majesty, where’s your law of destruction’s doppelganger?”

Feng Qing had comprehended all the profundities from the law of destruction before he finished comprehending all the profundities from the law of earth. After becoming a god, he could create a doppelganger from each law he had mastered. Since his doppelganger from the law of earth was here, where was his doppelganger from the law of destruction?

Feng Qing Yang replied, “I’ve sent him to deal with another matter.”

...

In the Spirit Overarching Heaven.

In the Southern Heaven Territory, a region under the Profound Nether Mansion’s control.

As one of the Three Sects and Two Clans, the Simplicity Celestial Sect was closely associated with the Profound Nether Mansion and owned many mediocre Celestial Crystal veins.

In the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate, a giant Spirit Gathering Formation was set up in the center of the mediocre Celestial Crystal veins to gather all the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy from the Celestial Crystal veins. For this reason, the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy in the Simplicity Celestial Sect’s estate was much denser compared to the outside world. It was an almost perfect place for cultivation.

Naturally, the density of the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was not equal in the Simplicity Celestial Sect. There were some places where the Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy was five times denser than other places in the estate.

At this moment, under the lead of Zhang Guang Zheng, the Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Duan Ling Tian and the others had already entered the sect’s estate.

As they strolled around, the disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect would respectfully greet Zhang Guang Zheng whenever they saw him.

“Vice Sect Leader!”

“Lord Vice Sect Leader!”

Many of the disciples were also looking at Duan Ling Tian curiously. How could they not be curious about the young man who was allowed to travel so close to their vice sect leader?

His identity must not be simple since he was given such treatment.

At this moment, someone called out from afar, "Senior uncle!"

Soon after, a green-clad young man appeared before Zhang Guang Zheng and bowed at him.

Upon seeing the newcomer, Zhang Guang Zheng asked with a smile, "Hong Yi, does your master know that I've returned?"

"Yes." The green-clad young man nodded. "My master asked me to invite you and Junior Brother Duan Ling Tian to see him... As for the others, I will make the necessary arrangements for them." After that, he shifted his gaze to Duan Ling Tian who was standing next to Zhang Guang Zheng and asked, "I'm guessing this is Brother Duan Ling Tian?"

As soon as Hong Yi appeared, Duan Ling Tian had already noticed the traces of jealousy in the depths of Hong Yi's eyes. Now that Hong Yi was staring at him, he could even see traces of hatred in his eyes. He was puzzled when he saw this. 'Who's he? It's our first time meeting, but he already hates me... Jealous? Does he hate me because he's jealous?'

Despite his thoughts, Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly in response to Hong Yi.

Zhang Guang Zheng looked at Duan Ling Tian and said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, he's Zheng Hong Yi. He's the third disciple of the current Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect..."

After a short moment, Zhang Guang Zheng continued to say, "Let's go and see the sect leader..." Then, he turned to Zheng Hong Yi and said, "Hong Yi, I'll leave the others to you. Please take care of them..."

"Yes, senior uncle." When Zheng Hong Yi shifted his eyes back to Zhang Guang Zheng, the traces of jealousy and hatred seemed to have disappeared.

Just as Duan Ling Tian was about to leave with Zhang Guang Zheng, Zheng Hong Yi's voice rang in the air. "Brother Duan Ling Tian, you're the first person in the history of Simplicity Celestial Sect to become a true disciple before even stepping foot into the sect."

Duan Ling Tian could hear the resentment and unwillingness in Zheng Hong Yi's voice when Zheng Hong Si said the words 'true disciple'.

True disciple?!

As soon as Zheng Hong Yi finished speaking, not only the disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect in the surroundings were shocked, even the participants who had followed Zhang Guang Zheng here from the Scaling Cloud Lake were shocked.

"Duan Ling Tian was already given the title of a true disciple before he even set foot in the Simplicity Celestial Sect?"

"Simplicity Celestial Sect's true disciples are given the best treatment in the sect. I heard that two of the true disciples are the sect leader's direct disciples as well..."

Chapter 3039: Sun Liang Peng, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect!

“Although Zheng Hong Yi is a direct disciple of the current Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, he’s not a true disciple.”

“That’s probably why he’s so obviously jealous of Duan Ling Tian!”

“Put him aside, even I am jealous!”

Although the group of peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestials had just joined the Simplicity Celestial Sect, they knew about true disciples in the sect.

Meanwhile, the patrolling disciples began to discuss among themselves.

“It’s true that there’s an opening for the tenth true disciple... However, Lord Sect Leader bestowed it to a person who’s not even an official disciple of the sect yet?”

“Who the hell is he?”

“Not only did Lord Sect Leader make him a true disciple, but Lord Vice Sect Leader is treating him respectfully as well!”

“This group of people whom Lord Vice Sect Leader brought back to the sect is the surviving participants from the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm who had chosen to join our Simplicity Celestial Sect.”

“It’s likely that the young man is a participant as well. Based on Lord Vice Sect Leader’s treatment of him, he must have ranked quite high on the scoreboard.”

“Ranked quite high on the scoreboard? He’s not even 100 years old, how high could his rank be?”

“He’s not even 100 years old?”

“Indeed!”

“It’s unlikely for a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial less than 100 years old to comprehend more than one profundity of a law... Why would Lord Vice Sect Leader treat someone like that so respectfully?”

“He’s probably not a simple person. After all, how could Lord Sect Leader make someone ordinary a true disciple of the Simplicity Celestial Sect?”

All of the disciples were extremely curious as to why the purple-clad young man was so favored by the Sect Leader and the Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect.

As the Vice Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Zhang Guang Zheng’s hearing was, naturally, good. It was not hard for him to overhear the discussions in his surroundings. He said, “Although Duan Ling Tian is younger than 100 years old, he’s ranked second on the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm’s

scoreboard!” He paused for a beat before he continued to say, “Apart from that, he’s also a peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who has comprehended two profundities from the law of earth.”

After Zhang Guang Zheng finished speaking, he said to Duan Ling Tian with a smile, “Duan Ling Tian, don’t mind them. Let’s meet the sect leader...”

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian nodded. He looked at Zheng Hong Yi a final time before he turned away. He finally discovered why Zheng Hong Yi was jealous of him and hated him. After all, he, a newcomer, was made a true disciple while Zheng Hong Yi, the sect leader’s direct disciple, was not a true disciple. ‘As a direct disciple of the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, Zheng Hong Yi must have long hoped to become the sect’s tenth true disciple. It’s only natural that he’s upset after the spot has been given to me.’

When they were out of hearing range, Zhang Guang Zheng confirmed Duan Ling Tian’s speculation. “If it weren’t for you, Zheng Hong Yi would very likely become our sect’s tenth true disciple...”

...

Apart from Zheng Hong Yi and Xue Jing Yu who knew Duan Ling Tian’s true strength, the disciples of the Simplicity Celestial Sect were shocked by Zhang Guang Zheng’s words before he left.

“A peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial who’s not even 100 years old comprehended two profundities from the law of earth? How’s that possible?!”

“It could be attributed to sheer luck if he only ranked second on the scoreboard. However, it’s clear he’s extraordinary based on the fact that he managed to comprehend two profundities from the law of earth at his age!”

“He’s more than extraordinary! Even the most talented person in the history of the Simplicity Celestial Sect was not capable of such a feat.”

“I didn’t expect the purple-clad young man to be such a monstrous talent! With this, it’s no wonder he’s given such treatment.”

“No wonder Lord Sect Leader made him a true disciple! He’s a peerless genius!”

Even some of the participants of the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm who chose to join the Simplicity Celestial Sect were shocked since they did not know about Duan Ling Tian’s strength.

There were a few who were rather skeptical of Zhang Guang Zheng’s words.

“Duan Ling Tian really comprehended two profundities from the law of earth?”

“Of course! Before the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm opened, I witnessed Duan Ling Tian’s fight with Xue Jing Yu, the Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation. Xue Jing Yu was thoroughly defeated!” a middle-aged peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial said as he looked at Xue Jing Yu who was standing nearby, “Xue Jing Yu is here as well. If you don’t believe me, you can ask him.”

Everyone’s eyes immediately shifted to Xue Jing Yu.

Xue Jing Yu nodded. "It's true. Duan Ling Tian has, indeed, comprehended two profundities... Apart from the law of earth's Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity, he has comprehended a defensive profundity as well. I used all my strength at that time but still failed to breach his defense."

As the talented Second Prince of the Southern Qi Nation, Xue Jing Yu was fairly famous among the disciples present on the scene. They knew about his strength as well. With his confirmation, they no longer doubted Duan Ling Tian's strength.

Zheng Hong Yi looked at Duan Ling Tian and Zhang Guang Zheng's backs until they disappeared from his sight. Then, he inhaled deeply and suppressed his resentment before he said, "Everyone, please come with me... I'll bring you to complete the necessary procedure to officially join the sect before bringing you to your accommodations."

As Zheng Hong Yi led the newcomers away, his eyes flashed with killing intent. 'He's just a mere peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial... No one would suspect me even if he met with an accident.' He had already sentenced Duan Ling Tian to death in his heart because Duan Ling Tian had snatched away his chance of becoming a true disciple. Before Duan Ling Tian appeared, although it was not 100% guaranteed, he was still the most likely candidate to become the tenth true disciple of the Simplicity Celestial Sect. Duan Ling Tian's appearance had completely destroyed his chance of becoming a true disciple.

...

The cultivation place of the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect was, naturally, one of the places with the best cultivation environment in the Simplicity Celestial Sect. It was five times better than the area Duan Ling Tian was in.

The cultivation place of the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect was situated in a small valley with lush green trees. The sound of birds chirping rang in the air as the smell of blooming flowers permeated the place.

When they arrived in front of a wooden hut in the middle of the valley, Zhang Guang Zheng bowed slightly and called out, "Sect leader."

"Senior Brother Zhang, I've said many times that there isn't a need for you to be so courteous with me. You can just address me by my name like you used to... After all, if it weren't for you, I would've died a long time ago, let alone becoming the sect leader!"

Soon after, Duan Ling Tian saw a slender figure above the wooden hut. It was a middle-aged man dressed in an old robe. His appearance was average, but his eyes were keen and bright. 'So he's the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect?'

"We can't just dispense with formality," Zhang Guang Zheng said as he looked at the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man only smiled helplessly. Then, he turned to look at Duan Ling Tian who was standing next to Zhang Guang Zheng and said with a smile, "You must be Duan Ling Tian? I'm Sun Liang Peng, the current Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect." His smiling face looked kind and amiable when he spoke to Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian greeted Sun Liang Peng immediately. "Sect leader."

"Senior Brother Zhang had told me about you through a Communication Celestial Talisman," Sun Liang Peng looked at Duan Ling Tian and said, "However, I'd still like to test your strength if you don't mind..."

Sun Liang Peng did not wait for Duan Ling Tian's reply as he continued to say, "It goes without saying that I'll suppress my Celestial Origin Energy to that of a to peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial, and I'd only use two profundities from a law."

"Of course, I don't mind." Duan Ling Tian was not surprised by Sun Liang Peng's request. After all, the Simplicity Celestial Sect had promised him great things. It was only normal that they wanted to verify his strength.

"Great!" Sun Liang Peng's eyes brightened. Then, he flew into the sky as swift as a swallow. In just a blink of an eye, he was already more than thousands of meters above the ground.

Duan Ling Tian moved and flew up as well. At the same time, he called out to the Chaos Divine Earth, "Chaos Divine Earth, the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect isn't an ordinary person. When you're defending me from his attacks, try to emulate the law of earth's defensive profundity..."

"Alright, that's a small matter." The Chaos Divine Earth's childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian's mind. He was clearly not worried that Sun Liang Peng would discover his existence.

"I heard your strength lies with the defensive profundity from the law of earth... I'll attack with my Celestial Origin Energy that's been suppressed to the level of a peak Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial and two profundities from the law of metal. Apart from that, I'll also use a few Duke Grade Celestial Methods and Divine Abilities!" Sun Liang Peng said as he stood across Duan Ling Tian. He raised his hand, and a strange sword appeared in his hand almost immediately. The sword was more than four feet long, and its sharp edge glinted fiercely in the light.

Sun Liang Peng asked, "This is a King Grade Celestial nurtured by a Celestial Lord... Since you're ranked second in the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, I'm sure you managed to obtain a King Grade Celestial Weapon nurtured by a Celestial Lord as well, right?"

Chapter 3040: Entering the Treasure Vault

"Yes." Duan Ling Tian nodded. In the Southern Heaven Ancient Realm, apart from the weapons he obtained from those he killed, he had found two purely defensive King Grade Celestial Weapons nurtured by Celestial Lords.

"Alright." Sun Liang Peng nodded. Then, he lifted his arm and waved his sword around. Brilliant sword rays that looked like golden ice flowers appeared immediately. The golden light intensified and spread into the surroundings soon after. It was clear he had just cast a technique.

"Apart from the Metal Elemental Profundity, I'm also using the law of metal's offensive profundity..." Sun Liang Peng explained to Duan Ling Tian that this offensive profundity from the law of metal was a type of slashing technique. It was also the most powerful offensive profundity from the law of metal. "It's known as the Piercing Profundity..."

As soon as Sun Liang Peng finished speaking, the sword rays that looked like ice flowers merged into one and shot toward Duan Ling Tian like an angry dragon at top speed.

Whoosh!

As it flew, it began to contract until it was as thin as a needle. Despite its size, it seemed capable of tearing the void. A buzzing sound rang in the air as it continued to make its way forward.

‘How fierce! So this is the Piercing Profundity, the law of metal’s strongest offensive profundity...’ Duan Ling Tian had learned about the law of metal’s profundities from the Profound Divine Metal so he knew the Piercing Profundity was the strongest offensive profundity from the law of earth even if Sun Liang Peng did not explain it to him.

After Sun Liang Peng struck, Duan Ling Tian began to move to avoid being hit. However, he discovered the attack had locked onto him. Moreover, his speed was not faster than Sun Liang Peng’s attack. It was impossible to avoid it. Since he could not avoid it, he decided to stop moving.

A black armor appeared on the surface of Duan Ling Tian’s skin immediately. Then, he quickly sent his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted with the law of earth’s Fundamental Profundity, the Earth Elemental Profundity, into the armor. He did not waste any time and began to cast his Duke Grade Celestial Method, the Immobilization King Method, and his Duke Grade Divine Ability, the Eastern Purple Qi. He did not stop and continued to cast his heaven-grade assistive Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, as well. He did not hold back and unleashed all his defensive skills.

At the same time, the Chaos Divine Earth’s energy rolled out of Duan Ling Tian’s body and shot into the black armor. In just a blink of an eye, glittering crystals appeared on the black armor.

“Is this... Is this the Crystal Barrier Profundity?!” Upon seeing this, Sun Liang Peng’s eyes brightened. As the Sect Leader of the Simplicity Celestial Sect, he was knowledgeable about all types of laws and profundities. The Crystal Barrier Profundity was one of the two profundities from the law of earth.

‘His assistive divine ability isn’t a Duke Grade Divine Ability... The force of the techniques he had cast is about the same as my attack... I wonder if he’d be able to resist my attack!’ Sun Liang Peng was looking forward to the outcome. At the same time, he directed the long golden needle to Duan Ling Tian who was covered in black armor.

At this moment, the Chaos Divine Earth’s childish voice rang in Duan Ling Tian’s mind. “Boy, use your Gravitational Space Profundity just in case he manages to see through the fake Crystal Barrier Profundity I created.”

“Alright.” Duan Ling Tian did not waste any time and cast the law of earth’s Gravitational Space Profundity.

After that, the long golden needle began to face a slight resistance. However, after a brief pause, it continued moving toward Duan Ling Tian.

'The Gravitational Space Profundity?' Sun Liang Peng's eyes lit up again. 'Although he has yet to completely master it, he has grasped the basics. It's only a matter of time before he successfully masters it...'

'How surprising! A peak Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial less than 100 years old managed to comprehend the law of earth's Earth Elemental Profundity, the Crystal Barrier Profundity, and Gravitational Space Profundity... In the last hundreds of thousands of years in the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion's control, we've not seen a monstrous genius such as him. The Simplicity Celestial Sect has truly found a treasure this time!' At this moment, Sun Liang Peng was thoroughly convinced of Duan Ling Tian's strength. With just a thought, he made the long golden needle disappear.

'Huh?' Duan Ling Tian was taken aback when he saw Sun Liang Peng withdrawing his attack all of a sudden.

"I have seen enough of your strength..." Sun Liang Peng said with a smile when he saw the confused expression on Duan Ling Tian's face. Then, he turned to look at Zhang Guang Zheng who had also risen up into the air as well. "I appreciate your effort in leading the new disciples back to the sect, Senior Brother Zhang... I'll take care of the rest from here..."

"Alright." Zhang Guang Zheng understood Sun Liang Peng's intention. After witnessing Duan Ling Tian's talent and strength, Sun Liang Peng intended to personally initiate Duan Ling Tian into the sect so that Duan Ling Tian would feel a sense of belonging to the Simplicity Celestial Sect. What could be more welcoming than the sect leader personally tending to you?

After Zhang Guang Zheng left, Sun Liang Peng said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, let me bring you to the Simplicity Celestial Sect's treasure vault... Initially, I planned to let you select two items from the treasure vault. However, after meeting you, I feel like we'll get along well. Therefore, I've decided to let you select three items from the treasure vault."

'Sun Liang Peng... is really skilled at currying favors!' Duan Ling Tian could, naturally, tell Sun Liang Peng wanted to get on his good side. In the end, he only replied, "Sect leader, I'll surely take you up on your generous offer if I see something I like."

Duan Ling Tian's meaning was clear. He would only select the third item if he found anything to his liking. Otherwise, he would not pick a third item to avoid owing Sun Liang Peng a favor.

"Alright." Despite the unchanging smile on Sun Liang Peng's face, he was shocked inwardly. 'Duan Ling Tian might be young, but he's not a simple person... Ordinary people wouldn't be able to stay calm under these circumstances! Unless he meets with an untimely death, he'll surely grow to become a terrifying figure in the future... This isn't only limited to the regions under the Profound Nether Mansion but includes the entire Southern Heaven Territory as well...' He did not underestimate Duan Ling Tian at all even though Duan Ling Tian was young and relatively weak now.

...

There were numerous layers of Formations protecting the Simplicity Celestial Sect's treasure vault. Even normal Celestial Lords would not be able to break in. For that reason, there was no guard guarding the treasure vault.

"It might seem easy to enter the treasure vault now. However, without me, even ordinary Celestial Lords wouldn't be able to break in," Sun Liang Peng said as they navigated through the complex underground paths.

Duan Ling Tian nodded. He could see how detailed the Formations were when Sun Liang Peng bypassed them.

Soon after, they arrived in front of an altar. It was not big, but there was a huge human statue on it.

The statue seemed to be modeled after a Taoist priest who was pointing a three-foot-long sword at the sky. Although it was just a statue, it emitted a piercing aura.

Sun Liang Peng bowed at the statue three times before he explained to Duan Ling Tian, "This is the statue of our Simplicity Celestial Sect's founder, Han Fei Yu."

Under Duan Ling Tian's watchful eyes, Sun Liang Peng lifted his hand and began to draw a complex pattern in the air. The entire process lasted fifteen minutes.

After Sun Liang Peng was done, the pattern he had drawn with his Celestial Origin Energy that had been boosted by his law of metal's Fundamental Profundity, the Metal Elemental Profundity, shone with a golden light and seemed to come to life. Soon enough, it flew toward the statue on the altar.

When it shot into the statue, two beams of golden light suddenly shot out from the statue's eyes.

The sharp cry of a sword whistling in the air resounded immediately as the three-foot-long sword in the statue's hand began to shoot out golden rays. The golden rays then merged with the two beams of lights from the statue's eyes. Then, the golden light shot toward Duan Ling Tian and Sun Liang Peng.

"Relax, don't resist it." Sun Liang Peng reminded Duan Ling Tian.

As soon as Sun Liang Peng finished speaking, the beam of golden light shone on Duan Ling Tian. He felt as though he was being pulled in a specific direction. He had instinctively wanted to struggle but stopped himself when he recalled Sun Liang Peng's words.

"Is this...Is this a Transportation Formation?" The pulling force grew stronger. Then, Duan Ling Tian's vision turned black before he was lifted up. When his vision returned, he discovered he was standing in a spacious mansion.